

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Vol. 31, No. 1
January 1, 2020

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

“God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless... God destined us to be adopted as children through Jesus Christ’s love” (Ephesians 1:3-5a). God’s graciousness always has two parts. The first part is wonderful: we are blessed, loved, and adopted as Christ’s brothers and sisters. The second part is daunting—there are expectations of us.

Held by God’s embrace and forgiven by Christ’s mercy, we are called to live transformed lives. We are called to be lights in the darkness, signs of what is right in a world pained with wrongs. We are called to be glue where there is brokenness and healing where there are wounded. We are called beyond random acts of kindness to go out of our way on purpose like a Good Samaritan wherever we see human need. Living a transformed life wasn’t easy in the first century for those who knew Jesus in the flesh. I doubt it will be easy in 2020. Weariness, anger, disappointment, and compassion-fatigue are common-place among those who seek to serve others. Blessing people has always been like planting seeds and prayerfully waiting for results.

Part of the beauty of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is that he reminds them they are not alone. He reminds them he is praying for them. He reminds them God is still holding them close. Moreover, he reminds them they are a “THEM.” They aren’t alone. January 5th we’ll have the chance to hear Ephesians 1:3-14—where Paul uses the pronouns “us”, “we”, “our”, “you” and “your” (in their plural forms)

15 times. We are not alone as we seek to follow Christ.

“We Are not Alone” is our January theme. We’ll explore how God can use us to encourage, sustain, and uplift each other as we seek to do the daunting stuff we are called to do as followers of Jesus. Turning the other cheek stings but it stings less if a friend is there to care for us afterwards. Praying for another who may be on a difficult path can be tiring but it’s easier if others also pray with us. Attempting to be faithful in a world that’s changing in ways we don’t understand can feel overwhelming but there is comfort in knowing others are seeking to be faithful with us.

We Are not Alone. Who do we know besides ourselves that might benefit most from being surrounded with caring encouragement? I invite us to hold that question in our hearts as we seek to be signs of Christ’s love and light in the FM area. I invite us to pray together every day in January, “Loving God remind me I am not alone. Ever-present Christ, show us who and how we can encourage and bless. Amen.”

God’s Peace and Joy,
Pastor Roger





**PRAYER LIST
CARE FACILITIES:**

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
Mary J. Phillips
Clara Krook (Bethany)
Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
Pat Walter (Elim)
Emily Elliott (Rosewood)
Roger Helland (Eventide)
Luann Larson (Eventide)



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 #1 (Jan/July) TEAM coordinators are D. & J. Graning

—J. & O. Alveshere

701-893-5350—K. Baker
701-367-0371—C. & D. Borgen & Family
218-227-5942—R. & B. Christopherson
218-233-0442 - L. Collins
218-303-1115—R. Helland
218-233-6557—J. Mann
218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
218-287-3817—A. Severson
218-233-7474—S. & P. Struble

AT HOME:

Caliann Gedrose Carol Devine
Lorraine Taggart Shirley Mohr
Ilo Koenning Delores Enkers

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are back and will be available January 15th, 2020. To place an order for donuts, call the office, 233-1857. There is also a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex.



January Birthdays

- 5- J. Oelke
- B. Beck
- 7- I. Smith
- 12-L. Roppe
- 14-K. Thiseth
- 16-B. Loeks
- C. Gedrose
- 17-C. Chandler
- 19-W. Port
- 22-L. Hamm
- 25-J. Eide
- 27-D. Chandler
- 28-C. Gedrose
- 29-B. Paulson
- 31-C. Gedrose



Everyone is invited to join in celebrating J. Oelke's 85th birthday on Sunday, January 5th, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Cards can be sent to J.'s home:

IT'S PARTY TIME

WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to J. Mann for receiving the Women of Grace "Woman of the Year" award.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the Family of Myrna Swan. Myrna passed away on Thursday, November 26th. Her funeral was at Grace on December 10th, 2019.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Del Larson, CLM

So, have the holidays fulfilled you, with all your dreams coming true? The tree is either gone now, or losing its twinkle, am I right? Although your pocketbook is probably empty, you cautiously wait for the mailbox to be filled with all the bills of the celebration. The take down of decorations is usually a sad time when we put everything away. No more "Ho Ho Ho", or "Merry Christmas". Rather we hear the anxious cries of "Its too cold," or "There's too much snow!" Let's make Christ alive year-round, in our hearts and actions.

