

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Pastor: Taylor Johnson

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February 1, 2025

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings

When planning sermon series' I try my best to hear the spiritual needs of the congregation, equip our preaching team to deliver powerful and effective messages, and most importantly, remain faithful to what God is seeking to say and guide. As we've wrapped up this *Reset* series, I found myself having a major revelation that I wish I would have paid better attention to.

I used to LOVE playing the video game Madden, a football game created by the late coach, John Madden. I would spend hours playing it, guiding a team through a season, or creating myself to be drafted by the greatest football team of all time, the Green Bay Packers. I would pride myself on not playing on the easiest setting, but trying to get to the most difficult settings. At times that would mean playing hard teams and I would lose a game or two. However, every now and then I would get so frustrated or upset with the outcome that before the game could save the results I would push the reset button on the gaming console. I would look around and make sure no one saw me and come up with some sort of excuse as to what I would tell someone if they asked (they never did). When the game turned back on it loaded where I had last left it, as though the loss had never happened. I knew it did, but I had a chance to redo it all. That's how reset works for us.

Our conversations about reset have never been about completely starting over or trying to turn into something new. Certainly we under-

stand that in Christ, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) and that is something worth holding onto. However, when we reset, it's like taking us back to a place we once knew and were comfortable with. When we reset, it doesn't eliminate the challenges we face, the struggles we have, or even the failures we've experienced. Much like me resetting the game, the failure still existed even if the game didn't remember, and that's how it is in our lives. Reset is aligning our focus on our identity, peace, purpose, values and destination on what's given to us by God, not our life or circumstances. If throughout this you've thought something like, "I need a reset, but I don't know if I can start over new", take encouragement in the fact it's not starting from scratch, but bringing ourselves back to a place we can move forward from rather than dwelling too long on our past or our present. Remember your identity through baptism in Christ, recalibrate with the peace that is promised and offered by Jesus, reaffirm the purpose you are called to by taking intentional time with God, realign the values that drive you with the fruit of the Spirit, and redirect your destination when God calls you to a different way. This, friends, is how we are reset, back to where we are encouraged and empowered for ministry to the world!

Pastor Taylor

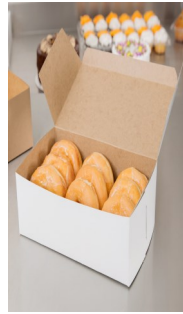


Reset



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

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



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on February 5th and 19th and available for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, or on the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Linda Gibson	Larry Possehl
Eddie Ybarra	Wally Walseth
Del Larson	Carl Lindner
Anne Roberts	Finley Beck

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS



Wednesday night meals during Lent are back this year, beginning Wednesday, March 5! A big thank you to I. Smith for making soup for us again. If you are interested in making sandwiches or helping to serve, please contact Pastor Taylor to make sure we have all our weeks covered. There will be an opportunity to make desserts too, more information about that will come out in March.



February Birthdays

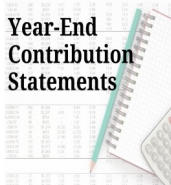
- 1—J. Denny
- 2—L. Larson
- 4—R. Lofgren
- 5—C. Welsh
- 8—K. Baker
L. Gedrose
- 9—J. Kemper
- 14—J. Anhorn
- 16—G. Chandler
- 17—J. Miller
K. Beck
- 19—F. Hamm
- 20—L. Denny
B. Burkhardt
E. Fraundorfer
- 22—H. Hamm
R. Murray
- 23—D. Burkhardt



LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Each of us have a unique story to share, a word of encouragement for our community, or a word of good news. During our Wednesday night worship services during Lent, it's time for you to share! Contact the church office if you're interested in sharing or would like to learn more!

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



Contribution statements for 2024 were mailed out the middle of January. Please review your statement and call the office for any

changes and/or corrections that need to be made

GREAT PLAINS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We are excited to renew our partnership with Great Plains Food Pantry and be a consistent location for food distribution! Beginning in March, we will do a distribution every second Monday from 5-6pm. Each time we do a distribution, we will need volunteers at Grace from 4-6:15pm. There will be opportunities for everyone from parking lot guides, guest registration, food loaders, and hospitality to greet our guests and make them feel welcome. Sign ups will be available soon, take time to pray how you can get involved in this service opportunity!



STOP WORRY WITH PRAYER

Del Larson, CLM

It is my hope and prayer that over the past couple of months you have gotten a better understanding of prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God, our life preserver in times of trouble, and our voice of praise to thank God for all the blessings and gifts that He has given us. Praise is important. Even though we have the right of free choice, God's guidance and direction gives us so many more great opportunities.

