

# Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:  
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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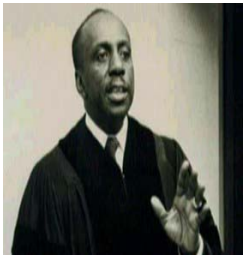
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

## Dear Friends,

“When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.”

(Poem by Howard Thurman)



I've read and re-read Thurman's words after each Christmas for over 25 years now. They are a powerful reminder of the responsibility following birth—even the Messiah's birth.

I hear Thurman's words and I think of King Herod's order to his soldiers. “Kill all the male boys under the age of two.” For Mary and Joseph the work of Christmas was more than changing diapers. It was doing anything and everything to save Jesus—even escaping into the enemy territory of Egypt because it was safer than their home country. Christmas is the gift that calls us to re-gift over and over again—wherever we see need, to whomever God nudges us to bless, whatever the cost.

I have been privileged this past Christmas to have people who wish to remain anonymous ask me to pass on gifts to others. Three times I've had the opportunity to see the reaction of someone unexpectedly blessed. I was privileged to see gratitude—or what I might call real joy, faces literally lighting up. Two other times I was part of discussing how to bless families that will remain anonymous. Again, it was a privilege to glimpse the beauty of gratefulness.

However, I was touched by more than the beauty of grateful hearts. Honestly, I was just as touched by the beauty of generous hearts. Thurman says, “the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost,” What has touched me is the number of people who are looking, searching, and working at “finding the lost.” What has moved my heart is seeing all those who are looking for someone to bless.

By the time you receive this we'll be nearing Epiphany. The 12 days of Christmas will almost be over. For some that will be a letdown and things will go back to ordinary. For Grace UMC, I look forward to our work together—“finding, healing, feeding, setting free, rebuilding, bringing peace and making music in the heart.” I look forward to the smiles we will bring in 2018. I look forward to the hope we will share. I look forward to seeing compassion and care continue to grow among us.

New Year's Blessings,  
Pastor Roger



**PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities**

- Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
- Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
- Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
- Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
- Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
- Tom Collins (Eventide)
- Mary J. Phillips
- Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
- Clara Krook (Bethany)
- Eleanor Payton (River Pointe)
- Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
- Reeta Herman (Fairmont)
- Pat Walter (Elim)
- Emily Elliott (Rosewood)
- Roger Helland (VA Hospital)
- Ruth Opp (Edgewood Vista)



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 #1(Jan/July) TEAM coordinators are D. & J. Graning

—J. & O. Alveshere

- 701-893-5350—K. Baker
- 701-367-0371—C. & D. Borgen & Family
- 218-227-5942—R. & B. Christopherson
- 218-233-0442—T. & L. Collins
- 218-303-1115—R. Helland
- 218-233-5110—R. Herman
- 218-233-6557—J. Mann
- 218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
- 218-287-3817—A. Severson
- 218-233-7474—S. & P. Struble

**PRAYER LIST at Home**

- Vicky Westra Cullen Fraundorfer
- ArNetta Monge Doyne Grow
- Pat Walter David Reed
- Joe Morlan Myrna Swan
- Delores Enkers

**DONUTS**

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are back and will be available January 17th, 2018. To place an order for donuts, call the office, 233-1857. There is also a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex.



**January Birthdays**



- 5- J. Oelke
- B. Beck
- 7- I. Smith
- 12-L. Roppe
- 14-K.i Thiseth
- 16-B. Loeks
- C. Gedrose
- 17-C. Chandler
- 19-W.Port
- 22-L.Hamm
- 25-J. Eide
- 27-D. Chandler
- 28-C. Gedrose
- 29-B. Paulson
- 31-C. Gedrose



**WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**Congratulations** to A. Severson for receiving the Women of Grace “Woman of the Year” award.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OTHERS IN TIME OF NEED**



A funeral coordinator is needed. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Pastor Roger.



**January Anniversaries**

- 18—S. & T. Ladwig

**FINANCIAL UPDATE  
December**

**INCOME: \$ 33,155.00**  
**EXPENSES: \$ 14,175.41**  
**APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 873.34**



## GOD IS WITH YOU—DO YOU KNOW WHERE?

Del Larson, CLM



Over the past 18 months, I have had the privilege to serve God by doing small services at two local retirement facilities. I have experienced many of those so called God-moments while preparing or in discussions with the seniors. My prayer is always to ask God to give me the words to write and

say. "Let these words be your words, and not mine." In our Bible studies, suddenly this thought comes to mind that seems to resonate from God. My inner thoughts are saying WOW, while I share those moments with the residents and see their face make a connection.

