

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

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

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June, 2026

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Greetings:

"I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:1-3

The unofficial beginning of summer has arrived! Let the Alice Cooper anthem, School's Out for Summer, blast from the speakers. Fun fact: I once saw Alice Cooper at a Starbucks in Sioux Falls while preparing a sermon. As much as I wish there were more to that story, there isn't, just a star sighting. I digress. Summer is a time for camping and vacations, lemonade and popsicles a plenty, and of course, bonfires and s'mores. I've learned some of life's most important lessons around a campfire, and throughout the summer time, I'd like to share some of those insights with you through the newsletters.

Now I know given my occupation, it may seem I only like to talk, but I try to do my fair share of listening as well. This became an important practice when sitting around a fire early on in my life. Through that I learned my fair share of jokes, some of them usable even from the pulpit while others best reserved for a more limited audience. I also heard stories of valued friendship and how to be there for one another when life offers challenges that seem hard to overcome. Moments that were easy to laugh about later on were moments of real fear and pain when they were happening.

Paul is writing in Ephesians to a group of Gentile (non-Jewish) followers of Jesus, encouraging them to bear with one another in the midst of life's challenges. I have to admit, one of the jokes for a limited audience comes to mind in this, so I'll try to offer a synopsis that isn't too crass. In the joke, one friend is sharing with another an issue he's been dealing with, and eventually it turns into that second friend's problem. I don't know about you, but I have felt the pressure for this to be what bearing with one another looks like, that I take on someone else's problem. Yet, the call for us is not to be heaping grounds for the burdens of others, but sharers in the journey.

Bearing in love at times is simply being present enough in the moment of challenge and frustration, with humility and gentleness, that you can also be the one to laugh about it sitting around a campfire years later. And should we find ourselves being the one in need, being mindful to know the difference between receiving support and giving our problems to someone else. All of that takes time and intentionality. The types of relationships that do that faithfully rarely come in the form of casual conversations or surface-level salutations. It takes a commitment to, as Paul says, "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

My hope for you this summer is that no matter if you find yourself around a familiar campfire, or in an exciting new setting, you may find and foster connections with people who can journey with you in the difficult lows and incredible highs!

Pastor Taylor

PROBLEM SOLVED!



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Pat W [redacted] (Elim)
Don W [redacted] (Elim)
Shirley M [redacted] (Serenity)

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on June 10th and 24th for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 218-233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Welcome Center or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Linda G [redacted] Larry P [redacted]
Del L [redacted] Wally W [redacted]
Jean M [redacted]



June Birthdays

- 1—C. Lindner
- 5—M. Forderer
- 9—D. Welsh
- 12—T. Anderson
- 14—R. Maag
- 15—A. Gumto
- 16—B. Christopherson
T. Newgard
E. Burkhardt
- 18—R. Burkhardt
- 19—A. Taxis
- 20—L. Maag
- 21—L. Collins



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We invite you to be in prayer for the Minnesota Annual Conference gathering that is occurring June 16-18 in St. Cloud, MN. Pastor Taylor and D.

Graning will be attending as our churches delegates. Annual Conference is a time for clergy and laity from across Minnesota to gather for a time of worship, learning, and discernment in how we live together in ministry as United Methodist. For more information, visit <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference>.



SUMMER CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES

June 24- Neighborhood Block Party

We are partnering with REC to have a party this summer! Join us from 5-7pm for connection and outreach to those in our neighborhood. We will be grilling hot dogs, having local organizations join us, and enjoying fellowship with friends new and old. If you are able to help with cooking, set up or clean up, please contact Pastor Taylor.

July 15- Fire Pit and Games

Who doesn't love a good s'more and a bean bag toss?! Bring a chair and a friend to this time of connection in July from 6-8pm. Everything you need to roast the perfect mallow will be available, with plenty of games to play in the grass.

August 28- "Grace" Me Out to the Ballgame

It's our annual trip out to Newman Stadium for a RedHawks game! This year will be a little different as we'll join other area UMC's for a night of connection. A sign up sheet will be made available online and at the Connection Center, with sign ups due Sunday August 9th. Tickets will be \$14 a piece, and this will be a special game with giveaways and fireworks for fan appreciation night.



