

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

Our entire Lenten journey began with dust and a baptism. We began with the grounding reminder that because we share a baptism with Christ, we are God's beloved, and before we do anything at all, God is well pleased. Sounds nice and comforting, right? What could possibly go wrong from there? Immediately, we're cast out into the wilderness with Jesus, a 40 day period of self-examination, prayer, and fasting. Some setting for God's beloved, huh? Jesus comes out of the wilderness hungry and worn, still able to resist the temptations of food, power, and security. We've spent the last seven weeks observing Jesus' public ministry through teachings and miracles, his life and faith through prayer and relationships, and how he handles challenges from crowds to those who seek to cause him harm. When it's all said and done, Jesus will have taught, served, bled, died, and resurrected. The vast glory of Jesus' suffering turned resurrection is hard for us to wrap our head and our hearts around, so much to the point that we can become disillusioned to the rest of the story. Sure we want to share the baptism of Jesus, but how could we possibly share then in His death and resurrection?

Well first, the wilderness. Do you remember everything that's happened since we first received the ash on our foreheads? Let me jog your memory. The Olympic games came to a close after thrilling victories from the women's and men's hockey teams, speaking of hockey, the Moorhead Spuds hockey team won back-to-back state championships, Churches United announced Stephanie Ressler as their new COO, Grace's roof started leaking and was temporarily repaired until we can begin phase two of our roof project, conflict in the Middle East escalated with military strikes on Iran leading to the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, ongoing political tension, growing global instability. To quote

the great Billy Joel, "and on, and on, and on, and on, and on, and on, and on". I barely scraped the surface of local, national, and global happenings, and that doesn't even begin to mention what's going on in our personal lives. The wilderness is extremely hard and leaves us longing for glory.

If I may share, that's been one of the most difficult things I've wrestled with this year: how to be present in the wilderness when it's hard. I'd like to bury my head into the metaphorical sand of my Bible and prayer, our times of worship and communion, ignoring everything going on in the world. Yet when I emerge from the pages or our building, the wilderness is still there. While I don't mean to diminish the power of Easter Sunday, that next Monday can feel a lot like we've been cast right back into the wandering. That is the human and earthly experience. We will get glimpses of glory in the midst of the wilderness, that encourage us to continue on. Easter is a reminder that our final glory will not be found on this earth. Where the world produces death, Jesus brings life, where the world creates darkness, Jesus shines light, where the world causes despair, Jesus offers hope.

My hope and prayer for you this Easter season is we would be the life, light, and hope to the world in Jesus' name. You have the opportunity to be the glimpse of glory in someone else's wilderness! We, as a church, are being called to enter into the wilderness of the world, not to eliminate the trials, but to walk through them with others, and be an Easter people that know our journey will not end in the wilderness, but come to completion in glory with Jesus someday. Until that day, may we be faithful in our walk.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor Taylor



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

P Walter (Elim)
 D Walter (Pioneer House)
 S Mohr (Serenity)



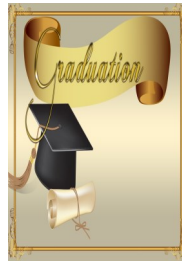
DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on April 1st, 15th and 29th for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

GRADUATION

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

I Gibson L Possehl
 W Walseth D Larson

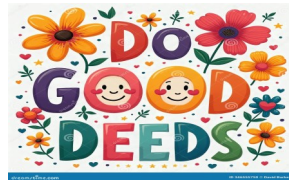


Congratulations to all the students who are graduating in May. Please let the office know by April 20th if anyone in your family is graduating to be listed in the May Newsletter. We wish all graduates much success on their future plans of furthering their education or beginning their working career.



April Birthdays

3—E. Fangsrud
 5—A. Schroeder
 A. Roberts
 9—M. Hoganson
 10—X. Martin
 11—S. Gedrose
 15—L. Burkhardt
 16—M. Eisen
 17—M. Borgen
 23—K. Heidrich
 25—A. Severson
 30—L. Possehl



Highlighting the ways that members of Grace are doing good in the church and community. If you see someone from Grace doing good, pass it along to Sondra or Pastor Taylor to be recognized in the newsletter.

