

# Light of Grace

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

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February 1, 2022

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Pastor: Taylor Johnson

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Pastor's Cell Phone: (218) 422-6586

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

In the month of February come two of my favorite days of the year, Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day. Super Bowl Sunday is an unspoken national holiday with the spectacle of the game, halftime show, and of course snacks! Within weeks we then celebrate Valentine's Day, honoring the gift of love in our lives. Kiersten and I have had a tradition of going out for a really good steak, and I'd say we're pretty excited to see what Moorhead and Fargo have to offer on that front. I know that Valentine's Day can be seen through a multitude of different lenses, one of those being, "why don't we celebrate love like this everyday?"

It's a fair question. Yet those special moments and bigger days are not what get us through, that's not all love is. A passage that has traditionally been paired with marriage is 1 Corinthians 13, titled *The Gift of Love*. Paul is speaking about a love bigger than just a relationship between two people, but it's how we can act out the love that Jesus speaks of when He says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It's an extensive, yet not exhaustive list of what love is and does. Love is more than just flashy displays, it's exhibiting patience, kindness while withholding jealousy, arrogance, and rudeness. Love is lasting by putting up with all things, trusting in all things, believing in all things, hoping for all things and enduring all things. Love is selfless by not seeking its own advantage, keeping a record of wrongs, or tolerating injustice. I confess I don't always exhibit every one of these qualities well throughout my life. The key thing for us to remember from this passage is that Paul is saying it takes effort and intention to love well, it can't be something we easily gloss over or cover with grand gestures. Again, while this does include our romantic or intimate relationships, it is not exclusive to them. The use of love in this chapter is more accurately expressed as *Agape*, meaning showing charity or affection. Yes, Valentine's Day often emphasizes those types of relationships, but I want to challenge you especially in the coming months to consider how you are actively and intentionally showing love to all people in your life. A helpful practice I have used in the past is putting my own name in the place of love in this passage, which would look something like, "Taylor is patient, Taylor is kind..etc." If I am conflicted with any

of these statements, it is a clear indication of where I need to work on in my relationships and my witness to others.

Paul begins the next section with a call to action:

"Pursue love". May each of us, especially in the coming month, actively and intentionally pursue love with the gifts we have been given. May the love of God overwhelm you to the point of sharing it with others. Finally, may you know that YOU are deeply loved by the Creator of all things, the Savior of all people, and the Sustainer of all these gifts. Amen.

## APPORTIONMENTS:

There have been some questions about apportionment giving for Grace UMC. During our financial informational meeting in October, we proposed a budget line item for apportionments, and at our Charge Conference in November we approved our 2022 budget with that line item being set at 5% of our income. This is a change from what we had been doing with specific giving for apportionments from individuals, in order to collectively as a church support the work of the conference and denominational ministries. While you are more than welcome to continue to give above and beyond, 5% of every gift given to Grace Ministries is budgeted to go to those apportionments. If you have any questions regarding that, we'd be more than happy to discuss it.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT SERVICES;

Mark your calendars for our Ash Wednesday service at 6 pm on Wednesday, March 2nd. All throughout Lent we will also be having a half hour service every Wednesday night starting at 6 pm. As we get closer to that time, we will make the decision about having soup and sandwich dinners based on updated Covid numbers.

## LENT BOOK STUDY:

We will be studying the book *In Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Dr. Jill Duffield. We will plan book study times as we get closer to Lent. Books will be available to purchase for \$10 a piece at the church.

Pastor Taylor



**PRAYER LIST**

**CARE FACILITIES:**

Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)  
Pat Walter (Villa Maria)  
Don Walter (Pioneer House)  
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)

**AT HOME:**

Carol Devine John Fraundorfer  
Myron Mann Luann Larson  
Jean Mann Del Larson  
Brinda Rowand Bria Eisen Family



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 (Feb/Aug) TEAM coordinators are: B. and S. Fangsrud and J. Miller and Family

701-238-5800—C. & R. Abel  
701-261-9009—M. Akin  
218-236-0183—J. Anderson  
218-233-6915—J. & K. Enkers  
218-233-0255—T. & K. Johnson  
218-329-6199—M. & M. Hamm & Family  
701-361-7571—B. & Z. Hanna & Family  
218-236-7366—S. Mohr  
218-236-5520—B. & M. Port  
—S. Anderson & Family  
218-498-2312—S. Simmons  
701-866-6884—D. Stead & Family  
218-236-8327—W. & W. Walseth  
218-233-3341—M. Wright