June Anniversaries

- 1—C. & D. Burkhardt
- 3—M. & A. Gumto
- 4—S. & L. Gedrose
- 7—C. & P. Welsh
P. & N. Quarve
- 13—B. & S. Martin
- 27—J. & D. Bellon

GRACE DOING GOOD

-L. Roppe has been using her gifts of design and creativity to beautifully decorate the altar and other areas of the church.

-S. Simmons, D. and J. Blomeke, have been hard at work getting the grounds looking great.



ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER!

Del Larson, CLM

Happy Father's Day. First, I thank God our Father that we share God together. Where would we be without our Heavenly Father? Nowhere! There would be no world, no food, nothing. Our ancestors would not have been.

I don't have many memories about my father, as he died when I was nine from leukemia. I really didn't understand at that young age. I also had a younger sister that felt the same way. The good memories I do have of my father are usually around fishing or being at a lake, and of the Fargo Tornado in 1957. My dad piled all six of us into the station wagon to try to escape the storm, but it was too late. The tornado was crossing the river. Dad turned the car around in someone's yard and went back home. We were put under an old, heavy dining room table that was in the basement. We were saved. Unfortunately, I do remember the drinking that my dad did. That brother, who was 16, grew up to be an alcoholic, and also died at a young age. The night our dad died, this brother stood outside on the corner hugging the street sign most of the night. I believe that he was the most affected by the loss of our dad. My oldest brother had just graduated from high school and was out of town playing in a baseball game.

I was fortunate to have many people in my life that helped guide me and keep me on the right path. I spent a lot of my summer time staying with relatives in Audubon, who also reminded me to do what was right and to honor my mother and treat her properly. I was the tag-along little kid, but yet I never felt unloved. My cousins included me in many of their activities. They helped guide me on my life journey. We rode horses often, including riding out to the cemetery east of Audubon so I could visit my dad's plot. Many preteens wouldn't find that exciting, but it helped me. Most of my uncles took me fishing and hunting or talked with me about my responsibilities and were patient. My aunties were always loving and kind.

I was also fortunate that many neighbors, family friends, and church members helped me grow by being able to talk with them and ask for their help on projects. Some took me with on trips out of town. Others helped me build things as gifts for family. Church members included me in church activities. I will never forget the day I was asked to usher. What an honor. I became very active in our youth group.

In college, I became a mentor to a boy in my church who didn't have a father. I took him fishing and to other activities. I coached baseball for the parks department. I also worked in a school at noon and after school with kids. I have always had a soft spot for children who are missing a parent. I believe that is part of the reason that I

changed my mind to go into education rather than journalism.

There was one neighbor who was like a dad for me. He taught me many skills and guided me into manhood. Don was a Fargo Police Officer. He talked my mother into allowing me to buy a shotgun and taught me how to use it. Because of his roughhousing with me, I decided to get even with him on Halloween when I was 12. I used vaseline on the handles of his motorcycle and door knobs. He came blasting out of his house and caught me. I was handcuffed around his front tree for 45 minutes. People would avoid his house with me there. The only way he would let me go was if I would name my first son after him. I agreed. My mom and our minister, who came to visit, were on our step outside watching. Later he helped me fix my cars, and he was the second adult that met my girlfriend, Luann.

In the 1950s, there were near 40 million single-parent families in the United States. In 2022, there were more than 80 million. In 1950, half of our country attended church regularly. Today, it is down to 21 percent. Yes, divorce rates have jumped higher over the years, and there are other factors involved. If parents aren't attending, the children won't have the opportunity to learn about Christ. Children, especially boys, need that strong Christian male in their lives to help them find their way. My mother did a great job

of raising me, but I have often wondered in my early adulthood, what if I hadn't had these men in my life?

What are we doing about helping these families?

This is not going to improve. We are talking generations that could find themselves part of the lost. How are we supporting our youth? What can we do for single parents in our church and community? God's watching and is seeking us to react. I'm thankful for our church and how we include our children in our service and helping in the church. We are called to help those in need.



WORSHIP AT GRACE

10:00 A.M.

