

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Greetings:

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ..."

2 Corinthians 2:14-15a

Summer always seems to go by faster than I expect. Before long school supplies start appearing in stores, and another season begins to draw to a close. As we wrap up this little series of campfire lessons, I want to leave you with one final thought. Anyone who has spent an evening around a campfire knows there is one thing that almost always follows you home: the smell of smoke. You become acclimated to it while you're sitting around the fire, but later that night you catch the scent on your sweatshirt or in your hair. You can shower, wash your clothes, and air everything out, but somehow the smell seems to linger just a little while longer. What you've spent your time around sticks with you. That's true in life as well.

The things we spend our time around have a way of staying with us.

Sometimes that's a difficult reality, isn't it? Hurtful words linger, poor decisions can have lasting consequences, and we all carry moments we wish we could do over. The good news of the gospel is that our mistakes are never the final word. In Christ we find forgiveness, grace, and the opportunity to begin again.

There is another side to this lingering effect that gives me more hope. Joy lingers. Kindness lingers. Encouragement lingers. A simple act of generosity can inspire someone else to do the same. Time spent in worship, prayer, and scripture has a way of shaping us long after we close our Bible or leave the sanctuary. Even gathering with God's people

its mark on us. That's why block parties, fire pits, and events like The Connection matter so much.

The same is true for what we leave behind in others. A thoughtful word of encouragement can echo in someone's heart long after we've spoken it. A harsh comment can stay with someone far longer than we ever intended. Even the things we post online have a way of lingering. We may scroll on to the next thing in a matter of seconds, but our words have a remarkable ability to shape, encourage, wound, inspire, or divide. Whether spoken across a table, typed on a screen, or shared in passing, our words rarely stop with us. Just like the residual smell of charred wood, it's hard for it to simply just go away.

Perhaps that's why Paul's words are so powerful.

He writes that we are to be "the aroma of Christ." Just as someone who has been around a campfire carries the scent of the fire with them, those who spend time with Christ begin to carry something of Christ wherever they go. His love has a way of shaping our words and actions, and His compassion has a way of changing the way we see our neighbors. Before too long others begin to experience something of Christ through us.

As we head toward the close of another summer, I hope you've had the chance to spend some time around a campfire. My prayer is not simply that we've enjoyed another summer together, but that we've spent enough time with Christ that His love lingers in us and through us. May the words we speak, the lives we live, and the ways we love leave behind the unmistakable aroma of Christ wherever God leads us.



Pastor Taylor



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

P Walter (Fargo Elim)
 D Walter (Fargo Elim)
 S Mohr (Serenity)



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on August 5th and 19th 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

L Gibson L Possehl
 D Larson W Walseth
 Jean Mann



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

As we get closer to the new school year, we are in need of more Sunday Schools Teachers! We currently have one teacher with a few subs and faithful youth stepping in to help. Ideally we would like two more teachers who can help to rotate out. Our classrooms consist of 3 year olds to 1st graders, and 2nd grade through 5th grade. All planning and materials are provided for you. If you are feeling called to help raise up the next generation of Grace Kids, contact Sarah Martin or Pastor Taylor to learn more!

4—C. Gedrose
 5—C. Abel
 11—S. Brumwell
 15—E. Burkhardt
 16—P. Walter
 R. Pemble
 17—J. Ward
 18—P. Murray
 20—F. Beck
 21—J. Crabtree
 22—R. Whatley
 23—J. Mann
 28—C. Krogen
 29—O. Alvewhere



"GRACE" ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

There's still time to sign up! Join us for our annual trip out to Newman Stadium for a RedHawks game on Friday, August 28th! This year will be a little different as we'll join other area UMC's for a night of connection. Sign-ups are due Sunday August 9th, and tickets will be \$14 a piece. This will be a special game with giveaways and fireworks for fan appreciation night.



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

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, MN 56560
 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.



COMPASSION

Del Larson, CLM

I read a story from my *Mornings With Jesus* devotional on June 25, from Guidepost. It described a rundown house in a well-kept neighborhood with missing paint, untrimmed bushes, and grass. A “Sold” sign appeared on the lawn, exciting the neighbors about the new owners’ plans to spruce up the structure. To the dismay of the author of the article, they painted the house black. Neighbors later confirmed it was midnight blue, suitable for trim but not the whole house.

The color grew on the neighborhood's color guardians after a week of overcast weather. Eventually, the house became a nice focal point. The neighbors became more familiar with the new residents, realizing they were a fine couple with young children, like most of the neighborhood. Isn't it sad how we judge based on color?

I had an incident in my youth. I was caught throwing mudballs at a neighbor's house. The owner called my young widowed mother, who sent me over to apologize and clean it up. She watched me from the front step, and I knew better than to defy her. The entire neighborhood seemed to watch me walk over with my head down. The tall man answered the door, and before I could say I'm sorry, he yelled at me and grabbed me.

Then I heard my mother's voice, and I knew she was even more angry. Her first words were directed at me, and I was surprised she told me to come home. I turned and left, but her voice changed tones, and I thought I was in more trouble. Her next words were directed at the angry man. I don't remember her exact words, but she said she was the only one who would discipline me, and that the man should have helped me understand right from wrong and learn to make amends. When I got home, I got another lecture about being a man and forgiving others like Jesus forgives us, but I was still responsible to clean up the mess. My mother was a faithful woman who raised her children to be faithful to God as servants of Christ. Every night before bed, we shared the book Little Visits With God.

The Bible emphasizes helping others as a core command, a way to show love for God, and a vital part of living a faithful life. After Pastor Taylor's sermon series on James in July, I was inspired by James' teachings. In James 2:14-17, James questions the value

of faith without deeds and warns that faith alone is dead without action. Likewise, we can't just do good deeds, but also must deeply love Jesus Christ, which then leads us back to helping others, like Christ did.

With the changes in the world, needs are rising. I hesitate to help at times, but I trust that my intentions are pure and that God has my back when I do. In June, while in Washington, DC, I encountered a man asking for food. I bought him a meal, but then another approached me on my way back to my hotel. I apologized and promised to help him the next time. I don't know if this was right or wrong, but I knew there would be another opportunity sometime soon.

Growing up poor with a single parent and a younger sister, we helped our neighbors and others. As I began my teaching career, I faced needy students. Despite my limited resources, I volunteered and gave extra time to my students. It's not about how much you give or do, but about making a difference with what you have. You give of yourself to help someone less fortunate. What if that man who had gotten angry at me for throwing mud balls, had rather chosen kindness and compassion instead? Isn't that what Christ did?

My 16-year-old son, Don, was taking our new custom van on a date with another couple. He didn't want to take my old 79 International Harvester pickup. He called me and said he had an accident backing out of his friend's driveway, but everyone was okay. I made sure and talked to the other driver, assuring her that it would be taken care of. I asked her how my son was reacting and she said he was nervous and worried about what I'd say. So I talked to him and asked them not to go out, but to watch a movie there with his friends. He kept asking if I was okay, and I assured him I was fine, but concerned about him. Then I realized he wanted me to react to the accident. I reminded him that he shouldn't drive around and come straight home. He asked again if I was okay, so I told him I was fine, but I'd ring his neck when he got home. His reply was, "Oh good dad, thank you." I didn't ring his neck. He thanked and hugged me for understanding, just like my mother taught me.

In John 3:18, it says: “*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions in truth.*” Real love goes beyond words; it involves active help for others. Share your blessings to receive more blessings.



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

Grace United Methodist

August 2026

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

FALL FESTIVAL 2026

Our annual Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 10th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are so many ways for you to get involved, and this is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our community and connect with our neighbors! Here are some ways you can get involved:



Events will include:

- **Donuts and coffee** served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Donuts will also be available for purchase in 1/2 or 1 dozen bags.
- **Craft Sale:** Please make sure your Craft Items are priced. We will accept them anytime the week of October 5th. Set up will be from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Friday, October. 9th
- **Bake Sale:** Please bring your bake sale items to the church on Friday, October 9th between 4:30pm and 6:30 pm if possible. They can be brought on Saturday morning if you can't get them there Friday evening. We will price them for you.
- **Silent Auction:** Bring items the week of October 5th from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Place items in the Grace library. If you need another time, contact Silent Auction Coordinator, D. Stead, 701-866-6884.
- **Rummage Sale:** (Country Store). You can donate useable items to be sold. Items can be dropped off in the Sunday School room #9, "Rummage Sale." No clothing, vases or used baby equipment (Strollers, cribs, highchairs and car seats).
- **Chili lunch** will be available from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for a donation.

The best way everyone can get involved is by showing up. Grab a friend or relative and come enjoy!

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Connection Center if you would like to help. Any questions, call S. Simmons, 701-367-5660, J. Ward, 701-361-4711 or N. Herman, 763-258-4967.



TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grace UMC Leadership Team met on Monday, July 20 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.

- Leadership Team continues to work through updates to our leadership structure in preparation for the coming year. During our August meeting, we will begin identifying individuals to serve in key leadership roles, including the Leadership Team, Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), and Board of Trustees. Please be in prayer for those who will be called to serve in these important ministries.
- Phase Two of our roof project continues to move forward. Current bids place the project within our approved budget, with work anticipated to be completed later this fall. Leadership also began discussing fundraising opportunities to help support this important investment in our facilities.
- Planning continues for our fall ministries! Youth Group will resume in September, Kickoff Sunday will include lunch, Sunday School, and bingo, and we are currently looking for additional Sunday School teachers to help nurture the faith of our youngest disciples.
- Our July Fire Pit and Games Night was a wonderful success, with approximately 25 people gathering for an evening of fellowship. We are grateful for the many ways these Connection events continue to strengthen relationships within our church family and with our neighbors.
- The Leadership Team approved the June financial reports and continues to carefully steward the financial resources of Grace UMC. We continue to bring in less than our expenses, but keep finding ways to keep our spending in check as much as possible. Conversations are underway about establishing a dedicated savings account for designated project funds, helping us better plan for future ministry opportunities.
- Several facility improvements continue to move forward.

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and support as we seek to faithfully steward the ministries and mission God has entrusted to Grace UMC.