

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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

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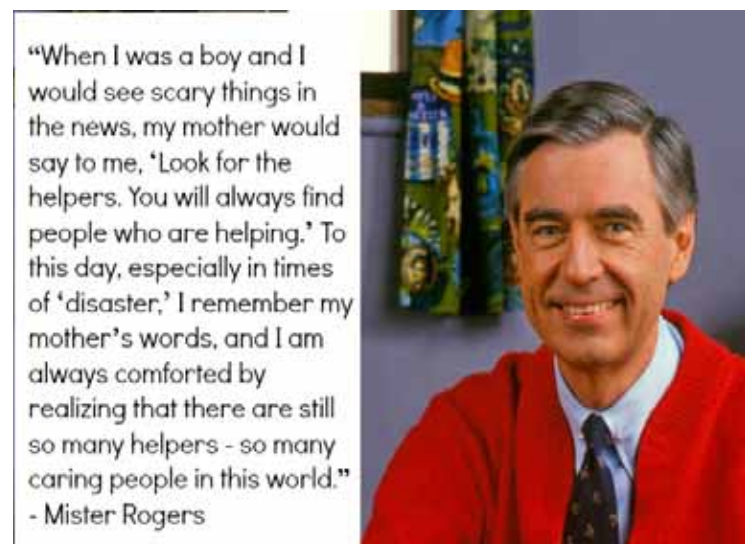
December 1, 2015

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

I imagine I am normal in coming into the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season this year with a bit of a heavy heart. Yes, I'm a new Grandpa and my heart is dancing. But, I am also a world-events watcher and my heart is heavy. Terrorism is meant to weigh down the heart—by its unpredictability and irrational violence. It's meant to create a walking on eggshells feeling. It's meant to make the world look like a dark-foreboding place. It's times like these I remember a quote.



USA Today reported that just a few days before the Paris attacks there was a similar attack in Beirut. Adel Termos, father of two, survived the first bomb blast. Then he saw two guys on a motorcycle. One leapt off running toward where people were praying. Termos, without a second thought, ran and tackled the man. The man detonated his bomb and Termos' body took the full impact saving 100 – 200 people. "Love one another as I have loved you." "Greater love hath no person than laying down life for another." (Jesus) Termos sacrifice is a light in the darkness for

me—a shining example of the best in humanity and a reminder of Jesus' way.



After the Paris attacks an interviewer was interviewing a pre-school boy and his dad. The boy was afraid. The boy was vividly describing mean men with big guns. He says, "They're really mean, daddy." It was heart-wrenching to see such tragedy through the eyes of a child. In the midst of it the Dad says, "They have guns, but we have flowers." The little boy says, "but flowers don't do anything." The dad says, "Sure they do. Look everyone is putting flowers to fight against guns." The boy looks at the huge crowds and says, "Flowers protect." And, the father says, "yes." And, for the first time the boy smiles and says it again, "Flowers protect." Another light in the darkness...and very close to the idea that the birth of a helpless infant 2,000 years ago would become the story that shields our souls, comforts us in loss, and lights our way in the dark. "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not extinguish the light" (John 1:5) At Grace we are celebrating the light of God this season. I hope you'll join in the celebration. I hope you'll be part of God's light to help guide a world to God this season.

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)
- Delores Dronen (Jamestown)
- Mary J. Phillips (Sheyenne Crossing)
- Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
- Clara Krook (Bethany)

PRAYER LIST at Home

- Vicky Westra Rae Offutt
- Linda Collins Ruth Opp

If you have any prayer concerns, call Paula Horner, 218-790-2141.



December Birthdays

BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

- 1—T., Grow
J., Miller
- 4—J. Wilson
M. Hamm
- 5—M. Burkhardt
- 7—M., Ladwig
D. Graning
- 14—S., Grow
- 15—R., Burkhardt
P. Welsh
- 16—B. Hopkins
- 17—T. Grafenstein
- 18—G. Clifton
- 20—B. Johnson
- 22—S. Simmons
- 23—T. Wilson
- 25—C. Burkhardt
- 28—J. Eide
- 29—E. Brendemuhl



December Anniversaries

- 6—R. & C. Goldade
- 11—T. & J. Wilson
- 12—J. & K. Enkers
- 17—T. & L. Collins
- 18—R. & N. Lofgren



Ministry TEAM Program.. A Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation . TEAM #2 (Dec/June) TEAM Coordinators are S. & N. Grow and T. & D. Grow.

