

Light of Grace

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

Vol. 31, No. 10
October 1, 2020

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

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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,

The Leadership Team and I are **planning a soft-open of Grace UMC for October Worship**. What does that mean? **October 4th will be a family-only confirmation service**—about 35-40 minutes, with virtual communion that confirmands will be part of. It will be Livestreamed, too. Why family-only? Family-only will reach our maximum Covid-19 Annual Conference recommended capacity of 25%. Yes, the conference recommended capacity is less than the State of Minnesota's 50%. Simply put, if we pull every other person out of the pews to reach 50% capacity we are not social distanced at 6' unless we have a congregation where each person is 6' wide at the shoulders. Plus, a minimum 12' distance is needed between worship leaders and the congregation. October 11th any one may attend, keeping a number of things in mind.

A soft open means worship will not look the same at Grace for a while. We will be under 25% capacity or less than 50 people indoors: 1) with masks, 2) social distancing, 3) socializing outside after, 4) no congregational singing and 5) shorter worship. Shorter services are necessary because if Covid-19 were present in the air, the less inhaled, the less severe the case. As far back as Spring 2020 UM and ELCA pastors in MN already learned Covid's can be transmitted through aerosolized breath. In his seminar to us, Dr. Michael Osterholm, lead infectious disease expert at the University of MN, noted the highest concentration of the virus is found in the smaller, lighter respiratory droplets that are part of basic breathing, talking and singing. Early mass infections in church gatherings and choir practices quickly lead to research on airborne spread of Covid-19 early in 2020. Recently, Lake Park had a small, simple funeral gathering where the duration was too long with less than 100% masked, 100% of the time. Five attendees ended up hospitalized with Covid-19 from that single service. Many more were infected. At Grace UMC we want to be sure our pre-cautions for indoor worship

are thorough.

News reports often focus on number of people in a space. The actual guidelines of the State of MN, the CDC, and the UM Minnesota Annual Conference all include, **1) if you are over 60, choose online; 2) if you have any pre-existing conditions, choose online; 3) if you have an at-risk person you care for, choose online; 4) No congregational singing; 5) Keep the duration of gathering short, 6) Use masks, social distancing and disinfecting after and before events; 7) Socialize outdoors; 7) Have adequate air exchange for indoor spaces.**

So, with a soft-open to in-person, indoor worship, we will follow our Livestream Worship format with some extra people in the sanctuary masked and distanced. Likely, most people will still worship virtually. The less than 20% of UM Churches that have started indoor worship in MN report in-person attendance less than 50% of pre-Covid-19 attendance. Online worship, however, far exceeds pre-Covid-19 in person numbers.

When we re-start worship in person keep in mind local case-numbers, State or Conference guidelines may move us back to virtual-only worship anytime. I know it is frustrating not to be able to gather as we once did for worship. I feel that loss, too. John Wesley, the founder of United Methodism, used to say, "Do No Harm, Do All the Good You Can, and Stay in Love with God." Wise words and things we can do whether we are able to worship in a church building or not. Add to that Jesus' commandment to love God and love neighbor, and I am reminded facing down Covid-19 does not begin with what I want. It begins with how I show love to God and neighbor: including taking precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us in these challenging times.

May You Be Well and Be a Blessing,

Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
Pat Walter (Villa Maria)
Don Walter (Villa Maria)
Marilyn Wollitz (Fairmont)
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)

PRAYER LIST at Home

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



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 #6 (Oct/Apr) TEAM coordinators are R. & L. Burkhardt and C. & D. Burkhardt.

218-299-2022 J. & L. Denny
218-287-3404 J. & J. Eide
218-236-8820 B. & S. Frangsrud & Family
218-236-7319 C. & R. Goldade
218-233-1969 D. & J. Graning
218-236-1643 I. Koenning
218-233-6411 B. & C. Krogen
218-287-4316 B. & S. Martin
218-233-1409 B. Paulson
218-790-6829 B. Rowland
B. Wagner
701-388-6690 R. Wagner
701-364-3940 P. & D. Walter
763-438-6746 P. Welsh & Family



OCTOBER Birthdays

5—J. Graning
7—B. Burkhardt
12—D. Walter
19—D. Horn
22—A. Larson
27—K. Enkers
M. Hamm
L. Gibson
29—L. Jensen

LECTIONARY TEXTS
THEME: NAME AND CLAIM GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

October 4 - John 10:1-10, Isaiah 55:1-3
"Recognize the Shepherd" and "Be Fed"
October 11 - Philippians 4:4-9, I Corinthians 12:1-6, 12-22
"Don't Dismiss It - Claim It"
October 18 - Matthew 25:31-46,
"What the World Needs Now is...You, Sweet You"
October 25 - Matthew 11:28-30, II Corinthians 12:7-10
"It's Right when It's Light"



OCTOBER Anniversaries

3 - E. & A. Ybarra
5—P. & K. Anderson
22—O. & J. Alvshere

CANCELLED

The Women of Grace leadership met and has decided, due to the COVID virus, to cancel the following events for this fall: The Fall Festival, Circle meetings and the WOG fall meeting. We will continue to evaluate the status of the virus and keep you informed.