In December, I asked you if you ever felt like your mind wandered when saying the Lord's Prayer. I pray that you have developed new strategies that help you not only communicate with God, but also develop your relationship with God so that you are closer than before. When I started this series in December, I was reading the book Fearless, by Max Lucado, who is my favorite author. If you want to read one of his books, I have about a dozen I'm willing to loan. It appears that we have more to fear in our lives. Epidemics, wars, economics, and so much more. Lucado's book Fearless was a great example of how important prayer and our relationship with God is in our lives, whether you're struggling or not. I received permission from Max Lucado and his publisher to share eight worry-stoppers with you found on page 49-51 of Fearless. (Copyright Thomas Nelson, 2009) Used by permission.

1. *Pray, first.* Don't pace up and down the floors of the waiting room praying for a successful surgery. Don't bemoan the collapse of an investment; ask God to help you. Don't join the chorus of co-workers who complain; invite them to bow their heads and pray for him. Inoculate yourself inwardly to face your outward fears. "*Cast the whole of your care (all your worries, concerns, once and for all) on Him...*" (1 Peter 5:7)

2. *Easy, now.* Slow down. "*Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.*" (Ps 37:7) Imitate the mother of Jesus at the wedding of Cana. The reception was out of wine, a huge social no-no in the days of Jesus. Mary could have blamed the host for poor planning or the guests for over-drinking, but she didn't catastrophize. There therapy sessions or counseling. Instead, she took

the shortage straight to Jesus. "*When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine'*" (John 2:3) See how quickly you can do the same. Assess the problem. Take it to Jesus and state it clearly.

3. *Act on it.* Become a worry-slapper. Treat frets like mosquitoes. Do you procrastinate when a bloodsucking bug lights on your skin? "I'll take care of it in a moment." Of course you don't! You give the critter the slap it deserves. Be equally decisive with anxiety. The moment a concern surfaces, deal with it. Don't dwell on it. Head off worries before they get the best of you. Don't waste an hour wondering what your boss thinks; ask her. Before you diagnose that mole as cancer, have it examined. Instead of assuming you'll never get out of debt, consult an expert.

Be a doer, not a steward.

4. *Compile a worry list.* Over a period of days record your anxious thoughts. Maintain a list of all the things that trouble you. Then review them. How many of them turned into a reality? You worried that the house would burn down. Did it? That your job would be outsourced. Was it?

5. *Evaluate your worry Categories.* Your list will highlight themes of worry. You'll detect recurring areas of preoccupation that may become obsessions: what people think of you, finances, global calamities, your appearance or performance. Pray specifically about them.

In my teaching, I promote the rule of five. Work on these first five until they become a habit. Don't just read them. Make them a part of your life until they become a habit. Writing these prayer articles has been a great reminder for me. In fact, the night before I wrote this, I focused just on my prayers before I went to bed, not read anything else. I prayed for all the things I could remember happening around me. Then I gave thanks for all that our Lord has done for me, including the ideas on what to write in our monthly newsletter. I am so amazed at how He helps me. You will too, when you make that connection with prayer. Do it often through the day. Next month I will share the other "Worry Stoppers" by Max Lucado, before moving on to "What if God said no!" Another topic led by God.



Grace United Methodist

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am Women of Grace—Lounge	3 1:00 pm Quilting	4 7:00 pm AA	5 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	6 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	7	8
9 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	10 1:00 pm Quilting	11 7:00 pm AA	12 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	13 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am New Member Meeting	17 1:00 pm Quilting	18 7:00 pm AA	19 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	20 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	21 Grace Youth Confirmation Retreat	22 Birthday Party
23 10:00 am Worship w/New Members 10:15 am Sunday School	24 1:00 pm Quilting	25 7:00 pm AA	26 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	27 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	28	

