

Grace Notes Newsletter



GUMPRAYER: PRAYERTEAM@SPENCERGUMC.COM

NOVEMBER 2011

FREE! 

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
@ 7:15 PM
Fellowship Hall**

We will workout together, be supportive of each other and come closer as sisters in Christ.

All sizes welcome!

For more information please contact :
Kristin Schwenker
or Carla Swank

Find us on Facebook.com



New BOOK Club!

The Christian Book Club is the newest small group at Grace United Methodist Church. At our first meeting

in October we enjoyed a discussion of books including some timeless classics. We will be getting together again on Monday, November 7th, 7:00 p.m., in the church narthex to share different books we have read. Please join us for this time of fellowship, and bring a friend too. Contact person is Patty Jones 262-2195.

Theological Corner:

If it could be incontestably demonstrated that Jesus never lived, how would that affect your faith? What if he was never resurrected?

Something to Think About



In Christ,
Pastor Travis Stevick
tstevick@spencergumc.com

'The Table'

• FREE TO ALL • FREE TO ALL •



Thanksgiving Dinner!

**November 17
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

Fellowship Hall

Open to all those in need.



Grace Chancel Choir History (update) By Lou Reed

Thanks to Judy Olson for informing me that Jan Longhorn was also a former director of the choir.

If anyone has information concerning other former directors, please tell me or the church office their names.

Library News...

Five new books were purchased at the District UMW meeting. These books represent each of the 5 categories on the UMW 2012 Reading List. They are as follows:

- 1) "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" Leadership Development
- 2) "Color Blind" Social Action
- 3) "I am Nujood" Nurturing for Community
- 4) "Beaded Hope" Education for Mission
- 5) "Wasabi Gospel" Spiritual Growth

What intriguing titles. You can find these and other UMW books on the shelves to the right as you enter the library.

If you have suggestions for other books you would like for us to add to the library, just let us know. After all it is your library. Our slogan is, "Grace Library has a book for you."

Someone once said, "A good book is a friend from beginning to end." Come and enjoy the library and all it has to offer.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 20th

10:45 AM

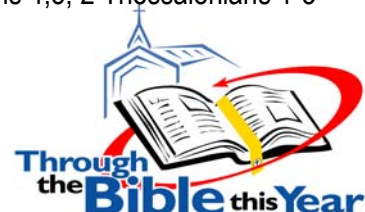
Narthex

Details to follow...



November Bible Readings

- Psalm 121; Mark 9,10
- Job 23,24; Mark 11,12
- Job 25; Mark 13,14
- Job 26,27; Mark 15,16
- Job 28,29; Galatians 1,2
- Job 30; Psalm 120; Galatians 3,4
- Job 31,32; Galatians 5,6
- Job 33; 1 Corinthians 1-3
- Job 34; 1 Corinthians 4-6
- Job 35,36; 1 Corinthians 7-8
- Psalm 122; 1 Corinthians 9-11
- Job 37,38; 1 Corinthians 12
- Job 39,40; 1 Corinthians 13,14
- Psalm 149; 1 Corinthians 15,16
- Job 41,42; 2 Corinthians 1,2
- 2 Corinthians 3-6
- 2 Corinthians 7-10
- Psalm 124; 2 Corinthians 11-13
- Matthew 1-4
- Matthew 5-7
- Matthew 8-10
- Matthew 11-13
- Matthew 14-16
- Matthew 17-19
- Matthew 20-22
- Matthew 23-25
- Psalm 125; Matthew 26,27
- Matthew 28; 1 Thessalonians 1-3
- 1 Thessalonians 4,5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Romans 1-4



Greetings to All in the Mighty name of Jesus Christ



On September 2, 2011, the Spencer Daily Reporter published an article about my arrival here at Grace UMC. The article contained several phrases that have tended to mislead people. Such phrases include, "For the next year at least..." and "beginning a one-year assignment with the congregation." Phrases like these have led many people to conclude that I will only be staying for a single appointment year, that I will be gone soon. This is not true, and I hope to set the story straight.

When I was being interviewed, I was trying to explain to the interviewer how the United Methodist appointment system is different from the call-based systems of other denominations. United Methodist pastors are appointed year-by-year. If a pastor stays at a church for ten years, it means they were assigned to the same church for ten consecutive one-year appointments. This explanation was translated into statements implying that my appointment would be short.

It should be known that the Bishop and the appointive cabinet, who ultimately make the decisions about appointment changes, hope to make appointments that will last five years on the lower end and twelve years on the upper end. This, of course, does not always happen, but my appointment was made with the expectation it will last several years.

