



**Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches**

PO Box 60  
Lamont, Iowa 50650

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## APRIL 2024 Newsletter

# RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

745 Washington St—Lamont, IA

**Thursday, April 25, 4-7pm**

**Friday, April 26, 9-5 pm**

**Saturday, April 27, 9-Noon**

## **Come One! Come All!**

Something for everyone! Proceeds go to support church projects. Handicap Accessible.



## NEWS FROM

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF



AURORA



LAMONT



STRAWBERRY POINT



#### **Grace United Methodist Church**

745 Washington St PO Box 60  
Lamont, Iowa 50650  
LamontAurora@gmail.com  
www.LamontAuroraIowaUMC.com

#### **Aurora United Methodist Church**

506 Luella St PO Box 143  
Aurora, Iowa 50607

#### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Lisa Schroeder  
(319) 325-4566  
Lisaschroederpastor@gmail.com

#### **Prayer Chain**

Jane Richmond - (563) 933-6248

#### **Church Food Pantry**

Deb Brown or Jane Richmond

#### **Mobile Food Pantry**

Kay Hoffman - (319) 361-8100

#### **District Superintendent**

Moody Colorado  
(319) 458-0745  
Moody.Colorado@iaumc.org

#### **Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**

www.iaumc.org

#### **SPRC Chair**

Jerry Griffin - (319) 202-4592

#### **Administrative Council Chair**

John Cook

#### **Sunday School**

Julie Mather  
Brettjuliemather@gmail.com

#### **Church Secretary**

Joanne Lamphier  
HBLF4U@gmail.com  
(319) 213-2541

#### **Church Treasurer**

Nicole Goedken  
ngoedken91@outlook.com  
(563) 608-2225

#### **Other Contacts**

Steve Thacher—(563) 920-0945  
JoAnn Crow—(563) 920-5273  
Deb Brown—(563) 920-5450  
Jane Richmond —(563) 933-6248

## Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

As we begin the month of April, I am praying that we will have lots of April showers since we are still experiencing drought conditions! Spring officially started on March 19, but the temperatures have been pretty up and down so not knowing what to expect for the month of April. We had a full month in March with Lenten studies and all the Holy Week services. It was a joy to focus on Christ's resurrection for the entire six weeks of the Lenten Season and see how the resurrection had such an impact on so many people, including Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Paul and how these experiences teach us what resurrection can mean to us. I pray that your Lenten journey brought you closer to God and allowed you to be reminded that Jesus is on the journey of life with you every day.

Now we are left with the question, "what next?" Easter is over and just as the disciples wondered what was next when Jesus returned to heaven, we also have these questions to think about. What is Jesus calling us to do? Where is Jesus calling us to go? How can we be witnesses to Jesus' resurrection and share the good news with others? This is our constant calling and one that brings joy.

We are blessed to have wonderful opportunities to help with worship — ushering, bringing flowers for the altar, reading the scriptures, sharing treats and making coffee for fellowship time, doing some spring cleaning in the church, raking and cleaning up the church property, helping with the food pantry, organizing and helping at the garage sale in Lamont. Then look around your neighborhood and your community and see where

you might help someone in need, offer to serve on a committee, assist with an event or donate to an urgent need.

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we have been given insights on what it means to lay down your life for your friend, and that your friend is anyone who is in need. Let us answer the call to be disciples of Christ and echo the world-changing, life-transforming impact he had on the lives of so many that it literally changed the world. Let us keep the memories of our discussions and teachings from the Lenten studies clear in our minds and hearts as we continue to instill hope in creating the world that God intended where all would have an abundant life. Then recognize God's presence with us to encourage, equip and empower us to use our gifts and resources to make the world the place we want it to be — a place filled with peace, hope, joy and love for every person. Let us resurrect our enthusiasm and energy when it becomes a little weak or downcast so we can witness to the resurrection power that lies in our faith in God to do what we can't imagine, and even the impossible!

"I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created." (Romans 8:38-39)

*Serving Christ  
Together!,  
Pastor Lisa*

## THANK YOU'S!

I am so blessed to have so many people who are willing to give of their time and talents to help us be the church God has called us to be!

Thank you to John and Jane Richmond who do so much to get resources for the food pantry and organize distributing goods that people need. Thank you to Greg Lee who has been a great help to them.

Thank you to JoAnn Crow and Linda Long who serve and enlist others to serve as liturgists. Thank you to each person who reads scriptures, light candles, greets and ushers and makes our worship space look inviting.