Worship services at Grace are livestreamed on Facebook and on the web site:

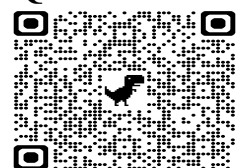
graceumcmoorhead.org

**Offering may be mailed to Grace UMC,
1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN
56560**

**Offerings Online giving available through
Givelify.com and search Grace United
Methodist Church or use the QR**

**code to make your one time
or recurring gifts.**

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Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Jun 1	am:1-3, pm: 4,7	Prov 3:11-20	1 John 3:19-4:6	Matt 11:1-6
Jun 2	am 5.6, pm: 10, 11	Prov 4:1-27	1 John 4:7-21	Matt 11:7-15
Jun 3	am:119:1-24,pm: 12, 13, 14	Prov 6:1-19	1 John 5:1-12	Matt 11:16-24
Jun 4	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Prov 7:1-27	1 John 5:13-21	Matt 11:25-30
Jun 5	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Prov 8:1-21	2 John 1-13	Matt 12:1-14
Jun 6	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 104	Prov 8:22-36	3 John 1-15, Eph 3:14-21	Matt 12:15-21
Jun 7	am:146, 147, pm:111, 112, 113	Job 38:1-11, 42:1-5	Rev 19:4-6	John 1:29-34
Jun 8	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Prov 10:1-12	1 Tim 1:1-17	Matt 12:22-32
Jun 9	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Prov 15:16-33	1 Tim 1:18-2:8	Matt 12:33-42
Jun 10	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Prov 17:1-20	1 Tim 3:1-16	Matt 12:43-50
Jun 11	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Prov 21:30-22:6	1 Tim 4:1-16	Matt 13:24-30
Jun 12	am: 31, pm: 3,5	Prov 23:19-21, 29-24:2	1 Tim 5:17-25	Matt 13:31-25
Jun 13	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Prov 25:15-28	1 Tim 6:6-21	Matt 14:31-35
Jun 14	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Num 6:22-27	Acts 13:1-12	Luke 12:41-48
Jun 15	am: 80, pm: 77, 79	Num 9:15-23, 10:29-36	Rom 1:1-15	Matt 17:14-21
Jun 16	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Num 11:1-23	Rom 1:16-25	Matt 17:22-27
Jun 17	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Num 11:24-35	Rom 1:28-2:11	Matt 18:1-9
Jun 18	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Num 12:1-16	Rom 2:12-24	Matt 18:10-20
Jun 19	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Num 13:1-3, 21-30	Rom 2:25-3:8	Matt 18:21-35
Jun 20	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Num 13:31-14:25	Rom 3:9-20	Matt 19:1-12
Jun 21	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Num 14:26-45	Acts 15:1-12	Luke 12:49-56
Jun 22	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Num 16:1-19	Rom 3:21-31	Matt 19:13-22
Jun 23	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Num 16:20-35	Rom 4:1-12	Matt 19:23-30
Jun 24	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Num 16:36-50	Rom 4:13-25	Matt 20:1-16
Jun 25	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Num 17:1-11	Rom 5:1-11	Matt 20:17-28
Jun 26	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Num 20:1-13	Rom 5:12-21	Matt 20:29-34
Jun 27	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Num 20:14-29	Rom 6:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
Jun 28	am: 118, pm: 145	Num 21:4-9, 21-35	Acts 17:12-34	Luke 13:10-17
Jun 29	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Num 22:1-21	Rom 6:12-23	Matt 21:12-22
Jun 30	am: 121-123, pm: 124- 126	Num 22:21-38	Rom 7:1-12	Matt 21:23-32

Grace United Methodist

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 pm Quilting	2 7:00 pm AA	3 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	4 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	5	6 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
7 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion	8 1:00 pm Quilting	9 7:00 pm AA	10 6:00 am Donut Making 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	11 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 5:30 pm Thrivent Presentation 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	12	13 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
14 10:00 am Worship	15 1:00 pm Quilting	16 7:00 pm AA	17 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	18 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	19 Holiday Office Closed	20 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
		Annual Conference Convention—St. Cloud				
21 10:00 am Worship	22 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	23 7:00 pm AA	24 6:00 am Donut Making 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Block Party 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	25 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	26	27 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
28 10:00 am Worship	29 1:00 pm Quilting	30 7:00 pm AA				

GRACE LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Grace UMC Leadership Team met on Monday, May 18 to plan and implement ministry opportunities that align with our mission, and steward the resources of the church. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting.

