



**Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches**

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MARCH 2024 Newsletter



**LENT**



## 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.LamontAuroralowaUMC.org

#### Aurora United Methodist Church

506 Luella St PO Box 143  
Aurora, Iowa 50607

#### Pastoral Care

Pastor Lisa Schroeder  
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Lisaschroederpastor@gmail.com

#### Prayer Chain

Jane Richmond  
(563) 933-6248

#### 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

#### Sunday School

Julie Mather  
Brettjuliemather@gmail.com

#### Other Contacts

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

#### Church Secretary

Joanne Lamphier  
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#### Church Treasurer

Nicole Goedken  
ngoedken91@outlook.com

## Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As we enter the month of March, we continue our Lenten journey. Lent is considered a 40-day period that reminds us of the death of Christ on the cross to pay for our sins. But we also remember that this season ends with a celebration of his resurrection on Easter. We begin the season of Lent in the midst of winter when it is a dreary and dark, with short days and lack of sunshine. The cold temperatures make us want to hibernate and the lack of sunshine makes us lethargic and have a lack of energy. The weather matches the emotions of Lent as we think about the how devastating sin and death are to us; we want to hide from our sins and feel hopeless in our failure.

But now as we begin March, the snow has all melted and we've had more sunshine which has brought us some warm days and the hint of spring coming! As we have been reflecting on the sacrifice of Christ, we have also focused on the joy of the resurrection in our Lenten study and worship. We find the joy in knowing the love God showed and his intention to save us from our sins. The resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning not only affected the lives of those who witnessed his death, crucifixion and resurrection, but it is relevant and has teaching moments for all of us. This was a world-changing event that transforms lives, and the world was never the same because of what God has done through Jesus Christ. Suffering, sin and death no longer have the last word in our lives. There is always the opportunity for forgiveness, new beginnings, hope for the future and new opportunities to serve God in response to what God has done for us. We face the realities of our human condition and the brokenness of the world, but see things in a different

light – in the light of Christ – as we witness the unfailing presence of God's resurrection power, again and again. And now we know of the victory over death.

We have studied the story of Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the resurrected Jesus. Next, we hear from Simon Peter, who denied Jesus three times and was then called to the foundation on which Jesus would build the church. Then we hear from Thomas, who needed to see the resurrected Jesus face-to-face to believe in his resurrection. We walk with the disciples on the road to Emmaus who discover their companion is the resurrected Jesus. Then the story of Paul who went from the greatest persecutor of the early Christians, to being the greatest apostle. And finally, we hear words from Christ's teachings. The Lenten Study meets on Mondays in March.

Lent is a time to turn to God and remember we are saved! We will not be offering a Living Last Supper this year, but don't forget to participate in the Holy Week services: March 24 Palm Sunday Service 9:00 Lamont and 10:30 Strawberry Point, March 27 Holy Week Service 6:30 Aurora, March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 in Lamont, March 29 Good Friday Service 6:30 in Strawberry Point and Easter Service 9:00 Lamont and 10:30 Strawberry Point. From Isaiah 45:22, we hear:

*"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, for I am God, and there's no other."*

*Serving Christ  
Together!,  
Pastor Lisa*



Friday, March 1, 2024  
Lamont Grace United Methodist Church  
Coffee: 9:30am  
Program: 10:00 am

Lamont Grace United Methodist Church  
Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 am

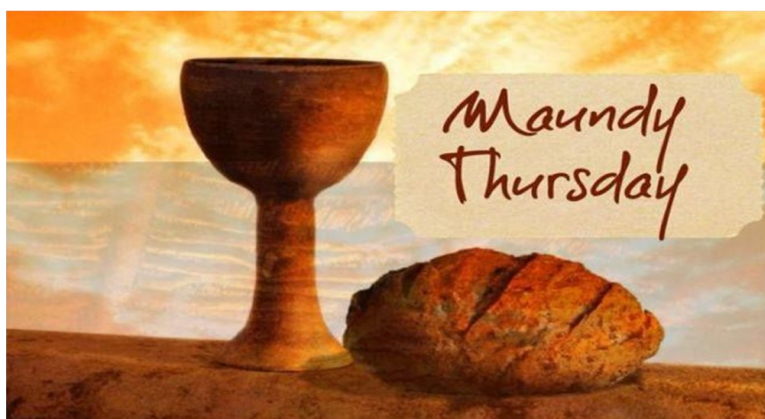
*Palm Sunday*

Palm Sunday! Be reminded of the reason  
for the Easter season! Amongst all the  
busyness that goes on reflect on  
Jesus & His resurrection.



## HOLY WEEK

Worship Service  
Aurora United Methodist Church  
Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm



"This is my body ...  
this is my **blood** ...  
... given for YOU."

