

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

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Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

June, 2024

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

GREETINGS:

HERE I AM LORD! "*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.*" Yes, it really makes me tremble about what happened to my Lord. I know, it was part of God's plan to save his people by sacrificing his son. Such a sacrifice for us, that we would never consider ourselves, but yet we ignore God's whispers to us. He is calling us to be witnesses to the truth, and to be a light in this dark world. This means stepping out of your comfort zone to proclaim this is real.

Jesus is crying out to you saying, "*For crying out loud, what do I have to do to get your attention? I died for you, and rose again so that you too can conquer death. I need you to carry my cross.*" What are you doing to be more like Christ? How have you stepped up to share his word? Were you listening when He called your name? Did you answer that call?

In the early 2000s, I struggled with my faith over our daughter's legal situation. I was angry, God did not answer my prayer for help. Little did I know He would when **His** plan was complete. It turned out better than I could imagine. After retired Pastor Jim Jameson talked with me, I returned to church and later that year I was inspired to be Lay Leader for Grace. I was encouraged to keep learning and expand my involvement and became a Lay Speaker. This meant that I could share the word of God in other ways. When I learned from our District Superintendent in 2010, about the Certified Lay Minister program, I first turned it down. Then, six months later, I was looking for a tool behind the seat in my truck and found the informational sheet on being a CLM from the DS. I knew this was a calling. A God Nudge!

God is asking each of you the same thing. What can you do for Him? How are you being called to serve. The laity of our church, along with Pastor John, stepped up in that time of need to serve this spring while Pastor Taylor was out. We never know when we will be needed. It is our role to support the pastor and serve with him. The last Sunday of April, I did the ser-

vice. As I said good-bye to Luann before heading to church, I told her that this might be my last sermon. I have no reason why I said that, but it caught my attention. I mentioned it to the other lay leaders after the service. I am waiting for God to tell me more, and guide me to what he plans for me next. First, he has guided me in writing this article, to ask you to listen to your heart for what God needs you to do with your faith. Don't say I can't. I have had an amazing journey serving God over the last couple decades. He has always provided the inspiration whether I'm writing an article or giving a sermon. He has given me the words to others and I give Him credit. By following Christ, I am both ashamed, and amazed how people around me have noticed and said, "I didn't know you were a Christian." That's the difference between thinking and actually doing.

Christ is there for you also. He needs you. His church needs you, just like you need Jesus and His church. The world needs another light to shine in this dark world. YOU! There are many ways to serve. Help with Sunday School, serve on the leadership team, prepare communion, visitations, writing cards to those homebound. Oh, so needed. Every job is equally important. My motto when I was teaching was *You Gotta Wanna*. If you want something bad enough you will do everything you can to get it. It is truly amazing how God works in you to accomplish so much for others. You are never alone.

I'm far from perfect. God lets me know when I'm wrong. I feel the weight on my shoulders and my heart becomes heavy. He guides all of us and gets us on the right path. You will feel that weight being lifted, and the fire of the Holy Spirit burning brightly inside you. Please don't let the devil trick you into believing you can't do something. That negativity causes so much loss and frustration. You are better than that. "*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord. I hear you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*" Amen

Del Larson, CL M



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (Elim)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)
Shirley Mohr (Serenity)

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Lynette Andel Luann Larson
Linda Gibson Larry Possehl
Paul Kemper Wally Walseth
Eddie Ybarra Rick Abel



Ministry TEAM Program. A Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation. TEAM #5 (June/Dec.)
701-412-7010—L.e Andel
701-866-7634—C. & D. Burkhardt
701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
701-361-3586—L. Gibson
701-261-6491—R. Hartog
218-790-2141—L. & P. Horner
218-236-8056—P. & T. Newgard
218-233-3969—R. Richman
701-200-8413—C. & L. Warriner
701-630-8035—E. & A. Ybarra



June Birthdays

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



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on June 12th and 26th 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 Connection Center or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

LAITY SERVING

This is a list of laity serving in Methodist churches across our conference or district.

