Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Vol. 37, No. 11
Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com November 1, 2026
Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org
Pastor: Taylor Johnson
Pastor's E-mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Parsonage Phone: (218) 422-6586 Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

I'm not sure if you can tell, but I'm a fairly social person. During a required psychological assessment in the ordination process, the psychologist was shocked to see that my levels of extroversion were off the charts. Safe to say that I really enjoy connecting with people and find great fulfillment in being with others. That doesn't always happen quickly, though. If I'm entering into a space where I either don't know a single person or someone doesn't know who I am, I can be rather quiet, reserved, and I even get a little bit anxious, hoping someone will talk to me first. I'm willing to guess I'm not alone in that experience. Even those of us who enjoy being around other people can feel uncertain when we find ourselves in an unfamiliar place. Questions swirl in our head about where we should sit, whether anyone will notice we're there, or whether we will have anything in common with the people around us.

A few weeks ago we looked at Psalm 84, the psalmist writes, "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere," and goes on to say that being a doorkeeper in the house of God is better than dwelling in the tents of wickedness (Psalm 84:10, NRSVUE). It's a beautiful picture of someone who longs to be near God, even if that means taking the humblest place in God's house. We talked about taking the role of the doorkeeper seriously. That concept has been on my mind a lot since then. At times we have a tendency to stand guard and decide who gets in, rather than helping others find their way inside.

At Grace, we have many opportunities to do just that. Something this congregation has held strong to is the United Methodist way of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. That door doesn't open by accident though. Sometimes it happens through the ministries we organize, and sometimes it happens in small, ordinary moments that might not seem particularly significant to us. But for someone who is feeling a little uncertain or out of place, a simple act of welcome can make all the difference. We don't have to be the most outgoing person in the room to help someone feel welcome. We don't need the perfect words or a special gift for hospitality. True hospitality begins when we are willing to take the first step, to be the person who reaches out before someone has to wonder whether they belong.

As we continue to grow together as a church, may we remember that holding the door open isn't just about welcoming people into a building. It's about making room for people to encounter God, build relationships, and discover that they have a place in this community, too.

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 Possehl
Del L[redacted] Wally W[redacted]
Jean M[redacted] Butch F[redacted]



5 – S. Burkhardt
7 – J. Possehl
8 – J. Alvershere
10 – B. Beck
12 – E. Johnson
15—D. Gill
22 – J. Blomeke
27 – Z. Martin
28 – R. Christopherson
S. Mohr
C. Borgen
A. Maag

YEAR END GIFTS

Please remember that all year end gifts for 2026 must be in the office or postmarked by December 31st to be counted for this year. If making donations for 2026 and 2027, please make two checks.

SAVE THE DATE



All women and their guests are invited to our Women of Grace Advent Tea on Saturday, December 12th at 2:00 pm. It is a special time during the Advent Season.

DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on November 11th for the last time in 2026 for $10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center or by calling the office, 218-233-1857, or using the website: www.graceumcmoorhead/donuts.



ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

Make plans to join us for an all church potluck on Sunday, November 1st after worship. We will share a meal together, hear celebrations and reports from the year, and cast vision for the year ahead, giving thanks for all that God is doing through Grace UMC. Most of the reports shared will be sent for formalization and voting at the Cluster Church Conference meeting on Sunday, November 22nd in Detroit Lakes, MN.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEW LIFE CENTER GUESTS

We are again collecting new items to be given as Christmas gifts to guests residing at the New Life Center. Donated items can be brought to the collection box in the Narthex until Sunday, December 6th. Requested items this year are:

Men's Thermal Underwear - tops and bottoms, all sizes.
Winter hats and Gloves, Hand warmers Long sleeve flannel shirts and sweatshirts: all sizes
Men's briefs/boxers all sizes
Men's travel size deodorant

If you would like us to do your shopping for you, please give your cash donation to either P. Murray or K. Anderson Questions? Call K. Anderson, 218-329-6477, or P. Murray, 701-361-2745 **Thank you again for your support!!!**

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.

ARE YOU A STEP COUNTER, OR A STEP DOER?

by Del Larson, CLM

We all take so many steps each day! Some are just getting to work, others are for the work itself, and then there are those steps that help us get everything done each day. My kids sometimes think I'm too busy because I'm always on the go with a bunch of tasks to get done. Even though we make a plan, God has promised to guide our steps and help us find what He loves. Proverbs 16:9 says, "The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."

Have you ever had a surprise while you're on your steps? I mean, meeting someone you haven't seen in ages, or finding something really special you've been looking for? These are steps that God has directed for you, just like in Proverbs 20:24, "The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?"