Thank you to BilliJo Eckheart and Joanne Lamphier on Administrative Assistants Day for all they do year-round to communicate important information and make worship meaningful through their bulletins and PowerPoint slides, newsletters, emails and Facebook announcements.

Special thank you to our Sunday School teachers/ Wednesday Aurora Kids Group (Kim Hettinger, Tatiana Espinosa, Deb Brown, JoAnn Crow, Audrey Rubner, Julie Mather, Dave Young, Brooke Teeter) and others who help; and Youth leaders (Deb Brown & JoAnn Crow) for leading our Christian education programs.

Thank you to Elaine Vaske for the beautifully creative bulletin boards! Thank you to JoAnn Crow and Carol Raithel for making sure the altars and sanctuaries are decorated appropriately each season or holiday.

Thank you to our communion stewards who prepare the bread and juice for communion.

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHANGE MEETING DATE

Changing from Wednesdays to Tuesdays in April and May. They will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the downstairs Friendship Room as they enjoy fellowship, program, and refreshments. We are changing our day for the next two months hoping to include more women. Any woman is welcome to join us.

Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7 at 1:30 p.m.

### RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Thursday, April 25, 4-7pm

Friday, April 26, 9-5pm

Saturday, April 27, 9-Noon

## IN LOVING MEMORY of IDA MAE HARFORD



Ida Mae Harford, 88, of Ely, passed away on February 16, 2024, at Sunrise Hill Nursing Home in Traer, Iowa. Celebration of Life services was held Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior to services. Interment took place at Oak Hill Cemetery, in Cedar Rapids. Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre in Cedar Rapids was in charge of arrangements.

Ida was born on June 28, 1935, in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Howard and Jean (Wescott) Bye. She was raised in Cedar Rapids, where she attended Kenwood Park Grade School, graduated from Franklin High School in 1953. Ida Mae was united in marriage to Lauren Leo Harford on November 7, 1953, in Cedar Rapids. They lived in Cedar Rapids for several years until moving to Hudson, Wisconsin for a year, then Dundee, Iowa, and later to Lamont, Iowa in October 1966. Following she moved to Ely, Iowa in August of 2022. Lauren passed away January 11, 2001. She belonged to the Grace United Methodist Church in Lamont, where she served as secretary for UMW, Ruth Circle, Staff Parish Relations Committee, helped with the Mobile Food Pantry and other church fundraisers. She was the President of Lamont Federated Garden Club. She was a member of the Ely Book Club and Quilting Club, and the Jolly Homemakers Club in Lamont. Ida also volunteered at the Common Grounds Coffee House in Lamont, Lamont Legion Fish Fries. She enjoyed NASCAR, attending races with her son Doug in Newton and Kansas City, watching professional football. She loved horses and along with her daughter Charlie attending the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison and Breyer Fest in Lexington, Kentucky.

Ida is survived by her children Raymond Harford, George (DeVonne) Harford, Charlotte "Charlie" (James) Zach and Doug Harford; six grandchildren Jennifer Witte, Justin Harford, Julie (Cass) Dietz, Maria (Paul) Yuska, Missy Harford and Pat (Misty) Harford; eight great-grandchildren Caitlin, Noah, David, Katarina, Gavin, Lincoln, Lilly and Sawyer; a great-great-grandchildren Easton; and her sister Carol Olver.

She is preceded in death by her parents Howard and Jean Bye, her husband Lauren, a daughter-in-law Marian Harford, a special aunt Peggy Hergert, and a brother-in-law Jim Olver..

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to the Lamont Volunteer Fire Department Foundation or Common Grounds in her name.

## Steve & Pam Thacher

15134 SE Evergreen Dr  
Portland, OR 97236

### Ad Council

March 12, 2024—Chairman Thacher called the meeting to order at 7pm and Pastor Lisa offered a prayer. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting were read. A correction concerning the root destroyer application was made. Approval was then given to February minutes. Treasurer gave her report. It was noted that weekly offerings have been low. All bills were paid to date.

Pastor reviewed her February and March activities. Vacation dates of April 15-21st and May 6-12 were noted. Pulpit supply will be needed May 12. Annual Conference is June 7, 8 & 9. July 7 Aurora requests a joint service at 9am in their city park.

