

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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September 1, 2022

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Greetings:

If you've been to Grace or watched a service online in the last year you've probably heard me say, "we exist to be the church of the neighborhood, making followers of Jesus Christ to transform the world," followed up with, "this is more than just fancy words we say, but it's who we strive to be." As a church, Grace has made significant strides in the last several years in working towards this mission. With the joy of several baptisms and 13 new members within the last year, I think it is a good time to take a step back and find out or remember where this mission statement comes from, and how that can help us discern ministry together moving forward.

In 2014, Grace UMC participated in the Healthy Church Initiative which provided an opportunity to look honestly at the past, present and future of the church. Through this process of discernment and coaching, some key areas of strengths and growth areas were identified. There's always been a strong sense of community here within the church that cares for members and the needs of the congregation. This identified strength helped establish a renewed sense of calling for us: How do we extend the care and compassion experienced in this church to members of our neighborhood? One of the key lines that stuck out to me from the report said, "Grace is an island of great ministry surrounded by an ocean of opportunity." That sounds great in terms of our mission, but it's not always that cut and dry.

Perhaps you've seen a photo like this, where there are two bodies of water that meet in one spot. While they are the same substance, there are certain distinctions that make them separate (sediment, temperature, etc.). Well, the same goes for our neighborhood. It's important we name the reality of our physical neighborhood when using the idea above: It's not one ocean, we have many bodies of water, each with their own distinctions. If we are looking at felt needs, we have a portion of our neighborhood dealing with financial difficulties, food and housing insecurity, and resource struggles. Another portion of our neigh-

borhood is a college campus, where students are in the thick of their studies, discerning their future, and learning how to live independently, some for the first time. Yet another portion of our neighborhood is transitioning to new phases of life like empty nesting or retirement, has young children in school and activities, and are trying to find balance in the midst of it all. It is quite an overwhelming task to discern what ministries we can offer to people within our reach. Oh yeah, and this is in addition to the wonderful ways we connect with God and one another right now.

While the task at hand for us in our neighborhood and our world is daunting, I'm encouraged and inspired by the way we continue to work towards continuing our legacy and engaging in new ways. The changing landscape of church, our neighborhood and our world has motivated us to adapt and try new things. I want to affirm the work we are doing as a church and individually, knowing we continue to live into our mission each and every day.

Pastor Taylor





**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

- Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
- Pat Walter (St. Catherine S.)
- Don Walter (Pioneer House)
- Jim Jameson (River Pointe)
- Will Wehrman (Eventide)

PRAYER LIST at home

- Carol Devine Linda Beck
- Luann Larson

September Birthdays



- 1—D. Burkhardt
M. Larson
- 3—J. Fraundorfer
- 4—S. Lindner
- 6—C. Miller
D. Grow
- 12—M. Gumto
- 13—B. Hanna
- 14—P. Anderson
D. Hansen
- 16—B. Rowand
C. Gedrose
- 19—S. Fraundorfer
- 20—P. Newgard
- 24—Z. Brown
M. Chandler
- 26—L. Beck
- 30—A. Ybarra



September

- 2—T. & P. Newgard
- 16—T. & D. Grow
- 27—D. & C. Borgen

Congratulations to Roger and Bonnie Christopherson on celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary on August 19th.

FELLOWSHIP



Please sign up to serve coffee and treats following Worship Services. There are treats in the freezer. All you have to do is bring a friendly smile, fill a cup of coffee and help clean up.

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 (Sept/Mar).
 218-512-0395—L. & J. Beck
 218-429-0046—J. & L. Denny
 701-205-7268—S. Grow & Family
 701-306-4382—T. Grow
 701-403-9063—T. & D. Grow
 701-541-4136—S. & N. Grow
 701-412-3833—A. Larson & Family
 218-236-5031—D. & L. Larson
 218-287-2639—D. LeQuire
 701-212-3587—A. & D. Maas
 701-237-9055—R. Lofgren
 218-236-9169—L. & O. Roppe
 218-790-0677—I. Smith
 701-306-1705—L. Smith

WORSHIP AT GRACE
10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on September 14th and 28th, 2022 for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex

or at www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts or by calling the office, 218-233-1857.