I hope that this can help set the record straight. I apologize for any miscommunication that has taken place.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Travis Stevick

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be present at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 3:00 PM.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture and music. Every church in Spencer is invited to be in the program. This is a great ecumenical Christmas service held in our community, which everyone can enjoy.

You are invited to attend . Please encourage others to come.



THANK YOU...

Thank you to all the pictorial directory receptionist in August and October.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lorraine Patterson | Judith Olson |
| Judy K. Olson | Jeanette Halquist |
| Lorraine Conley | Pat Johnson |
| Shirley Paulsen | Linda Johnston |
| Kay Darnell | Nancy Bell |
| Donna Todd | Patty Jones |
| Cyndi O'Hara | Juanita Hicks |
| Paula Harris | Beth Bohrs |
| Vada Calhoon | Becky Prentice |
| Janie Baker | Lorrie Huffman |
| Phyllis Sitter | Sylvia Schoer |
| Carol McQueen | |

We thank you for volunteering your time. You were all gracious hostesses, friendly smiling greeters and helpful receptionists for the photographer.

Very grateful for all of you.

Grace UMC Pictorial Directory Team

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to Merle & Lorraine Yager and Jean Rowe for the giving of your time to fold the Grace Notes Newsletter. Your ministry is greatly appreciated! We couldn't do it without you.



Grace Office Staff



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet November 3.
9:30 AM Prayer Shawl mtg. – BenTena Room
10:00 AM Business meeting - BenTena Room
11:00 AM Program: World Thank Offering
(*Eunice Circle*)- BenTena Room
12:00 PM Potluck lunch - BenTena Room
(*circles to be assigned types of dish*)

UMW would like to thank all who participated in making our recent Spiritual Bazaar a resounding success. Due to the efforts of many members in preparing for the event, the UMM who served our wonderful meal, our inspiring speaker, Bishop Kiesey, and the community who supported us by attending, we can report another successful Spiritual Bazaar.



Happy Thanksgiving

CARE CARD INFORMATION

Juanita Hicks and Nora Biegler now coordinate our care card program. They appreciate your support. Please let them know when there are members/friends of Grace Church who need our outreach so they can feel the love and care coming to them from the family of Grace. You can reach Juanita at 262-8278 and Nora at 262-2274.

In general, it is our policy to send care cards from the family of Grace on occasions such as these: Births, Illnesses/hospitalizations, Special Birthdays (80, 85, 90, 95, 100, etc.), Special Anniversaries (50, 60, 70, etc), Marriages, Sympathy, Thinking of you (annually to homebound/shut-ins), Special recognition (of a member or active friend) at a community, state, national, etc. level.



Thank you!
Care Card Committee

Advent

With the Christmas season fast approaching, the Evangelism committee would like to organize an Advent study called "Christmas – It's Not Your Birthday" by Mike Slaughter. It is a 6-week session beginning November 13th through December 18th. If this is a study you would be interested in attending, please sign up in the Narthex. We are also looking for leaders and/or hosts.



Thank you!
Evangelism Committee

Surely I am with you always. Matthew 28:20

What a special gift so many of you have shared with our family and I through prayers, love and support during my hospital stay. Pastor Kellogg and the prayer teams visits were appreciated so much. We also thank you for honoring our 60th Anniversary. We're blessed with your friendship.
Love, Dollie Cretsinger



Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting
Saturday, November 26– 8 AM
All men are welcome!

**Grace United Methodist Church
Administrative Council September 27, 2011 - 7:00 PM**

Mission Statement:

Grace United Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will witness to the Christian message of salvation and minister to the needs of Grace Church and the larger community.

Attendance: Judith Olson, Kay Darnell, Gerry Runkle, Jean Rowe, Claudia Neary, Dennis DeWitt, Kay Clancy, Pastor Chuck Kellogg, Mavis Olson, Pastor Travis Stevick, Chris Stickler

Welcome: Judith Olson called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for attending, and welcomed Gerry Runkle and Jean Rowe, co-chairs of the Memorial Committee, who came to make a special report to Ad. Council.

Opening Prayer was offered by Pastor Chuck Kellogg after he reported on health concerns and upcoming surgeries of a number of members.

Approval of Minutes/Roll Call

Motion by Dennis DeWitt; seconded by Mavis Olson. Carried.

Business Action Items

No items were presented.