**SPRC**—Upcoming vacation dates were reviewed. Lamont still needs some financial reports submitted for auditing.

**TRUSTEES**—Leon Goedken has been rebuilding basement columns. An outlet has been eliminated. Wiring not needed has been eliminated.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**—World Day of Prayer was held March 1. Small attendance was disappointing but program was interesting. The group is planning a garage sale for April 25, 26 and 27. A bake sale will also be held. First quarter pledge to District UW in Faith will be made yet this month of \$350.

**PARSONAGE**—No radon test results to date.

**YOUTH**—Lock-in March 8 was a success with six youth. Easter breakfast is planned for March 31 at 8am.

**MISSIONS**—Another load of food donations for our food pantry was accepted from Dollar Fresh in Dyersville.

**MEMORIALS**—New refrigerator for church kitchen was purchased. Leon Goedken was reimbursed for materials for basement columns. Savings account was closed out. Balance in checking account is \$2,603.05.

**AUDIO/VISUAL**—Jarrod reviewed plans for a new video system. A grant has been received for \$11,000 but additional funding will be needed for some remodeling, wiring, etc. A motion was made by JoAnn Crow, seconded by John Richmond to proceed with System B. Approved.

**ADMIN ASSISTANT**—Additional lighting was added to the church secretary's office. Bill will be submitted to the church. Word has been received from an evangelistic group wanting to do a service on May 10. Further information will be obtained.

**OLD BUSINESS**—group discussed combining SPRC and AD Council into one meeting starting at 6pm on April 8. Sensitive topics for SPRC would still require a separate meeting. Motion was made by JoAnn Crow, seconded by John Richmond to meet together starting April 8 at 6pm. Approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**—None

**FORUM**—Intinction communion was well received and will continue to be offered along with a limited supply of individual cups.

Chairman Steve Thacher announced his resignation as board chairman. Thachers are extending their stay in Oregon until June 1. Pam will be entering a clinical trial for treatment and will need to stay in Oregon. He suggested asking a younger person to assume leadership of the Ad Council. John Cook will take this position with the support of the group.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 7:53 p.m.  
Jane Richmond, Recording Secretary



May 2 - Shawn MacTaggart  
May 5 - Harlen Murley  
May 5 - Sam Kremer  
May 5 - Katie Peterson  
May 8 - Samantha Morine Crocker  
May 10 - Mardelle Streicher  
May 11 - Jon Downer  
May 11 - Aurora Opitz  
May 12 - Deb Brown  
May 12 - Kolt McTaggart  
May 12 - Sara Child-Connolly  
May 12 - Harlan & Beth Peterson  
May 13 - Lori Dopp-Kemp  
May 15 - John Cook  
May 15 - Judy N & Randy M  
May 17 - Ryan Burington  
May 19 - Nick McTaggart  
May 22 - Tim & Sara Connolly  
May 23 - Jonathon Lona  
May 24 - David Garlow  
May 25 - Emma Rawson  
May 25 - Elizabeth Opitz  
May 26 - Koda Rawson  
May 27 - Amelia Rubner  
May 27 - Joe & Amy Roepke  
May 28 - Dylan Lamphier  
May 31 - Nichole Goedken  
May 31 - Kinzy McTaggart



## United Women in Faith

March 15 2024 - Pres. Jane opened the meeting at 1:40 PM with 5 members + the Pastor present by reading Colossians 3:17. The Feb. minutes were approved. Balance in checking is \$1396.89. Prayer and Self-Denial donations were collected. Day of Prayer attendance was 13 with a collection of \$158. A memorial of \$50 was sent to family of Ida Mae. International Woman's Day was March 8.

**New Business:** Renee moved, Elaine seconded to make a camp donation of \$100 or reasonable amount for a young girl's attendance at Ewalu; motion carried. We will hold the April & May meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 1:30 in attempt to increase attendance. This is a trial run.

### Old Business:

There are 2 bids being considered for the video/sound system. Grace needs to contribute some funds in addition to the \$11,000 grant. Possibilities are profits from the 8 AM Easter breakfast and/or the April Garage and Bake sale.

We were reminded about the Holy Week's activities, including the free will donation 8 AM Easter breakfast at Lamont before 9 AM service.

Garage/Bake sale will be evening Apr. 25-noon Apr. 27. The Goodwill truck will be here noon Sat. for leftovers. Do NOT bring items until April 14<sup>th</sup>/ sorting & pricing will start Mon April 15. Lots of help is needed for the week & the sale itself.