SERMON SERIES
“The Power of an Invitation”
 September 11: “Creating the Guest List” - Luke 14:7-24
 September 18: “Speaking From Experience” - John 4:7-30
 September 25: “Making the Invitation Work” - Luke 5:1-11

BY THE NUMBERS

Average Worship Attendance:

	In-Person	Online	Total
August	41	35	76
YTD	54	40	94

Financial as of July 31, 2022

64% of yearly budget funded, 73% of yearly budget expensed
 Celebrations: Through your generosity, we've already exceeded last year's missional giving through apportionments and special gifts!
 Major projects completed: Fence and hot water heater at parsonage, new computer for streaming.

FALL 2022 OVERVIEW GRACE UMC

Calendar

September

- 10- Free Picnic: 11-1p
- 11- Kick-off Sunday
 - o Outdoor service and baptisms
- 14- Grace Youth (Church)
- 18- Women of Grace Meeting
- 20- Leadership Team Meeting
- 21- Grace Youth (Parsonage)
- 25- Grace Kids Bible Presentation
- 28- Church Night Out

October

- 5- Grace Youth (Church)
- 12- Grace Youth (Service Project)
- 15- Fall Festival
- 18- Leadership Team Meeting
- 19- Grace Youth (Church)
- 26- Grace Youth (Church)
- 30- Trunk Or Treat 3-4:30

November

- 2- Grace Youth (Church)
- 9- Grace Youth (Church)
- 11&12- Moorhead Mall Church Bazaar
- 15- Leadership Team Meeting
- 16- Grace Youth (Church)
- 30- Grace Youth (Churches United)

December

- 3- W.O.G. Advent Tea
- 7- Grace Youth (Church)
- 10- Grace Youth Lock-In
- 13- Leadership Team Meeting
- 14- Grace Youth (Church)
- 18- Grace UMC Christmas Program
- 21- Grace Youth (Church)
- 24- Christmas Eve Service

On-going Ministries

- Sunday School
- Choir
- Donuts
- Quilters
- Nursing Home Visitations
- Bible Studies and Book Studies
- Campus Ministry Outreach
- Confirmation

Sermon Series

“The Power of an Invitation”

Sept. 11- 25

World Communion Sunday

Oct. 2

“Greater Than”

Oct. 9- Oct. 30

“The Ways of Wisdom”

Nov. 6- Nov. 20

“All The Good”

Nov. 27- Dec. 25

Other events may be added throughout the year, keep up to date by using our website

Grace United Methodist

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship Hymn Sing w/ Communion 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	5 1:00 pm No Quilting Office Closed Holiday	6 7:00 pm AA	7 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10 11:00—1:00 pm Kick –off Grill out w/games
11 KICK OFF SUNDAY 10:00 am Outside Worship w/Baptisms Reaffirmations 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	12 1:00 pm Quilting	13 7:00 pm AA	14 6:00 am Donut Making 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children’s Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	19 1:00 pm Quilting	20 6:30 pm Leadership Team 7:00 pm AA	21 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children’s Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	26 1:00 pm Quilting	27 7:00 pm AA	28 6:00 am Donut Making 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30	

