

Light of Grace

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

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August, 2020

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Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

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Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

Some weeks it seems like nothing changes, yet everything is changing. Nothing is changes in that we are still facing Covid-19 restrictions and life is not "normal." Yet, there are many changes: a MN mask mandate, and masks-required by many retailers in all states; visitor rule changes in care facilities (MN residents can have one outside person designated as the visitor; ND residents may have timed visits by people on a list the family creates, and a designated family member needs to schedule a clergy visit before it happens); there's indoor dining for the brave of heart; funerals are often family-only with no congregational singing.

At Grace we've had parking lot worship with communion in July. We will also have a parking lot service with communion August 2nd. (If shade is important for you bring an umbrella). Communion elements will be pre-packed wafer and juice. If you are unable to attend in person, there will be a virtual blessing of the bread and juice so you can share in communion from home. Yet another change, as the fact we are still dealing with Covid-19 does not change.

August 9th and 16th we'll have Facebook Premiere worship, like livestream, but pre-recorded live. I will be on vacation those two Sundays. The last week of August and Labor Day weekend will be Livestreamed worship. Then, for the month of September our leadership team's best guess is we'll have outdoor worship at Grace each Sunday. With the current case #s and hospitalizations rising the leadership team is leaning heavily toward outdoor worship. Plus, September will be the start of in-person school and none of us knows how that will affect the # of Covid-19 cases and # of hospitalizations. Outdoor worship in September (with Livestream for those still not ready to worship in person) will give us a chance to see how the back to school experiment works. Further, in August we'll meet via Zoom with families with kids to check in on their needs, options for fall children's programming, and the like.

I've a hunch for some of you Grace is moving to slow and for others even in-person in the parking lot

seems a bit too much, too soon. We are doing our best in these unusual times. When this entire Covid-19 thing began I thought, just get to Easter; then just get to Pentecost; then just get to mid-summer and things will be more normal. However, we have a new normal with a 3.2% average death rate in MN from Covid-19. The average death rate includes a wide range from .1% for infants to 56% for those 100+. I believe the last number I heard for over 65 was approximately 20%. As Jesus' followers we remember each death is a person who was loved.

One thing I am learning during this time is that the rhythm of worship, even though it is different online, feels more important now than ever. I pray those of you without the virtual connection are finding televised worship. If you have a family member who can share their phone, you can also watch Grace worship anytime. Once it is broadcast it is available 24/7 on Grace's Facebook Page, my Facebook Page & the Church website.

If you are participating in Livestream worship on Sundays, I know it is not in-person worship. I know there are drawbacks. I also know the number watching continues to increase. **I would love to hear how the virtual experience has been meaningful for you—even if it is as simple as being able to worship anytime. Please, please drop me a line via mail Grace UMC, 1120 17th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560. Or, e-mail me at graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com to share how God uses virtual worship to nurture your spirit.**

My prayer for us at Grace, we who follow the Jesus who will not abandon us, is that somewhere in our hearts in these challenging times we can still sing. Indeed I invite you to softly sing now. "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, though has taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well, with my soul.'"

Be Well and Be Blessing,
Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

- Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)**
- Mary J. Phillips**
- Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)**
- Pat Walter (Villa Marie)**
- Don Walter (Villa Marie)**
- Jim Jameson (River Pointe)**

PRAYER LIST at Home

- Carol Devine Lorraine Taggart
- Shirley Mohr Ilo Koenning
- Luann Larson JoAnn Oelke
- Loretta Smith Julie Possehl



AUGUST MINISTRY TEAM

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 # 3 (Aug/Feb). TEAM coordinators are B. & C. Krogen and E. Volbrecht

- 701-630-4343—C. & R. Abel
- 701-261-9009—M. Akin
- 218-236-0183—J. Anderson
- 218-233-6915—J. & K. Enkers
- 218-233-0255—R. & C. Grafenstein
- 218-329-6199—M. & M. Hamm & Family
- 701-361-7576—B. & Z. Hanna & Family
- 218-236-7366—S. Mohr
- 218-236-5520—B. & M. Port
- 218-790-2950—S. Anderson & Family



August Birthdays

- 3—T. Grow
- 4—C. Gedrose
- 5—C. Abel
- 16—P. Walter
- 18—P. Murray
- 23—R. Grafenstein
- 25—Z. Hanna
- 28—C. Krogen
- 29—O. Alveshere

- August 2 - Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15; Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21
- August 9 - Gen 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 54b; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-23
- August 16 - Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133; Rom 11:1-2a; Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28
- August 23 - Exod 1:8-2:10; Ps 124; Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20
- August 30 - Exod 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

LECTIONARY TEXTS

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the family of N. Lofgren who passed away on June 30, 2020. A family service was held at Grace on Tuesday, July 14th.