Have you ever said, "Wow! This is amazing that I ended up here, at this very moment!" That's God guiding you to a place He needs you to be. Each morning, I turn to God, asking for His guidance in finding ways to serve Him. I want Him to lead me and use me to be a beacon of light for others, as He has called us to do on Earth. We gather at church to be renewed and filled with the Holy Spirit, but let's carry that feeling with us as we leave. Psalm 113:105 reminds us, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." God is trying to use each of us in unique ways, whether it's offering help with something physical or financial, or simply extending kindness to a stranger.

Recently, there were flash floods in California, and a man and his car were swept away by the powerful waters. Two kind people were there to rescue him from his submerged car, which will give him the chance to tell this story of being rescued by God. That's being in the right place at the right time—a moment of divine intervention. God has placed each of us on this Earth to serve Him by building connections with those around us. You don't need to embark on a mission trip to serve God; there are opportunities to serve Him right here in our community.

How would you describe love? It's like the warmth and trust we felt for our parents as we grew up. We knew they'd always take care of us and provide for us. As we became adults, we might have found someone special who we wanted to spend our lives with. But what does that love really feel like? A racing heart or a warmth deep inside. I remember telling our children that when you do something good for Jesus, the Holy Spirit sparks a flame that warms you inside and out. You sense the joy and gratitude deep inside you. For me, that's the Holy Spirit igniting its flame to remind you that love is real. God is reminding you that you are important to Him, and the Spirit is giving you a warm hug, just like the hugs you got from your parents or loved ones. And boy, do they feel great! I'm sure many of you remember those hugs and how they made you feel. Many of you are great huggers in church. They feel so good. I remember being strongly instructed to never hug a child in school. Most teachers forgot that rule when students ran up to them for a hug. They knew the child needed that compassion. I never had an administrator punish me because I hugged a child.

So, as you go out into the world each day, who can you smile at, say good morning, or have a nice day? It takes fewer muscles to smile than it does to create a frown. Which one gives you that warm feeling and puts a little skip in your step? We know there are people struggling out there, and our little gesture and reaction to them may give them enough boost to help them get a job through an interview or forget an angry encounter with a rude customer, just because we smile and said something nice. It is good to laugh, and you are creating a moment of joy in someone else who hopefully will then pass it on to another. "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Proverbs 16:9. Be that light in the crowd. Share kindness, gratitude, and love for others. Very few people walk around without a burden to carry. By reaching out to others, you too will feel God's hug and know how much He loves you.

Go forth and be a light in the world. AMEN





TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Your Grace UMC Leadership Team met on Monday, October 19 to continue our work of planning and implementing ministry opportunities that align with our vision, and steward the resources of the church. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- Much of our time included finalizing and approving the 2027 budget, completing reports for Church Conference, and visioning for the coming year. We are excited to share those thoughts and dreams with you at our upcoming potluck and meeting!
- We discussed needs for upcoming events and ways we can continue to improve outreach and communication to our neighbors.
- Financially we're doing okay. We continue to see our monthly expenses averaging at $19,000 and our monthly income averaging $14,000 (outside of major projects and specific donations for those projects). In order to maintain our ministry offerings, we ask the congregation to continue faithfully giving as God leads, and we are considering additional ways to raise money for our church.



GOBBLE 'TIL YOU WOBBLE

Lotus Recovery is hosting their annual Thanksgiving event, Gobble 'Til You Wobble, here at Grace on Thursday, November 26th. The meal will be served at 1:00 pm, and there are plenty of opportunities to help out. In the season of giving thanks and giving back, consider spending a few hours helping with prep from 9:30-11:30 am, serving the meal from 1-2:15 pm, or helping with clean up and community delivery at 3:00 pm. All are welcome to enjoy a meal as well if you're looking for a holiday meal. While holidays can be hard for some, let's help make this Thanksgiving a memorable one for all the guests!

THE CHOSEN



Thank you to J. Lindstrom for helping provide food on Wednesday nights while we watched The Chosen! As we have wrapped up Season 2, we will update everyone when we are going to begin Season 3.

WOMEN OF GRACE



Our Women of Grace Meeting will be held Sunday, November 8th at 11 a.m. in the Lounge. Agenda items include Advent Tea planning and budget approval for 2027. Contact P. Murray, 701-361-2745, if you have any questions or agenda items.

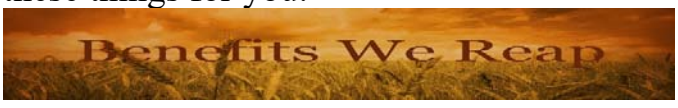
REAPING THE BENEFITS

A young pastor was visiting an elderly woman who had no known relatives. He asked her to remember the church in her will.

"Why should I?" the woman answered quickly. "What has the church ever done for me?"

After pondering the encounter later, the pastor concluded: The real question is "What has God done for you?" He has given you life and this glorious world. It's at church where you're most likely to learn about God and his will for your life. Corporate worship offers encouragement, guidance and fellowship.

