

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:

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

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

Dear Friends,

I had hoped that by the time of writing this for the newsletter that I might have some firm figures regarding the cost of replacing the boiler at Grace UMC. I can tell you the current boiler is a 2 ¼ million BTU unit and it's not the sort of thing we can simply pick off a shelf at Home Depot. I do know we've had three leaking tubes capped off and state regulations allow us to cap off a total of four. I do know the representatives of Trustees, Finance and Council met and there was a unanimous decision to get bids on a new boiler. I do know we did have some asbestos and had it professionally removed for \$3,000. For any boiler company to do major work in the boiler room they needed official documentation regarding the removal and disposal of the asbestos.

At this point, however, boiler bids are in progress. We'll send out a separate letter with that information in the very near future when we get it. That said, the failing boiler has been the source of an epiphany for me regarding Grace UMC. Epiphanies are big deals and they get their very own Sunday in the church year. In church-talk—an epiphany is a holy light bulb moment and refers back to the wise ones who followed a star until they found God's presence in a little boy named Jesus. Epiphany also refers to how the wise ones were visited by an angel in their dreams and traveled home by a new road. **Epiphany is no less than seeing things in a new light and living in a new way because it suddenly dawns on us God is very present in the moment.**

The boiler leak was discovered because the boiler burner didn't ignite. The ignition failure was discovered because the choir was practicing on the Saturday before the Christmas Cantata and Stan noticed sanctuary blower fan was not shutting off. We had heat on the Cantata Sunday only because the choir happened to practice on Saturday, and one person knew who to call to have late night Saturday repairs done. We also felt

warm, because it was the warmest weekend of the winter when the boiler went down. The timing was a gift. Since that time Stan has shared countless hours getting bids, arranging further repairs, and bringing in portable furnace units in place to keep the building from freezing if we have catastrophic boiler. It's a gift for Grace to have such talent in the congregation.

In the meantime we have had visual reminders of the importance of Jesus in our lives. Over 160 attending the Sunday School Christmas program—30 of them children. 146 for the Christmas Cantata. 185 for Christmas Eve. **If you have not joined the Moorhead Methodists at Grace Facebook page or gone to the Church Website www.graceumcmoorhead.org take a few moments to go and take a look, and listen. God granted Grace wonderful vitality this Christmas.** Add in quilts made and given, a \$6,000+ gift to the church from the donut makers, the Calligrapher for the St. John's Bible leading 90 women in a Christmas meditation, and more and it's clear we've experienced so much vitality in the month it has been spectacular.

Further, thanks to R. Goldade, a person who won't want his name mentioned again, the Trustees and your generosity I had the privilege of watching some of the real people, who give faces to the numbers above, approach the Grace UMC entrance with a walker, push a button and have the door open—no need to pull, no need to try to weave around the person opening and holding the door, no need to ask for or wait for help. The first time I witnessed it I got a lump in my throat for the beauty of it.

Yes, Grace is facing boiler issues. But, the more important thing is God is at work here through people offering their time and gifts, through welcoming choices we've made as a congregation, and through people committed to sharing the story of God-with-us, Immanuel, Jesus born to save us.

With Gratitude for God's Presence,
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)
- Delores Dronen (Fairmont)
- Mary J Phillips (Sheyenne Crossing)
- Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
- Vi Williams (Bethany on 42nd)
- Mary Ann Held (Bethany)
- Myrna Swan [Perham Memorial]

PRAYER LIST at Home

- Vicky Westra Dale Smith
- Rae Offutt Cheryl Borgen
- Bonnie Wagner



January Birthdays

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



January Anniversaries

- 18—S. & T. Ladwig



Ministry TEAM Program...A New Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to serve at funerals, Sunday fellowship, as well as to provide ushers, greeters, the opening welcome and readers. TEAM 4 (Jan/July). Ministry TEAMS Coordinator is N. Grow

- 701-293-3260—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
- 218-236-8502—G. & L. Davis
- 218-236-9086—M. Held
- 218-287-1002—R. Helland
- 218-233-5110—R. Herman
- 701-426-9206—C. Holden
- 218-233-6557—J. Mann
- 218-233-2885—N. Moore
- 218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
- 218-233-3883—D. Nix
- 218-287-3817—A. Severson

OFFERING ENVELOPES



Narthex.

