

Light of Grace

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

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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: Taylor Johnson

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

The words of Jesus can feel unfulfilled in our world lately. In John 14, Jesus is speaking with the disciples, offering comfort and understanding while also explaining what is about to happen. He explains that the Holy Spirit will be with them and says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Over the past several years it has felt like anything but peace in our world, from political

division, Covid, and most recently the conflict in Ukraine. I confess to you that even as I write out the words of Christ, my heart does feel troubled, and even afraid. Yet as we approach the season of Lent, I enter in prayer and commitment to the promises and

faithfulness of God. I hold on to the prophecy of Isaiah, that even in the midst of our worldly turmoil, we may one day experience a time when, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4)

Lent has never been about brushing aside the difficulties of life, rather about facing them honestly with prayer and discipline. When we give things up it isn't to be trendy or as a makeshift diet plan, it reminds us to turn our dependence away from the world and onto God. On Ash Wednesday we are faced with the reality of our humanity: we are made from dust and we will return to dust. For many that can be an understandably grim feeling, for others it's a convicting reminder of humility. Ultimately, it postures us well to journey towards the cross



together. I believe it is in that posturing that we can find even the smallest amount of peace that Jesus leaves. When He offers that promise, it is not withholding the cross from His path. The empty tomb would have been significant enough, and yet it is made more powerful in the fact that Jesus endured and defeated the worst that the world had to offer. Perhaps it is with that bold faith in God's redemption story that we can worship and grow towards Easter this year.

If you're anything like me, you might feel somewhat helpless and even lost in the clouds with everything that is going on. I find it timely that God has led us to a devotional and sermon series for Lent that can help us in remaining grounded and connected with one another. Through *Lent In Plain Sight*, we will be encouraged to use ten objects to guide our way through this season. I do hope that even if you don't join a study, you'll consider getting a copy of the book and using this incredible resource. Thomas Currie III points out, "Lenten journeys are not meant to be solitary excursions into self but a long walk with good companions along the way of the cross." My hope for this Lent is that we can feel the power of prayer and community with one another, even when the world provides trouble, to remember and grow the peace of Christ within each other and the entire world.

God's blessing be with each of you, and God's peace be with the world.

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 Luann Larson
John Fraundorfer Del Larson



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 #3 (Mar/Sept) TEAM coordinators are: J. & L. Denny and

O. & L. Roppe

218-512-0395—L. & J. Beck
701-205-7268—S. Grow & Family
701-306-4382—T. Grow
701-403-9063—T. & D. Grow
701-541-4136—S. & N. Grow
218-238-2223—D. & L. Larson
701-212-3587—A. Maas
218-236-9169—L. & O. Roppe
218-236-7848—I. Smith & Family
701-412-3833—A. Larson & Family
701-237-9055—R. Lofgren
218-233-3917—C. & B. Miller
218-329-1835—J. Miller
218-233-3917—J. Miller
701-306-1705—L. Smith

March Birthdays



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

2— R. Wagner
J. Beck
5— W. Walseth
6— L. Norby
J. Miller
8— B. Fraundorfer
9- M. Grow
11— D. Larson
12- L. Romanyshyn
15— L. Burkhardt
17- K. Johnson
18— N. Schindler
J. Chandler
21— L. Simmons
22- D. Walseth
- B. Eisen
24- T. Fraundorfer
25— S. Grow
28— B. Fangsrud



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on March 2nd, 16th and 30th, 2022. You may place your order by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex or by calling the office, 218-233-1857

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to J. Mann and family on the death of her husband, Myron who passed away on Monday, February 21st. The funeral will be on Friday, March 4th at 2:00 pm at Grace UMC.

March Anniversaries

3—William & Mary Port



CORRECTION

Please make the following correction to the new phone directory. J. Anderson's address is "Street".

WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.

FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:

Grace UM Church Moorhead page and Website:
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 and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

We will have a time of worship and devotion every Wednesday night throughout Lent at 6:00 pm. Join us for music, prayer, and a message brought by members of Grace UMC. Services will only be a half hour long and are a good way to reconnect in the midweek.

LENT SERMON SERIES

Series Title: *In Plain Sight*

- March 6: "Bread" - Exodus 16:1-12
March 13: "Cross" - I Corinthians 1:18-25
March 20: "Coins" - Luke 21:1-4
March 27: "Shoes" - Exodus 3:1-6,
Mark 16:6-13
- April 3: "Oil" - Matthew 26:6-13
April 10: "Coats" - Genesis 37:1-11
(Palm Sunday) Luke 19:29-40
April 17: "Stones" - Luke 24:1-12
(Easter Sunday)

ONE TIME EVENTS

- March 2: Ash Wednesday Service
March 5-6: Youth Tubing and Lock-In
March 6: Bake Sale
March 20: Noisy Offering
April 3: Communion and Oil Service
April 10: Palm Sunday- Pancakes, Pictures,
and Palms
April 14: Maundy Thursday
April 15: Good Friday
April 17: Easter Service(s)

RECURRING EVENTS

- Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Fellowship 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening Meals 4:45-6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Sunday Morning Book Study 9:00 am
Wednesday Evening Book Study 6:30 pm
Tuesday Morning Book Study 9:00 am

THE SYMBOLISM OF ASHES



SOUP SUPPERS

Soup suppers during Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 2nd at 4:45 pm and will be served until 5:45 pm. Please enjoy a bowl of homemade soup, sandwich and bar before the evening Worship at 6:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex if you would like to bring a pan of bars.