Through outreach efforts, schools and hospitals, the church has a worldwide ministry, doing what you alone cannot do. The church proclaims God's good news, truth, peace and justice throughout the world. God, through the church, does all these things for you.



FALL FESTIVAL 2026



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the rummage sale, items for silent auction, crafts and bake sale. Also a big thank you to everyone who worked and/or purchased items to make the sale successful.



Change in Leadership For Women of Grace and Donut Team as of January 1, 2027. We are grateful for the incredible ministry of Women of Grace and the Donut Team, and all they do to equip disciples, support the work of Grace United Methodist, and care for the congregation. That good work in the world and our church has been guided by incredible leadership over the years. P. Murray and J. Graning will be stepping down from their positions of co-chairs of Women of Grace, and L. Burkhardt will be stepping down from her position as the Donut Team Leader. If you are interested or have questions about any of these positions, please reach out to any of these ladies or contact the church office to get connected.

WORLD THANK OFFERING

United Women in Faith

Join us as we take part in UMC World Thank Offering. Small jars are placed on the fellowship tables for you to take home to collect your spare change. Bring your change jar back by Sunday, Nov.29th, and place it on the fellowship hall table by the free-will offering bowl. World Thank Offering is an opportunity to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the United States and around the world.



Hello, Grace United Methodist Church.

My name is O. Beck, and I write for the youth group and serve as the youth representative on the Leadership Team. I am a sophomore at Moorhead High School and just recently turned 16 years old. Youth group has had an exciting start this year, we have 3 new youth members this year, and we said goodbye to one graduating senior. Youth kicked off on September 9th with a campfire in the church parking lot. We played yard games, roasted marshmallows, and recorded a skit promoting the fall festival.

The second week of youth was on September 16th, and we learned about the differences between goals and dreams. We read the verse Colossians 3:1-4, which is about seeking " the things that are above." We practiced setting goals that we can complete quickly and some that are long-term. We also learned that our goals should also be about others. We were tasked with thinking of goals, hopes, and desires that we have for ourselves, our families, the church, and the world.

On September 30th, we learned about how we can understand God in the age of A.I. We read the bible verse Philippians 4:8-9, which is about the importance of truth, honor, justice, purity, pleasure, commending, excellence, and things that are worthy of praise. We listed and learned about some of the biggest pros and cons of A.I. and how to use it responsibly and safely. We asked ourselves: How do we discern what is good, just, honorable, and true in the world of A.I.?

In the fifth week of youth, on October 7th, we were in the kitchen making puppy chow for the fall festival. In the sixth week, on October 14th, we wrote down questions we have, things we want to do in youth, service projects we want to do, and things we want to learn in youth this year. October 21st was the seventh week, and we looked at a historical timeline that showed big events, both religious and secular, throughout the history of the world. We looked at some of the most famous bible stories we know, including Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lion, and others. We found out when they happened in history, and we had conversations about the stories.

The 28th is our annual Youth Halloween party, where we will wear costumes, play games, and hang out. I am excited to have the opportunity to be writing about what the youth is doing in the church and the community.

HONOR OUR VETERANS



Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good. Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.

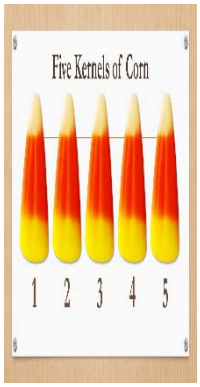


CORNUCOPIA



Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

FIVE KERNALS



The Plymouth Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in fall 1621, but by the next May, their food supply was depleted. The harvest of 1622 was a failure, and the Pilgrims often lived for days on just a few kernels of corn.

Amid a drought in 1623, the people sought divine intervention. After praying for nine hours on a hot July day, they were blessed with a two-week rainfall. Edward Winslow wrote, "It was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most quickened and revived." The Pilgrims never went hungry again.

Start a Thanksgiving tradition by placing five kernels of corn at each place setting. Point out a blessing that each kernel represents. For example:

1. God loves us.
2. God provides for all our needs.
3. God gives us friends, just as the Indians befriended the Pilgrims.
4. God hears and answers our prayers.
5. God is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Then have family members share five things for which they're grateful.



ADVENT

Happy New Year in the life of the church! We're delighted you will share this time with us as we enter the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ.

