

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Vol. 26, No. 4

April 1, 2015

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

For the last several months every newsletter article I've written has contained the words Healthy Church Initiative. Still, I expect there are questions—not the least of which is, “What in the world is the Healthy Church Initiative?” Another question is probably, “When are we going to stop talking Healthy Church Initiative and start doing something with it?” Some may even be nearing the point of saying, “If pastor mentions healthy church one more time does he know I'll be sick to my stomach?”

2000 years ago, before the light of dawn three women found themselves walking to the tomb where they'd seen their crucified friend buried. I imagine a number of questions were going through their minds. I imagine they were also a bit sick to their stomach—because it had to be terribly hard to swallow the way Jesus was rejected, beaten, and killed. Such a gentle man who had brought so much life, laughter and hope ripped away from them. Pre-Easter there was no way for them to imagine what came next. Even when the events did unfold—the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, the risen Christ whom they mistook as the gardener until he spoke their names, even as the events took place, there was likely more questions than answers. It took a while for the fullness of God's plan to begin to fully dawn upon them. Truth is it took 50 days of prayer and a Pentecost Holy Spirit experience for the church to be born.

Some things in life are a process. The Healthy Church Initiative is one of those things. The last thing HCI could ever be mistaken for is a simple program to fix a church. The Healthy Church Initiative does start with prayer. In Grace's case it started with prayer in the Northstar Clergy group I'm a part of and with the Bishop and District Superintendents as they prayed over which churches to invite. The prayer has continued with a Thursday evening group that became a Sun-



day morning group. It is the Spirit of the prayer that is vital. It isn't so much “God help Grace UMC grow” as it is, “God how do you want us to share the hope of Jesus in Moorhead?” For those who ask, “what is The Healthy Church Initiative” my nutshell response is praying, “Lord, not my will but Thy will be done.” Healthy Church invites us to reclaim the life-giving hope of Easter and devote our lives to sharing it. Healthy Church is about adopting an “it's-NOT-about-what -I-want & it-is-about-what-Jesus-wants” attitude. All the homework the HCI team has been doing has been helping us shift our focus from our needs and worries about Grace to God's hopes and dreams for all.

I am guessing my sharing doesn't answer all your questions or maybe raises more questions. **So, each and every one of you is invited to gather in the fellowship hall Saturday, April 18th from 9 'til noon.** We had over 20 for the pre-consult. I hope for 50 at least for the Saturday Morning Consult. There'll be refreshments; three Healthy Church Consultants and the District Superintendent will lead the morning session. Friday through Sunday they will interview all Grace staff and leaders, gather input from a Focus Group, attend worship, meet with the HCI team, and begin working on the 5 recommendations most likely to bring new life to Grace's ministry in our community and the congregation.

Easter morning three women arrived at the empty tomb. Because of their faithfulness a movement began that has swept across the entire globe and endured over 2,000 years. The power of Easter and the leading of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost changed everything. Grace UMC – you are invited to let the Spirit lead once again. You are invited to let the stone be rolled away – so Easter's power may be unleashed here and now in new and wonder-filled ways. What is the Healthy Church Initiative? Come and see. Come and see what God can do.

God's Peace,
Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

- Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
- Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
- Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
- Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
- Hyacinth Kronbeck (Park View)
- Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
- Tom Collins (Eventide)
- Mabel Johnson (Bethany)
- Clara Krook (Bethany)
- Delores Dronen (Fairmont)
- Mary J. Phillips (Sheyenne Crossings)
- Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
- Vi Williams (Bethany on 42nd)
- Mary Ann Held (Bethany)

PRAYER LIST at Home

- Vicky Westra Eddie Ybarra
- Rae Offutt



Ministry TEAM Program. The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation .
 TEAM #1 (Apr/Oct) TEAM Coordinator is N.. Grow, 701-541-4136

- 218-299-2022—J. & L. Denny
- 218-287-3404—J. & J. Eide,
- 218-236-8820—B. & S. Frangsrud & Family
- 218-236-7319—C. & R. Goldade
- 218-233-1969—D. & J. Graning
- 218-233-6411—B. & C. Krogen
- 218-790-1162—N. McCaskell
- 701-478-1410—B. Paulson & B. Rowland
- 701-212-8783—J. Stuart
- 218-236-9212—B. Wagner
- 701-388-6690—M. & R. Wagner
- 218-233-6709—D. Dronen,
- 218-236-7780—E. Elliott
- 218-236-1643—I. Koenning
- 218-233-1690—H. Kronbeck
- 701-282-7007—C. Krook
- 218-287-4316—B. & S. Martin
- 218-236-7136— E. Payton
- 701-235-5413—M. J. Phillips
- 701-364-3940—P. & D. Walter
- 763-438-6746— P. Welsh & Family



April Birthdays

- 3—E. Fangsrud
- 8—R. Herman
- 11—S. Gedrose
J. Burkhardt
- 17—M. Borgen
- 19—C. Behrens
L. Davis
- 23—E. Thiseth
- 25—A. Severson



- April Anniversaries**
- 11—J. & B. Fraundorfer
 - 15—S. & N. Grow
 - 29—L. & S. Simmons



I want to thank everyone for your calls, prayers and cards of condolence on the death of my sister, Jean Sampson. God bless.—J. Oelke




CONGRATULATION
 Congratulations to the following: T. Grow, J. Mann, E. Ybarra and C. Grafenstein as they were commissioned Stephen Ministers on Sunday, March 22nd.