Offering envelopes for 2015 are in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes and destroy your 2014 envelopes to avoid getting the envelopes mixed up. Also if you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on them and would like offering envelopes, please take a box and sign your name next to the corresponding number on the sign up sheet in the

PHONE DIRECTORY

A new phone directory will be available the middle of January. If you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please let the office know as soon as possible.



WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Denae Burkhardt for receiving the Women of Grace "Woman of the Year" award.



**FINANCIAL UPDATE
DECEMBER**

INCOME: \$ 17,974.73
 EXPENSES: \$ 11,409.05
 APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 370.34





NEW LIFE CENTER

Thank You for the many gifts that on behalf of Grace we were able to take to the Center in December so the men could have a very nice Christmas. Each church also donated four dozen cookies. Every man who eats dinner at the New

Life Center will receive a gift, even the men that aren't currently living at the Center. There is a full house and the overflow is used each night. One of the biggest problems now is finding a place for single mothers with children to stay.

Sanford hospital is working with the New Life Center to find a solution for this problem.

The New Life Center wants to Thank every one for all of the great donations that are brought each year. Marry Christmas.—

S. Mohr and J. Oelke

DONUTS

On December 14th, Martha Circle was able to present a check for \$6,442.61 to Grace United Methodist Churches General Fund.

A Special Thanks to, L. Norby for all the trips made to the bank to make deposits and doing a wonderful job of keeping track of our income and expenses.

Also a big thank you to J.

Anderson for making numerous

trip to the grocery store to get all the supplies, and to Sondra for taking all the orders. A special big thank you to all the women and men who were at the church ready to make donuts at 6 a.m.

With God's blessings, plans are to start making donuts in February of 2015.



QUILTERS

The quilters will not be meeting during the months of January and February. They will begin quilting sometime in the spring.

A WINNING PATTERN FOR THE NEW YEAR

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted for being courteous and kind to all.”

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2015 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BOILER FUND



Have you been a little chilly on Sunday morning during Worship? Well you are not alone. The old boiler is not working at 100% and needs to be replaced. All contributions for a new boiler are being accepted, just note “boiler” on your check.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Thru, Jan 1	am: 103, pm: 148	Gen 17:1-12a, 15-16	Col 2:6-12	John 16:23b-30
Fri, Jan 2	am: 34, pm: 33	Gen 12:1-7	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:35-42, 48-51
Sat, Jan 3	am: 68, pm: 72	Gen 28:10-22	Heb:11:13-22	John 10:7-17
Sun, Jan 4	am: 66, 67, pm: 145	Isa 66:18-23	1 John 2:12-17	John 6:41-47
Mon Jan 5	am: 2, 110, pm: 29, 98	am: Joshua 1:1-9, pm: Isa 66:18-23	am: Heb 11:32-12:2, pm: Rom 15:7-13	John 15:1-6
Tue, Jan 6	am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100	Isa 52:7-10	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 12:14-21
Wed, Jan 7	am: 103, pm: 114, 115	Isa 52:3-6	Rev 2:1-7	John 2:1-11
Thur, Jan 8	am: 117, 118, pm: 112, 113	Isa 59:15-21	Rev 2:8-17	John 4:46-54
Fri, Jan 9	am: 121, 122, 123, pm: 131, 132	Isa 63:1-5	Rev 2:18-29	John 5:1-15
Sat, Jan 10	am: 138, 139, pm: 147, 104	Isa 65:1-9 pm: Isa 61:1-9	Rev 3:1-6 pm: Gal 3:23-29, 4:4-7	John 6:1-14
Sun , Jan 11	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Isa 40:1-11	Heb 1:1-12	John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34
Mon, Jan 12	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Isa 40:12-23	Eph 1:1-14	Mark 1:1-13
Tues, Jan 13	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Isa 40:25-31	Eph 1:15-23	Mark 1:14-28
Wed, Jan 14	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Isa 41:1-6	Eph 2:1-10	Mark 1:29-45
Thur, Jan 15	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 41:17-29	Eph 2:11-22	Mark 2:1-12
Fri, Jan 16	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Isa 42:1-17	Eph 3:1-13	Mark 2:13-22
Sat, Jan 17	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117	Isa 43:1-13	Eph 3:14-21	Mark 2:23-3:6
Sun, Jan 18	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Isa 43:14-44:5	Heb 6:17-7:10	John 4:27-42
Mon, Jan 19	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Isa 44:6-8, 21-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19a
Tues, Jan 20	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Isa 44:9-20	Eph 4:17-22	Mark 3:19b-35
Wed, Jan 21	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Isa 44:24-45:7	Eph 5:1-14	Mark 4:1-20
Thur, Jan 22	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Isa 45:5-17	Eph 5:15-33	Mark 4:21-34
Fri, Jan 23	am: 31, pm: 35	Isa 45:18-25	Eph 6:1-9	Mark 4:35-41
Sat, Jan 24	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Isa 46:1-13	Eph 6:10-24	Mark 5:1-20
Sun, Jan 25	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Isa 47:1-15	Heb 10:19-31	John 5:2-18
Mon, Jan 26	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Isa 48:1-11	Gal 1:1-17	Mark 5:21-43
Tue, Jan 27	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Isa 48:12-21	Gal 1:18-2:10	Mark 6:1-13
Wed, Jan 28	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Isa 49:1-12	Gal 2:11-21	Mark 6:13-29
Thur, Jan 29	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118	Isa 49:13-23	Gal 3:1-14	Mark 6:30-46
Fr, Jan 30	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Isa 50:1-11	Gal 3:15-22	Mark 6:47-56
Sat, Jan 31	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Isa 51:1-8	Gal 3:23-29	Mark 7:1-23

