

Light of Grace

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

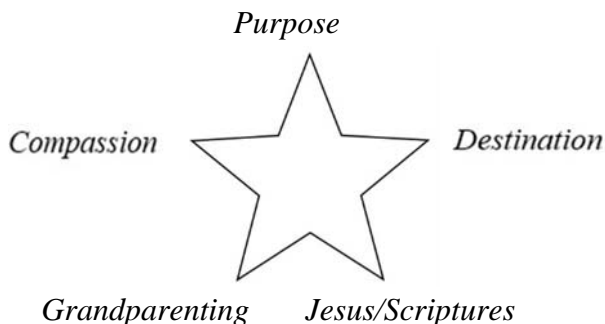
Vol. 32, No. 1
January 1, 2021

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
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Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org
Pastor: Roger Grafenstein
Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com
Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

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

Dear Friends,

December worship was themed around “Holding the Hope.” Our Grace Kids’ Christmas Program was entitled “Hold the Hope.” Our Christmas Eve Message was “Cradle the Hope.” As a capstone to the month, MN Annual Conference lead the Dec. 27th service with the theme: “Hope Made Real.” During the Dec. 27th worship an invitation was issued to create a five-point star and name five things that help keep hope alive within us.



Personally, in 2020 my HOPE has been rooted in Jesus’ message and Scripture. Both lead me to what I describe as a Grandparent-type love: filled with Compassion and patience, focused on the Purpose of ushering in God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven for every precious child of God, the Destination/point of it all. Staying hopeful has been critical in 2020 for me. I expect it has been for you.

On the brink of 2021 there is a new word appearing on the scene: Vaccination. As we

round the corner into life after Christmas there are new people appearing on the Biblical scene: Wise Ones. They find Jesus, share their gifts, then receive an inoculation to protect them from the King Herod virus—that orders the slaughter of all boy babies and toddlers. Their inoculation is a word from an angel warning them to travel a new road home avoiding Herod. Joseph receives a similar vaccination. A night-angel’s word tells him to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus. Jesus’ message, and all those drawn to it, were under threat from the very beginning. (See Matthew 2:1-18)

In 2021 we will receive a Covid-19 vaccination to protect us from a biological virus. In 2021 we also need a spiritual inoculation to protect us from spiritual viruses—fear and cynicism, despair and anger, division and hard-heartedness. To thrive we still need to hold onto hope. Plus, we will journey into “in-person life” in a world that is different than the pre-Covid-19 world we remember. So, I find myself praying, “Healing God, vaccinate me against things that kill the spirit.” “Ever-present Christ, grant me new insights, so I am spiritually healthier, and a more Jesus-like sign of your love and blessing, in 2021.” I invite you into the same prayer as we begin the new year.

Blessings and Wellness,

Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Peggy Anderson | (R.E.M. House) |
| Bonnie Wagner | (Fergus Falls) |
| Pat Walter | (Villa Maria) |
| Don Walter | (Villa Maria) |
| Marilyn Wollitz | (Fairmont) |
| Jim Jameson | (River Pointe) |

PRAYER LIST at Home

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Carol Devine | Shirley Mohr |
| Ilo Koenning | Luanan Larson |
| Julie Posschl | Del Larson |
| Steve Grow | Lynette Andel |
| Les Simmons | |



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—L. Collins
 218-233-6557—J. Mann
 218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
 218-287-3817—A. Severson
 218-233-7474—S. & P. Struble



January Birthdays

5- J. Oelke
 B. Beck
 7- I. Smith
 12-L. Roppe
 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

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the family of J. Beck. Her father, Ronald Gores, passed away on Monday, November 30th. A military services at Ft. Snelling will be held in the spring.

Our sympathies to the family of S. Grow, his mother, Lorraine Taggart, passed away on Sunday, December 27th. Her funeral is on Friday, January 8, 2021 in Wadena, MN.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

January 3 - Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12
January 10 - Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
January 17 - 1 Sam 3:1-10; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; I Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
January 24 - Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; I Cor 7::29-31; Mark 1:14-20
January 31 - Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; I Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.

FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:

**Grace UM Church Moorhead page
Roger Grafenstein's page**

WORSHIP ALSO LIVESTREAMS ON THE WEBSITE: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Kids Devotions on the Website and on FACEBOOK: Grace UM Church Moorhead

AS OF OCTOBER 27th THE BUILDING IS LIMITED TO 10 PEOPLE CURRENTLY FAMILY-ONLY



January Anniversaries

18—S. & T. Ladwig

NEW LIFE CENTER AUXILIARY

P. Murray and
K. Anderson, Delegates

We had a wonderful response to our request for Christmas gifts for the guests staying at the New Life Center. Grace members donated 38 pairs of heavy winter gloves, 9 refillable water bottles and 12 pairs of socks. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

**Offering
Envelopes**



Offering envelopes for 2021 are available for curbside pick. Please call the office and let me know you are on your way to the church, ring the door bell and you will be handed your envelopes.

NEW DIRECTORY



The new address and phone directory for 2021 is available for curbside pick. Please call the office and let me know that you would like a new directory.

THE GUIDE

Picture a man stumbling along in a heavy fog, completely disoriented. Then, off in the distance, he sees the light of one small lamp. Its glow is sufficient neither to burn off the fog nor to illuminate the obstacles that might be on the ground between the man and that lamp. Still, it is a steadily burning lamp. Something within the man prompts him to believe that if he heads toward it, he will be going in the right direction. That "something" we can call "faith."

While heading toward the lamp, he finds another lost man whose eyesight is so poor he can't see the lamp. The first man takes the second by the hand and helps him toward the lamp also. The act of reaching out to another we can call "love."

And the lamp that draws him? It's called "hope."
-*The Wired Word* (August 7, 2011)

WHAT NOT TO TAKE INTO THE NEW YEAR

- Self-help books - Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure - Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview Mirror - Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel - Instead of judging others, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Life vest - Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- Garage-door opener - We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves from our neighbors. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- Handcuffs - Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through - not despite - us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

- Gregg McCaslin

ECCE AGNUS DEI"



Latin for "Behold, the Lamb of God," this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29-36). It makes Jesus' Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).

GIVE IT YOUR ALL



There are plenty to follow our Lord halfway, but not the other half. They will give up possessions, friends and honors, but it touches them too closely to disown themselves. --- Commit your lives in unreserved obedience to [God].

- Meister Eckhart

Grace United Methodist

January 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----|--|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Epiphany Sunday 10:00 am Worship w/ virtual Communion on www.graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Baptism of the Lord 10:00 am Worship on www.graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship | 11 11:00 am Pastors' Meeting - MN Dept of Health | 12 | 13 | 14 1:00 pm MN UMC Racial Justice Seminar | 15 | 16 |
| 17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship on www.graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship | 18 | 19 6:30 pm Vision and Operations and Resources | 20 | 21 1:00 pm Moorhead Police Chaplain's Meeting | 22 | 23 |
| 24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship on www.graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 1:00 pm MN UMC Racial Justice Seminar | 29 | 30 |
| 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship on www.graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship | | | | | | |