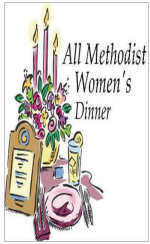


NEEDED
 Coffee is needed for the fellowship time after worship services. Please bring large containers of folger's coffee, both regular and decaffeinated.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
MARCH**

INCOME: \$ 10,644.00
EXPENSES: \$ 12,263.56
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 385.65


**GENERAL
OPERATING FUND**



ALL METHODIST WOMEN

The Moorhead-Fargo-West Fargo, five-church All Women's UM Fellowship Dinner will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at Calvary UMC. Registration begins at 6 p.m. Punch will be served during registration and dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. You will enjoy socializing, dinner with dessert, and a program. There is a free-will donation for this event. The money covers the dinner expenses and the rest goes to chosen organizations helping others in need. Reservations should be made by **April 10, 2015**. Please call the church office at 218-233-1857 between 9 a.m.-1 p.m., or J. Anderson, or P. Murray, for questions or reservations.

OFFUTT SCHOLARSHIP



Applications for the 2015 Offutt Scholarship are now available.

These scholarships are available to members of Grace UMC and their families for post-secondary education for the coming academic year. Applications are due in the office by May 1, 2015. The applications are available in the Church office and at the Church website www.graceumcmoorhead.org. If you have any questions about the Scholarships or about the Grace UMC Endowment Fund and its activities, please contact P. Anderson.

DONUTS



Donuts will be made on Wednesday, April 1st and Wednesday, April 15th, and Wednesday, April 29th beginning at 6:00 a.m. Please place your orders by calling the church office, 233-1857. The last days to order are March 30th, April 6th and April 27th. Donuts are to be picked up by 11:00 a.m.



TRUSTEE'S PROJECT

The Trustee's are still accepting donations for new carpeting. Please put "Trustee's" on your checks.



NEW LIFE CENTER

Plans now to attend the New Life Center Prayer Breakfast/Evening Dessert! Both events will be held on Thursday, April 16th at the Fargo Hilton Garden Inn. The Prayer Breakfast is at 9:30 AM and the Evening Dessert is at 7:30 PM. The speaker is Dee Brestin, author of "the Friendships of Women" and "Falling in Love with Jesus". She is also a Bible teacher, writer, speaker and blogger. Her weekly Bible study (www.deebrestin.com) is one of the most active online. Tickets for the event are \$20 for the breakfast and \$15 for the dessert. For more information and tickets go to www.fargonlc.org or call (701)235-4453.

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE



Healthy Church Initiative

A congregational session will be held on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 am until noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

CHURCHES UNITED

Help is needed to serve dinner at Churches United for the Homeless on Wednesday, April 29th. Cooking begins at 3:30 pm. A couple more people are needed around 5:00 pm to help prep and service. Please let Del know if you are able to minister to these child of God, 701-233-2223.