I can honestly say that I have had these moments throughout my life, although it became more evident in my mid-30's. I remember noticing the moments in school standing at the chalk board trying to get a point across, or thanking God for helping solve a technique that baffled the students. Sometimes you need to find a different way to make a point. I like to say that sometimes God has to hit you with a 2x4 to make you see. One of those "Ahah moments" when you realize that somehow God is speaking to you loudly to get your attention. I love those times.

For me God uses the 2x4 often, and I love those moments because I can see how God works in our lives. We have prayed for thousands of people here at church in our Joys and Concerns. How many times have we witnessed a different outcome than we had thought? How many times have you paused to realize God is working in your life? Did He help you avoid an accident, or help you find a job? God works so many different ways in our lives, but too many we miss. We think we have good luck, or fortune shines on us. I'm not saying the rule of odds doesn't work, but rather I put my trust in God.

As you approach this New Year, keep watch for how God is working in your life. As you start to

recognize those moments, you will realize they happen more often than you previously thought. As you realize that God is with you all the time, your light will shine even brighter. Share those moments, let others know God is alive and well in you, and you in Him.

My prayer this year is for you to find God working in your life every day. AMEN

## FELLOWSHIP



Thanks to all those who serve for fellowship after worship. Each week you've no doubt noticed that there is a "free will" offering on the table where the treats are. The first Sunday of the month the free-will gifts go to Churches United for the

Homeless. Grace was one of the founding churches for that organization--and has covenanted to assist it's ministry to provide emergency shelter to the homeless and transitional housing. The rest of the Sundays of the month the free-will fellowship offerings go to support Grace's ministry to make followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Our role as a neighborhood gathering place, and place for sharing the message of Jesus' love and life-transforming power, is vital in the lives of those we serve. In other words, we serve a vital role in the lives of every person who walks through our doors. Thank you for your continued support of Grace ministries. -

Pastor Roger & Operations and Resources Team

## NEW TO GRACE



If you feel "New to Grace", and have questions, thinking of membership or just wish to get to know a few more people at

GRACE., You are invited to gether with Pastor Roger on Sunday, January 14th from 11:00 am to 11:50 am. Child-care will be provided.

# Grace United Methodist

## January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Vision and Ministry  <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>3</b> <b>12:30 pm</b> ELR <b>6:00 pm</b> graceKIDS <b>6:15 pm</b> Confirmation <b>7:15 pm</b> Choir	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:00 pm</b> MHD Police Chaplains Mtg <b>1:30 pm</b> Martha Circle	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Financial Peace University Preview
<b>7</b> Epiphany Sunday <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship w/ Communion <b>10:15 am</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>8</b> <b>12:30 m</b> ELR <b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting <b>7:30 pm</b> FM Pastors mtg w/ Bishop Ough	<b>9</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Operatons and Resources	<b>10</b> <b>12:30 pm</b> ELR <b>6:00 pm</b> graceKIDS Ministry <b>6:15 pm</b> Confirmation <b>7:15 pm</b> Choir	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Financial Peace University
<b>14</b> 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Children's Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> "New to Grace" gathering	<b>15</b> <b>12:30 m</b> ELR <b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Northeran Dist. Clergy—DL UMC	<b>17</b> <b>6:00 am</b> Donut Making <b>12:30 pm</b> ELR <b>6:00 pm</b> graceKIDS Ministry <b>6:15 pm</b> Confirmation	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>7:00 pm</b> Lydia Circle—	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Financial Peace University
<b>21</b> 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>22</b> <b>12:30 m</b> ELR <b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting  Pastor Roger—Continuing Ed at Buffalo, MN	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>12:30 pm</b> ELR <b>6:00 pm</b> Youth Group <b>6:15 pm</b> Confirmation <b>7:15 pm</b> Choir	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Financial Peace University
<b>28</b> 4th Sunday after the Epiphany <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>29</b> <b>13:30 m</b> ELR <b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Vision and Ministry	<b>31</b> <b>6:00 am</b> Donut Making <b>12:30 pm</b> ELR <b>3:30 pm</b> Set up to Serve Churches United <b>6:00 pm</b> Youth Group <b>6:15 pm</b> Confirmation <b>7:15 pm</b> Choir			