- 701-297-5983—L. Andel
- 701-297-5983—L. Gibson
- 701-866-0686—C. & D. Burkhardt & Family
- 218-329-6750—J. Burkhardt
- 701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
- 218-236-9453—B. Hopkins
- 701-540-8155—E. & A. Ybarra & Family
- 218-233-3642—L. & P. Horner
- 218-236-8056—P. & T. Newgard & Family
- 218-233-5836—L. Norby
- 701-239-9453—J. & K. Thiseth
- 701-280-2097—J. Devine
E. Hilgers
- 218-233-6386—N. Howe
- 218-236-7579—J. Oelke
- 218-233-3969—R. & R. Richman
- 218-342-3851—M. Swan



DONUTS

Thank you to everyone who ordered donuts this past year. A special thank you to everyone who helped make the donuts. Donuts will be made again starting January 13, 2016, To place your order for donuts, call the office, 233-1857, by January 11th.

CONTRIBUTIONS



All contributions must be received in the office by 10:00 AM, on December 31, 2015 to be counted as a 2015 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2016 contribution. Grace is not responsible to count your contribution for 2015 if it is lost in the mail.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING



Lydia Circle Christmas pot luck gathering is on Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 pm at W. Walseth's, 815 S 10th St., Moorhead. Please bring a dish to share, a white elephant gift to exchange and donations of gloves, mittens and socks for Churches United.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November

INCOME: \$ 9,349.50
EXPENSES: \$13,463.89
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 556.34



NEW LIFE CENTER

The gifts for December are men's under-wear shirts, stocking caps, gloves, sweat shirts and heavy tube socks in various sizes and four (4) dozen cookies. A recipe book is planned and if you have a recipe you would like to share, please give it to J. or S.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 20th during the regular worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas Eve Service is Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 P.M.

MARTHA CIRCLE



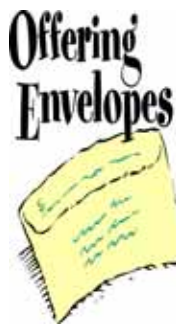
Martha Circle will have their Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 17th at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Everyone will meet at 12:00 noon for a dutch treat lunch.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 13th during the regular worship service.

OFFERING ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes for 2016 will be available beginning Sunday, December 6th. If you would like envelopes and do not find a box with your name, please take a box and write your name next to the number on the sheet. Remember to discard your 2015 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.



LIVING NATIVITY

Christmas only begins on December 25th. Join in the celebration by being a part of the Living Nativity on December 29th. We'll create a living manger scene and share in the story of Salvation's history by hearing key scripture readings and of course we will sing Christmas carols.

CHURCHES UNITED

On Wednesday, December 30th Grace UMC Youth will serve the evening meal at Church United for the Homeless. Set up starts about 3:30 and serving at 5:30

CHARGE CONFERENCE



The annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 6th following Worship Services at 11:15 am.

NEW DIRECTORY



The new address and phone directory for 2016 will be printed in January. If you have moved, or changed phone numbers, please let the office know so your correct information will be available. Please take a few minutes to review the current information in the directory on the table in the Narthex.

VISIT

On Saturday, December 12th the District Superintendent, Pastor Mark Miller, will visit Grace UMC beginning at 10:00 am. Please plan to attend this meeting.

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Tues, Dec 1	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
Wed, Dec 2	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
Thur, Dec 3	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
Fri, Dec 4	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
Sat, Dec 5	am: 20, 21, pm:110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
Sun, Dec 6	am: 148-150, pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
Mon, Dec 7	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
Tues, Dec 8	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
Wed, Dec 9	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
Thur, Dec 10	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
Fri, Dec 11	am: 31, pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
Sat, Dec 12	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
Sun, Dec 13	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
Mon, Dec 14	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
Tue, Dec 15	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
Wed, Dec 16	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51
Thur, Dec 17	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
Fri, Dec 18	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
Sat, Dec 19	am: 55, pm:138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
Sun, Dec 20	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
Mon, Dec 21	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Zeph 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
Tues, Dec 22	am: 66, 67, pm: 116, 117	1 Sam 2:1b-10	Titus 2:1-10	Luke 1:26-38
Wed, Dec 23	am: 72, pm: 111, 113	2 Sam 7:1-17	Titus 2:11-3:8a	Luke 1:39-56
Thur, Dec 24	am: 45, 46, pm: 89:1-29	am: Isa 59:1-15a pm: Isa 59:15b-21	am: Gal 3:23-4:7 pm: Phil 2:5-11	am: Lk 1:26-80 pm: Matt 1:18-25
Fri, Dec 25	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:26-31
Sat, Dec 26	1am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Isa 62:1-5	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:1-12
Sun, Dec 27	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Mon, Dec 28	2am: 97, 98, pm: 118	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Tues, Dec 29	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	2 Sam 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	Luke 1:57-66
Wed, Dec 30	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 5:1-15
Thurs, Dec 31	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	am: 1 Kg 3:5-14 pm: Isa 65:15b-25	am: am 4:13-17; 5:7-11 pm: Rev 21:1-6	John 4:46-54

