



MAY 2024 Chimes

Grace United

Methodist Newsletter

Class of 2024

◆ GRADUATES ◆

Attention all Graduates of both High School & Collegiate levels!!

SUNDAY, MAY 19th

GRADUATION SUNDAY:

If you or someone you know is graduating and would like to be recognized through GRACE UMC, contact our Christian Education Staff. We will be putting together a recognition video for all graduates which will be shown during our worship experience on

The following information should be included:

- Full name of Graduate
- Where the Graduate is graduating from
- Plans after Graduation
- A nice recent phone

All graduate information must be submitted by **Friday, May 3rd** to christianed@gracesiouxcity.org

SAVE THE DATE



YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

Cinco De Mayo TACO BAR

Sunday, May 5th

11 AM-1 PM

FREE WILL DONATION

Fellowship Hall

CAMP SUNDAY

May 5th

11:00 AM -12:00 PM



Check out our kids camps after worship on Camp Sunday.

Camperships Available

Lake Okoboji UMC will be coming to our service to talk about church camp opportunities for all ages!

GRACE UMC COLLEGE MINISTRY FREE



Four Fridays This Semester

10:30 PM - 12:00 AM

May 3 is our last breakfast for this semester.

Free food for hungry college students!

You and your friends are invited to breakfast.

Pancakes, waffles, and juice.

Served by your friendly neighbors at

Grace United Methodist Church 1735 Morningside Ave
(Just behind the Science Building)

Follow the signs inside, then downstairs.

MARCH 2024 Finance Report

<u>Contributions and Other Funds</u>	For the Month of March 2024	Year to Date thru March 2024
Giving to Budget	33,438	85,699
Building Use	450	1,400
Directly to Connectional Giving	100	300
Transfer from Designated Funds	14,362	16,882
Investment Income	<u>1,660</u>	<u>4,781</u>
Total Giving/Income	50,010	109,062
Expenses	<u>43,145</u>	<u>105,072</u>
Net	<u>6,865</u>	<u>3,990</u>

Other Giving

	For the Month of March 2024	Year to Date thru March 2024
Camperships	100	100
Computer Fund	20	50
Food Pantry	1,315	2,325
Human Development	239	514
Memorials	140	225
Music-Handbells	125	125
Okoboji Camp	100	100
Radio Sponsorship	750	3,500
Spalding Clothes Basket	885	885
Upper Room	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Other Giving	<u>3,674</u>	<u>7,835</u>



CARING THROUGH GRACE

To keep us aware of your needs while in the hospital, please state “**Grace United Methodist**” as your religious preference during admittance. If there is someone in need of prayer or if someone should be removed from the prayer list, Please contact: Gail Haight at gghaight1978@gmail.com Please let us know if you are having a crisis, health issue or have a family member in need of prayer. Grace is here for all.



Many of you may be aware of the General Conference, an important meeting for our United Methodist Church that will take place in Charlotte, NC from April 23 – May 3, 2024. The General Conference, which meets every four years, is the official legislative body for our church. Delegates are clergy and laity from Annual Conferences around the world – including 12 from Iowa. Through prayer and deliberation, the General Conference sets the rules in our *Book of Discipline*, and gives direction to the mission of the UMC.

In recent years, General Conference has been the focal point of heated debate about the future of the UMC – especially in relation to how we will include LGBTQ+ persons in our Christian family. Recent disaffiliation of some UMC congregations is related to this, resulting in some pastors and local churches leaving our connection. For those of us who are remaining in the UMC, the upcoming General Conference offers an opportunity to reset our spirits, renew our relationships, and refocus our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

One set of legislative measures before the delegates address the possibility of increasing Regionalization (already allowed in non-US Central Conferences) so that all areas of the church can adapt *Book of Discipline* rules to their local context for more effective ministry. This in turn may allow for Conferences in the United States to adopt more inclusive practices regarding LGBTQ+ marriage and ordination.