ON THE MOVE

T. and J. Wilson have moved and D. Nix is also moving. Please call the office for their new addresses.

VACATION

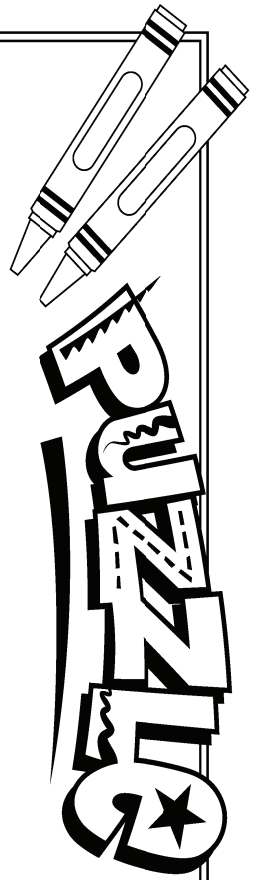
Pastor Roger will be on vacation April 7th thru April 13th. Rev. D. Walters will conduct the worship service on April 12th. On call for pastoral care is Stephen Minister, P. Horner; Rev. D. Walters, and D. Larson, CLM. Please call the office with any concerns you may have, 233-1857.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Wed, Apr 1	am: 55,,pm: 74	Jer 17:5-10, 14-17	Phil 4:1-13	John 12:27-36
Thur, Apr 2	am: 102,,pm: 142, 143	Jer 20:7-11	1 Cor 10:14-17, 11:27-32	John 17
Fri, Apr 3	am: 95, 22, pm: 40, 54	Gen 22:1-14	1 Pet 1:10-20	am: Jn 13:36-38, pm: Jn 19:38-42
Sat, Apr 4	am: 95, 88, pm 27	Job 19:21-27a	am: Heb 4:1-16 pm: Rom 8:1-11	Matt 27:57-66
Sun, Apr 5	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 113, 114	am: Exod 12:1-14 pm: Isa 51:9-11		am: John 1:1-18 pm: John 20:19-23
Mon, Apr 6	am: 93, 98. pm: 66	Jon 2:1-9	Acts 2:14, 22-32	John 14:1-14
Tues, Apr 7	am: 103. pm: 111, 114	Isa 30:18-21	Acts 2:26-47	John 14:15-31
Wed, Apr 8	am: 97, 99, pm: 115	Mic 7:7-15a	Acts 3:1-10	John 15:1-11
Thur, Apr 9	am: 146, 147, pm: 148, 149	Eze 37:1-14	Acts 3:11-26	John 15:12-27
Fri, Apr 10	am: 136, pm: 118	Dan 12:1-4, 13	Acts 4:1-12	John 16:1-15
Sat, Apr 11	am: 145, pm: 104	Isa 25:1-9	Acts 4:13-31	John 16:16-33
Sun, Apr 12	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Isa 43:8-13	1 Pet 2:2-10	John 14:1-7
Mon, Apr 13	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Dan 1:1-21	1 Jn 1:1-10	John 17:1-11
Tues, Apr 14	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Dan 2:1-16	1 Jn 2:1-11	John 17:12-19
Wed, Apr 15	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Dan 2:17-30	1 Jn 2:12-17	John 17:20-26
Thur, Apr 16	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Dan 2:31-49	1 Jn 2:18-29	Luke 3:1-14
Fri, Apr 17	am: 16, 17, pm: 134, 135	Dan 3:1-18	1 Jn 3:1-10	Luke 3:15-22
Sat, Apr 18	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Dan 3:19-30	1 Jn 3:11-18	Luke 4:1-13
Sun , Apr 19	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Dan 4:1-18	1 Pet 4:7-11	John 21:15-25
Mon, Apr 20	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Dan 4:19-27	1 Jn 3:19-4:6	Luke 4:14-30
Tue, Apr 21	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Dan 4:28-37	1 Jn 4:7-21	Luke 4:31-37
Wed, Apr 22	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Dan 5:1-12	1 Jn 5:1-12	Luke 4:38-44
Thur, Apr 23	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Dan 5:13-21	1 Jn 5:13-21	Luke 5:1-11
Fri, Apr 24	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Dan 6:1-15	2 Jn 1-13	Luke 5:12-26
Sat, Apr 25	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Dan 6:16-28	3 Jn 1-15	Luke 5:27-39
Sun, Apr 26	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Josh 4:19-24, 5:1-9	1 Pet 5:1-11	Matt 7:15-29
Mon, Apr 27	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Josh 10:16-27	Col 1:1-14	Luke 6:1-11
Tue, Apr 28	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Josh 10:28-43	Col 1:15-23	Luke 6:12-26
Wed, Apr 29	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Josh 11:1-23	Col 1:24-2:7	Luke 6:27-38
Thur, Apr 30	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 114, 115	Josh 13:1-13	Col 2:8-23	Luke 6:39-49

GRACE UMC

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 am Donut making 6:00 pm HCI 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	2 Maundy 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1:30 pm Martha Circle 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday 7 PM Joint UMC Service at Faith UMC in Fargo	4
5 Easter 8:00 am Sunrise 9:00 am NO Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am No Children's Sunday School	6 1:00 pm Quilting	7 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	8 6:00 pm HCI 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	9 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	10	11
2nd Sunday of Easter 12 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	13 1:00 pm Quilting	14 7:30 pm Finance Committee	15 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm HCI 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	16 9:30 am NLC Breakfast 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 11:30 am FM UM Clergy 7:00 pm Lydia Circle 7:30 pm NLC Dessert	17 Healthy Church Initiative 9:00 am Staff/Leaders Interviews Evening Focus Group	18 9:00—Noon All Church Gathering Afternoon HCI Team
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am HCI Consultants meet	20 1:00 pm Quilting	21 6:00 pm All Methodist Women Dinner— at Calvary 7:00 pm Ad Council	22 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	23 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:30 am North Star Clergy—DL 2:00 pm River Pointe	24	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	27 1:00 pm Quilting	28	29 5:00 pm Serve Churches United 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	30 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline		



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 who was Raised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d ied | 4 m ore than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J esus who | 11 i nterceding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a nd i s also |

... 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ , 5 _____

_____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____

_____ 6 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED