

# *Light of Grace*

A monthly publication of:

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

## Greetings:

“I give you this commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

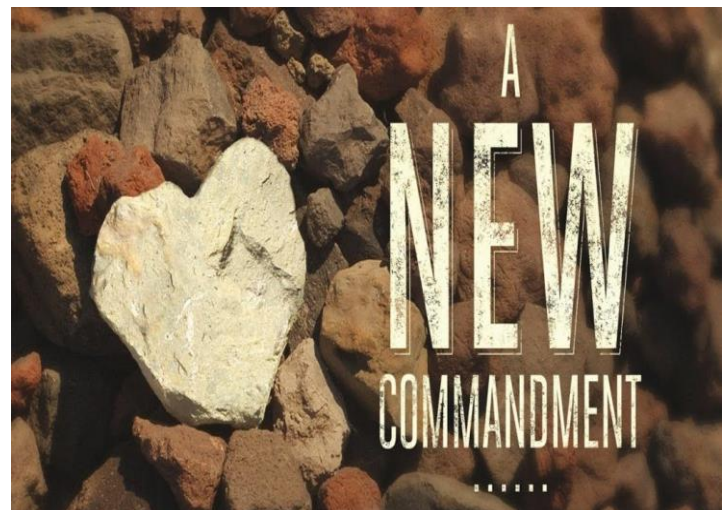
Summer is now in full swing! The days are longer, the evenings are warmer, and hopefully there have been opportunities for some time outside. Last month I shared one of the lessons I have learned around a campfire: the importance of listening and bearing with one another in life. Some of life's best conversations happen when we slow down enough to hear one another's stories. A campfire is a wonderful time for that to happen. Yet if we're not paying attention, we can get so caught up in conversation that the fire burns through. Someone needs to add another log, adjust the wood, or stir the embers. If we simply walk away and expect the fire to continue on its own, eventually the flames begin to fade. The warmth becomes less noticeable, and the light does not reach quite as far.

I think there is a lesson here for our lives of faith as well. The things that bring warmth, light, and life into our faith require tending, just like a fire. First, we tend to our own relationship with God. Our faith grows when we make space for prayer, worship, Scripture, and time with God. Just as a fire needs fuel, our souls need moments where we reconnect with the God who calls us by name and deeply loves us. Second, we tend to our relationships and our community. The connections that encourage us, challenge us, and support us rarely remain strong simply because they once existed. They need time, attention, and care. Community grows when we continue showing up for one another. Finally, we tend to the needs around us. A fire does not exist only for the people who started it; it creates warmth that can be shared with others. In the same way, the love and grace we receive from God are not meant to stop with us. We are called to notice the places where people are hurting, the voices that are calling out, and the ways we can offer Christ's love to our neighbors.

This is one of the reasons I have loved seeing our summer connection opportunities take place. Our June block party was a wonderful reminder of the joy that comes when we gather together. There was food, laughter, conversation, and a chance to strengthen the bonds that make our church community what it is. From 6-8pm on July 15th, we continue that spirit with our s'mores and game night out in the parking lot. It may seem like a simple evening, but often it is through simple moments that relationships grow and community is strengthened.

I want to encourage and invite you to tend the fires in your life. Deepen your relationship with God, strengthen your connections with others, and discover new ways to share God's love with the world. May we continue to nurture what God has placed in our lives so that the warmth and light of Christ may continue to reach farther than we ever imagined.

Pastor Taylor





### PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

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

### PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

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



- 2— C. Ladwig
- 5—S. Hamm
- 7—S. Anderson
- 9—G. Anderson
- 11—C. Maurer  
B. Pittenger
- 18—C. Burkhardt
- 20—J. Enkers  
S. Martin
- 21—S. Fangsrud
- 24—S. Burkhardt
- 26—R. Ward



- July**
- 3—D. & P. Walter
  - 6—M. & B. Eisen
  - 10—J. & D. Blomeke
  - 12—T. & G. Anderson
  - 13—D. & A. Maag
  - 20—R. & L. Burkhardt
  - 22—T. & K. Johnson
  - 27—J. & J. Eide  
R. & P. Murray
  - 28—L. & P. Horner

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

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

**graceumcmoorhead.org**

**Offering may be mailed to Grace UMC,**

**1120 17th Street South, Moorhead**

**Offerings Online giving available**

**Givelify.com and search Grace United Methodist Church or use the QR code to make your one time or recurring gifts.**



### DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on July 8th and 22nd 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](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts).



### 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.

### Independence Day lessons for church life

- Return to the basics — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
  - Honor the gift of freedom — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- Enjoy community — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- Be light in the darkness — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus— dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann



## IS GOD KNOCKING?

Del Larson, CLM

This past month, I had the opportunity to bring my autistic 16 year old grandson with me to help at Salem Church in Moorhead on their bicycle ministry. For decades, this church has provided free bikes to children and adults that have been donated by the community and Scheels. Members of their church and friends help to repair bikes, and make them rideable and safe.

Presently, I would guess that they have in stock over 50 bikes, and give away 6-10 bikes every Thursday night during the spring and summer. Recently, they had a bike night for students from Ellen Hopkins Elementary, and included donated helmets, and locks.

I've shared with you about my young life, growing up without a father, and how relatives, neighbors, and church members helped me grow into the person I am today. I give all glory and honor to God for their desire to help me stay on the right path, that my older brother never received. **Luke 6:38** *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

These people molded and guided me to develop a life of giving. Please understand, that I am not bragging. It is my purpose to give praise to God, and honoring Him for how He put people in my young life. I have continued to follow this example in my life. Obviously, teaching can create a great opportunity, but I have learned it also has to be throughout our day and lives. Yes, as we age it gets more difficult to help. I no longer take needy kids fishing, or volunteer to coach, rather I do what I can that fits appropriately with what my body can do.

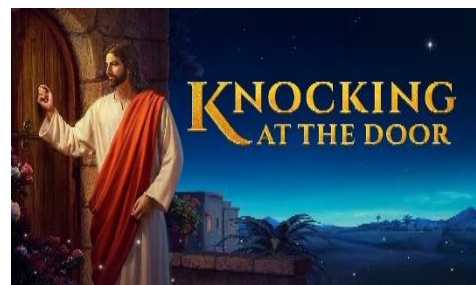
My grandson and I, spent our night changing tubes and a few tires at that bike repair ministry. My grandson was reluctant to go to this event because of his autism. He felt he would be slow or not know what to do. That is why I have been trying to get him to come with me. I told him that I understood, but to be very careful or fear would run his life. I promised him that if he tried it one night and didn't like it, we would look for something else. He did a great job, and was quicker than I was with the tubes and tires. He even asked questions of other workers, and talked to people who were waiting for a bike repair. I asked him when we left, how he felt and if he would come back again. He said he was comfortable and would probably return. I told him I was proud of him for tackling his fear and beating it.

In early June, I was invited to go to Washington, D.C., to represent Minnesota as a caregiver, and a caregiver coach at a conference on Caregiving. The local Lutheran Social Services representative (LSS) was also coming along, told me over coffee that I would be asked to share my story. As you know, I have no problems talking. I **didn't** realize that it meant I would be sitting in the offices of our Senators and Representative to Congress. Although our elected officials were not there, I talked to

senior policy advisors. There wasn't much education on how to be a better caregiver. However, the focus was on how to get your point across with your story, and why the Older Americans Act, which helps caregivers with lost wages, respite care, and support for caregivers that work in facilities. Did you know that most nursing facilities run short handed, forcing workers to do double shifts? You guessed right, they don't want to do that so they quit, and then the shortage becomes larger. The aid that tried to save my wife, left the profession because he felt he failed. Not good.

As a faithful servant of God, I have been blessed so many times throughout my life. I married the right person, I was never without work, even when I lost my first teaching job I moved to a different career, nor was I alone when struggling with my grief over the loss of my wife. God has blessed me, and given me all these and more. I have been sent on trips to represent my community and state. Examples: The tragic space launch of the Challenger Space Shuttle, I was invited there before the launch and brought back many opportunities for my community. Two years later, I was sent to Russia to learn about schools, and had three Russians come to Moorhead to learn about us. There is so much more, and I give God all the credit of putting me in the place He needs me, including doing what He wants me to do in writing these articles, or working with my 40 plus caregivers. My prayer is always God, guide me in what I should say and do. Now God has me going back to school to learn to be a grief counselor. I am wondering if He needs new glasses? I'm 75 years old. **Luke 6:38**—*"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."*

God is knocking on your door. He is putting people in front of you who need help. What opportunities are you missing to serve God? What has God surprised you with that Brought you joy? Give thanks for your success and gifts. Please continue to be that faithful servant God is expecting of us all. Thank you dear Lord for guiding me to write this article. **AMEN!**



Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Jul 1	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128, 129, 130	Num 22:42-23:12	Rom 7:13-25	Matt 21:33-46
Jul 2	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	Num 23:11-26	Rom 8:1-11	Matt 22:1-14
Jul 3	am: 140, 142. pm: 141, 143	Num 24:1-13	Rom 8:12-17	Matt 22:15-22
Jul 4	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Num 24:12-25	Rom 8:18-25	Matt 22:23-40
Jul 5	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Num 27:12-23	Acts 19:11-20	Mark 1:14-20
Jul 6	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Num 32:1-6, 16-27	Rom 8:26-30	Matt 23:1-12
Jul 7	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Num 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34	Rom 8:31-39	Matt 23:13-26
Jul 8	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Deut 1:1-18	Rom 9:1-18	Matt 23:27-39
Jul 9	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Deut 3:18-28	Rom 9:19-33	Matt 24:1-14
Jul 10	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Deut 31:7-13, 24, 32:1-4	Rom 10:1-13	Matt 24:15-31
Jul 11	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Deut 34:1-12	Rom 10:14-21	Matt 24:32-51
Jul 12	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Josh 1:1-18	Acts 21:3-15	Mark 1:21-27
Jul 13	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Josh 2:1-14	Rom 11:1-12	Matt 25:1-13
Jul 14	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Josh 2:15-24	Rom 11:13-24	Matt 25:14-30
Jul 15	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Josh 3:1-13	Rom 11:25-36	Matt 25:31-46
Jul 16	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Josh 3:14-4:7	Rom 12:1-8	Matt 26:1-16
Jul 17	am: 31, pm: 35	Josh 4:19-5:1, 10-15	Rom 12:9-21	Matt 26:17-25
Jul 18	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Josh 6:1-14	Rom 13:1-7	Matt 26:26-35
Jul 19	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Josh 6:15-27	Acts 22:30-23-11	Mark 2:1-12
Jul 20	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Josh 7:1-13	Rom 13:8-14	Matt 26:36-46
Jul 21	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Josh 8:1-22	Rom 14:1-12	Matt 26:47-56
Jul 22	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Josh 8:30-35	Rom 14:13-23	Matt 26:57-68
Jul 23	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	Josh 9:3-21	Rom 15:1-13	Matt 26:69-75
Jul 24	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Josh 9:22-10:15	Rom 15:14-24	Matt 27:1-10
Jul 25	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Josh 23:1-16	Rom 15:25-33	Matt 27:11-23
Jul 26	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Josh 24:1-15	Acts 28:23-31	Mark 2:23-28
Jul 27	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Josh 24:16-33	Rom 16:1-16	Matt 27:24-31
Jul 28	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Jud 2:1-5, 11-23	Rom 16:17-27	Matt 27:32-44
Jul 29	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Jud 3:12-30	Acts 1:1-14	Matt 27:45-54
Jul 30	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Jud 4:4-23	Acts 1:15-26	Matt 27:55-66
Jul 31	am: 69, pm: 73	Jud 5:1-18	Acts 2:1-21	Matt 28:1-10



## LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grace UMC Leadership Team met on Monday, June 22 to continue planning and implementing ministry opportunities that align with our mission, and steward the resources of the church. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting.

- We welcomed our new youth representative, O. Beck, who will be stepping into this role as E. Beck prepares to head to college. We are grateful for Elloise’s service and excited for Oscar’s leadership in this next season.
- Pastor Taylor and D. Graning shared highlights from the Minnesota Annual Conference. This year’s theme was “Created to Serve Joyfully,” and they enjoyed reconnecting with others across the conference, worship, music, and learning together. More information from Annual Conference can be found in the summary below.
- Leadership continues working through updates to our church leadership structure. This includes establishing clearer roles and responsibilities, developing a separate Staff-Parish Relations Committee, establishing a Board of Trustees, and continuing conversations about how we best support the ministry of Grace.
- Phase two of our roof project continues to move forward. We are working through the remaining pieces, including HVAC considerations and siding work. Leadership is also discussing fundraising opportunities to help support this important project.
- Our summer connection opportunities are underway! We are grateful for the success of our neighborhood block party and are looking forward to upcoming opportunities to gather, including our July s’mores and game night. We continue to celebrate the ways God is building community through these gatherings.
- Fall ministry plans are beginning to take shape, including the return of youth group on September 9 and Kickoff Sunday on September 13.

- The Leadership Team continues to monitor the financial health of the church and prayerfully consider ways we can continue faithfully supporting the ministries God has called us to. We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of the Grace community.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Pastor Taylor and Dan G. [redacted] represented Grace UMC at the 2026 Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud. This year’s theme was “Created to Serve Joyfully,” reminding us that God calls us not only to receive grace but to share that grace through joyful service in our communities.



Annual Conference is always a meaningful time to reconnect with other United Methodists, worship together, learn from one another, and be reminded that Grace is part of something much larger than ourselves. This year included powerful worship, conversations about the future of the church, and opportunities to celebrate the many ways churches across Minnesota are serving their communities. One of the important conversations this year centered around the changing financial landscape of the conference, including moving toward zero-based budgeting and the challenges churches are facing with rising costs. These conversations remind us of the importance of faithfully stewarding the resources God has entrusted to us while continuing to seek new ways to live out our mission.

The conference also continued conversations around how we, as United Methodists, engage difficult issues while seeking to remain connected in Christ. Through all of these discussions, we were reminded that our calling remains the same: to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

### ON PRAYER

Be not afraid to pray; to pray is right;  
Pray if thou canst with hope, but ever pray,  
Though hope be weak or sick with long delay;  
Pray in the darkness if there be no light;  
And if for any wish thou daren’t pray  
Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

—E.M. Bounds

# Grace United Methodist

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
<b>5</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion	<b>6</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>8</b> 6:00 am Donut Making 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
<b>12</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Fire Pit and Games 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
<b>19</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>20</b> 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>22</b> 6:00 am Donut Making 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>27</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>29</b> 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Bulletin 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	<b>31</b>	