August Anniversaries

- 2—R. & C. Grafenstein
- 7—L. & J. Beck
- 9—B. & C. Krogen
- 15—J. & L. Denny
- 19—R. & B. Christopherson
D. & W. Walseth
- 25—M. & M. Hamm
- 30—D. & J. Graning

WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.

**FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:
Grace UM Church Moorhead page
Roger Grafenstein's page**

WORSHIP ALSO LIVESTREAMS ON THE WEBSITE:

www.graceumcmoorhead.org

**Kids Devotions on the Website
and on**

FACEBOOK: Grace UM Church Moorhead

**INDOOR WORSHIP HOPEFULLY
SEPTEMBER. CURRENTLY FAMILY-ONLY
FUNERALS.**

MORE PROPERTY TAXES?

STREET PROJECT

This summer the City of Moorhead has been making improvement to 18th Street and 12th Avenue. Grace UMC will be assessed \$5,375. for the improvement along 12th Avenue and \$14, 571.00 for the improvement along 18th Avenue, these improvement can be paid over a 20 year period of time with a 5.25% interest rate. The final assessment typically occurs in the fall of every year and assessments are certified to the County on November 15th of each year. After the final assessment has been adopted by the council, Grace will have the opportunity to pay off, or buy down, the assessment, without interest, before it is certified to the County and added to our property tax statement the following year. The Operations and Resources Committee would like to pay off this assessment before the final assessment is adopted by the council. If you are able to contribute to paying this assessment, please mail your checks to Grace with "Assessments" in the memo line.

THE RIGHT ROAD



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- Thomas Merton

"To see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower, hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour." - William Blake



SINK OR SWIM?

People's stories about learning to swim often sound like this: "My dad tossed me into the water. I didn't have a choice - I flailed around until I found myself swimming!"

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: "Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank." But then he goes on: "So my father jumped in with me."

The storyteller's wisdom shines in his application: "God doesn't toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life."

FIRST-CENTURY WOMEN

More than one-third of the 29 people Paul names in Romans 16 are women - a noteworthy proportion in a society that treated women as second-class citizens. The apostle specifically commends several women as hard workers" in the Lord." Phoebe was a deacon and benefactor who provided for Paul and others. Prisca (Priscilla) and her husband, Aquila, hosted a church in their house and "risked their necks" to save Paul's life.