Lay leaders as identified by churches: 94
Certified Lay Ministers: 9 plus 2 in training
Certified Lay Speakers: 75 plus 2 who are in the process.
Certified Lay Speakers that will provide pulpit supply in the conference: 46 plus 4 are in the process
Lay Led Churches: 11 churches in our North Star District only. Limited or no pastor.
Sunday School, prayer ministry, hospital visitor, ushers, communion servers, card senders, committee members: over 20,000
There is a place for each and everyone.



June Anniversaries

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

COOKOUT

Grace UMC dad's will be making hot dogs for fellowship following worship on Sunday, June 16th. Please plan to stay after worship and share a hot dogs with our dad's.

PLAY BALL!

Plans are being made for a Grace night at Newman Field to watch the FM Red Hawks. Please watch for the date and time to enjoy a time of fellowship and watch a baseball game.

**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.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

While it's hard to summarize the entirety of a 10 day conference in a newsletter article, I wanted to help people understand a little more of what happened at General Conference and what it will mean for our congregation. I've taken the condensed report offered by the Minnesota Annual Conference, and have condensed it even more! So without further ado:

Background info about General Conference:

General Conference is The United Methodist Church's top legislative body. It typically meets every four years but was postponed in 2020, so this gathering in 2024 was actually the postponed 2020 General Conference. Each annual conference is allotted a specific number of seated/voting delegates based on its number of professing members. In total, there were approximately 740 delegates from 133 annual conferences. Bishops preside at General Conference but have no voice or vote.

LGBTQ+ inclusion

By a vote of 523 to 161 after about an hour and a half of debate, General Conference delegates eliminated the 52-year-old assertion in the denomination's Social Principles that "the practice of homosexuality... is incompatible with Christian teaching."

The United Methodist Church removed a 40-year ban on the ordination of gay clergy. Delegates approved this decision by a 93 percent margin, without debate, which removed the restrictive language in the Book of Discipline effective at the close of General Conference

United Methodist pastors no longer face potential penalties for officiating at same-sex weddings or being in a same-sex relationship themselves.

Delegates voted to protect the rights of pastors to choose which weddings to perform or not perform by adopting the statement: "No clergy at any time may be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple, including same-sex couples."

Other key decisions

Delegates approved a series of petitions related to regionalization, which has become United Methodist shorthand for a package of legislation that would restructure the denomination. Under the legislation, the U.S. and each central conference—church regions in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines—would become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, for more missional effectiveness. Currently, only central conferences have the authority to adapt the Discipline as missional needs and different legal contexts require. To be ratified, the regionalization plan will need at least a two-thirds total vote of annual conference lay and clergy voters, so this item will come to the Minnesota Annual Conference Session for a vote.

Delegates voted to grant sacramental authority to deacons. Deacons can now administer baptism and Holy Communion without having to obtain special permission to do so. The sentence in the Book of Discipline now

reads: "For the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church and offering the means of grace to the world, the deacon is authorized to preside at the celebration of the sacraments."

Delegates passed a petition to welcome "with a spirit of grace" churches that have disaffiliated or withdrawn from The United Methodist Church and wish to return.

Delegates voted to reduce the portion of church giving requested to fund the general-church budget.

Delegates voted to enter a full-communion partnership with The Episcopal Church after years of dialogue about this possibility. Full communion means each church acknowledges the other as a partner in the Christian faith, recognizes the validity of each other's baptism and Eucharist, and commits to work together in ministry.

Delegates overwhelmingly approved a new retirement plan for U.S. clergy. Called Compass, the plan was conceived and championed by Wespath, the denomination's pension and benefits agency. Wespath says the switch to the Compass plan is needed to continue providing reliable and sustainable retirement income.

Delegates approved a resolution condemning racial-ethnic discrimination and gender-based violence against Asian Americans. The resolution calls on annual conferences to urge local churches to be informed and to work against discrimination and gender-based violence.

Delegates approved a variety of resolutions related to creation care.

