

# 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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November 1, 2024

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Pastor: Taylor Johnson

Pastor's E-mail Address: [graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor's Cell Phone (218) 422-6586

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

### Greeting:

Political tensions at an absolute high. A critical moment in the history of a nation, with global tensions continuing to mount. Candidates are certainly less than cordial, even resorting to name calling.

Did you think I was talking about today? This is the British general election, 1774.

John Wesley got to witness his own contentious election as the people of England were becoming increasingly weary of the situation in the United States, well I guess the colonies at that point. Two candidates, Marquess of Rockingham and William Pitt, called supporters of Lord North "Tories" (members of the Tory party). The problem was, no Tory party even existed at the time. Wesley called it in his journal, "one of the most exciting elections Bristol has ever had." As they approached closer to the election, Wesley met with local members and offered some insight on how they ought to approach their civic responsibilities.

"I met with those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; (2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against; and (3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

My friends, I believe this to be timely advice, even from so long ago. No matter which candidate you are voting for in the upcoming election, and I do hope you take the time to vote, Wesley's words are sound advice in a highly contentious election season. Our Bishop, Lanette Plambeck,



wrote in a letter to the Dakotas-Minnesota area, reminding us of the reality of our responsibility in this process. "Political seasons can often stir division, fear, and anger, but as people of faith, we are called to a higher standard."

It isn't just about going to vote, it's also being mindful of what we're posting or sharing on social media, how we're speaking to and of one another, and engaging in vital discourse around these election issues. It's about being cautious that we don't villainize people we don't agree with, and at the heart of every policy are people who are impacted. It's about remembering the image of God we are ALL created in, not just those we are voting with, but the candidates as well.

I will not tell you who to vote for, what party to align yourself with, or what policies should matter most to you. I will remind you that God does not belong to a single American political party, no one candidate can fix all our issues or ought to be held with such reverence that they are immune from critique and even rebuke, and if at the heart of policy is people, we are called to love our neighbor as yourself. In the coming days as we head to the polls, and learn of the results of the elections, may we as people of faith hold ourselves to a higher standard that demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit in everything we do. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... even when it's hard.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Pastor Taylor



**PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities**

- Pat Walter (Elim)
- Don Walter (Pioneer House)
- Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)
- Shirley Mohr (Serenity)
- Luann Larson (River Pointe)



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 #4 (November/May).

- 701-371-3536—G. & T. Anderson
- 701-429-4828—J. & L. Burkhardt
- 218-233-8038—G. Clifton
- 218-287-1969—B. and J. Fraundorfer
- 701-541-2490—S. & L. Gedrose
- 763-258-4967—B. & N. Herman
- 701-238-5025—L. Jensen
- 218-236-1747—C. Ladwig
- 408-660-5268—A. & H. Mauer
- 218-233-3917—C. & R. Miller
- 218-329-1835—J. Miller
- 218-329-8111—J. Miller
- 218-233-3888—E. Vollbrecht

**PRAYER LIST at home**

- Linda Gibson Larry Possehl
- Eddie Ybarra Rick Abel
- Wally Walseth Del Larson



**November Birthdays**

- 5—S. Burkhardt
- 7—J. Possehl
- 8—J. Alvershere
- 10—B. Beck
- 19—M. Akin
- 27—Z. Martin
- 28—R. Christopherson
- S. Mohr
- C.. Borgen
- A. Maag



**DONUTS**

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on November 13th, 2024 for \$10.00 a dozen. This is the LAST time for 2024

Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex, calling the office, 218-233-1857 or the web site: [www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts).

**SERMON SERIES**

Most, if not all of you, have heard the story about Jonah and the whale. Or was it a big fish? Wait, how much do we really know about Jonah's story? Throughout November we will be doing a deep dive (pun definitely intended) into the book of Jonah through our sermon series. Join us in-person or online throughout the month!

- 11/3- You Can't Outrun God- Jonah 1
- 11/10- Repentance from the Gut-  
Jonah 2
- 11/17- Obedience at Last- Jonah 3
- 11/24- Lesson Learned?- Jonah 4

“A child of God should be a visible beatitude, for joy and happiness, and living doxology, for gratitude and adoration.” - Charles H. Spurgeon

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

**WORSHIP SERVICES** are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: [graceumcmoorhead.org](http://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](http://graceumcmoorhead.org/give) and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.



**ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

The Annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 17th following Worship with a potluck meal to celebrate and hear reports, approve the 2025 budget and give thanks for what God is doing through Grace UMC.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAITH JOURNEY?