The meaning of Christmas doesn't end at the beginning of a new year. Easter is a long way off depending which side of April you are at. Hold on tight and focus on the greatest promise ever offered, which came from that lonely manger? A savior who was born to save us from all our sins, and model the life that God expects from each of us. One thing is for certain, you will never get a bill for your sins, even if some of your money bills might have been for sinful desires. Your sins were hung on that cross with Jesus. The sins of past and future were covered by His blood. His birth is our yearly reminder that he comes to do just that. As the calendar month changes, let's not forget that promise, but rather focus on God's forever love for us.

The fulfillment of Christ's birth never ends. We have been given the Holy Spirit as our guide to help us fulfill our God given purpose in life. Yes, the purpose might happen within your job, but how is God working in that job to get you to share your Christian beliefs? Is it your family that is struggling and needs your God talent? Perhaps it is your neighborhood or community? Christmas is about a purpose that needs to be fulfilled.

This year feel the promise of eternal life from Christ. His love is always there. Grab on to it, and be part of the solution that is so desperately needed. Pray for guidance on how to fill your God given role. There can be no doubts about what God wants from us. Doubts do not lead to salvation. When God calls you, the only answer is "here I am Lord". Make this the year that you live your person legacy that God has planned since before you were born. Have a blessed New Year and enjoy the journey with Christ.

ADVENT LUNCHEON

At the Women of Grace Advent luncheon the guests were asked to write a blessing or gratitude they had from a previous Christmas.

Some of their memories include:

- ◆ I am grateful for my health which has been fairly good so far.
- ◆ I am a child of God with good health and family.
- ◆ Family, my house and my dog, Jaxson
- ◆ I am grateful for the tradition of Christmas Eve service with family. After church on our way home we would stop and deliver a gift box as a blessing of gratitude.
- ◆ All Christmas's that all 12 of my children could get together.
- ◆ The Christmas my niece was baptized. There was a blizzard and we got stuck in town and we were all safe.
- ◆ I am grateful for my family and friends.
- ◆ A fireplace on a cold day.
- ◆ As a nurse and having to work many Christmas I was blessed by welcoming beautiful newborns into the loving arms of their family.
- ◆ Spent much of Christmas Day at Tower City truck stop with car trouble on way to Grandma & Grandpa's. Dad caught a ride back to Fargo and rented a car. We made it to our destination.
- ◆ For having learned about our loving heavenly father as a child and the peace and joy he brings.

Grace United Methodist

January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
			Office Closesd	9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1:30 pm Martha Circle 7:00 pm Cub		
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 2:00 pm JoAnn Oelke's 85th Birthday Party	6 1:00 pm Quilting	7	8 6:00 pm Supper And GraceKids Ministry 7:00 pm Choir	9 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am Annual Charge Conference	13 1:00 pm Quilting	14 6:30 pm Vision and Operations and Resources	15 6:00 pm Supper And GraceKids Ministry 7:00 pm Choir	16 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Lydia Circle 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	17	18
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	20 1:00 pm Quilting	21	22 6:00 pm Supper And GraceKids Ministry 7:00 pm Choir	23 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Park View Terrace 10:00 am Moorhead Rehab Center 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	24	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	27 1:00 pm Quilting	28	29 6:00 pm Supper And GraceKids Ministry 7:00 pm Choir	30 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	31 Pastor Roger at Hillcrest	