As the pastor here at Grace UMC, I want to encourage all of us to pray for the General Conference delegates and their work. I also counsel us to be patient. None of the potential changes will happen overnight – and we will have ample time to talk through the impact on of whatever is decided on our congregation and its ministry. Finally, I want to encourage you not to pay too much heed to news stories or inflammatory social media posts. Instead, look for official news from the General Conference or United Methodist News Service. As always, if you read or hear something and wish to talk about it, please let me know.

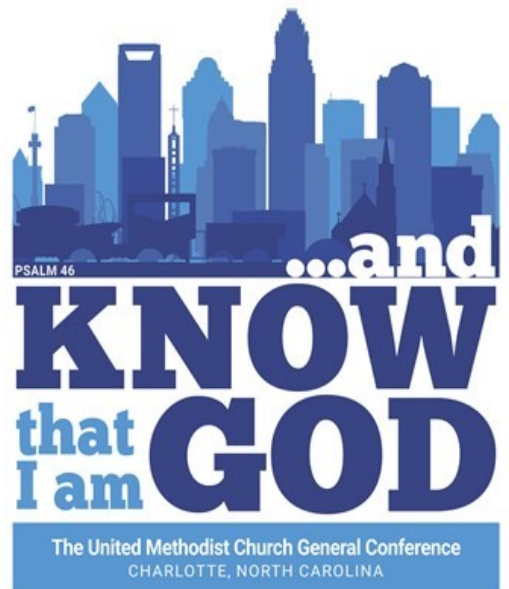
Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Official News Sources:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/news>

<https://www.umnews.org/>

<https://www.iaumc.org/>



UPCOMING THINGS TO DO:



Looming Matters and it is fun to do. Try it
Everyone is invited to come help make sleeping mats for people in need. There are jobs for all skill levels (cutting, knotting, and weaving) and there are both sitting and standing jobs. Please contact Kathy Martin for more information at gmakmart@gmail.com Looming will be at 10:00 am on Mondays and 1:00 pm on Tuesdays.



Worship Information

Saturday Night Worship

5:30PM

A informal worship service in our intimate Parlor.
Come as you are and worship with us!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am

Worshipping using a blend of traditional and contemporary worship music with our Chancel Choir and Brass Hand Bell Choir in our main sanctuary.



The library has a new look and many new books. Please stop in the library and “check it out”!

There is also a “Book Suggestion” card area. If you know of a book that may be great for our library, please complete a card located in the library.

A shelf has been added for kids dealing with aging grandparents or grief.

Also, if you are interested in Early American History, there is now a shelf dedicated to this time period. Stop in and say “hi” and look around.

“Augie”



Please join us in celebration of **Betty Johnson's 100th Birthday**. We are Holding a get-together at the Community Ctr at Sunrise Community. Betty joined Grace UMC approximately 10 years ago after moving from Colorado.

I know that it would make her day to see some familiar faces come out and wish her well.

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for: **June 2 from 2 pm—4 pm**. There will be refreshments for all.

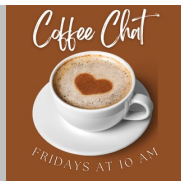
Thank you all so much.
Doug and Sherry Johnson

Coffee Chat - Fridays at 10AM

Join us for a time of devotion, conversation, and fellowship to refresh your soul and a cup of coffee or tea to quench your thirst. Men and Women are welcome to connect, encourage, and inspire one another each week in our Grace Parlor.

For more info contact Tamera at :

Tamera@gracesiouxcity.org



Nurture Prayer Group

Tuesdays @ 9 AM
Grace Library

We also have Nurture Group that meets on Tuesday mornings at 9am. This is a devotional group that is quite popular here.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP GRACE SUNDAY WORSHIP



If you would like to help sponsor a Sunday broadcast, please contact the church office at 276-3452 or send in your donation and we will put your name on the list.