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 OCTOBER.
CURRENTLY FAMILY-ONLY FUNERALS.

Re-Gathering for Indoor Worship Checklist

✓ Signage in Place

- Love Your Neighbor – Wear a Mask & Maintain 6’ Distance
- “One Household can sit together – 6’ between next household”
- “Please socialize outside – Thank You.”

- ✓ Max 25% occupancy or 50 people. (½ occupancy = 3’ distancing or shoulder-width apart)
- ✓ MN and CDC reminder: Over 60 or with at-risk conditions still encouraged to worship virtually
- ✓ Hymnals, Sign in Pads & Bibles Removed from Sanctuary
- ✓ Sanctuary Doors Opened ? (determine if this is more or less efficient than air exchanger)
- ✓ Pulpit moved to choir side of chancel/stage and/or preach w/o pulpit
- ✓ Pews taped off for a 12’ minimum distance from worship leaders (pulpit & music area)
- ✓ Bathrooms Sanitized before any event. Education wing doors opened / other doors locked
- ✓ Connection center/fellowship hall closed (except for Sunday School family tables)
- ✓ Crosses on Floor in Gathering Space (Painter’s Tape – 6’ apart)
- ✓ Masks Available on Table & Hand Sanitizer on Table
- ✓ Bulletins Available on Table
- ✓ Sign Up Sheets Removed – Call Office to Sign Up for Tasks
- ✓ Fabric Chairs in Gathering Space Removed
- ✓ Signage for one person at a time in restrooms (or one family in family bathroom)
- ✓ Offering Plates on Table by Soundboard– Watched by...? at physical distance
- ✓ Announcements on Screen or Made by Pastor Roger (congregation microphones removed)
- ✓ Sanitizing Team: watch, take notes, do checklist 15 minutes prior to worship,
- ✓ Reminders of Social Distancing and Masking expectations before service
 - a) No group singing
 - b) Masks covering mouth and nose
 - c) Maintain social distance (6’ and 12’ from worship team)
 - d) Family units asked to stay together
 - e) Socializing outside after service
 - f) Worship approx. 30 minutes (limited duration in same public space)

Pastor Roger’s Tips on Finding Accurate Covid-19 Info

I suggest three sources for direction on how to move forward with accurate Covid-19 information in your own lives—when it seems everything Covid-19 has become political, and every news outlet seems swept into it.

First the do NOT’s:

Don’t start with “my friend posted, what his friend posted, what her friend posted, that came from...well..., who knows where.”

Don’t start with your favorite news outlet. Headlines and 30 second snippets leave out too much info.

Avoid what leads you to say, “I knew it! That makes me so angry! Those darn people!” We don’t think well when we are angry.

Instead, here are three sources I’d suggest.

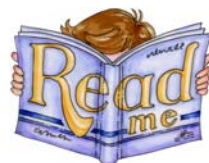
- 1) Observe what medical clinics, eye clinics, chiropractic practices, dentists’ offices, hospitals, pharmacies, care facilities and even veterinary clinics are doing. Those who under-

stand biology and viruses best use extreme caution.

- (e.g. My first virtual visit with a doctor was with a veterinarian for my dog. My eye exam appointment involved a long list of well-thought-out precautions).
- 2) Another source for Covid-19 information, out of the political Covid-19 fray, is <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19>
- 3) More information regarding Dr. Michael Osterholm U of M infectious diseases <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/about-us/cidrap-staff/michael-t-osterholm-phd-mph>