By Del Larson, CLM

I had another “a ha” whisper from God while reading my nightly devotion last month. “What is your Faith Journey?” I wrote down my thoughts on a sticky note for this writing.

My experiences in faith started at a very young age, like most people. However, this came during a time when nearly everyone on your block was pulling out of the driveway about the same time heading to church on Sunday morning. I have fond memories of growing up in a Christian family. *Come Lord Jesus, be our guest...* was the table prayer, unless an elder of the family wanted to share the Norwegian prayer: “*I Jesu naan gar vi til bords. At spise og drikke pa ditt ord...*” In Jesus’ Name we go to board, to eat and drink for Thy Word. To God the Glory, to us the gain, so for we eat in Jesus’

name. I was always fascinated by that prayer, but never could remember it without help. Which brings us to having prayer not only daily, but often during the day.

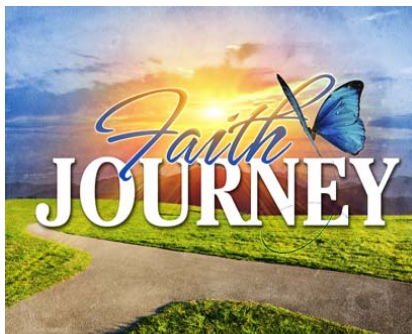
Although my father died when I was nine, our mother was clearly the faith leader. She prayed with us and professed her faith to us daily, and was a good reminder of how important God was in our lives, even though our family was struggling to survive. Every night we read stories about Jesus, or from books like “*Little Visits With God,*” that we shared with our children and grandchildren. When we had struggles, mom would pray with us and taught us to pray on our own. Sunday School, was very important, and when I got in high school, I started to teach a Sunday School class of fourth graders, the same age I taught in school for most of my career. Also in high school, youth group was the place to be Sunday nights. We were very active and going to district meetings and state conventions was an adventure. You always came away reenergized and motivated. When we were juniors, three of us rode our bikes from Moorhead to Crookston, with a campout in Ada. We pedaled for support to host the youth convention in Moorhead the

next year. We put on a skit to convince other youth Moorhead was the place to be. My mother drove with us the last leg and took our bikes back to Moorhead, as we returned on the bus with the others from our church.

When Luann and I married, we decided to stay with my church since I was so active. We became youth leaders and had many wonderful experiences. We continued the tradition of prayer with our family doing many of the same things and reading the same books. I remember going through adoption and how prayer helped us when we struggled with the process.

Through sickness, injury, and sad times we knew that God was there. Once my young teenage son told us at the dinner table he had to earn money for something. We prayed that he would find a way to do that. A short time later, before we left the table, the phone rang and it was our son’s friend, asking if our son could do his paper route for a week. Wow! We celebrated God’s shoulder tap. When my mother and step-father bought a trailer on a lake, and we would stay with them, we always heard them praying and finishing with the Lord’s prayer every night. This reminded Luann and me that we needed to have a prayer time for us, so we started our personal devotions using many different resources.

Luann and I know that God has been an important part of our life together. Books we have read, have sticky strips to remind me that I may want to use that story someday in an article, a sermon, to share with a friend, or on Facebook. The more we are involved with Christ the closer we become with Him. For us, a Faith Journey is an amazing process, that lightens your heart, motivates your brain, and brings you peace and comfort when you need it most. However, the best part is knowing your best friend is always with you, and all you need to do is take time to pray. Having a daily experience with God will lighten your load and help you over the hurdles you face. “*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” Matthew 11:28. More about a Faith Journey next month.



# GRACE YOUTH

Hello, Grace Members!



I'm E. Beck, a 16-year-old here at Grace. I was confirmed into the United Methodist Church last year and was recently invited to join Grace's Leadership Committee. My position on the committee is Youth Representative. As such, I help make our voices heard and better connect the youth with their church.

One opportunity for me to do this is through Grace's Monthly Newsletter (which you're reading now). My job is to update the church about what the youth are up to! Generally, I'll recap what we're learning about, inform you about events we're attending, share any big changes, etc. This is important, as the youth are active participants of Grace United Methodist Church; I'm here to share the Youth Group's journey with everyone! I'm sure many of you are interested in what goes on Wednesday nights every week, and I'm happy to let Grace know!

Youth Group is open to students ranging from 7th to 12th grade. Confirmation, for those in 8th grade and up, meets Wednesday evenings at 6:15. Once 7:00 rolls around, Youth begins, and all those attending are warmly welcomed. Youth Leaders are always friendly and inclusive of those who come. Once everyone arrives, we always participate in a game or activity that later ties into that night's lesson. We also engage in a discussion, which involves reading Bible verses, answering open-ended questions, and sharing our thoughts and ideas. Grace Youth strives to be a safe space, meaning all present must respect all others' opinions and experiences, along with any boundaries they might set. As well as important lessons, Taylor and Steph make an effort

to ensure each and every student feels respected, heard, and loved. All in all, through Youth Group, we learn about God together and have a fun time doing so!