General Conference has issued a heartfelt apology to all who experienced sexual misconduct in The United Methodist Church. The apology statement was read in its entirety during General Conference, and all United Methodist bishops around the world are to read the apology at their own upcoming annual conferences.

Over the last several years we've been wrestling with what the denominational movement looks like at Grace UMC in regards to human sexuality. As a congregation, we have a multitude of theological understandings surrounding this topic, and yet we share a core agreement to truly practice an open table even beyond our communion celebrations, to live into our general rules of doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God, and to welcome all into our church. Those commitments will continue to be lived out with all that we do at Grace. As your pastor who leads a diverse congregation, I'll offer the reminder that I am always willing to have an open and honest conversation one-on-one or in forum settings. I believe we are joining in the commitment from the denomination, "we are moving forward with renewed hope and a focus on mission and ministry as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," as we continue to do our part by being the church of the neighborhood!

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 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Grow Graduation Party
2 10:00 am Worship w/Communion 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	3	4 7:00 pm AA	5 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	6 9:00 am Bulletin	7	8 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance Practice
9 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	10	11 7:00 pm AA	12 6:00 am Donut Making 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	13 9:00 am Bulletin	14 Flag Day	15 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance Practice 1:00 pm Private Event
16 Father's Day 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Cookout 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	17 6:30 pm Leadership Team	18 7:00 pm AA	19 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	20 9:00 am Bulletin	21	22 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance Practice
23 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	24	25 7:00 pm AA	26 6:00 am Donut Making 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	27 9:00 am Bulletin	28 Office Closed	29 10:00 pm Latter Rain Dance Practice
30 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries						

PARSONAGE PROJECT

In January Pastor informed the Leadership Team that there have been ongoing issues with moisture on the windows which was leading to wood rot and mold on the jambs and sills. We received quotes for new windows at the parsonage, but were encouraged to take a step back and tackle the root causes and look at the whole project. A home inspector was brought in and found moisture build up in the drywalls under and around most windows in the house. Mold testing results from Pro-Tech also came back positive with a few different types of non-toxic, but problematic molds. Pro-Tech also recommended Radon testing while work was being done on the home, which results came back with elevated levels. The Leadership Team approved Steamatic to come in and remediate the house including air filtering, treating areas with mold, and removing drywall that had moisture issues. After consulting with several contractors, we approved Xpert Xteriors to come and replace the drywall that was removed.

We received several bids from Radon remediation companies and contracted with Valley Radon Services to remediate the Radon and encapsulate the massive crawl space under the house. Upon completion of the encapsulation, humidity levels in the parsonage dropped by 30% in one day. This was reassuring for us as a Leadership Team, as it felt like we found the primary cause of moisture in the home. Following conversations with several contractors, a decision was made that because of the current life span of the windows and status of the window encasements, it would be a wise decision to purchase new windows to invest in the future of the home. These conversations also led us to purchase windows from a lumbar yard and have a contractor install rather than from a

window company.

To date, the parsonage is mold free, radon reduced, moisture controlled, and close to having new windows installed. With it being a relatively new home, there has not been much need to be done to the house since being built in 2011. The Leadership Team has been hard at work in making decisions that care for the assets and facilities of Grace, cares for the generosity and gifts given to Grace, and cares for the voices and people who serve Grace. In an effort to be transparent as well, we wanted to share a cost breakdown of the project.

Expenses:

Mold sampling and testing by ProTech- \$800
Mold remediation by Steamatic- \$11,890
Radon remediation and crawl space encapsulation by Valley Radon Services- \$11,285
Drywall and insulation fix by Xpert Xterior- \$8,000
Andersen Windows from Crane Johnson- \$17,298
Window installation and patio door repair- \$12,000
Project Total: \$61,273

Funding

Donut Ministry: \$15,000
Women of Grace: \$5,000
Oelke Family Gift: \$10,000
Grace UMC Endowment: \$31,273




OFFUTT SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications will be accepted until August 1st. Application can be found on the website.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

The logo for Grace United Methodist Church, featuring a stylized red flame or ribbon shape.