<b>Date</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Mon, Jan 1	3am: 103, pm: 148	Isa 62:1-5, 10-12	Rev 19:11-16	Matt 1:18-25
Tues, Jan 2	am: 34, pm: 33	1 Kg 19:1-8	Eph 4:1-16	John 6:1-14
Wed, Jan 3	am: 68, pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 19:9-18	Eph 4:17-32	John 6:15-27
Thur, Jan 4	am: 85, 87, pm: 89:1-29	Josh 3:14-4:7	Eph 5:1-20	John 9:1-12, 35-38
Fri, Jan 5	am: 2, 110, pm: 29, 98	Jonah 2:2-9	Eph 6:10-20	John 11:17-27, 38-44
Sat, Jan 6	am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100	Isa 49:1-7	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 2:14-21
Sun, Jan 7	am: 146, 147, pm: 111-113	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:29-34
Mon, Jan 8	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Gen 2:4-25	Heb 1:1-15	John 1:1-18
Tues, Jan 9	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Gen 3:1-24	Heb 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Wed, Jan 10	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12,-14	Gen 4:1-16	Heb 2:11-18	John 1:29-42
Thur, Jan 11	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Gen 4:17-26	Heb 3:1-11	John 1:43-51
Fri, Jan 12	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Gen 6:1-8	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 13	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117	Gen 6:9-22	Heb 4:1-13	John 2:13-22
Sun, Jan 14	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Gen 7:1-10, 17-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19
Mon, Jan 15	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Gen 8:6-22	Heb 4:14-5:6	John 2:23-3:15
Tues, Jan 16	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Gen 9:1-17	Heb 5:7-14	John 3:16-21
Wed, Jan 17	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Gen 9:18-29	Heb 6:1-12	John 3:22-36
Thur, Jan 18	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Gen 11:1-9	Heb 6:13-20	John 4:1-15
Fri, Jan 29	am: 31, pm: 35	Gen 11:27-12:8	Heb 7:1-17	John 4:16-26
Sat, Jan 20	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Gen 12:9-13:1	Heb 7:18-28	John 4:27-42
Sun, Jan 21	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Gen 13:2-18	Gal 2:1-10	Mark 7:31-37
Mon, Jan 22	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Gen 14:1-24	Heb 8:1-13	John 4:43-54
Tue, Jan 23	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Gen 15:1-11, 17-21	Heb 9:1-14	John 5:1-18
Wed, Jan 24	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Gen 16:1-14	Heb 9:15-28	John 5:19-29
Thur, Jan 25	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118	Gen 16:15-17:14	Heb 10:1-10	John 5:30-47
Fri, Jan 26	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Gen 17:15-27	Heb 10:11-25	John 6:1-15
Sat, Jan 27	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Gen 18:1-16	Heb 10:26-39	John 6:16-27
Sun, Jan 28	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 18:16-33	Gal 5:13-25	Mark 8:22-30
Mon, Jan 29	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Gen 19:1-29	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:27-40
Tue, Jan 30	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Gen 21:1-21	Heb 11:13-22	John 6:41-51
Wed, Jan 31	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Gen 22:1-18	Heb 11:23-31	John 6:52-59

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Do you find yourself with months where you run out of money before you run out of month? Do you visualize yourself being able to retire with dignity? Do your dreams for your future appear to be a fading mist or are you able to see it in High Definition? Grace United Methodist Church is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University! This 9-week course will walk you through all of the relationships with money that you've ever wanted to learn, but had never gotten before. From a small emergency fund, through paying off debts, saving for kids' college, all the way to a basic understanding of how to save for retirement and build wealth using your greatest tool, your income. Join us as we walk through this journey together!

For more information, feel free to visit with T. or D. Grow, or sign up and order your class materials at <https://fpu.com/1052100>. The first class will begin January 13, 2018 at 9:00 am.

## On beginning the New Year

Lord of heaven and earth, prosper thou us this year even as our soul prospereth. Let thy presence go with us. Be thou the Companion of our way.

In our home, grant that we may cheerfully welcome thee as our daily Guest. In our relationships with others, teach us to practice the Golden Rule.

In all our seeking, grant that we seek first thy kingdom and righteousness.

—17th-century prayer

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Moorhead MN 56560  
(218) 233-1857