Grace United Methodist Church

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day Office Closed Holiday	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	5	6 Epiphany of our Lord <small>12th day of Christmas</small> 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm Finance Committee	7 1:30 pm Martha Circle 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm HCI Meeting	9	10
11 1st Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	12	13	14 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Lydia Circle	16	17
18 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	19	20 6:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Ad Council	21 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Park View Terrace 10:00 am Golden Living 2:00 pm River Pointe	23	24
25 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	26	27	28 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 pm Choir	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry	30	31

“TREASURES”

by Del Larson, CLM

In the last newsletter I shared the devotional book we were reading, “*Treasure*,” by Jacob Armstrong. The last chapter is called “Don’t Worry ‘bout Anything”. I know this topic resonated with me. I have always been a worrier; it is a family trait. However, time after time I have found that worry just doesn’t do me any good. I can honestly say that all those worries seemed to work out. That is what God tells us in Matthew 6:26, *Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops to put in the barns. Yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are?*

The world is in constant turmoil. There are days our lives feel like they’re spinning out of control. How does worry help the situations we face? Everyone knows that worry causes damage to us. You lose focus, make poor decisions, and it definitely affects your mind and body. God gave us the right of making choices. How many times do you hit your hand with a hammer before you stop doing it? The same thing can be said about worry. If it does no good to worry, then why do it? Because we are weak and it’s what we learn from our parents, or those around us. If you believe and accept that you are a child of God, then we have to

work to push ourselves to not worry, for God takes care of all of our needs.

Jesus, in his Sermon on the Mount, asked, “*Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?*” Does worry solve your problems? Does it give you more time? In fact, Jesus could have been the writer of the great pop song by Bobby McFerrin, *Don’t Worry, Be Happy*. Jesus knows we can’t talk ourselves out of anxious moments, with logic and just move on. Jesus is trying to guide us to what is the cause of worry; we think that we are in control and everything depends on us. Least we forget, but it is God who is in control. Another phrase that comes to mind is, “*Stop and Smell the Roses*.” If God can take care of the birds of the sky and the flowers of the field, why would he do any less for us. Take time to see the wonders of the world and all that surrounds you. Write down your worries and find all that you can really control. If you believe that God created this world and all that is in it, then you can believe that God will take care of you. We are human and sinful, and will continue to worry until we remember this scripture. With God’s help we will overcome the fear of anxiety and worry, and let these words of Jesus comfort us and strengthen us to push worry away, and give us peace with the word of God. May God make it so. AMEN



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