UMCOR accepts mainly money for disasters in the USA. It no longer ships items abroad due to shipping costs. Donations of supplies and money is distributed by Midwest Mis-

sions with shipping costs donated by outside companies. So, if you want to donate money to disasters, send it to UMCOR; if it is supplies or money, send it to Midwest Missions.

Jane did the lesson "Sharing-Giving-Missions"; Cathy was hostess. **Remember:** April's meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday April 9 at 1:30 PM; Glenda will do the lesson, Jane will be hostess.

Secretary, Glenda Schweitzer

## Aurora Wednesday Night Kids Group

March 27 2024 - The Kids Group walked us through Holy Week as they acted out a skit written by Pastor Lisa. This group is led by Dave Young and Brooke Teeter.



## WHERE DO YOU WANT YOUR OFFERING TO GO

Lamont General Fund \$

Aurora General Fund \$

Livestream Fund \$

Local Emergency Fund \$

Youth/Child Ministry \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (if questions) \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You*

Please return to: Grace United Methodist Church PO Box 60 Lamont, IA 50650

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Lamont Mobile Food Pantry from July 2022-June 2023 served 809 households and distributed 49,770 pounds of food. The food is provided by NE Iowa food bank in Waterloo. The mobile pantry is sponsored by Lamont Grace Methodist Church. Thank you volunteers and others who make this a success!

### DID YOU GET YOUR APPLE PIE?

Contact Jane, JoAnn, Deb, Joyce or Kay H to get your pie.

**\$14**

Large Pies

**\$5**

Small Pies



**SUNDAY  
BREAKFAST  
8:00 AM  
to NOON**



*All you can eat pancakes*



*Carry-outs Available*

APRIL 7 & 21  
MAY 5  
JUNE 2  
JULY 7  
AUGUST 4  
SEPTEMBER 1  
OCTOBER 6

All you can eat pancakes; also biscuits & gravy, sausage, ham & scrambled eggs with milk, juice or coffee

ADULTS \$10.00  
5-8 YEARS \$5.00  
PRESCHOOL FREE



### Pecans for Sale

United Women in Faith still have pecans for sale. \$15 a bag. There are some small bags of chocolate covered pecans for \$8.



**April 22**

### Happy Earth Day

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalm 96:11-12

## Bake Sale Donations

Please bring your bake sale donations to the church Thursday, April 25th. Everyone loves the treats they can get. Bake Sale is Thursday, April 25th from 4-7pm, Friday, April 26th from 9 to 5 and Saturday, April 27th from 9am to Noon.

## Camp Ewalu

Registration is April 15th. Scholarships are available for those that need them. Signup at [www.Ewalu.org/Summer-Camp](http://www.Ewalu.org/Summer-Camp).

## Texting Program

Please text Joanne at 319-213-2541 with your NAME and you will be added to the new texting communication we will be starting very soon. This will be advantageous to those people that do not have Facebook or Email. You can remain on the e-mail list, this is just another form of communication for those that want it.

*Giving is an adventure that makes one feel good about life. It in itself helps one to experience happiness. Giving brings us together because there must be a receiver as well as a giver.*



Many say that they are striving for happiness, but remain at a distance in the clutches of monotony. The adventure of giving releases us from the doldrums. And what us surprises most is that it is so easy to give. Give a compliment to someone. Give an hour to a friend. Give a portion of what we have to someone who has less.

It is by giving that we become greater than the singular man ... a transformation to the collective human. By giving to the church we become a part of the purpose for which it was created ... to spread the Good News about salvation. When we give of our time and talent, we are actively involved in the church's mission. When we give of our wealth, we support that mission with our own power of life.

Giving is an adventure into the lives of people whom we have never met, but who are fellow members of the Kingdom of God. Reaching out into our hospitals and helping console and care for the sick is an adventure in giving. Going to a home for the aged and bringing food and shelter to those who need it are other ways of giving. Through gifts of money it is possible to educate, heal and transform those who, without the ministry of Christ, would continue in lonesome darkness.

Looking back then, giving our time, our talent and money is an adventure that can bring thrills to others and to ourselves. This is the kind of happiness so many talk about, but cannot find.