-We have received report from Dalsin Roofing on what is needed for phase two of our project. The pause came from engineering consultations on how to best pitch the roof at the correct angle. Another big piece of this is all the mechanical equipment on this part of the roof for our air system. The immediate thing to know is our roof will be okay even with some heavier rains, the issue being when ice builds up. We have some bids to finalize, but right now we're looking at a \$100,000 project. More information will be made available soon from the Leadership Team.

-Grace continues to host Recovery Engaged Communities (REC) as well as multiple recovery type meetings (AA/NA) during the week. We are grateful to be a gathering place for people in the recovery process.

-Plumbing work will be taking place in the kitchen to update drains and sinks. This is important work to be done to support not only the fellowship opportunities of Grace, but ensure that the donut team can efficiently do their work as well! Leadership Team sought after multiple bids to get competitive pricing for this project.

-Our average operating costs per month this year have been \$20,450. Right now, we are currently bringing in an average of \$14,254 per month. Financially, we cannot sustain the ministries of the church like this for a long period of time. Leadership and staff will continue to keep spending to a minimum as much as we can, and ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support of all we continue to do in our mission to be the church of the neighborhood.

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, 2025. If you have any questions about the Scholarships or about the Grace UMC Endowment, please contact P. Anderson.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

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E. Beck

Hello, Grace United Methodist Church! As most of you have heard, this has been my final year in Youth Group. My eighteenth birthday (May 28th) and graduation (May 29th) are the final stretch for me! I'm graduating from Moorhead High School, and next fall, I will be attending MSUM (Minnesota State University of Moorhead). I plan on majoring in Biology and minor-ing in Visual Arts.

Because I will no longer be a member of the church's youth group, I am no longer eligible to be a Youth Representative on the church Leadership Team. My time on this committee has given me great insight into all the effort put into keeping this church running, let alone organizing all the extra mission work and activities we do. It's a lot of hard work, and my experience on the team has made me appreciate good leadership all the more. As my time came to a close, Pastor Taylor and I considered which youth would take my place. After considering our options and asking our candidates, it was determined that O. Beck (my brother) will fill that role. In the next few months, he and I will be attending meetings together until he fully takes over the role.

Our last few weeks of Youth Group were spent winding down, with our last one being held on May 20th. We spent the evening enjoying a parking lot bonfire, roasting marshmallows, and spending time together. The Youth don't have any major activities planned for this summer, since we had a large mission trip last year. Because the youth don't meet over summer break, these writings will also take a pause! However, both these updates and Youth Group will resume again come the end of summer. A personal thank you to everyone in the church for nurturing my faith and supporting me as I've grown at Grace UMC; I am grateful to you all. Also, on behalf of all the youth, another big thanks for your encouragement and support. We had a wonderful year and look forward to what the future holds!

CANOEING WITH CRAIG HABERMAN

B. Fangsrud

In the middle of June 2015, a good friend named Craig (our former Pastor) called to inquire about doing a canoe trip a week later. After perusing my busy schedule, I said, Yes, we will. Over the years, he and I headed north several times, some to be with his dad in far north cabin, some to the Boundary Waters (BW). Since he's been very busy lately, I told him I'd take care of everything: permit, food, canoe, tent, etc. We were ready to head out on June 23. This trip gives us a chance to talk about some of his personal stuff.

Day One:

We sleep until about 4 AM and then head off to the Boundary Waters. We head north by boat on Crane Lake to his dad's cabin to spend the night. The following is an abridged version.

Day Two: June 24, 2015. Little Indian Sioux River

After breakfast, we boat back to Crane Lake, drive over to the BW entry point and put in. Conditions are good. Nice weather, little breeze, and not much for bugs. Our packs are set aside for the next carryover. The entry point requires a portage of our gear over a slanted rock face for 40 Rods, (220 yards or 1/8 mile). We load the packs in the canoe and shove off. We make good time. The joy far overpowers some slight annoyance. We pull into our portages along the Little Indian Sioux and make the carries like experienced paddlers. No complaining, watch for roots and rocks, enjoy the walk.

We reach the first lake, called Upper Pauness. The next lake is above the previous lake on the map but is called Lower Pauness. Upper means upstream; Lower means downstream. Once across the nearly 1/2 mile portage, we are back on the river and head the few miles to fairly large East Loon Bay on Loon Lake. The thin strip of beach is where we were headed.