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Feb 1	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Isa 51:17-23	Gal 4:1-11	Mark 7:24-37
Feb 2	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Isa 52:1-12	Gal 4:12-20	Mark 8:1-10
Feb 3	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Isa 54	Gal 4:21-31	Mark 8:11-26
Feb 4	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Isa 55:1-13	Gal 5:1-15	Mark 8:27-9:1
Feb 5	am: 69, pm: 73	Isa 56:1-8	Gal 5:16-24	Mark 9:2-13
Feb 6	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Isa 57:3-13	Gal 5:25-6:10	Mark 9:14-29
Feb 7	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Isa 57:14-21	Heb 12:1-6	John 7:37-46
Feb 8	am: 80, pm: 77, 79	Isa 58:1-12	Gal 6:11-18	Mark 9:30-41
Feb 9	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Isa 59:1-15a	2 Tim 1:1-14	Mark 9:42-50
Feb 10	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Isa 59:15b-21	2 Tim 1:15-2:13	Mark 10:1-16
Feb 11	am: 146, 147, pm: 83, 85, 86	Isa 60:1-17	2 Tim 2:14-26	Mark 10:17-31
Feb 12	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Isa 61:1-9	2 Tim 3:1-17	Mark 10:32-45
Feb 13	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Isa 61:10-62:5	2 Tim 4:1-8	Mark 10:46-52
Feb 14	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Deut 6:1-9	Heb 12:18-29	John 12:24-32
Feb 15	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Deut 6:10-15	Heb 1:1-14	John 1:1-18
Feb 16	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Deut 6:16-25	Heb 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Feb 17	am: 95, 32, 143, pm: 102, 130	John 3:1-4:11	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
Feb 18	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Deut 7:6-11	Titus 1:1-16	John 1:29-34
Feb 19	am: 95, 31, pm: 35	Deut 7:12-16	Titus 2:1-15	John 1:35-42
Feb 20	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Deut 7:17-26	Titus 3:1-15	John 1:43-51
Feb 21	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Deut 8:1-10	1 Cor 1:17-31	Mark 2:18-22
Feb 22	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Deut 8:11-18	Heb 2:11-18	John 2:1-12
Feb 23	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Deut 9:4-12	Heb 3:1-11	John 2:13-22
Feb 24	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Deut 9:13-21	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:23-3:15
Feb 25	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 19, 46	Deut 9:23-10:5	Heb 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
Feb 26	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Deut 10:12-22	Heb 4:11-16	John 3:22-36
Feb 27	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Deut 11:18-28	Heb 5:1-10	John 4:1-26
Feb 28	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Jere 1:1-10	1 Cor 3:11-23	Mark 3:31-4:9

YOUTH UPDATE

from E Beck



YOUTH SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

Help Grace Youth raise funds for their mission trips. For just \$12 on Sunday, February 9th, our youth will make you a sub, with chips, and a cookie. Order forms are available at the Connection Center at church. The last time to place an order is 5:00 pm February 5th. Payment will be due at time of pick up from 11am-12 noon on February 9th. Thanks for supporting Grace Youth missions!

CAMP MINNESOTA



Registration for summer camp thru the camp ministry of the Minnesota Conference is open and waiting for you to sign up. There are camps for all ages with incentives, discounts and camperships available. There are brochures on table in the Connection Center for the various dates and camps.

BAR SIGN UP



Please sign up to donate a 9 x 13 pan of bars during Lent to be served with the soup suppers on Wednesday nights before worship service. The sign up sheet will be on the table in the Connection Center the middle of February.

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.

Hello, Grace! This month has been a peaceful time for the youth. Like the church, Youth Group lessons have focused on resetting our lives and reconnecting with God in the New Year. Following the end of winter break, the youth met up for the first time in 2025 on the 8th. This week's lesson focused on identity. We began by listing the many labels given to us on the daily from friends, family, and even ourselves! After examining the many adjectives we were made aware that not a single one of us considered how God labels us; none of us remembered we were beloved children of God. That lesson opened our eyes to the importance of remembering ourselves as children of God. Setting God's image of us as a priority will help guide us throughout 2025 and beyond! The following week consisted of a pastor Q&A as well as information on the upcoming mission trip.

This past week of January we discussed how finding solutions to problems can be difficult. The youth group ran through multiple scenarios in which we were tasked with finding the best solution. We soon discovered that life's problems are more nuanced than one usually considers. A solution isn't always as simple as we'd like to believe. Resolving conflicts in our lives, large or small, can be difficult. We must remember in these moments that God is here to guide us and remind us to act in his image. Moving forward in this new year, remember to trust in God and act with God's love.

Looking to February, Grace Youth's annual sub fundraiser is coming up! This will provide the youth with money vital to our Mission Trip, which is happening later this summer. Order forms are available if you're interested; they can be found at Grace UMC or on Grace's website! Feel free to share with friends and family who are interested in subs for the day of the big game! Please submit these forms at the Connection Center or online by February 5th. All the

Youth in Action

youth are very grateful for your support!