Other Business Items

a . Foundation Disbursement Report (Items paid since July 2011)

2010/2011 (2009 &2010 Interest approved for disbursement in 2010 & 2011)

· **Capital Improvement Allocations**

Graham Tire Spencer (washer & dryer for West Lane Parsonage).....\$987.61

· **Missions Allocations**

TV Cart (3 VCR/DVD sets).....\$394.83

TV/VCR (3 VCR/DVD sets).....\$279.40

TV/VCR (Replacement TVs).....\$1,409.19

· **Outreach & Emerging Ministry**

Worship (mini movies).....\$62.00

Worship (mini movies).....\$94.24

Vinyl Banners.....\$309.40

Wedding Banners.....\$130.50

· **Educational Opportunities**

Camperships (13 Campers).....\$181.00

Camperships.....\$200.00

Youth Outreach for Young Families (ice cream for family fun day).....\$59.80

Youth Outreach Event (VBS Banners).....\$82.17

GracErcise (class items).....\$47.51

Upper Room & Devotionals.....\$142.82

Duke Divinity School (Jon Heifner – Tuition Assistance).....\$4,000.00

b. **Memorial Committee Information:** Gerry Runkle and Jean Rowe advised that there are memorial funds available, some of which have been designated for specific uses. Committees need to know that funds are available and that application forms are available in the office. How can people be told about these funds? Pastor Chuck suggested talking to committee chairs. Kay Clancy suggested e-mail contact where possible.

c. 2011 Charge Conference – Sunday, November 13, 2011 (6:00 PM) Spencer Grace (Spencer Grace, Fostoria, Everly-Royal, Langdon).

d. Form A – Charge Conference (discussion to follow Committee Reports).

- e. Kay Clancy circulated a copy of the 1st reading letter, which is sent to members who have been inactive for a period of years. The issue of how to handle questions of membership needs to be addressed. After some discussion, it was decided to table this matter until it can be addressed by and input obtained from additional members of the Administrative Council.

Committee/Staff Reports

UMM – Roger Ingledue (submitted) – The September breakfast meeting of Grace United Methodist Men was held Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room. 18 men were present including both our Senior and Associate Pastors. Rich Baker led the opening prayer and Earl Angell presented devotions. Lou Reed volunteered to organize the Methodist Men's participation at the UMW Spiritual Bazaar and planning and personnel assignments were begun in preparation for the Methodist Men Potato Dinner Fundraiser on October 30, 2011. The Leaders of Boy Scout Troop 123, Dennis Harmon and Tony Sholly, presented a program consisting of current and future plans and activities for the Troop throughout the upcoming year. The Troop has volunteered to lay plastic sheeting on the floor of the basement below the sanctuary in an effort to contain the moisture in the basement and maintain lower humidity levels throughout the building. This is a project initially requested of the Methodist Men by the Trustees Committee. Kendall Mead, Walt Schmidt, Glen Chenhall, and others assisted Norm Olson in assembling tool kits for PET vehicles, a project long supported by Grace United Methodist Men. The next meeting of Grace United Methodist Men is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Lay Leadership – The Lay Leadership Committee met Thursday, August 18, 2011 and again on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, under the direction of Pastor Kellogg to plan and coordinate the filling of vacancies within the various primary and secondary committees of Grace United Methodist Church. Pastor Kellogg and other committee members offered names for the available positions and then it was negotiated as to whom would contact the candidate to consider serving. The Lay Leadership Committee also discussed formation of a Worship Committee and other concerns relating to the needs of our congregation. The next Lay Leadership Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Evangelism – Sandy Heerd (submitted for August & September) – The Evangelism Committee met at the Dream Center at noon on August 10, 2011 with 3 members present and Pastor Stevick. The discussion centered on continuing to develop more small groups. Pastor Stevick is going to ask his wife, Alli, if she'll lead a drum group (praise type music). It was suggested to develop a support group for children of divorced parents. That will take some careful selection for leadership (need mature adult (s) who perhaps went through the same experience). A few people have now suggested a support group for widowers. Evangelism members are hoping to find leadership for this group.

The Evangelism Committee met on Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 p.m. with 2 members present. (Patty & Sandy) Patty Jones reported that the library committee had met and discussed starting a new small group "Christian Book Club". The first meeting was Monday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Patty said she would write an article for upcoming bulletins and newsletter to advertise this event. No progress has been made on starting a widowers' group.

