

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Greetings,

So we're three years into our time here at Grace, and in case you haven't noticed, I'm a little bit of a John Wesley nerd. I caution myself to not put him so high up on a pedestal that I make his words like Biblical canon, but I certainly admire the fervor in which he lived, the passion in which he preached, and the ways he navigated the challenges of faith and living a holy life. One of the blessings for us as we look back on our history is that Wesley journaled all the time, and I mean ALL the time. We have great records of all the ministry happenings of the early Methodists as well as insights as to what was going on in John's mind. Through his sermons on his journal writings we have quite a few gems that have come from him that can provide significant wisdom to our lives. Some of my favorite are:

~ Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

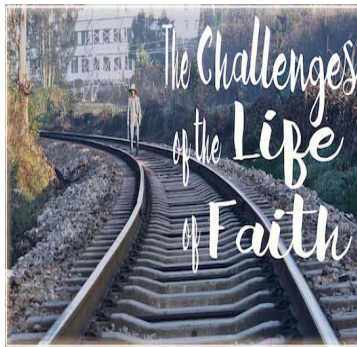
~ Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven, must have Christ reigning in him on earth.

~ Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.

~ I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England. (John was kind of a mama's boy!)

These are just a few from the vast amount of writings we have. However, there is one that I find quite prudent to our present time and it has been stirring in my soul lately. "We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others."

I think within the Christian life we get caught up in thinking about bringing about the Kingdom of God by transforming the world that we are so quick to skip over transforming our own hearts. The pattern is all too common in



most areas of our life including the church, politics, relationships, etc.; I see something needing to be changed in someone else's life and it's far easier to point that out than it is to work on my own junk/garbage/whatever other word you'd like to enter here. We become quick to give ourselves grace (I'm not saying beat yourself up by any means, we all need grace!), but then don't pass that grace along to others.

Friends, it must start with us. Wesley's quote is two-fold here and fits into our understanding of the means of grace, remember acts of piety and acts of mercy? We ought to be rigorous in our judging ourselves in our devotional life, our worship habits, our prayers, our spiritual disciplines. Are we doing all we can to grow in our love and understanding of God through reading and meditating upon scripture, emptying

ourselves of worldly desires through fasting and solitude? I know my schedule gets busy quickly and I end up ignoring those things. That's when it becomes easier to heap judgement upon someone else rather than grace. If we are not diligent, and even rigorous in these things, our acts of mercy become shallow at best. In our Facebook Discipleship group we are going to be looking at the book, *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton, that helps to pattern our life in a way that not only adds in these disciplines, but we build a lifestyle around our devotion to God. Even if you haven't joined that group yet, please do! You are more than welcome to follow along on your own as well.

As we wind down summer and approach our fall schedules with school, activities, and more, may we be gracious in our judgement of others, knowing that the grace given to us by God is not meant to be stored up in our hearts, but distributed to all we encounter. May God be with you in all you do!

Pastor Taylor



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (Elim)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Luann Larson (River Pointe)
Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)
Shirley Mohr (Serenity)

PRAYER LIST at home

Wally Walseth Dennis Stead
Larry Possehl Tom Anderson
Linda Gibson Rick Abel

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 (Aug/Feb).
701-630-4343—R. & C. Abel
701-261-9009—M. Akin
218-236-0183—J. Anderson
218-790-9791—L. Dick
503-568-3285—M. & B. Eisen
218-233-6915—J. & K. Enkers
701-361-7571—B. & Z. Hanna
218-422-6586—T. & K. Johnson
218-236-7366—S. Mohr
218-236-5520—W. & M. Port
218-498-2312—S. Simmons
701-866-6884—D. Stead
701-200-4286—D. & W. Walseth



August Birthdays

4—C. Gedrose
5—C. Abel
11—S. Brumwell
15—E.
16—P. Walter
17—J. Ward
18—P. Murray
20—F. Beck
21—J. Crabtree
25—Z. Hanna
28—C. Krogen
29—O. Alvesshere



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on August 7th and August 21st, for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, calling the office, 218-233-1857 or on the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.



August Anniversaries

7—L. & J. Beck
9—B. & C. Krogen
15—R. & B. Christopherson
J. & L. Denny
19—D. & W. Walseth
22—J. & N. Crabtree
25—M. & M. Hamm
30—D. & J. Graning

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the family of Lynette Andel. She passed away on Sunday, July 21st. Her funeral was on Monday, July 29th at Grace UMC.

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

WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org
Offerings may be mailed to 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.