On Loon the wind comes up and it is fierce. We head right and follow the shore, but we want to get farther up around an opening where we plan to camp at a site with a beach

that we first saw in 2003. As we go that way the wind literally blows us off the lake. We pull in at a marked campsite that we find is full of blown down trees. The site is a mess full of hazards. One set of tree roots was about 20 feet wide. Impressive.

The wind blows but the water looks less hazardous all of a sudden, so we take off around the corner and make for the site we want on East Loon Bay. We spot the ribbon of sand at the destination campsite.

Day Three: East Loon Bay to Slim Lake

We sleep OK, rise, and get on with eating breakfast. Once we kill some time and get camp settled down, we paddle away from camp north toward Slim Lake to take a look. "We" carry back across the 173R portage and are pleased to be back on Loon. We check out campsites and then see the thin line of sand lying across the bay. It is fun to be back at camp. After supper we have a major surprise. A motorboat is headed our way. We get our machine guns ready in case it's terrorists, but we come to our senses – terrorists don't paddle. A man is asking us if we have seen a party of women in two canoes. They had left some gear on a landing by mistake.

All of a sudden 1180, Craig says, Charlie? Is that you, Charlie? The man replies, Craig? It turns out they knew each other several years ago when Craig pastored at Crane Lake. Both are fairly native to the area. Topping it off, Craig is on the guest list for Charlie's daughter's wedding later in the summer. My jaw hangs. You've got to be kidding. Craig picks up a piece of wood with a face while walking the beach. We are off to the tent.



CANOEING (continued)

Day Four: On East Loon Bay

Rising the next morning, I notice my feet are still attached. Suddenly, we can see that something is stirring in those darkening clouds. Not to worry, it'll stay on the other side of the lake over a mile away. Then the sky just above the horizon splits in two. On the left is a dark storm. On the right, sunny sky. Very cool. We very casually watch what is going on when the sky starts coming our way. Immediately we start to secure our camp and prepare to be in the tent. I stand and stare somewhat awed by this unusual split-sky rainstorm. We are in the tent when the rain comes. It's a relaxing thing for us. We stay in, read, and write. A most pleasant end to a fun day for a couple of good friends.

Day Five: East Loon Bay to Heritage to Shell Lake

The next day we wake to "white horses" (heavy fog) calmly moving across the lake. Loading takes over an hour as we take it easy, police the site, and simply enjoy the time here. We are both tired by the time we are across the portage twice and feel somewhat beat up. Dead trees everywhere. Spooky.

At Shell Lake, a man tells us they just came from the site on the west shore, so we go there for the day and night. I'm surprised the man told us he had just been there. The camp is filthy. A half hour later it is not. We find a nice tent pad and set up. We try to get rested, and we talk. We were good at that.

Day Six: Exit to the Little Indian Sioux landing

We rise earlier than the other days, but still we're in no rush. The day before we had named this site "Three Sisters Camp," because of a set of 3 boulders. We are heading out today. We discuss a range of subjects. We rather enjoy the 216R portage from Shell to Lower Pauness. We meet a great guy who has some troubled teen boys with him. We encourage the boys to soak the place in. We pull into Lower Pauness. I show Craig the campsite on the west side of the south bay where I stayed on a solo in 2006. I really enjoyed that trip on

which I befriended a father and son (Gene and Tyler) who were on their very first trip. We have recently been in contact.

On Lower Pauness we land on the peninsula site and check it out. Pretty nice with its wild roses. We land at the takeout portage, carry up to the parking lot, and load our gear. Another fine time in the BWCA. And another time to solidify a lifetime friendship. During the week, we talked about his marital troubles. Mostly though it was good, intelligent conversation. I won't ever forget Craig. He was such a great friend. Last year at Minnesota Annual Conference, we looked for each other. Eventually, we finally got together for some serious talk and serious laughs. I will miss Craig, one of my best friends of my adult years. Yeah, I'll miss him.



A TIME FOR RETREAT

Just as we need physical breaks from daily activities, our spirits need renewal as well. We often think of physical survival, but we should also consider that we need to practice spiritual survival. In a world that both boldly and subtly attacks our spiritual health, Christians need to be inwardly strengthened.

June, which is often a vacation month, might be a perfect time for you to spend some time away from the pressures of daily life.

Retreat centers are located all over America. Search the Internet to find a place that appeals to you. Ask your pastor to recommend any denominational or local retreats.