## Food Pantry Needs

Appropriate Kid Cereal  
Mushroom Soup  
Fruit Juice such as Apple

## April Communion

Server—John Richmond  
Supplies—Jane Richmond

## May Communion

Server—JoAnn Crow  
Supplies—JoAnn Crow

## June Communion

Server—Steve Thacher  
Supplies—Pam Thacher

## Ushers

Apr 7 - John & Maranda Cook  
Apr 14 - Aurora  
Apr 21 - Youth  
Apr 28 - Ben Brown family  
May 5 - Ben Brown Family  
May 12 - Aurora  
May 19 - Youth  
May 26 - Brittany & Nicole  
June 2 - Elaine B & Marcia M  
June 9 - Aurora  
June 16 - Youth  
June 23 - Terry C & Lyle A  
June 30 - Worship together

## Scripture Readers

Apr 7 - Maranda Cook  
Apr 14 - Aurora  
Apr 21 - Youth  
Apr 28 - Ben Brown family  
May 5 - Ben Brown Family  
May 12 - Aurora  
May 19 - Youth  
May 26 - John Richmond  
June 2 - Jane Richmond  
June 9 - Aurora  
June 16 - Youth (father's day)  
June 23 - Steve Thacher  
June 30 - Worship Together

## Worship Schedule

Regular Worship Times	Lamont	Aurora	Strawberry
1st Sunday of the month	9:00 AM		10:30 AM
2nd Sunday of the month		9:00 AM	10:30 AM
3rd Sunday of the month	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM <small>Guest Speaker</small>
4th Sunday of the month	9:00 AM		10:30 AM
5th Sunday of the month	<i>Joint worship service with location TBA @ 10AM</i>		

### Grace Food Pantry

Thank you all that keep our Matthew 25 project going! We are truly blessed. We are able to help many community families. Anyone in need of food, please contact Deb Brown or Jane Richmond.

### Mobile Food Pantry

**When:** 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** Line up in the alley behind the fire station in Lamont.

**Note:** Bring two empty boxes to exchange for full boxes.

### Hospitality Signup

Each Sunday after worship service, everyone is invited for fellowship. Goodies and coffee is served. If you would like to signup to bring treats, the notebook is in the library.

### Prairie Hills Worship

Join us on the 4th Wednesday every month at 9 am in Independence at Prairie Hills Assisted Living.

### Working Hands

Typically meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at GUMC in If you crochet or knit or sew, please come and join us or just come to see what we are up to!

### Mission Statement

Making God's love and grace known to all of his children.

### Vision Statement

To see God's grace and love made known to all of His children regardless of age, race, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, religious preference or any other human condition.

### Offertory

If you are unable to make it in-person, offertories can be mailed to your church at the address on page 1 of this newsletter.

### Texting Program

Please text Joanne at 319-213-2541 with your NAME and you will be added to the new texting communication we will be starting very soon. This will be advantageous to those people that do not have Facebook or Email. You can remain on the e-mail list, this is just another form of communication for those that want it.

# April 2024

Check out our new website in progress.....

[www.LamontAuroralowaUMC.com](http://www.LamontAuroralowaUMC.com)

	APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3	APRIL 4	APRIL 5	APRIL 6
					●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am	●Pastor Day Off
<b>APRIL 7</b>	<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>APRIL 9</b>	<b>APRIL 10</b>	<b>APRIL 11</b>	<b>APRIL 12</b>	<b>APRIL 13</b>
● <b>FIRST SUNDAY with Communion</b> ●Worship in Lamont 9am ●Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon	Combined SPRC and AD Council 6pm	●Women in Faith 1:30 pm	●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm		●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am	●Pastor Day Off ●Working Hands 9am
<b>APRIL 14</b>	<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>APRIL 16</b>	<b>APRIL 17</b>	<b>APRIL 18</b>	<b>APRIL 19</b>	<b>APRIL 20</b>
● <b>SECOND SUNDAY</b> ●Worship in Aurora 9am	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●Pastor Vacation	●Pastor Vacation	●Pastor Vacation ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am	●Pastor Vacation
<b>APRIL 21</b>	<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>APRIL 23</b>	<b>APRIL 24</b>	<b>APRIL 25</b>	<b>APRIL 26</b>	<b>APRIL 27</b>
<b>PASTOR VACATION</b> ● <b>THIRD SUNDAY</b> ●Worship in Lamont 9am ●Worship in Aurora 10:30am ●Youth Sunday ●Emergency Relief Special Offering ●Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon	Earth Day		●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●Prairie Hills Worship 9am Independence ●Mobile Food Pantry 3:30 pm		●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am	●Pastor Day Off
<b>APRIL 28</b>	<b>APRIL 29</b>	<b>APRIL 30</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>	<b>MAY 3</b>	<b>MAY 4</b>
● <b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b> ●Worship in Lamont 9am			●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm		●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am	●Pastor Day Off