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sept 1	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27	Acts 12:1-17	John 8:33-47
Sept 2	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Job 12:1, 14:1-22	Acts 12:18-25	John 8:47-59
Sept 3	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16	Acts 13:1-12	John 9:1-17
Sept 4	am: 31, pm: 35	Job 19:1-7, 14-27	Acts 13:13-25	John 9:18-41
Sept 5	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Job 22:1-4, 21 23:1-7	Acts 13:26-43	John 10:1-18
Sept 6	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6	Rev 14:1-7, 13	Matt 5:13-20
Sept 7	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Job 32:1-10, 19, 33:1, 19-28	Acts 13:44-52	John 10:19-30
Sept 8	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Job 29:1-20	Acts 14:1-18	John 10:31-42
Sept 9	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31	Acts 14:19-28	John 11:1-16
Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	Job 29:1, 31:1-23	Acts 15:1-11	John 11:17-29
Sept 11	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Job 29:1, 31:24-40	Acts 15:12-21	John 11:30-44
Sept 12	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Job 38:1-17	Acts 15:22-35	John 11:45-54
Sept 13	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Job 38:1, 18-41	Rev 18:1-8	Matt 5:21-26
Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Job 40:1-24	Acts 15:36-16:5	John 11:55-12:8
Sept 15	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Job 40:1, 41:1-11	Acts 16:6-15	John 12:9-19
Sept 16	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Job 42:1-17	Acts 16:16-24	John 12:20-26
Sept 17	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Job 28:1-28	Acts 16:25-40	John 12:27-36a
Sept 18	am: 69, pm: 73	Est 1:1-4, 10-19	Acts 17:1-15	John 12:36b-43
Sept 19	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Est 2:5-8, 15-23	Acts 17:16-34	John 12:44-50
Sept 20	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Est 3:1-4:3	Jam 1:19-27	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Sept 21	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Est 4:4-17	Acts 18:1-11	Luke 1:1-4, 3:1-14
Sept 22	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Est 5:1-14	Acts 18:12-28	Luke 3:15-22
Sept 23	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Est 6:1-14	Acts 19:1-10	Luke 4:1-13
Sept 24	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Est 7:1-10	Acts 19:11-20	Luke 4:14-30
Sept 25	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Est 8:1-8, 15-17	Acts 19:21-41	Luke 4:31-37
Sept 26	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Hos 1:1-2:1	Acts 20:1-16	Luke 4:38-44
Sept 27	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Hos 2:2-14	Jam 3:1-13	Matt 13:44-52
Sept 28	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Hos 2:14-23	Acts 20:17-38	Luke 5:1-11
Sept 29	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Hos 4:1-10	Acts 21:1-14	Luke 5:12-26
Sept 30	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Hos 4:11-19	Acts 21:15-26	Luke 5:27-39

CAREGIVING FOR ALL

Del Larson, CLM

Last month, I had the opportunity to join an online discussion on Dementia, called the "Remember Project." This live online session was not only for home viewers, but also many groups scattered around our region. They first showed a live play (not video) called "The Fortune Cookie." It was a one-act play between a senior mother and her middle aged son. The mother is making fortune cookies, but calls them memory cookies.

The slips in the cookies are questions to help her keep her memory strong. Her son becomes concerned and starts quizzing her on her mental condition. It was a very interesting experience. I realized that I too am forgetful, which is common for those as they approach senior status. OK, I admit, yes I am a senior and have had senior moments.

Because of COVID, I had to cut out much of my Lay Ministry work with seniors and to protect and spend more time with Luann. I have been asking God for a new direction, and how He wants to use me. I have been more focused on writing over the past month. In early August I was asked by our Lay Ministry group leader to create a movie for Lay Leaders around Minnesota for self-care. I have formatted a very rough draft and am both anxious and apprehensive about this project. God has guided me to focus my energies on writing about caregiving. I have shared my idea with the Leadership Team, and they have granted me permission to start a post on caregiving for our church website. <http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org>

For others, over the next few weeks, I will occasionally post information that I hope will be helpful right now, or down the road in the future. I have a degree in Life Experiences that I continue to work on, and years of experience in being a caregiver, first for my parents, and now for my wife. My 30 years of journaling has proven helpful. I have taken classes on caregiving, held caregiver group meet-



ings at our church for over two years, and when Covid hit I joined an online care group with Lutheran Social Services.

I am not going to share anything specific today, so that you have time to think how reading this message might affect you, or a loved one. This is NOT just for seniors who are experiencing major health issues, but for all those who may experience these issues in the future, including adult children who might have to care for their seniors. It is much easier to handle all the crappy issues early, rather than wait until they become a real big mess and harder to clean up. Sorry for the analogy. So when you see Caregiving for All on my post it is something new that I feel will be beneficial. Your feedback is always appreciated, good or bad. Please be polite in response to others. If you feel this idea would be better in a group chat room, let me know.