On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioner's foreheads.

God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins - private and public - led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Grace United Methodist

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 am Donut Making 4:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	3 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	4	5 Youth Lock- in - Tubing and Baking
6 9:00 am Lent Book Study 10:00 am Worship W/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School Youth Bake Sale	7	8 9:00 am Virtual Lent Book Study	9 4:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm Lent Book Study 7:00 pm Choir	10 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	11	12
13 9:00 am Lent Book Study 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School Daylight Saving Time Begins - Jump Forward	14 5:30 pm Churches United Pic- palooza @ St. Joseph's	15 9:00 am Virtual Lent Book Study 6:30 pm Vision and Operation and Resources	16 6:00 am Donut Making 4:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Lent Book Study 7:00 pm Choir	17 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	18	19
20 9:00 am Lent Book Study 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	21	22 9:00 am Virtual Lent Book Study	23 4:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Lent Book Study	24 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	25	26
27 9:00 am Lent Book Study 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	28 9:00 am Newsletter Deadline	29 9:00 am Virtual Lent Book Study	30 6:00 am Donut making 4:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Book Study 7:00 pm Choir	31 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline		

WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR FOUNDATION

Del Larson, CLM

Here comes March. Yeah! It's about time! We all know that March means Spring is getting close. Snow and cold are on their way out of our hair, and new beginnings are just around the corner. This has been a difficult winter for most of us. The cold and constant wind have taken our breath away in many ways. We sit on the verge of a major war in Europe. Because of the pandemic, essential items have both gotten more pricey and are also hard to find. Violence, hate, and division have made our lives feel less secure. When will we go back to the way it was 30 years ago, or even just before the pandemic? People talk about a new normal. The problem could be with ourselves. What are we personally doing, or not doing, to affect this change?

We all have thrown a rock into water, and have watched the ripple effect after the rock hits. Tiny waves going out in all directions. Unfortunately, too many rocks are being thrown today, and those rocks are creating larger ripple effects. Probably the largest rock thrown was the pandemic. The consequences of that rock have caused many conflicts and division. We were all affected by the huge tidal wave created by that rock. Death, health, jobs, economy, loneliness, and a cloudy future have affected nearly everyone as we sit and wait.

As Christians, we may have forgotten that we are like a rock too. Psalm 18:2-3 *The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. I called on the Lord; who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.* When we build our lives on the

foundation of Christ, nothing can harm us. However, if we build along the sea shore of convenience or popularity, the rocks of Hell that are thrown into troubled waters, will slowly rip away at our foundation and destroy us. The church was once thought of as one of the most important parts of a communities' foundation. The church was respected, and its cherished values were revered. Today, churches have been on a steep decline, with membership at 47% in the United States in 2020, and active participation is less than half of that. The mission statement of our church is: "Grace United Methodist: A church of the neighborhood, making followers of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the World." Before the pandemic, we were slowly losing membership too. However, I remember before the pandemic, we were averaging 25 students each Sunday, and large numbers on Wednesday nights.

Yes, the pandemic has hurt our church, just like the others. So what are **WE** going to do about it? We can't just sit and watch as the rip tides continue to weaken our foundation, or all of us need to take an active role in strengthening our church, and shoring up our foundation. We must turn this declining trend around. This won't happen, unless we all take those God whispers in the months ahead, and become active members, helping restore Grace not to what it was, but to what it needs to be according to God's plan. May God bless us, as we move forward to make Grace UMC bigger and better at serving God, by A church of the neighborhood, making followers of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the World.



ARK OF THE COVENANT

The ark was at the center of worship for the Israelites. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.



AMAZING GRATITUDE



John Chrysostom was an early church father who lived in Constantinople in the fourth century A.D. He spoke plainly against all kinds of iniquity. Unfortunately, his preaching made immoral people uncomfortable, so he was exiled from the city.

When Chrysostom wrote letters to people who had befriended him, he ended every letter with the words, "Praise God for all things!"

Faithful souls truly do praise God for all things. After all, it is life's hurtful, painful blows that compel us to seek his mercy and guidance. God's love enables us to praise him for everything - no matter what.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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