Grace United Methodist

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Daylight Savings Time ends** **10:00 am** Worship w/Communion and All Church potluck **10:15 am** Children's Sunday School	**2**	**3** **7:00 pm AA**	**4** **3:30 pm** Prayer Shawl Ministry **5:00 pm** The Chosen **6:00 pm** Choir **7:00 pm** Youth Group **8:15 pm** NA— Lounge	**5** **9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline **10:00 am** The Connection **7:00 pm** NA— Connection Center	**6**	**7** **11:00 am** Dharma Recovery— NA **12:00 pm** Never Alone-NA
8 **10:00 am** Worship **10:15 am** Children's Sunday School	**9**	**10** **7:00 pm AA**	**11 Veteran's Day** **6:00 am** Donut Making **3:30 pm** Prayer Shawl Ministry **6:00 pm** Choir **7:00 pm** Youth Group **8:15 pm** NA— Lounge	**12** **9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline **10:00 am** The Connection **7:00 pm** NA— Connection Center	**13**	**14** **11:00 am** Dharma Recovery— NA **12:00 pm** Never Alone-NA
15 **10:00 am** Worship **10:15 am** Children's Sunday School	**16**	**17** **7:00 pm AA**	**18** **3:30 pm** Prayer Shawl Ministry **6:00 pm** Choir **7:00 pm NO** Youth Group **8:15 pm** NA-Lounge	**19** **9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline **10:00 am** The Connection **7:00 pm NA—** Connection Center	**20**	**21** **11:00 am** Dharma Recovery— NA **12:00 pm** Never Alone-NA
			Pastor and family on vacation this week			
22 **10:00 am** Worship **10:15 am** Children's Sunday School	**23** **6:30 pm** Leadership Team	**24** **7:00 pm AA**	**25** **9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline **3:30 pm** Prayer Shawl Ministry **6:00 pm NO** Choir **7:00 pm NO** Youth Group **8:15 pm** NA— Lounge	**26 Thanksgiving Office Closed** **7:00 pm NA—** Connection Center Gobble 'Til You Wobble	**27**	**28** **11:00 am** Dharma Recovery— NA **12:00 pm** Never Alone-NA
29 **10:00 am** Worship **10:15 am** Children's Sunday School	**30**					

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Nov 1	am: 24, 29,pm: 8, 84	Ezek 20:18-26	1 Cor 12:27-13:13	Matt 18:21-35
Nov 2	am: 56-58,pm: 64, 65	Ezek 20:27-44	Rev 14:1-13	Luke 12:49-59
Nov 3	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Ezek 24:1-14	Rev 14:14-15:8	Luke 13:1-9
Nov 4	am: 72. pm: 119:73-96	Ezek 26:1-14	Rev 16:1-11	Luke 13:10-17
Nov 5	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Ezek 29:17-21	Rev 16:12-21	Luke 14:18-30
Nov 6	am: 69, pm: 73	Ezek 12:12-28	Rev 17:1-18	Luke 13:31-35
Nov 7	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Ezek 13:1-16	Rev 18:1-14	Luke 14:1-11
Nov 8	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Ezek 14:1-14	1 Cor 14:1-12	Matt 20:1-16
Nov 9	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Joel 1:1-13	Rev 18:15-24	Luke 14:12-24
Nov 10	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Joel 1:15-2:11	Rev 19:1-10	Luke 14:25-35
Nov 11	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Joel 2:12-19	Rev 19:11-21	Luke 15:1-10
Nov 12	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Joel 2:21-27	Jam 1:1-15	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
Nov 13	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Joel 2:28-3:8	Jam 1:16-27	Luke 16:1-9
Nov 14	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Joel 3:9-17	Jam 2:1-13	Luke 16:10-18
Nov 15	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Hab 1:1-2:1	Phil 3:13-4:1	Matt 23:13-24
Nov 16	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Hab 2:1-4, 9-20	Jam 2:14-26	Luke 16:19-31
Nov 17	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Hab 3:2-19	Jam 3:1-12	Luke 17:1-10
Nov 18	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Mal 1:1, 6-14	Jam 3:13-4:12	Luke 17:11-19
Nov 19	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Mal 2:1-16	Jam 4:13-5:6	Luke 17:20-37
Nov 20	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Mal 3:1-12	Jam 5:7-12	Luke 18:1-8
Nov 21	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Mal 3:13-4:6	Jam 5:13-20	Luke 18:9-14
Nov 22	am: 118, pm: 145	Zech 9:9-16	1 Pet 3:13-22	Matt 21:1-13
Nov 23	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Zech 10:1-12	Gal 6:1-10	Luke 18:15-30
Nov 24	am: 120-123, pm: 124, 125, 126	Zech 11:4-17	1 Cor 3:10-23	Luke 18:31-43
Nov 25	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128, 129, 130	Zech 12:1-10	Eph 1:3-14	Luke 19:1-10
Nov 26	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	Zech 13:1-9	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 19:11-27
Nov 27	am: 140, 142, pm: 141, 143	Zech 14:1-11	Rom 15:7-13	Luke 19:28-40
Nov 28	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Zech 14:12-21	Phil 2:1-11	Luke 19:41-48
Nov 29	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Isa 1:1-9	2 Pet 3:1-10	Matt 25:1-13
Nov 30	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Isa 1:10-20	1 Thes 1:1-10	Luke 20:1-8