**February Birthdays**

- 1—J. Denny
- 2— L. Larson
- 4—R. Lofgren
- 5—C. Welsh
- 6—C. Goldade
- 8—K. Baker  
L. Gedose
- 12 - L. Romoayshyn
- 13— E. Brown
- 15—J. Anderson
- 16—G. Chandler
- 17—J. Miller  
K. Beck
- 19—F. Hamm
- 20—L. Denny  
B. Burkhardt  
E. Fraundorfer
- 22—H. Hamm  
R. Murray
- 23—D. Burkhardt



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on February 2nd, 2022. If you ordered donuts for January 12th, your order has been moved to February 2nd., if you need to cancel, please call the office, 218-233-1857

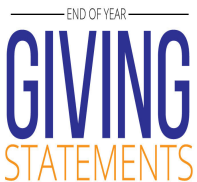
**DONUTS**

**NEW DIRECTORY**

The telephone and address directory for 2022 is on the table in the Narthex. Please take an updated directory, one per family. If you need additional copies, let the office know. One correction, JoAnn Oelke's address is Dilworth 56529

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Contribution statements were mailed last week. Please review your statement and call the office for any changes and or corrections that need to be made.



**WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.**

**FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:**  
Grace UMC Church Moorhead page

**WORSHIP ALSO LIVESTREAMS ON THE WEBSITE:** [www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org)

**Offerings may be mailed: Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560**

**Online giving available through Givelify! Go to [graceumcmoorhead.org/give](http://graceumcmoorhead.org/give) and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Tues, Feb 1</b>	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Gen 18:1-16	Heb 10:26-39	John 6:16-27
<b>Wed, Feb 2</b>	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 18:16-33	Gal 5:13-25	Mark 8:22-30
<b>Thurs, Feb 3</b>	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Gen 19:1-29	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:27-40
<b>Fri, Feb 4</b>	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Gen 21:1-21	Heb 11:13-22	John 6:41-51
<b>Sat, Feb 5</b>	am: 72m, pm: 119:73-96	Gen 22:1-18	Heb 11:23-31	John 6:52-59
<b>Sun, Feb 6</b>	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Gen 23:1-20	Heb 11:32-12:2	John 6:60-71
<b>Mon, Feb 7</b>	am: 69, pm: 73	Gen 24:1-27	Heb 12:3-11	John 7:1-13
<b>Tues, Feb 8</b>	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Gen 24:28-38, 49-51	Heb 12:12-29	John 7:14-36
<b>Wed, Feb 9</b>	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Gen 24:50-67	2 Tim 2:14-21	Mark 10:13-22
<b>Thurs, Feb 10</b>	am: 80. pm: 77, 79	Gen 25:19-34	Heb 13:1-16	John 7:37-52
<b>Fri, Feb 11</b>	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Gen 26:1-6, 12-33	Heb 13:17-25	John 7:53-8:11
<b>Sat, Feb 12</b>	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Gen 27:1-29	Rom 12:1-8	John 8:12-20
<b>Sun, Feb 13</b>	am: 146, 147, pm: 83, 85, 86	Gen 27:30-45	Rom 12:9-21	John 8:21-32
<b>Mon, Feb 14</b>	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Gen 27:46-28:4, 10-22	Rom 13:1-14	John 8:33-47
<b>Tues, Feb 15</b>	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Gen 29:1-20	Rom 14:1-23	John 8:47-59
<b>Wed, Feb 16</b>	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Gen 29:20-35	1 Tim 3:14-4:10	Mark 10:23-31
<b>Thurs, Feb 17</b>	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Gen 30:1-24	1 John 1:1-10	John 9:1-17
<b>Fri, Feb 18</b>	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Gen 31:1-24	1 John 2:1-11	John 9:18-41
<b>Sat, Feb 19</b>	am: 101, 109:1-30, pm: 119:121-144	Gen 31:15-50	1 John 2:12-17	John 10:1-18
<b>Sun, Feb 20</b>	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Gen 32:3-21	1 John 2:18-29	John 10:19-30
<b>Mon, Feb 21</b>	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Gen 32:22-33:17	1 John 3:1-10	John 10:31-42
<b>Tues. Feb 22</b>	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Gen 35:1-20	1 John 3:11-18	John 11:1-16
<b>Wed, Feb 23</b>	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Prov 26:1-23	2 Cor 3:7-18	Luke 9:18-27
<b>Thurs, Feb 24</b>	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Prov 27:1-6, 10-12	Phil 2:1-13	John 18:15-18, 25-27
<b>Fri, Feb 25</b>	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Prov 30:1-4, 24-33	Phil 3:1-11	John 18:28-38
<b>Sat, Feb 26</b>	am: 95, 32, 143, pm: 102, 130	Amos 5:6-15	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
<b>Sun, Feb 27</b>	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-40	Hab 3:1-18	Phil 3:12-21	John 17:1-8
<b>Mon, Feb 28</b>	am: 95, 31, pm: 35	Eze 18:1-4, 25-32	Phil 4:1-9	John 17:9-19