Anyone who is on the Evangelism Committee that would like to work on this is encouraged to do so. Pastor Travis Stevick's "Discussions in Theology" will be moving to an evening time (Thursday at 6:30 p.m.) so as to include more people who otherwise may be working. If Evangelism would like to encourage studies for Advent, they need to begin searching for an Advent study and discussing how to promote small group studies for Advent. The next meeting is October 13th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance – Claudia Neary and Pastor Chuck Kellogg – Requests for budget submissions will be done toward the end of the year. Printed handouts of Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual YTD and of Bank/Liability Balances as of September 26, 2011 were distributed. Judith Olson distributed the Conference Church Remittance Statement of 8/31/2011 and a grant application form for Carma Mohler Fund to Alleviate Hunger, a program based on Matthew 25:35 ...for I was hungry and you gave me food...

Lay Speaker – Dennis DeWitt – Gumprayer is working and participation has increased. Dennis will be speaking in Aurelia on October 30th.

SPRC – Chris Stickler – The committee talked about forms for the Charge Conference; reviewed Pastor Travis Stevick's first 2 months at Grace; and discussed attendance at Life Light and at Casting Crowns.

UMW – Mavis Olson – Mavis expressed great joy in the number of women willing to help with the Spiritual Bazaar.

Pastor Travis Stevick – Pastor Travis is involved in RIM (Residency in Ministry).

On Wednesday, September 28th, the Youth Groups will be dividing into 2 groups. A special guest speaker will address both groups. Exciting progress is being made.

Pastor Chuck Kellogg – Pastor Chuck is 'trying to keep up with things' and thinking of the future of the church and of family.

Form A for Charge Conference – Judith Olson – The group reviewed the various categories and questions. Judith would like input from all committees and will contact the committee chairs to request their participation.

Other Items – Judith Olson expressed thankfulness to be alive after experiencing getting stuck between floors in an elevator in the parking garage at the Des Moines Airport (having to call 911 to have the elevator door broken open), being in an earthquake and a hurricane in Washington D.C. – all within a few weeks. Joy was expressed for the upcoming wedding of Pastor Chuck & Holly's daughter, Stephanie, and Jonathan Heifner.

Motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Neary; seconded by Chris Stickler. Carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting – October 25, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Closing prayer – Dennis DeWitt

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Darnell, Secretary

Finance Notes

In this issue of Grace Notes you will find a pledge card and an envelope to be used on November 13, Consecration Sunday. We ask that you prayerfully consider your gift this year and make your pledge. The amount that is pledged will help guide the Finance Committee as we review the budgets submitted by the various committees of the Church. Each committee has been asked to plan their needs and thoughtfully consider their spending for the upcoming year.

Giving is a part of the Church, whether in our time, talents or financial support. We recognize that a congregation, physical structure, and ministry as large as we are, requires a substantial amount of money to make ends meet. In addition, we as a part of the larger Methodist family have obligations to meet through apportionments. These funds when working with other churches can reach far beyond our walls and help those we will never know.

An article on the United Methodist website states "While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that is impossible. So we gather regularly with our congregation and put money into the offering plate, and through a carefully crafted system of United Methodist mission and ministry our gifts stretch around the world."

Please consider how your gifts can touch others, in this church and around the world, and make your pledge for Consecration Sunday.

Thank you, The Finance Committee.



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PHONE (712)262-5970 - FAX (712)262-0344
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM- NURSERY AVAILABLE

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SPENCERGUMC.COM

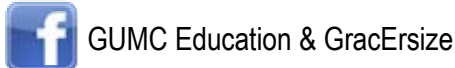
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
311 2nd Ave. West
Spencer, Iowa 51301

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Rev. Chuck Kellogg- Sr. Pastor
chuck.kellogg@spencergumc.com
Rev. Travis Stevick- Associate Pastor
tstevick@spencergumc.com

Return Service Requested

Custodian: Bob Dirks
Assistant Custodian: Mary Nepl
Administrative Secretary: Kay Clancy
Secretary: Linda Bress
Organist: Gretchen Hagedorn
Pianist: Teresa Ortman
Choir Director: Nancy Patrick
Joyful Ringers Director: Judi Calhoon
Administrative Council: Judith Olson
Treasurer: Claudia Neary



Methodist Men Potato Dinner

baked potato with toppings • pie • homemade ice cream

Sunday, October 30, 2011

10:45 AM to 1:00 PM

— Fellowship Hall —

Grace United Methodist Church
311 2nd Ave. West- Spencer, Iowa

Free-will donation
Everyone Welcome!!