Currently, the youth is learning how to "live like Jesus". This may seem like a given; we've always been taught to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, but what exactly does this entail? Pastor Taylor and Grace Youth Coordinator Stephanie Grow are helping the youth discover what living like Jesus involves. Among other things, we've dove into the importance of forgiveness, loving through our fears, and using our gifts to spread God's word! These lessons are brought to us in a variety of ways, all of which engage us and relate to our own personal situations. Of course, at the end of the day, Youth is meant to lead us in our faith journey, help us grow through God's word, and teach us how to be devoted, loving Christians.

## BIBLE QUIZ



Isaiah, a spokesman for God, looked for the Messiah to come from a certain family. He wrote: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of \_\_\_\_\_, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1-3, NRSV).

From whom did Isaiah say the Messiah would come?

- A. Adam
- B. Noah
- C. Samson
- D. Jesse

## LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



From your Grace UMC Leadership Team, here is a snapshot of what we discussed during our meeting on Monday, October 21.

- We celebrated the ways God has been at work in our congregation, these celebrations will be shared at our upcoming Church Conference meeting on Nov. 17.
- Financially, we are 4% behind in our expenses. This is a relatively good number, and with the end of the year approaching, we are in a healthy place.
- Reports are being prepared, including a budget for the 2024 Church Conference.
- Churches United has reached out to local congregations with a request for volunteers and financial support. Grace will continue to find ways to respond.
- Fall Festival went well, but we could have used more volunteers. Over \$3700 was raised.
- We will once again participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar in the month of December.
- We are getting bids for repairs needed for the roof. An update will be given to the congregation at the Church Conference.



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and  
mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as  
you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the  
eagle's. —Psalm 103:2-5, NRSV

The psalmist's all-encompassing list is a good example of all the gifts of God we should gratefully acknowledge. Personalize this ancient prayer by pondering your own experiences of God's forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, mercy and satisfaction of your daily needs.

## GOD'S MEMORY LAPSE

Our memory bank can churn up some bad stuff occasionally. There you are, not quite asleep, when suddenly a past sin pays a painful visit. The ugly details of bad decisions and actions can leave our spirit in a shambles. How should we handle this haunting problem?

First, we need a visit with God, who knows just how to deal with our painful memories. He has a unique ability to forgive and forget, if we're sincere in our request for reconciliation. As Micah 7:19 (NRSV) says, God "will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Corrie ten Boom had the right idea. She said God buries our sins in the sea and puts a sign on the bank saying, "No fishing allowed!"

After we accept God's forgiveness, we must forgive ourselves and move on into the future God has for us.

St. Paul's words to the Philippians are relevant for Christians struggling with past sins: "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14, NRSV).

# *Grace United Methodist* November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00 am Latter Rain Ministries Dance Practice
3 <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	4 1:00 pm Quilting	5 7:00 pm AA	6 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	7 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	8	9 10:00 am Latter Rain Ministries Dance Practice
10 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:15 am Women of Grace—Lounge 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	11 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	12 7:00 pm AA	13 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	14 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	15	16 10:00 am Latter Rain Ministries Dance Practice
17 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:15 am Annual Meeting and Potluck 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	18 1:00 pm Quilting	19 7:00 pm AA	20 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	21 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	22	23 10:00 am Latter Rain Ministries Dance Practice
24 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	25 1:00 pm Quilting	26 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm AA	27 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	28 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	29	30 10:00 am Latter Rain Ministries Dance Practice

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



### TEA TIME

All Women of Grace and their guests are invited to an Advent Tea on Saturday, December 7th at 2:00 pm. If you have any questions, please call P. Murray, 236-0141.

### SOUP IS ON!

It's officially soup season! And what's better than a warm cup of soup on a cold day? Enjoying it knowing you made a difference. Churches United has a fundraiser right now called Soup In A Jar, for \$20 you can purchase a 32oz jar filled to the top with ingredients of delicious homemade soup. Each jar contains about 6-8 meals worth. All proceeds will go directly to Churches United to help support their ministry and outreach. Jars will be available on Sunday morning and in the office throughout the week while supplies last.



### WORLD THANK OFFERING

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. 24, 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 Women in Faith mission program in the United States and around the world.

Answer to Bible Quiz: D

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