GRACE DOING GOOD

- D. Graning for his continuing work of managing the website!
- S. Martin and R. Beck for all their work with our GraceKids, especially putting together the Easter Egg Hunt for Palm Sunday!
- B. Christopherson for picking up our recycling, collecting others, and after taking it to Minkota Recycling, donating the money to GraceYouth!



April Anniversaries

15—S. & N. Grow
 29—L. & S. Simmons
 30—L. & J. Possehl



OFFUTT SCHOLARSHIP

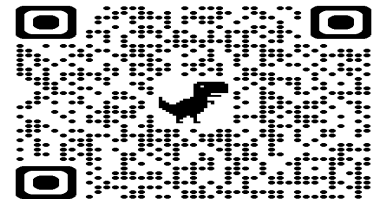
Applications for the 2026 Offutt Scholarship are now available. These scholarships are available to members of Grace UMC and their families for post-secondary education for the coming academic year. Applications are due in the office by August 1, 2026. If you have any questions about the Scholarships or about the Grace UMC Endowment, please contact P. Anderson.

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.



IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

Del Larson, CLM

Do you remember the Johnny Horton song: “*When It’s Springtime in Alaska, It’s 40 Below?*”

I loved listening to Johnny sing. It’s surprising how this song popped into my head as I was thinking about what I wanted to write about Spring. It’s a love song, but not for the love of spring. Perhaps more of a celebration of getting out of a mountain cabin and back to civilization. You need to watch out for trouble. It will find you. Be prepared.

We have faced the long winter months, of cold and harsh winds. We have bundled up to stay warm, but now it’s time to shed those parkas and boots, and start cleaning up.

Perhaps you have already started filling boxes with stuff to throw away. We have been warned not to start raking our lawns; that’s better left until late April or early May. I saw a neighbor last week start cleaning out her garage and fill up the dumpster. Has anyone gotten their seeds yet, or started their garden plants inside? It’s getting close to that time, so you better check your supplies. **Make sure you don’t forget anything.** Opps! Have you ever thought about spring cleaning your faith? Most of us take it for granted when we are looking to clean our things. What does it mean to clean your faith? At Christmas we get excited about the coming Saviour. We hear his stories, and then watch Him die on the cross for us. He comes back three days later to prove He is the King of the World. He has given so much; can we please take a little time to clean our faith to truly honor Him? We need to check in with God and ask for help to get rid of the words, actions, thoughts, desires, and troubles we have been pushing back into the ground. When is the last time you cleaned your faith? What are you waiting for?

List all of those things you know were wrong on paper. Take the next week to pray daily about them with God. Ask for forgiveness and seek direction on what needs to be done to destroy the weeds in your faith. Dig up and turn over your soul to freshen it. Fertilize your faith with more reading of your faith manual (Bible), and more prayer time. Whatever grew well in your soul, you want to make that an annual planting. After a

week or two, you should have realized (called a God Whisper) what you did, and how it affected others. Now, the question is what are you going to do about it?

A garden needs constant weekly care, if not more during the dry season, to get rid of those dangerous entanglements of anger, frustration, or who cares attitude kind of weeds. You know weeds choke out all the good things we want. OH, you may say, I’ve prayed and God has forgiven me so I’m free to go. **No, you are not!** Faith is like our garden. If we don’t water and feed it, nothing will grow. The Holy Spirit is like the Sun. Plants follow the sun to help them grow, and we need the light of God to be able to move on. What does moving on look like? When you start to recognize that you are smiling more, because you see the results of your faith, you are ready for the journey. You will find yourself planting more seeds of the spirit, not just in your home garden, but also in those around you. You are looking to get rid of those evil weeds that prevent others from experiencing God. Then you will be really feeling that success of the Spirit, with the joy and happiness of doing what’s right and good.

Isaiah 58:11: “I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places. Firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden. A gurgling spring that never runs dry.” From Bible Study Tools You need God, and God wants you to be part of His family by spreading the seeds of everlasting life in His world. You can’t buy these seeds or the produce anywhere. The only way to get them is to be connected with God so that He can care for you like you must do for your garden.



CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the family of Will Wehrman. He passed away on March 13th and his funeral was at Grace on March 28th.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Apr 1	am: 102, pm: 142, 143	Jer 20:7-11	1 Cor 10:14-17, 11:27-32	John 17
Apr 2	am: 95, 22, pm: 40, 54	Gen 22:1-14	1 Pet 1:10-20	John 13:36-38
Apr 3	am: 95, 88, pm 27	Job 19:21-27a	Heb 4:1-16	
Apr 4	am: 148-150,pm: 113, 114	Exod 12:1-14		John 1:1-18
Apr 5	am: 93, 98, pm: 66	Jon 2:1-9	Acts 2:14, 22-32	John 14:1-14
Apr 6	am: 103, pm: 111, 114	Isa 30:18-21	Acts 2:26-47	John 14:15-31
Apr 7	am: 97, 99, pm: 115	Mic 7:7-15a	Acts 3:1-10	John 15:1-11
Apr 8	am: 146, 147, pm: 148, 149	Eze 37:1-14	Acts 3:11-26	John 15:12-27
Apr 9	am: 136, pm: 118	Dan 12:1-4, 13	Acts 4:1-12	John 16:1-15
Apr 10	am: 145, pm: 104	Isa 25:1-9	Acts 4:13-31	John 16:16-33
Apr 11	am: 146, 147, pm: 111-113	Isa 43:8-13	1 Pet 2:2-10	John 14:1-7
Apr 12	am: 1-3, pm: 4, 7	Dan 1:1-21	1 Jn 1:1-10	John 17:1-11
Apr 13	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Dan 2:1-16	1 Jn 2:1-11	John 17:12-19
Apr 14	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Dan 2:17-30	1 Jn 2:12-17	John 17:20-26
Apr 15	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Dan 2:31-49	1 Jn 2:18-29	Luke 3:1-14
Apr 16	am: 16, 17, pm: 134, 135	Dan 3:1-18	1 Jn 3:1-10	Luke 3:15-22
Apr 17	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Dan 3:19-30	1 Jn 3:11-18	Luke 4:1-13
Apr 18	am: 148- 150, pm: 114, 115	Dan 4:1-18	1 Pet 4:7-11	John 21:15-25
Apr 19	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Dan 4:19-27	1 Jn 3:19-4:6	Luke 4:14-30
Apr 20	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Dan 4:28-37	1 Jn 4:7-21	Luke 4:31-37
Apr 21	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Dan 5:1-12	1 Jn 5:1-12	Luke 4:38-44
Apr 22	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Dan 5:13-21	1 Jn 5:13-21	Luke 5:1-11
Apr 23	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Dan 6:1-15	2 Jn 1-13	Luke 5:12-26
Apr 24	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Dan 6:16-28	3 Jn 1-15	Luke 5:27-39
Apr 25	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Josh 4:19-24, 5:1-9	1 Pet 5:1-11	Matt 7:15-29
Apr 26	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Josh 10:16-27	Col 1:1-14	Luke 6:1-11
Apr 27	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Josh 10:28-43	Col 1:15-23	Luke 6:12-26
Apr 28	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Josh 11:1-23	Col 1:24-2:7	Luke 6:27-38
Apr 29	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 114, 115	Josh 13:1-13	Col 2:8-23	Luke 6:39-49
Apr 30	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Josh 13:14-32	Col 3:1-11	Luke 7:1-17

Grace United Methodist

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 am Donut making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 8:15 pm NA—Lounge	2 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA—Connection Center	3 Good Friday 6:00 pm Service	4 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
5 Easter Sunday 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am NO Children's Sunday School	6 1:00 pm Quilting	7 7:00 pm AA	8 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 8:15 pm NA—Lounge	9 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA—Connection Center	10	11 9:00 am Grace Craft Day 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
12 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	13 1:00 pm Quilting	14 7:00 pm AA	15 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 8:15 pm NA—Lounge	16 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA—Connection Center	17	18 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
19 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	20 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	21 7:00 pm AA	22 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 8:15 pm NA—Lounge	23 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA—Connection Center	24	25 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
26 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	27 1:00 pm Quilting	28 7:00 pm AA	29 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 8:15 pm NA—Lounge	30 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA—Connection Center		

YOUTH UPDATE

Greetings, Grace United Methodist Church!