Luke 22:14-20

LAMONT GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
THURSDAY, MARCH 28 AT 6:30 PM





## Ad Council

February 12, 2024

Pastor Lisa began the meeting with prayer. The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting were read and approved. (No meeting in January.)

Treasurer reported all bills were paid to date. Information on various church accounts is being gathered for auditing.

Pastor Lisa reviewed her activities.

Statistical Reports forms and year end reports were done. She had met with the custodian to review and amend his job description. Pastor also presented additional expenses paid to D. Vanwie for his help shepherding B. Krum to doctor's appointments and to the shelter in Waterloo. Lenten Study will be February 19 at 4pm in Strawberry and 6pm in Lamont. The UMYF will consider doing an Easter breakfast at 8am on March 31st. Living Last Supper will not be done this year. Performances may be done every other year and could alternate with a Live Nativity. The Bishop will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting March 10 from 2-4pm at Waverly Trinity. Elaine Sheldon Akerly's funeral is planned for July 1st. We will be having a new District Superintendent. Moody Colorado is returning to regular ministry. The new D. S. is Scott Keele Kober. A Hunger Grant application for our food pantry has been applied for. The church has been asked to donate to the Starmont Post Prom celebration.

Apportionment amounts for 2024 are \$8,108 for Lamont and \$2,663 for Aurora. Pastor Lisa proposed we combine SPRC and Ad Council meetings into one hour each month. Sensitive items would require a closed SPRC meeting. This proposal will be put on the agenda for our March meeting.

## LENTEN STUDY 2024!! 4 MORE WEEKS! Will you join us?

The resurrection of Jesus powerfully proclaims that suffering, sin and death do not have the final word!

Chapter 3: Thomas ..... March 4

Chapter 4: Emmaus (Disciples walk with Jesus). . . March 11

Chapter 5: Paul ..... March 18

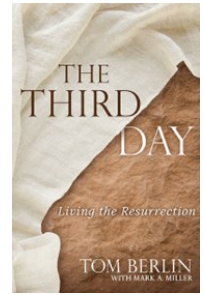
Chapter 6: Jesus ..... March 25

The third day is "the beginning of all our stories" as it reveals

our human condition and the unfailing presence of God's resurrection power. This study focuses on the experiences

of several characters around Jesus during his final days,

their despair at losing him, and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the Resurrection, as well as the significance in our lives today. **Sign up now as we decide the best days and times to gather. No book/reading required!**



SPRC: Safe Sanctuary Policy needs reviewing and updating.

TRUSTEES: Older refrigerator in church kitchen has been replaced with a L new model. New outlet receptacle was installed to replace a faulty one. Root destroyer was put down the kitchen sinks.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: New year begins this week and pledges will be taken. World Day of Prayer is planned for March 1. Garage Sale will be planned for the end of April. Scrap metal drive will also be arranged, if possible.

PARSONAGE: No results on radon testing.

YOUTH: Valentine party planned for February 21. The UMYF donated \$150 to Starmont's emergency clothing fund. A group photo appeared in the Press-Journal. Easter breakfast will be discussed.

MISSIONS: Report of 2023 statistics of our food pantry was given as follows: East boxes (27) including meat = \$1620 pounds; Thanksgiving boxes (27) including turkeys = 1674 pounds; Christmas boxes (26) including hams = 1508 pounds; regular orders given out (26) 710 pounds approx value \$1420. Our pantry gave out 4076 pounds of meat and extra grocery items to mobile food pantry persons. This last project

was made possible by the generous donations of Dollar Fresh Market in Dyersville and Casey's in Strawberry Point.

MEMORIALS: Balance in accounts is \$4,166.88

AUDIO/VISUAL: Waiting for a scheduled installation date on video system. A grant was approved for this project but additional funds will be needed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Website work and Constant Contact will continue on as usual to provide additional communication points.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

FORUM: Discussion on intinction communion. The group thought we should continue using small cups to prevent contamination and possible disease transmission. Greg Lee commented about Grace UMC's leadership and service to the community. He has appreciated the support shown to him. In turn, the group thanked Greg for his help and assistance to those in need in the community.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:09 p.m.; Jane Richmond recording secretary.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 12th at 7pm due to Lenten study on Monday.

## United Women in Faith

Feb 14, 2024 - 5 members + Pastor met at 1:40 PM. Pres. Jane read the Jan & Feb bible verses since there was no Jan. mtg due to a blizzard. She also read a devotion from Joyce Meyer's book THE CONFIDENT WOMAN.

Elaine shared letters from Grace Smith and Ida Mae's granddaughter concerning their recent moves -Grace to an apt. in Dallas Center & Ida Mae to a nursing home in Traer.