Each broadcast costs \$125 to air. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

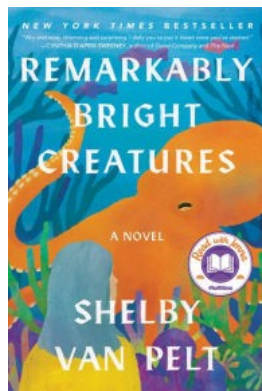
Naomi A Women's Fellowship Small Group

Grace UMC

4th Tuesday of the Month @ 7PM

Naomi Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the large conference at Grace.

New members are always welcome. This starts at 7 pm and if this interests you, please drop by.



Faith Meets Fiction is our reading group and they meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm to discuss the most recent book. May will be the last month before summer break. The books are very interesting and all different kinds of books. Something for all. Note: There is a break during summer.

MAYS Book Selection

A detective octopus helps a grieving aquarium employee solve the mystery of her missing son. It's certainly unique in vessel, but the themes of coping, recovering, and moving forward resonate whether you have two arms or eight.



A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers that make the Food Pantry so wonderful for this community. They are all so dedicated to the feeding of people in need. They work tirelessly each time to treat all with dignity and kindness.

If anyone would like an experience of a lifetime and help the community, please contact our Food Pantry and volunteer a little of your time.



50
PLUS

Mark and Rhonda Chartier	5-05-1973	51 years
Steve & Joan Farr	5-22-1971	53 years
Wendell & Marilyn Roth	5-31-1964	60 years
Ron & Ellen Rachuy	5-02-1961	63 years
Jon & Grace Wagoner	5-14-1960	64 years
Jim & Betty Watkins	5-02-1958	66 years



80
PLUS

Sheryl Ashley	5-08-1932	81 years
Nora Biegler	5-03-1938	86 years
Lois Copple	5-22-1935	89 years
Dick Engle	5-11-1934	90 years
Larry Johnson	5-14-1942	82 years
Glendy Nichols	5-26-1936	88 years
Ed Sibley	5-19-1942	82 years
Pat Zimmerman	5-18-1985	85 years



A huge "thank you" from the Grace UMC Missions Committee for your generous support for "Fill the Baskets" for Spalding Park Elementary School's clothing closet! You helped to fill the clothing baskets with 279 children's clothing items including socks, underwear, shorts, leggings and sweat-pants. In addition to your donated clothing items, cash donations totaling \$885.00 were given toward the project to purchase additional items for the clothing closet as needs arise. Special thanks to Jill Sponder and Augie Nicolai for organizing this drive in giving us an opportunity to show our love and compassion for the children of Spalding Park Elementary School, in our neighborhood in which we share!

Grace UMC Missions Committee

Special points of interest:

GRACE UMC
Website :
www.gracesiouxcity.org
Office Phone
 712-276-3452
Address
 1735 Morningside Ave.
 Sioux City IA 51106

WORSHIP:
 Facebook LIVE:
 Sundays 10 AM
[Grace UMC Sioux City, Iowa](#)

Sunday Live Radio Broadcast
 KSCJ frequency 1360AM &
 94.9FM at 10 AM

Staff Contacts:
Pastor:
 Rev. Dr. John Christianson
 • Pastorjohn@gracesiouxcity.org

Secretary: Sherry Johnson
sjohnson@gracesiouxcity.org

Director of Children & Family Ministry
 Tamera Albert-
Christianed@gracesiouxcity.org

Grace UMC Welcomes you to VBS 2024

Forms can be found in our church
entrance in the mail box or online at
Gracesiouxcity.org

Our Vacation Bible School is **FREE** thanks
to the generosity of members and friends
at Grace.

Be sure to mark your child's
T-shirt size on the Registration Form,
(online or in person)
as all orders need to be in by
May 13th.



Held at Grace United Methodist Church our Camp Firelight VBS will welcome your students to enjoy an interactive, Bible-based good time on their summer camp adventure with God.