It's Elloise again with the Youth section of the monthly newsletter. Due to a slight mix-up, my February youth blurb ended up in a weekly email rather than the Newsletter (hopefully you got a chance to read it), but we're back on track for March! On the first Wednesday of this month, the Youth looked at a classic Bible story: Jesus healing the leper. When the man first approaches, the disciples try to force him away, afraid that he would spread his illness to everyone there. Lepers were seen as "unclean" at this point in time, and for this man to even be outside amongst people was unheard of. Jesus, however, welcomed him, touched him, and healed him. This would've shocked everyone, not only because Jesus healed the man's leprosy, but also because He touched someone as unclean as a leper! This is a powerful example of how no person is too unclean or unworthy to receive the grace of God. All are welcome to be healed, forgiven, and loved, regardless of our Earthly labels. We, too, are called to show this kind of unconditional grace to others; We must be the people to welcome those who are pushed away by others, offering the same hope God provides all of us.

The following week, we looked at another miracle: Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus. The story begins before his death, with people asking Jesus to come heal Laza-

rus before he dies. Jesus, however, doesn't make it in time, instead letting Lazarus die and be entombed. When Jesus finally arrives, the people are mourning Lazarus and questioning why their prayers weren't answered. Instead of pointing out their doubts or showing off his power, Jesus just weeps. He cries with them, mourning his friend yet knowing full well Lazarus will soon be alive again. This teaches us that, although we can scold or teach or correct, sometimes we're called to simply weep. This kind of sympathy is what God offers to all God's beloved children, offering comfort and peace.

Spring break was this month, but some of us still wanted to get together, so we went on a little field trip to McDonalds! The last Wednesday was during a normal week again; However, Youth Group looked different. This spring, Pastor Taylor plans on holding our annual church Easter egg hunt outside! This means we need clean grounds, so us youth spread out and picked up litter around the entire church. As Christians, our job is not only to love and care for one another, but also the Earth we call home. The youth was able to participate in this as March came to a close! Entering April, the youth will start turning their eyes towards the cross as we move towards the end of Lent.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY: "The Chosen" TV series

You're invited to something new at Grace! Starting April 8 at 5:00 PM, we'll gather on Wednesday evenings for a short-term small group centered around the powerful series *The Chosen*. Each week, we'll watch an episode together and spend time in relaxed, meaningful conversation as we reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus. Whether you've seen the series before or are brand new to it, this is a great opportunity to grow in faith, ask questions, and connect with others in community. Come as you are, no preparation needed. Just bring yourself and a friend or two! Dinner and childcare will also be provided. Please contact Pastor Taylor to RSVP or if you have any questions.

LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grace UMC Leadership Team met on Monday, March 16 to plan and implement ministry opportunities that align with our vision, and steward the resources of the church. Here are

some of the highlights from the meeting.

- We continued conversation and planning regarding to repairs needed to the roof over the Narthex and office areas. Critical areas have been patched with plans to address ongoing concerns.

- The education wing is getting reorganized to effectively use the space! In the coming months, look for updated signage down the wing as we continue to get spaces settled.
- In January, a portion of the fence at the parsonage was blown over by strong winds and conditions to the old fence. Plans are in place to replace that portion of the fence.
- Conversations continued about our work with Great Plains Food Bank and finishing our responsibility with monthly food distributions. We are talking with REC about partnering together on a food pantry to address hunger and food insecurity in our neighborhood.
- We looked ahead towards summer with fun opportunities for a block party, s'mores and games, and a night out with the RedHawks!
- Our 150 year anniversary will take place in 2028. If you are interested in helping plan festivities for this year, please contact Pastor Taylor.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Make plans to join us for worship on Sunday, May 3rd this year as we celebrate B Burkhart's Confirmation