BOOKS ARE NEEDED

The church neighborhood little library is needing book donations. Please bring donations to the church Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Thur, Oct 1	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Hos 5:8-6:6	Acts 21:27-36	Luke 6:1-11
Fri, Oct 2	am: 102, pm: 107:1-32	Hos 10:1-15	Acts 21:37-22:16	Luke 6:12-26
Sat, Oct 3	am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33	Hos 11:1-9	Acts 22:17-29	Luke 6:27-38
Sun, Oct 4	am: 118, pm: 145	Hos 13:4-14	1 Cor 2:6-16	Matt 14:1-12
Mon, Oct 5	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Hos 14:1-9	Acts 22:30-23:11	Luke 6:39-49
Tue, Oct 6	am: 121, 122, 123, pm: 124, 125, 126	Mic 1:1-9	Acts 23:12-24	Luke 7:1-17
Wed, Oct 7	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128, 129, 130	Mic 2:1-13	Acts 23:23-35	Luke 7:18-35
Thur, Oct 8	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	Mic 3:1-8	Acts 24:1-23	Luke 7:36-50
Fri, Oct 9	am: 140, 142, pm: 141, 143	Mic 3:9-4:5	Acts 24:24-25:12	Luke 8:1-15
Sat, Oct 10	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Mic 5:1-4, 10-15	Acts 25:13-27	Luke 8:16-25
Sun, Oct 11	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	Mic 6:1-8	1 Cor 4:9-16	Matt 15:21-28
Mon, Oct 12	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Mic 7:1-7	Acts 26:1-23	Luke 8:26-39
Tue, Oct 13	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Jon 1:1-17	Acts 26:24-27:8	Luke 8:40-56
Wed, Oct 14	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Jon 1:17-2:10	Acts 27:9-26	Luke 9:1-17
Thur, Oct 15	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Jon 3:1-4:11	Acts 27:27-44	Luke 9:18-27
Fri, Oct 16	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Song 1:2-8*	Acts 28:1-16	Luke 9:28-36
Sat, Oct 17	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Song 1:9-2:7*	Acts 28:17-31	Luke 9:37-50
Sun, Oct 18	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Song 2:8-17*	1 Cor 10:1-13	Matt 16:13-20
Mon, Oct 19	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Song 4:1-5:1*	Rev 7:1-8	Luke 9:51-62
Tue, Oct 20	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Song 5:2-6:3*	Rev 7:9-17	Luke 10:1-16
Wed, Oct 21	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Song 8:5-14*	Rev 8:1-13	Luke 10:17-24
Thur, Oct 22	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Ezra 1:1-11*	Rev 9:1-12	Luke 10:25-37
Fri, Oct 23	am: 31, pm: 35	Ezra 3:1-13*	Rev 9:13-21	Luke 10:38-42
Sat, Oct 24	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Ezra 4:7, 11-24*	Rev 10:1-11	Luke 11:1-13
Sun, Oct 25	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Hag 1:1-2:9*	1 Cor 10:15-24	Matt 18:15-20
Mon, Oct 26	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Ezra 5:1-17*	Rev 11:1-14	Luke 11:14-26
Tue, Oct 27	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Ezra 6:1-22*	Rev 11:14-19	Luke 11:27-36
Wed, Oct 28	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Neh 1:1-11*	Rev 12:1-6	Luke 11:37-52
Thur, Oct 29	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	Neh 2:1-20*	Rev 12:7-17	Luke 11:53-12:12
Fri, Oct 30	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Neh 5:1-19*	Rev 13:1-10	Luke 12:13-31
Sat, Oct 31	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Ezek 20:1-17*	Rev 13:11-18	Luke 12:32-48

Grace United Methodist

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 North Star Dist. Committee online fall mtg. 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	2	3
4 18th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion Family-only Confirmation Service indoors and Facebook Live Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 19th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship Indoors and Facebook Live Worship	12	13	14	15 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	16	17
18 20th Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday 10:00 am Worship Indoors and Facebook Live Worship	19	20 6:30 pm Streaming Vision and Operations and Resources	21	22 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	23	24
25 21st Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday 10:00 am Worship indoors and Facebook Live Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

THE UNTOLD STORY

The Untold Story is a fundraising dessert social on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 at the Delta Hotel, 1635 42nd Street SW, in Fargo. The New Life Center will host guest speaker, Darryl Strawberry who throughout the 80s and 90s was heralded as one of the top sluggers in Major League Baseball. However, life after baseball wasn't glorious. Drug abuse, arrest, cancer and divorce left him with a deep sense of hopelessness. Individual tickets of \$40.00 each can be purchased by going to the web site: www.fargonlc.org/theuntoldstory. The dessert social begins at 6:00 pm with the program at 7:00 pm.



STREET PROJECT

**MORE
PROPERTY
TAXES?**

This summer the City of Moorhead has been making improvement to 18th Street and 12th Avenue. Grace UMC will be assessed \$5,375.00 for the improvement along 12th Avenue and \$14,571.00 for the improvement along 18th Street, these improvements 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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