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Wed, Jan 1	am: 103, pm: 148	Isa 62:1-5, 10-12	Rev 19:11-16	Matt 1:18-25
Thru, Jan 2	am: 34, pm: 33	1 Kg 19:1-8	Eph 4:1-16	John 6:1-14
Fri, Jan 3	am: 68, pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 19:9-18	Eph 4:17-32	John 6:15-27
Sat, Jan 4	am: 85, 87, pm: 89:1-29	Josh 3:14-4:7	Eph 5:1-20	John 9:1-12, 35-38
Sun, Jan 5,	am: 66, 67, pm: 145	am: Prov 2:1-15	Col 3:12-17	John 6:41-47
Mon, Jan 6	am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100	Isa 49:1-7	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 2:14-21
Tue, Jan 7	am: 103, pm: 114, 115	Deut 8:1-3	Col 1:1-14	John 6:30-33, 48-51
Wed, Jan 8	am: 117, 118, pm: 112, 113	Exod 17:1-7	Col 1:15-23	John 7:37-52
Thu, Jan 9	am: 121, 122, 123, pm: 131, 132	Isa 45:14-19	Col 1:24-2:7	John 8:12-19
Fri, Jan 10	am: 138, 139, pm: 147	Jer 23:1-8	Col 2:8-23	John 10:7-17
Sat, Jan 11	am: 148, 150, pm: 91, 92	Isa 55:3-9	Col 3:1-17	John 14:6-14
Sun , Jan 12	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:29-34
Mon, Jan 13	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Gen 2:4-25	Heb 1:1-15	John 1:1-18
Tues, Jan 14	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Gen 3:1-24	Heb 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Wed, Jan 15	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Gen 4:1-16	Heb 2:11-18	John 1:29-42
Thur, Jan 16	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Gen 4:17-26	Heb 3:1-11	John 1:43-51
Fri, Jan 17	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Gen 6:1-8	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 18	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117	Gen 6:9-22	Heb 4:1-13	John 2:13-22
Sun , Jan 19	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Gen 7:1-10, 17-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19
Mon, Jan 20	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Gen 8:6-22	Heb 4:14-5:6	John 2:23-3:15
Tues, Jan 21	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Gen 9:1-17	Heb 5:7-14	John 3:16-21
Wed, Jan 22	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Gen 9:18-29	Heb 6:1-12	John 3:22-36
Thur, Jan 23	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Gen 11:1-9	Heb 6:13-20	John 4:1-15
Fri, Jan 24	am: 31, pm: 35	Gen 11:27-12:8	Heb 7:1-17	John 4:16-26
Sat, Jan 25	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Gen 12:9-13:1	Heb 7:18-28	John 4:27-42
Sun , Jan 26	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Gen 13:2-18	Gal 2:1-10	Mark 7:31-37
Mon, Jan 27	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Gen 14:1-24	Heb 8:1-13	John 4:43-54
Tue, Jan 28	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Gen 15:1-11, 17-21	Heb 9:1-14	John 5:1-18
Wed, Jan 29	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Gen 16:1-14	Heb 9:15-28	John 5:19-29
Thur, Jan 30	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118	Gen 16:15-17:14	Heb 10:1-10	John 5:30-47
Fri, Jan 31	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Gen 17:15-27	Heb 10:11-25	John 6:1-15

FELLOWSHIP



Thanks to all those who serve for fellowship after worship. Each week you've noticed that there is a "free will" offering basket on the table next to where the treats are served. This offering is to help support Grace ministries in being The Church of the Neighborhood making followers of Christ to transform the world. This is our role as a neighborhood gathering place, and place for sharing the message of Jesus' love and life-transforming power, is vital in the lives of those we serve. In other words, we serve a vital role in the lives of every person who walks through our doors. Thank you for your continued support of Grace ministries.

WAYS TO START OFF THE NEW YEAR

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ's circumcision on New Year's.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17 St S
Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