Students will be sorted into age groups and become Campers in one of our animal themed cabins, Chipmunks, Raccoons, Owls, and Foxes.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Campers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal each Firelight Focus to equip your Campers for an active life with God.

They will also discover our Firelight Focus (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS. and hear about our mission project and as their respond to a call for action!

The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats and a provided nightly dinner.

On our last night we invite students with their parents back for a fun camp water day, including a 35 foot inflatable water slide and smores. Join us as we discover how to put our trust in God in every situation!

**The Morningside Days
parade is coming up
soon and favorite for
our Children's ministry
to promote our Summer
Vacation Bible School.**

We would love for your
family to join us to hand
out flyers and give a wave
from Grace UMC!

Contact our
Christian Education Team
let us know if you can join
us on May 16th!

Come help
us decorate

May 15th @ 6PM

**Grace UMC
Children's Ministry**

**Camp
Firelight**
A SUMMER CAMP Psalm 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**INVITES YOU TO RIDE
OR WALK WITH US IN
THE MORNINGSIDE
DAYS PARADE
MAY 16TH, 2024**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FREE!
Pre-School-5th Grade Welcome

**Morningside
DAYS**

At Grace United Methodist Church, we believe that middle and high school students are a vital part of our congregation. Our Student Ministry strives to be an invitational and welcoming place for students of all backgrounds where they can find community and a place to belong. We want to meet students wherever they are in their faith journey, walk alongside them as they grow, and be a safe place where they can ask questions and learn to seek faithful answers.



Our Sunday School Youth Students are reviewing Be Bold!



A series created to help pre-teens and teens engage with the weekly BE BOLD Bible lessons while exploring their deep faith questions. Each student will receive a Bold Action Student Book and weekly Mystery Mission challenges.

Wednesday Night Youth Group 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



The best way to know about someone is to let them tell you who they are. We may think we know who Jesus is, but have we let him tell us in his own words? What might happen if we made space for Jesus to speak for himself? There are seven times when Jesus directly told his disciples who he was. In these “I am” statements, he shared with them what it meant to follow him, his heart for others, and how his followers can strengthen their relationships with him and with God. In this four-week series, we’ll dive into Jesus’ words about himself to learn how his words can reshape our lives today. Through what Jesus says, we’ll learn that Jesus is love, is truth, is always with us, and is our savior.

Heartfelt Cards is a fun group that cycles and recycles greeting cards. Lots of fun. This happens on Thursday morn at 9 am.. You do not need to be an artist but if you know how to cut, glue and tape, you will have a great time.



May - Deodorants

June - Toilet Paper

Do to the need of non-food items, the members of 1st UMC, Sioux City have created a Personal Care Cupboard which stocks these items. The cupboard is open on Wednesdays from 5-6pm and Thursdays from 2-3 pm at 1st UMC, 1915 Nebraska St., Sioux City IA. Each month the members of Grace collect items to be given to the Personal Care Cupboard. Items can be brought to Grace and placed in the red donation box located in the Parlor.



MAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
8:45 AM -9:45 AM
PRESCHOOL –5TH
A 2-Week Series on
Pentecost

It may feel like Easter was already so long ago when in truth, it's continued for Fifty days! Now It's Pentecost! There are many exciting elements to examine when it comes to this church event. The Holy Spirit comes, the church kicks off, tongues of fire appear and tongues of language are spoken...whatever you hone in on, this is a blessed and beautiful occasion.

For kids, we celebrate Pentecost for its historical importance and recognition of how God wants us to continue sharing the Gospel with others. At Pentecost, the promise of Jesus was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. We recall these events to understand how we, too, have the Holy Spirit and should share the Gospel with one another. In Fired Up students will learn that believing in Jesus gives them a new birthday and they become a part of the Church (Body of Christ).

FOR PARENTS:
GROW AT HOME
THIS MONTH

HEY PARENTS! HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT WE'RE COVERING WITH YOUR KIDS THIS MONTH SO YOU CAN HELP YOUR KIDS CONTINUE GROWING AT HOME DURING THE WEEK.