## **FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES**

**Series Title: At The Table**

February 6: "Our Eyes Are Opened" - Luke 24:13-35

February 13: "He Gave Us a Sign" - John 2:1-12

February 20: "Greed Has No Place" - John 2:13-25

February 27: "Sinners Are Welcome" - Luke 5:27-32

# Grace United Methodist

## February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 am Donut making 6:00 pm Youth Mission Project 7:00 pm Choir	3 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	7	8	9 6:00 pm Youth Mission Project 7:00 pm Choir	10 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	14	15 6:30 pm Vision and Operations and Resources	16 6:00 am Donut making 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	17 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	18	19
20 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	21	22 9:00 am Newsletter Deadline	23 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	24 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	28	Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 2nd. This years theme is: <i>In Plain Sight</i> Ash Wednesday Imposition of ashes service will be at 6:00 pm				

## A TWO-HEADED COIN; GRACE AND MERCY

By Del Larson, CLM

I hope you are making progress on your New Year's Resolutions. On the first Sunday sermon in January, I asked you to consider the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. The skills of love and compassion that Christ encouraged us to live so that we could join Him in Heaven. Right now Verse 5: *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth*, is important to me. Sometimes when we feel low and are struggling, we can look to these scriptures and remind ourselves that we will always have struggles in life. However; when we choose Christ's path, He gives us comfort that although at times may be tough, He will rescue us because of our faith.

God knew He would be creating sinners even before the creation, God knew He would have to be a Gracious God. Even before you awake on what will be a sinful day, God has already given you Grace. We might believe that the two are very similar, but that would not be totally accurate. Yet, Grace and Mercy do go hand-in-hand. They are the two-headed coin where you just can't lose.

Recently, in our nightly devotion, Luann and I have been focused on the Grace and Mercy we receive from God our Father. The book, *IN THE GRIP OF GRACE*, by Max Lucado, has grabbed our interest in better understanding God's Grace and Mercy.

God's grace is given to everyone, whether they are believers or not. God's creation is for everyone. Everyone has free choice. You can live, eat, do what you want. This would be "Common Grace." The other type of Grace is "Saving Grace." Through the blood of God's son Jesus Christ, we receive salvation when we make mistakes with God's Creation, or what we do with the resources that are at our disposal. The key here is "Salvation." God knew that everyone in His creation was a sinner. King David was an adulterer. Jacob's sons threw their brother Joseph into a pit. Peter was

quick to anger. Thomas was a doubter. What is important to understand is that all of these sinners, including us, receive God's love. The love God gives us, strengthens our faith, which sets us free from sin.

Mercy is the compassion and love we receive when we should have been punished. When we accept that we are sinners and ask for forgiveness, God is more than ready to give us Mercy. Think of it like a lesson that God wants to teach you. Let me use a personal example. When our son took our new custom conversion van to go on a date with friends for the first time, he had an accident when he backed into a car. He called me and told me what happened. I talked to the other driver, and they were very satisfied how things were handled. I told my son that maybe they should rent a movie (remember those days) and just stay at the house they were at. He readily agreed, but he kept asking me if I was OK. After a few times of him asking about my health, I realized he wanted me to get mad. So I told him, I was fine, but he would find all his clothes in the driveway, so he should look for somewhere else to live. He said OK and laughed. When he got home, he got me out of bed to come look at the damage. A crack in the spare wheel case. I will admit, not all of our encounters were this easy.

Mercy is forgiveness and understanding. God's mercy for us, is so that we will learn to share that same mercy with others. When someone harms us, or does something bad that affects us, we have a choice. We can go ballistic, or we can show mercy. We have all been there. We could get even, but God is nudging us towards Mercy. It's OK to say how you feel, but the direction of Mercy is the only course to take. You will feel that "attaboy" slap on the back from the Holy Spirit. Most important, you may have taught someone else about Mercy. Matt. 5: 9— *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God*, is another favorite Beatitude of mine. AMEN

## ANYWAY

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you;

Be honest anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

- *The Paradoxical Commandments*, " Kent M. Keith

## ENCOURAGING WORDS

- \* I am made in God's image, and he doesn't make any junk. God loves me and wants me to live a fulfilled life.
- \* Communing with God constantly brings light, direction and blessings from him.
- \* Life is astonishingly wonderful. Even the rough spots often turn out to be pluses. Hard lessons make me wiser, kinder and more fruitful.
- \* When I feel boxed-in or blocked, I can know that in God's good time, he will help me be victorious.

## BE A DISCIPLE

A girl return home from Sunday school expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the day's lesson.

"We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat!"

- Source unknown

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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