The Dec. 2023 minutes were approved since we did not meet in Jan. The treasury has \$723.19 with 2 Dec. checks not cashed yet. The quarterly pledge is due next month. Local pledges are collected in Jan. but since we did not meet, your pledge can be made at any time.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The 2023 yearly treasury report was passed around to see where our money had been spent. There are still some pies and pecans for purchase; the PDL pie fund has \$1917.35.

### NEW BUSINESS:

AD Council updates: A \$11,000 grant has been received from the district to update the video system ; Grace needs to raise \$3000-\$5000 additional funds depending upon the final estimate. A new kitchen refrigerator has replaced the non-functional one. Grace is part of a new circuit of a doz. or so surrounding Methodist churches . The postponed get-acquainted mtg. from Jan. was held this month—it was a very good with lots of positive brain-storming, especially about youth activities. We have a new district supt. Scott Keele-Kober.

The 6 week Lenten Bible Study begins Mon Feb 19: 4 PM in Strawberry & 6 PM in Lamont. No book is required-just participation.

World Day of Prayer is Fri. March 1<sup>st</sup> -program is the Women of Palestine. Coffee & goodies at 9:30, meeting at 10 AM at Grace.

Sunday March 10 at 2:PM will be a Zoom presentation from Bishop Kennetha at Grace.

The Garage & Bake sale will be Apr. 25-27: afternoon 25<sup>th</sup>, all day 26<sup>th</sup>, morning and clean-up 27<sup>th</sup>. Do NOT bring sale items until April 15. There may also be a scrap metal drive so stay tuned.

Holy Week: Palm Sun. will be regular worship times; Wed. will be an Easter kids play in Aurora; Maundy Thurs. service 6:30 in Lamont: Good Fri. worship in Strawberry; Easter worship at Grace-possibly a breakfast too. (This is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday so no potluck or com-

bined 3 church service)

Elaine (Sandy) Sheldon's funeral will be July 1 at Grace.

Aurora's 125<sup>th</sup> town anniversary celebration will be this summer.

Deb gave the lesson LIVING WATER and JoAnn Crow was hostess.

March 13 meeting lesson leader will be Carol Ellis, hostess will be Cathy Cardenas.

Secretary Glenda

## CARD SHOWER

Grace Smith turns 97 years young on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let her know you are thinking about her and send her a birthday card at 1006 Linden St #426; Dallas Center, IA 50063

## RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Thursday, April 25, 4-7pm  
Friday, April 26, 9-5pm  
Saturday, April 27, 9-Noon



United  
Women  
in Faith

**2nd Wednesdays of the month**  
**1:30 p.m. in the Lamont Grace basement**

Any woman interested in being a part of UWF is welcome!



March 10  
Set your clocks 1  
hour ahead



*According to Matthew, Jesus was preaching to 5,000 people and dusk was starting to set in, supper was long overdue, stomachs were starting to growl, and all there was to eat were two fish and five loaves of bread.*

The disciples were aware of the predicament. They said to Jesus, in effect, "This is a sticky situation, and we can't do anything about it anyway. Let's take what we have gathered and go away and eat!"

By nature there is some of that mentality in all of us. Whenever God places us in a situation that challenges us to use our time and talent, and to invest some of ourselves in finding a solution to someone's problem or need, our first response is to remove ourselves from the problem.

Matthew was an eyewitness to the event. Can you imagine the joyful satisfaction ... the uplift in faith Matthew experienced when he was able to write, "But everyone ate, and there was more than enough. They gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers!"

Do you think there could be any symbolic significance to the fact that there were twelve baskets full? One for each disciple? Enough to satisfy their needs for days to come? And all because they trusted God and had the joy and satisfaction that comes with being a partner with Jesus? A partner in his ministry of love and service.

For that matter, some of the most tired, worn out at times, almost burnt out disciples at every church have become that way because they have a difficult time saying "no" when our Lord calls them to join hands with him in using their time and talent to serve their church. Tired? Yes! Weary? Yes! But then, you should be let in on a little secret: You should see their "baskets"!



## DID YOU GET YOUR APPLE PIE?

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

**\$14** Large Pies **\$5** Small Pies



## LAMONT LEGION FISH FRY

FRIDAYS, MARCH 8 & 29TH  
4:30 PM

## AURORA KIDS GROUP

Please attend their Holy Week Program on Wednesday, March 27th at the Aurora United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m.