FALL KICK OFF

September 8th, Outdoor Worship, burgers on the grill, dunk tank, bingo and fun!
YOUTH Group will begin on Wednesday, September 11th and the first meeting will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Let God Be The Pilot of Your Life

Del Larson, CLM

It is always amazing how God guides my writing. Whether writing newsletter articles, caregiver suggestions, or any project. God is in control. Now, if I can get you to believe that, just imagine the work that God can do in your life. I have shared numerous stories on “God Whispers” or “God Taps”, yet I’m going to share one more, according to what God is telling me tonight, July 16. Usually, I know what to write but not this time.

Luann made the decision back in January, when I was having serious health problems, and after much discussion and prayer, that it might be better for her to move into assisted living rather than wait for something to happen to one or both of us, and then not have the choice. This would be her move alone. I believe that if I moved with her, I would not stop being her primary caregiver, and continue to risk my health and abilities. Second, the cost would delete my retirement in 3.5 years. Last, I want to be there, if God agrees, for the finish of Luann’s life journey. This is not a decision everyone can make.

In early May, I told my online caregiving group our plans for Luann moving. At our next meeting two weeks later, 3 of the 6 said they too were now looking at doing the same. Last month, I visited my 93 old high school English teacher who had fallen and broken his hip. He was trying to save his wife from falling. They lived in assisted living, but she now lives in memory care. He told me he’d do it again, if he knew it would help his wife. As he stands in the back and watches, she is now talking to other residents, rather than looking for him for words or directions. He says he loves to listen to her talk again. God turned a challenge into an opportunity to see things from a different perspective. What a marvelous change it turned out to be. Luann’s situation has also turned out better than we expected. She is in love with the facility, staff, residents, and the activities. After being there less than a week, I was visiting her and walked with her to supper. I told her I would come back afterwards and we could watch a movie. Oh, no she said, “I’ve got bingo tonight!” What a positive response for both of us. I didn’t expect this to happen so soon. Thank you Lord for guiding us to make this decision!

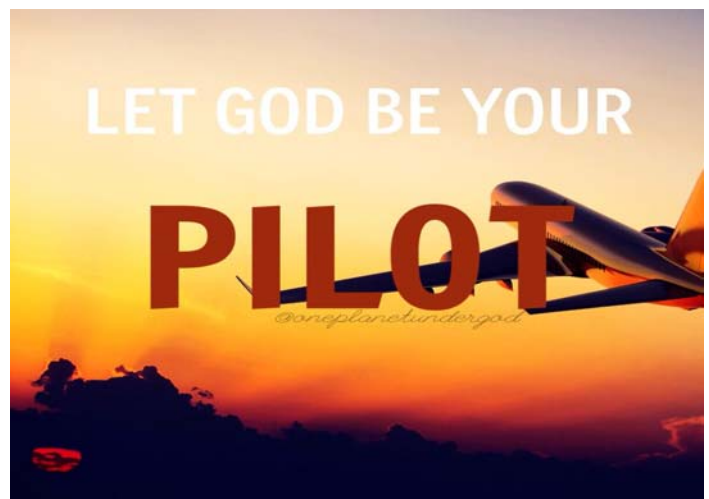
What is it that you are struggling with? Finances, politics, job, family, health?

I have been worried about my finances this month with all the things Luann needed for her apartment. However, I noticed this week that my property tax

rebate, which I had forgotten, showed up just in the nick of time. Is that not God working.

I’m so tired and sad of the politics and the hatred that is overtaking our country. Customer Service is a thing of the past. Rent and housing continue to go up, and services go down. My adult children and grandchildren struggle with their families. Each of them have kids with health issues. Although there are jobs available, some aren’t paying enough to pay the rent or cover the expense. As I look back, I thought we had it tough. I worked 3 jobs in college. **However, as I look back**, I see how God has been instrumental in my life and my success. There is no doubt in my mind, that when God put Luann and I together, he had a purpose. She gave up her college, so I could finish, and now I’ve been her caregiver for 25 years. I know God was instrumental in my success, and the number one reason is Luann.

When I lost my teaching job, God had a job lined up in Milbank, SD, as a hardware manager. Two years later, I was back in Moorhead teaching again. That business job made me a better teacher and leader. When Luann had to quit working, it took years before she got her disability for MD. We survived because God made it happen. Everything we have done and accomplished has been because God put us in the right spot at the right time. The same goes for you. Perhaps you need to change your perspective? An hour ago, I started this article. God has guided me to finish it so quickly, to show you how He works. I am so thankful that I have learned to trust God, and let Him be the pilot. Take a moment and think back how often God has been your guide and you didn’t realize it. Amen!