| Date | Psalm | OT | Epistle | Gospel |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Fri, Jan 1 | am: 103, pm: 148 | Gen 17:1-12a, 15-16 | Col 2:6-12 | John 16:23b-30 |
| Sat, Jan 2 | am: 34, pm: 33 | Gen 12:1-7 | Heb 11:1-12 | John 6:35-42, 48-51 |
| Sun, Jan 3 | am: 66, 67, pm: 145 | Isa 66:18-23 | 1 John 2:12-17 | John 6:41-47 |
| Mon, Jan 4 | am: 85, 87, pm: 89:1-29 | Exod 3:1-12 | Heb 11:23-31 | John 14:6-14 |
| Tue, Jan 5 | am: 2, 110, pm: 29, 98 | Joshua 1:1-9 | Heb 11:32-12:2 | John 15:1-6 |
| Wed, Jan 6 | am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100 | Isa 52:7-10 | Rev 21:22-27 | Matt 12:14-21 |
| Thu, Jan 7 | am: 103, pm: 114, 115 | Isa 52:3-6 | Rev 2:1-7 | John 2:1-11 |
| Fri, Jan 8 | am: 117, 118, pm: 112, 113 | Isa 59:15-21 | Rev 2:8-17 | John 4:46-54 |
| Sat, Jan 9 | am: 121, 122, 123, pm: 131, 132 | Isa 63:1-5 | Rev 2:18-29 | John 5:1-15 |
| Sun, Jan 10 | 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 11 | am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7 | Isa 40:12-23 | Eph 1:1-14 | Mark 1:1-13 |
| Tues, Jan 12 | am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11 | Isa 40:25-31 | Eph 1:15-23 | Mark 1:14-28 |
| Wed, Jan 13 | am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14 | Isa 41:1-6 | Eph 2:1-10 | Mark 1:29-45 |
| Thur, Jan 14 | am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50 | Isa 41:17-29 | Eph 2:11-22 | Mark 2:1-12 |
| Fri, Jan 15 | am: 16, 17, pm: 22 | Isa 42:1-17 | Eph 3:1-13 | Mark 2:13-22 |
| Sat, Jan 16 | am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117 | Isa 43:1-13 | Eph 3:14-21 | Mark 2:23-3:6 |
| Sun, Jan 17 | am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115 | Isa 43:14-44:5 | Heb 6:17-7:10 | John 4:27-42 |
| Mon, Jan 18 | am: 25, pm: 9, 15 | Isa 44:6-8, 21-23 | Eph 4:1-16 | Mark 3:7-19a |
| Tues, Jan 19 | am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39 | Isa 44:9-20 | Eph 4:17-22 | Mark 3:19b-35 |
| Wed, Jan 20 | am: 38, pm: 119:25-48 | Isa 44:24-45:7 | Eph 5:1-14 | Mark 4:1-20 |
| Thur, Jan 21 | am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42 | Isa 45:5-17 | Eph 5:15-33 | Mark 4:21-34 |
| Fri, Jan 22 | am: 31, pm: 35 | Isa 45:18-25 | Eph 6:1-9 | Mark 4:35-41 |
| Sat, Jan 23 | am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43 | Isa 46:1-13 | Eph 6:10-24 | Mark 5:1-20 |
| Sun, Jan 24 | am: 63, 98, pm: 103 | Isa 47:1-15 | Heb 10:19-31 | John 5:2-18 |
| Mon, Jan 25 | am: 41, 52, pm: 44 | Isa 48:1-11 | Gal 1:1-17 | Mark 5:21-43 |
| Tue, Jan 26 | am: 45, pm: 47, 48 | Isa 48:12-21 | Gal 1:18-2:10 | Mark 6:1-13 |
| Wed, Jan 27 | am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53 | Isa 49:1-12 | Gal 2:11-21 | Mark 6:13-29 |
| Thur, Jan 28 | am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118 | Isa 49:13-23 | Gal 3:1-14 | Mark 6:30-46 |
| Fri, Jan 29 | am: 40, 54, pm: 51 | Isa 50:1-11 | Gal 3:15-22 | Mark 6:47-56 |
| Sat, Jan 30 | am: 55, pm: 138, 139 | Isa 51:1-8 | Gal 3:23-29 | Mark 7:1-23 |
| Sun, Jan 31 | am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84 | Isa 51:9-16 | Heb 11:8-16 | John 7:14-31 |



A NEW YEAR WISH

May the New Year bring us:
 Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
 Enough trials to keep us strong;
 Enough hope to keep us lively;
 Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
 Enough failure to keep us humble;
 Enough success to keep us eager;
 Enough friends to give us comfort;
 Enough wealth to meet our needs;
 Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
 Enough faith to overcome despair;
 And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.



THE INAUGURATION

When president-elect Abraham Lincoln headed to Washington, D.C., he called himself a "humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty. He spoke of American's citizenry as God's "almost chosen people."

Wasn't that a lovely compliment? One suspects Lincoln was speaking as a good father speaks to children, wanting them to live up to their full potential. He surely wanted the "almost chosen people" to be servants of the living God.

As God's chosen people, as well as Americans who soon will have a new leader, how can we live up to God's expectations for us? What can we each do to make our country a better place? And how can we share the good news with other that God has chosen us to live with him forever?

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 (218) 233-1857