WEEK 1- MAY 5th

Bible Story:

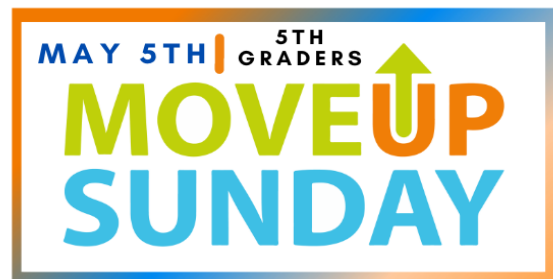
Pentecost and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21



Over 60 Scripture lessons
taught 2023-2024



ON MAY 5 WE WILL HAVE "MOVE UP" SUNDAY FOR OUR 5TH GRADERS TO MEET OUR MIDDLE/HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

They will start in the gathering room to wave off the younger kids and then be walked upstairs for games and a new Sunday school lesson. This gives them a chance to get to know the older kids before next year and welcome them to any Wednesday or Summer Activities. Contact our office with any questions.

WEEK 2- MAY 12th

Bible Story:

The Birth of the Church

Scripture:

Acts 2:22-47

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEDNESDAY EVENING PROGRAMMING



It's been a wonderful year of scripture stories, games, discussions, and families coming together to help teach our children's program lessons and events.

Students and teachers had so much fun relating to God in a way that brought Jesus into their lives and invited them a little more to seek every day.

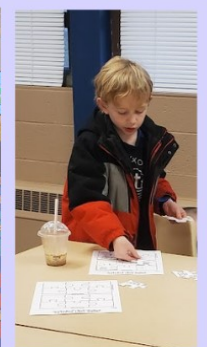
Its been a joy to watch them creatively express themselves and relate to the Bible.

Here are a few of our favorite recap photos.

WE WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER :)



JAM/BLAST Recap 2024



YOUTH MINISTRY RECAP

Okoboji Spring Retreat April 12th-14th

Our Youth departed for their annual Spring retreat to beautiful Lake Okoboji UMC last month. Students enjoyed late night activities, worship lessons with discussions, the new low ropes course, free time, and a campfire and smore's. On Sunday Morning a student led worship service was held before returning home.





Youth for Hire * April 20th & 21st

Our 6th-12th grade students started their first Youth for Hire fundraiser event last month with lots of enthusiastic members happy to receive assistance and make a free will donation toward this summer's Mission Trip..



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 am Food Pantry	2 9 am Heartfelt Cards	3 10 am Coffee Chat 10:30pm Midnight Breakfast	4 5:30pm Chapel
5 8:45 Sun. School 10 am Worship Camp Sunday	6 9 am Food Pantry 10:30 am Looming	7 9 am Nurture Gp. 1pm Looming 7 pm Bowling	8 9 am Food Pantry	9 9 am Heartfelt Cards	10 10 am Coffee Chat	11 5:30pm Chapel
12 8:45 Sun. School (Last Day) 10 am Worship	13 9 am Food Pantry 10:30 am Looming	14 9 am Nurture Gp. 1pm Looming	15 9 am Food Pantry	16 9 am Heartfelt Cards 	17 10 am Coffee Chat	18 5:30pm Chapel
19 10 am Worship Graduation Sunday	20 9 am Food Pantry 10:30 am Looming 7 pm Faith Meets Fiction	21 9 am Nurture Gp. 1pm Looming 7 pm Bowling	22 9 am Food Pantry	23 9 am Heartfelt Cards	24 10 am Coffee Chat	25 5:30pm Chapel
26 10 am Worship	27  MEMORIAL DAY	28 9 am Nurture Gp. 1pm Looming 7 pm Naomi Group	29 9 am Food Pantry	30 9 am Heartfelt Cards	31 10 am Coffee Chat	