Topic 1: Remember you are not alone. I give all thanks and praise to God for helping through nearly 20 years of caregiving for my parents, my wife, and other seniors. Without God, I would not have survived. God puts people in your life to help, but you need to tell them. Over the last three years we have seen and heard less from our friends, but that doesn't mean I stop calling. It is hard for our friends to know what to say. Tell them what is going on, and ask them to call, or go out with you. ***The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*** Deuteronomy 31:8
Thanks be to God!

APPLE CIDER



After three years of drought, my trees have not fully recovered and I'm looking for apples to press for the Fall Festival & the Center Mall Church Bazaar. If you can help, please contact Dan Graning at graneng@hotmail.com, or on Sunday Morning at Church



BRONZE SERPENT

The Bronze Serpent or Brazen Serpent on a Cross is a symbol for Jesus. In John 3:14-15 (NRSV), Jesus said, “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have

eternal life.”

Jesus was referring to an Old Testament story, when God sent poisonous serpents because the Israelites grumbled impatiently in the desert. “And the Lord said to Moses, “ ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live” (Numbers 21:8-9), (NRSV).

OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE

“Christian hope involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith. Christian hope is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person’s existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God’s eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy. And in the great contest between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. ...Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now!” - Oswald Bronson



THE BEGINNINGS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL



Englishman Robert Raikes, born in 1735, was a Christian layman who was pained to see unschooled children working six days a week in factories or mines. On Sundays, children roamed the streets often getting into trouble. Most didn’t know how to read or write and knew nothing about Christ or the

church.

As Raikes labored to reform England’s prison system, he noticed that many children were imprisoned, stirring him to action on their behalf. He arranged for halls and homes to be used for educational purposes on Sundays, the one day children didn’t have to work. He found volunteers to teach reading, writing and math, as well as the Bible and Christian beliefs.

The first Sunday school class was held in July 1780. Amazingly, by 1788 some 250,000 children were attending such schools. This occurred despite some people’s opposition to the education of lower-class children.

Countless boys and girls have attended Sunday school classes since then thanks to Raikes, who brought Christ’s light and love to children around the world.



FAITH

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea come drifting home with broken masts and sails; I will believe the hand which never fails, From seeming evil worketh good to me. And, though I weep because those sails are battered, still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered, “I trust in Thee.”

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

HYMN SING



On Labor Day weekend, September 4, we will be having a hymn sing in lieu of the sermon. Over the next few weeks, take a look through the Hymnal or Faith We Sing and get your favorite hymns picked out. We'll do a verse or two of hymns you suggest. Have a song you like that's not in those books, but you'd love to sing it? Let Pastor Taylor or Sharon Fangsrud know and we'll do our best to put it into the service.

THE UNTOLD STORY



The New Life Center will host a dessert social fundraising event on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm at the Delta Hotel. The speaker is Thomas Solhjem, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains. He is the spiritual leader for the entire U.S. Army. He and his wife were both born and raised in North Dakota. Tickets are \$40.00 each and can be purchased online: fargonlc.org or by check: NLC The Untold Story, P.O. Box 1067, Fargo, ND 58107

WOMEN OF GRACE



All Women of Grace are invited to their fall meeting on Sunday, September 18th in the lounge following worship services. Topics of discussion will be the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 15th and the Moorhead Center Mall bazaar on Friday, November 11th and November 12th.

Please bring ideas and/or questions to the meeting on the 18th. Also now is the time to start collecting your donation items for the Fall Festival.

KICK-OFF



Grace's Fall Kick-Off Weekend is September 10th and 11th. We'll have a grill out from 11-1pm on the 10th with food, games, prizes, and.... A DUNK TANK! If you've been looking for an opportunity to drop Pastor Taylor into a tank of water, your chance is coming up. That next morning we will be celebrating worship with an outdoor service and baptisms and baptismal reaffirmations for those interested. In the coming days we'll put out a Facebook event to help spread the word. Think about who you might invite to this incredible weekend.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
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Moorhead, MN 56560