GRACE UNITED METHODIST DECEMBER 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training Class	2 8:00 am ERL 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Finance Committee	3 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision HCI Pastor Training	4	5 11:00 am WOG Advent Luncheon
6 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:15 am Charge Conference	7 8:00 am ERL 1:00 pm Quilting	8 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training Class	9 8:00 am ERL 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	10 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 2:00 pm River- pointe 6:00 pm Lydia Circle Christmas Pot Luck	11	12 10:00 am Meeting with M. Miller, District Superintendent
13 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Choir Christmas Cantata 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	14 8:00 am ERL 1:00 pm Quilting	15 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training Class	16 8:00 am ERL 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Trustees 6:15 pm No Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:00 pm Ad Council 7:15 pm No Choir	17 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 12:00 Noon Martha Circle @ Holiday Inn FM UMC Clergy @ W. Fargo 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	18	19
20 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program 11:00 am Pot luck	21 8:00 am ERL 1:00 pm Quilting	22 9:00 am Bulle- tin Deadline 4:00 -6:00 pm MN Sure Health Insurance 7:00 pm NO Stephen Ministry	23 8:00 am ERL 6:00 pm No Youth Group 6:15 pm No Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm No AWANA 7:15 pm No Choir	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Services Offering to First Mile Missions	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:00 am NO Adult Sun- day School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am NO Children's Sunday School	28 8:00 am NO ERL 9:00 am Bul- letin Deadline 1:00 pm NO Quilting	29 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training Class	30 8:00 am No ERL 3:00 pm Set up to Serve Churches United 6:00 pm No Youth Group 6:15 pm No Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm No AWANA 7:15 pm No Choir	31		

EXCITEMENT AT GRACE CHURCH

by Del Larson, CLM

Wow! What an exciting fall we have experienced. So many wonderful things have happened at Grace church. I believe that the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) has had a major impact on our church for the past year.

Starting out slow, learning the language and expectations of this plan has already shown many positive results. When I did the Laity Sunday Service at the end of October, I wanted to experiment with the service as we had been learning on the HCI team. The worship team knows that experimenting with our services means trying new things that might flop, but actually have a better chance of being inspirational to most of us.

As most of you know, taking risks is nothing new for my career. When the HCI team met the week before that Sunday with me leading worship, there were some concerns about the direction I was taking. We spent a lot of time brainstorming. As should be, we put our faith in God and asked for His direction. I went home that night thinking I would be up late rewriting my message for the upcoming Sunday. However, as God usually does, I had this calming feeling and decided that I would go to bed at my regular time. After Luann and I did our reading lesson for *Unbinding Your Heart*, and said our prayers, my mind went into a whirl. Ideas and thoughts flew out so fast that I knew God was using the Holy Spirit to guide me. That experiment of having the congregation share their feelings in-between the Butterfly

opening and the choir closing, went well beyond our expectations. As it turned out beyond our expectations, you had something you wanted to share, and share you did. Of the approximately 100 in service that Sunday, we received 60 responses on those little index cards, that covered three typed, two-column pages. The idea of using the cards in service came from the book we were reading, *Unbinding Your Heart*. I know we went a little longer in time, ok a lot longer than usual, but you were patient and reached out to those who shared. You were engaged.

Now, HCI Team 4: Experimenting with Worship, is using those responses to meet your needs and continue to support your successful relationship with God and our church. We are developing themes for worship to help you in your faith journey, growing closer to God. Pastor Roger will be sharing those themes in the months to come. Please continue to share both your faith needs and your successes with us and others. That is what *Unbinding Your Heart* is all

about. Sharing your faith journey and growing relationship with God is what we are called to do. What a great experience we had on that Sunday in October, and how your sharing motivated so many to continue to develop our church as a community center in our neighborhood. May God continue to guide you and strengthen you as we move forward building this church of believers into the church of the neighborhood.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17 St S
Moonhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