Grace United Methodist

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
4 10:00 am Worship w/Communion 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	5	6 7:00 pm AA	7 6:00 am Donut Making 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
11 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	12	13 7:00 pm AA	14 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline Grace at Redhawks baseball game	16	17 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
18 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	19 7:00 pm Leadership Team	20 7:00 pm AA	21 6:00 am Donut Making 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
25 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	26	27 7:00 pm AA	28 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30	31 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Aug 1	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Jud 5:19-31	Acts 2:22-36	Matt 28:11-20
Aug 2	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Jud 6:1-24	2 Cor 9:6-15	Mark 3:20-30
Aug 3	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Jud 6:25-40	Acts 2:37-47	John 1:1-18
Aug 4	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Jud 7:1-18	Acts 3:1-11	John 1:19-28
Aug 5	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Jud 7:19-8:12	Acts 3:12-26	John 1:29-42
Aug 6	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Jud 8:22-35	Acts 4:1-12	John 1:43-51
Aug 7	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Jud 9:1-16, 19-21	Acts 4:13-31	John 2:2-12
Aug 8	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Jud 9:22-25, 50-57	Acts 4:32-5:11	John 2:13-25
Aug 9	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Jud 11:1-11, 29-40	2 Cor 11:21b-31	Mark 4:35-41
Aug 10	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Jud 12:1-7	Acts 5:12-26	John 3:1-21
Aug 11	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Jud 13:1-15	Acts 5:27-42	John 3:22-36
Aug 12	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Jud 13:15-24	Acts 6:1-15	John 4:1-26
Aug 13	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Jud 14:1-19	Acts 6:15-7:16	John 4:27-42
Aug 14	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Jud 14:20-15:20	Acts 7:17-29	John 4:43-54
Aug 15	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Jud 16:1-14	Acts 7:30-43	John 5:1-18
Aug 16	am: 118, pm: 145	Jud 16:15-31	2 Cor 13:1-11	Mark 5:25-34
Aug 17	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Jud 17:1-13	Acts 7:44-8:1a	John 5:19-29
Aug 18	am: 121 -, 123, pm: 124- 126	Jud 18:1-15	Acts 8:1-13	John 5:30-47
Aug 19	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128-130	Jud 18:16-31	Acts 8:14-25	John 6:1-15
Aug 20	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	Job 1:1-22	Acts 8:26-40	John 6:16-27
Aug 21	am: 140, 142, pm: 141, 143	Job 2:1-13	Acts 9:1-9	John 6:27-40
Aug 22	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Job 3:1-26	Acts 9:10-19a	John 6:41-51
Aug 23	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Job 4:1-6, 12-21	Rev 4:1-11	Mark 6:1-6a
Aug 24	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27	Acts 9:19b-31	John 6:52-59
Aug 25	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21	Acts 9:32-43	John 6:60-71
Aug 26	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Job 6:1, 7:1-21	Acts 10:1-16	John 7:1-13
Aug 27	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Job 8:1-7, 11-19	Acts 10:17-33	John 7:14-36
Aug 28	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Job 9:1-15, 32-35	Acts 10:34-48	John 7:37-52
Aug 29	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Job 9:1, 10:1-9, 16-22	Acts 11:1-18	John 8:12-20
Aug 30	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Job 11:1-9, 13-20	Rev 5:1-14	Matt 5:1-12
Aug 31	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Job 12:1-6, 13-25	Acts 11:19-30	John 8:21-32



CARE CASSEROLES

Being the church of the neighborhood doesn't just mean our church location, it means the neighborhood you live in too!

We are creating a new opportunity for you to be the church to those outside our walls through the care casserole ministry. If you know someone who is struggling or could use a comfort meal, you will be able to stop by the deep freeze near the kitchen and grab a prepared casserole to take to them. Each casserole will come with reheating instructions and a special card made to take with offering prayer and support for whoever needs it. If you are interested in helping make casseroles or even soups for this ministry, please contact Pastor Taylor to find out more!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Adventure Awaits” is just one of the themes for Sunday School . If you like adventure, then you will like being a part of the Sunday School Team. The themes are pre-planned, the materials are provided plus a youth helper is available. If you can commit to one Sunday or a number of Sundays, please contact Pastor Taylor or S. Martin with your availability schedule.

SOUNDS FISHY

Seen on a church signboard in northern Minnesota one summer: “Sure, you can worship God with a fishing pole in your hand, but when was the last time a walleye told you, ‘Your sins are forgiven’?”

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
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Moorhead, MN 56560