Paul describes Junia and Andronicus as his relatives who were imprisoned with him, "prominent among the apostles" and Christians before Paul was. While many Bible versions use the masculine form Junias, records show that Junia was a common female name in first-century Rome but no instances of a male variant exist. The misidentification was likely due to translation error during the 13th century, influenced by the fact that all other times Paul calls people "apostles," he's referring to men. Junia and Andronicus may have been married and ministering together.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sat, Aug 1	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Jud 5:19-31	Acts 2:22-36	Matt 28:11-20
Sun, Aug 2	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Jud 6:1-24	2 Cor 9:6-15	Mark 3:20-30
Mon, Aug 3	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Jud 6:25-40	Acts 2:37-47	John 1:1-18
Tue, Aug 4	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Jud 7:1-18	Acts 3:1-11	John 1:19-28
Wed, Aug 5	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Jud 7:19-8:12	Acts 3:12-26	John 1:29-42
Thur, Aug 6	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Jud 8:22-35	Acts 4:1-12	John 1:43-51
Fri, Aug 7	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Jud 9:1-16, 19-21	Acts 4:13-31	John 2:2-12
Sat, Aug 8	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Jud 9:22-25, 50-57	Acts 4:32-5:11	John 2:13-25
Sun, Aug 9	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Jud 11:1-11, 29-40	2 Cor 11:21b-31	Mark 4:35-41
Mon, Aug 10	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Jud 12:1-7	Acts 5:12-26	John 3:1-21
Tue, Aug 11	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Jud 13:1-15	Acts 5:27-42	John 3:22-36
Wed, Aug 12,	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Jud 13:15-24	Acts 6:1-15	John 4:1-26
Thur, Aug 13	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Jud 14:1-19	Acts 6:15-7:16	John 4:27-42
Fri, Aug 14	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Jud 14:20-15:20	Acts 7:17-29	John 4:43-54
Sat, Aug 15	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Jud 16:1-14	Acts 7:30-43	John 5:1-18
Sun, Aug 16	am: 118, pm: 145	Jud 16:15-31	2 Cor 13:1-11	Mark 5:25-34
Mon, Aug 17	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Jud 17:1-13	Acts 7:44-8:1a	John 5:19-29
Tue, Aug 18	am: 121, 122, 123, pm: 124, 125, 126	Jud 18:1-15	Acts 8:1-13	John 5:30-47
Wed, Aug 19	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128, 129, 130	Jud 18:16-31	Acts 8:14-25	John 6:1-15
Thur, Aug 20	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	Job 1:1-22	Acts 8:26-40	John 6:16-27
Fri, Aug 21	am: 140, 142, pm: 141, 143	Job 2:1-13	Acts 9:1-9	John 6:27-40
Sat, Aug 22	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Job 3:1-26	Acts 9:10-19a	John 6:41-51
Sun, Aug 23	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Job 4:1-6, 12-21	Rev 4:1-11	Mark 6:1-6a
Mon, Aug 24	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27	Acts 9:19b-31	John 6:52-59
Tue, Aug 25	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21	Acts 9:32-43	John 6:60-71
Wed, Aug 26	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Job 6:1, 7:1-21	Acts 10:1-16	John 7:1-13
Thur, Aug 27	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Job 8:1-7, 11-19	Acts 10:17-33	John 7:14-36
Fri, Aug 28	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Job 9:1-15, 32-35	Acts 10:34-48	John 7:37-52
Sat, Aug 29	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Job 9:1, 10:1-9, 16-22	Acts 11:1-18	John 8:12-20
Sun, Aug 30	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Job 11:1-9, 13-20	Rev 5:1-14	Matt 5:1-12
Mon, Aug 31	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Job 12:1-6, 13-25	Acts 11:19-30	John 8:21-32

Grace United Methodist

August 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM Outdoor Parking Lot Worship w/ Communion (Masks available on site, if you forgot)	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM Pre-recorded Worship - Facebook premiere or Grace page	10	11 Primary Election	12 Virtual connection with families and kids	13	14	15
Pastor Roger on Vacation - August 6th thru August 17th.						
16 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM Pre-recorded Worship Facebook premiere or Grace page	17	18 6:30 PM Streaming Vision, and Operations and Resources	19 Virtual connection with families and kids	20 7:00 pm Virtual Conference Tech Test	21	22
23 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM Streaming Worship	24	25	26	27	28 1:30 - 3:30 pm Clergy Session - MN UMC Annual Conference	29 9:30-11:30 pm 1:30 - 3:30 pm Virtual MN UMC Annual Conference
30 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM Streaming Worship	31					

I SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM



For many people, summer is synonymous with cool treats. "I must have eaten 10 tons of ice cream alone in my lifetime." said the late TV commentator Andy Rooney. "It makes life seem long and lovely just thinking about every bite of it."

Ice cream's origins go back to the first century, when Roman emperor Nero served "sweet snow" at feasts. He had slaves gather snow from the mountains and flavor it with fruit, wine or honey.

A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

During a loud summer thunderstorm, a mother tucked her son into bed. As she turned off the light, he asked with a tremor, "Mommy, will you sleep with me to-night?"

The mother smiled and gave her son a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room"

After a long silence, the boy replied, "The big sissy."



Please join us for morning worship services at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 2nd in the parking lot with communion.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
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Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