## 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.

## AURORA LEGION & AUXILIARY

*All you can eat pancakes*  
**SUNDAY BREAKFAST**  
**8:00 AM to NOON**



*Carry-outs Available*

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

HELD AT EACH BREAKFAST

**50/50 RAFFLE**  
312258  
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

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

~~SEPTEMBER 3~~  
~~OCTOBER 1~~  
~~NOVEMBER 5~~  
NOVEMBER 19  
~~DECEMBER 3~~  
~~DECEMBER 17~~  
JANUARY 7  
JANUARY 21  
FEBRUARY 4  
FEBRUARY 18  
MARCH 3  
MARCH 17  
APRIL 7  
APRIL 21





## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Mashed Potatoes, Mac & Cheese

## COMMUNION

Server—Terry Crow

Supplies—JoAnn Crow

## USHERS

March 3—Brittany & Nicole

March 10—Aurora

March 17—Youth

March 24—Steve & Pam Thacher

March 31—Worship Together

## SCRIPTURE READERS

March 3—Elaine Bliss

March 10—Aurora

March 17—Youth

March 24—Steve Thacher

March 31—Worship Together

## CELEBRATIONS

March 1—Michael Roepke

March 2—Brooke Thacher

March 2—Anna Garlow

March 2—Harper Rubner

March 5—Paula Harvey

March 6—Eric Opperman

March 6—Patricia Myrton

March 7—Damien Brown

March 7 – Emily Peterson

March 8—Nicole Anderson

March 9—Devin Pendergast

March 9—Arrington Koth

March 11—Terry Crow

March 11—Mary Beth Peterson

March 12—Grace Smith

March 12—Rick Falk

March 13—Lindsay Parker

March 13—Greg Meyer

March 14—Jaxon Goedken

March 15—Ann Pech

March 16—Adam Lincoln

March 16—Scott Schroeder

March 18—Lamphier's

March 23—Tim Recker

March 23—Marsha Fleming

March 23—Carter Downer

March 27—Becky Bayness

March 30— Lonnie Opitz

## 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.

### 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, socio-economic 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 2 of this newsletter.

# March 2024

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

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

						MARCH 1	MARCH 2
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Day of Prayer—Lamont 9:30</li> <li>Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> </ul>
<b>MARCH 3</b>	<b>MARCH 4</b>	<b>MARCH 5</b>	<b>MARCH 6</b>	<b>MARCH 7</b>	<b>MARCH 8</b>	<b>MARCH 9</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>
<b>FIRST SUNDAY with Communion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship in Lamont 9am</li> <li>Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon</li> </ul>	Lenten Study 6pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lamont Fish Fry 430pm</li> <li>UMYF Lockin</li> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> <li>Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> <li>Working Hands 9am</li> </ul>	
<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>MARCH 12</b>	<b>MARCH 13</b>	<b>MARCH 14</b>	<b>MARCH 15</b>	<b>MARCH 16</b>	<b>MARCH 17</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SECOND SUNDAY</b></li> <li>Worship in Aurora 9am</li> <li>Zoom Meeting with Bishop @ 2pm at Grace</li> <li>Set Clocks Forward</li> </ul>	Lenten Study 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPRC 6pm</li> <li>Ad Council 7pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm</li> <li>Women in Faith 1:30pm</li> <li>UMYF</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> <li>Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> </ul>	
<b>MARCH 17</b>	<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>MARCH 19</b>	<b>MARCH 20</b>	<b>MARCH 21</b>	<b>MARCH 22</b>	<b>MARCH 23</b>	<b>MARCH 24</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>THIRD SUNDAY</b></li> <li>Worship in Lamont 9am</li> <li>Worship in Aurora 10:30am</li> <li>Youth Sunday</li> <li>Emergency Relief Special Offering</li> <li>Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon</li> </ul>	Lenten Study 6pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> <li>Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> <li>Easter Egg Hunt 1pm Lamont Community Club</li> </ul>	
<b>MARCH 24</b>	<b>MARCH 25</b>	<b>MARCH 26</b>	<b>MARCH 27</b>	<b>MARCH 28</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b>	<b>MARCH 30</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b></li> <li>Worship in Lamont 9am</li> <li>Palm Sunday</li> </ul>	Lenten Study 6pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm</li> <li>Prairie Hills Worship 9am Independence</li> <li>Mobile Food Pantry 3:30pm</li> <li>UMYF</li> <li>Holy Week Service 6:30 in Aurora</li> </ul>	Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm in Lamont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good Friday service at 6:30 in Strawberry Point</li> <li>Lamont Fish Fry 430pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Day Off</li> </ul>	
<b>MARCH 31</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>APRIL 2</b>	<b>APRIL 3</b>	<b>APRIL 4</b>	<b>APRIL 5</b>	<b>APRIL 6</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Breakfast 8am in Lamont</li> <li>9am worship in Lamont</li> </ul>							