

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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March 1, 2024

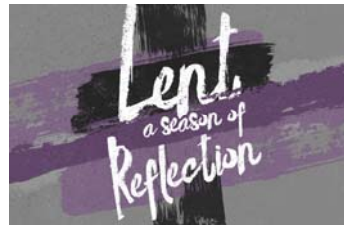
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Grace and Peace be with you!

Spiritual check-in time: We've been on the Lenten journey for several weeks now. How are you feeling?

As we moved from Ash Wednesday to the first Sunday we found ourselves out in the wilderness with Jesus following His baptism. This was not a cozy pre-planned retreat with comfy bed linens, a relaxing activity schedule, and three planned meals and snacks whenever we wanted. The gospel of Mark tells us that the Spirit drove out Jesus into the wilderness. This phrase, drive out, is not a chauffeur gently taking a passenger, according to the original Greek it can even be with a notion of violence. So switch in whatever word makes most sense to you: Expelled, Casted Out, Banished, Yeeted, etc. If we're going with Jesus on this journey, and find ourselves launched into the desert, it can be disorienting and we need to find our footing. We find ourselves in the delicate balance of seeing our destination and moving towards it, but not racing so quickly that we skip over the work of Lent. So again, I ask you. How are you feeling?

This Lenten season I find myself all over the place. From the incredible work of ministry, walking with you in the hardest moments of your life, parsonage maintenance, spiritual tug of war to find that balance of being present, and oh yeah, preparing for a baby! Y'all, it can be very disorienting to be in the wilderness, but it's important for us to remember that love draws near to us. Love draws near not to fix the chaos or even lift



us out of the wilderness, but to accompany us and help guide the way. I once heard that the sign of God's love being unique is that God chose not to Lord over us from on high, but rather chose to get down to our level in the muck and mire, and literally bleed with and for us. Talk about disorienting. Jesus reminds us that those who choose to be His followers will need to take up their cross, but it will not be unassisted. With that in mind: How are you feeling?

The wilderness of Lent is not meant just for us to feel shaken up and confused, but for us to take time for spiritual practices that tame our hearts in the process. I've found that our daily prayer time, while not always perfect, has been a steadying time for my own soul. In the first weekend of March, our confirmation students will be practicing retreat with other United Methodist students, to grow, to learn, to rest. What practices have you found helpful this year? Maybe you're fasting, or studying scripture a little deeper, perhaps you've found time for solitude or silence. If you haven't yet, it's not too late to start! If you're curious about a new practice, I'd highly recommend the book *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton. Take time within your week at the very least, if not every day, to ask yourself that question: How are you feeling? Use it as an opportunity to assess where you are in the wilderness, reorient yourself to the destination, and continue moving towards it without speeding up the process of the work in your soul. God bless each of you in the wilderness, on your journey, and as you reach the destination of the empty tomb and the risen Christ!

Pastor Taylor



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (Elim)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)
Will Wehrman (Eventide-Fargo)

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Carol Devine Lynette Andel
Luann Larson Linda Gibson
Larry Possehl Jean Graning
Paul Kemper Eddie Ybarra
Rick Abel



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 #3 (Mar/Sept).

218-512-0395—L. & J. Beck
218-429-0046—J. & L. Denny
701-205-7268—S. Grow & Family
701-403-9063—T. & D. Grow
701-541-4136—S. & N. Grow
701-412-3833—A. Larson & Family
218-236-5031—D. & L. Larson
218-287-2639—D. LeQuire
701-212-3587—A. & D. Maas
701-237-9055—R. Lofgren
218-236-9169—L. & O. Roppe
218-790-0677—I. Smith
701-306-1705—L. Smith



March Birthdays

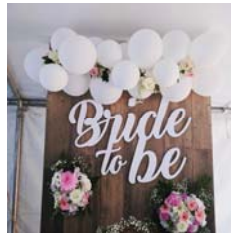
2—J. Beck
5—W. Walseth
8—B. Fraundorfer
9—M. Grow
11—D. Larson
12—L. Romanyshyn
15—L. Burkhardt
17—K. Johnson
18—N. Schindler
J. Chandler
21—L. Simmons
22—D. Walseth
B. Eisen
24—T. Fraundorfer
25—S. Grow
28—V. Fangsrud
31—R. Abel

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on March 6th, and 20th 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 Narthex, or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

BRIDAL SHOWER



Everyone is invited to a Bridal Shower honoring Sarah Lindner on Saturday, March 16th at 10:00 am at Grace UMC. She is registered at Target and on Amazon. Please RSVP to A., 701-630-8035 or P. at 701-491-2967.



March 3—W. & M. Port



PALMS, PANCAKES AND PICTURES

Invite your friends and family to join us on Palm Sunday, March 24th, for worship at 10:00 am followed by a pancake breakfast, an Easter-themed photo booth, and activities for the kiddos.

**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.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Del Larson, CLM

As we get older, time seems to go by much quicker. Here we are in Lent. For us we know the story and we look forward to the Risen Lord. Too many people, and the numbers are getting higher, are not listening to God. My mother was a great example of a good listening living by her faith. All Christian seasons were important to our family, and attending Wednesday services was a requirement. One Wednesday night, I told my mother I couldn't go because I had hockey practice. She was not happy, but she left it up to me. Obviously, I chose hockey. When I got to the outdoor rink a couple of blocks away, there was no practice. I missed the memo. Although I could have stayed at the park, it didn't take me long to get back home and change into my church clothes. My mother didn't say much, but I knew she was proud. What was God's plan for both of us that night?

There are many of these situations in our daily life, when the Holy Spirit tugs at our heart to do the right thing, especially to listen. When we sit in church and listen to the scripture, music, prayers, and message, we are hearing things that are meant to inspire us. For me, I notice times when the words are read, or are shared, helps make me remember what I have done, or should have done in the past. It's a reminder that I may have not been listening as closely as perhaps I should. You might walk out of church feeling lifted by what you heard. When I hear the interlude to the song *Fairest Lord Jesus* I sit a little straighter and not afraid to sing louder because that is my favorite song, and has been since I was very little. Listening is so important. Without action listening is not finished. In the back of our hymnal, is the closing prayer that we sing occasionally. I have also used parts of it in my closing of a service.

*And now the time has come for us to leave this place;
Guide us and protects and lead us in thy grace.
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.
May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son,
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us, each one.
May the blessings of the spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again.*

Hebrews 2:1 "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."

Since we come to church to learn about God and His love, as well as to refill our bucket with His words of peace and joy, we need to not just take what we have learned and put it in our hip pocket or purse along with the Sunday bulletin. We need to keep listening to those words as they



bounce around our mind and pop-up occasionally. What is it that we are called to do? If we really want to know God's words, then we have to take action. We need to share what we have heard. We need to apply what we have learned. We cannot live God's words just by listening, but rather by doing. What can you do in the next month to show you really are listening? What can you do so people will recognize you as a Christian filled with the Holy Spirit? What is it that you really want to say to others so they too can know God like you do? In your world, whose life needs to feel God's love? So are we really listening to God? We know that His words have a purpose. God wants us to be a guide, a beacon for others to see God's love and mercy. There are so many that really need to feel what you do on Sunday. We are not children who listen with one ear and let it out the other. God's word is like glue. It sticks to those who are open and want to listen.

Isaiah 30:21 *"And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'"*

You have read the word listen 10 times in this message. My hope is that when you hear the word "listen" in the coming weeks, God will be tapping you on the shoulder reminding you to take his word and share it with others. If you would like, I'd be happy to know how many of you do experience this wonderful reminder from God. AMEN!

WOMEN OF GRACE

All Women of Grace are invited to attend the WOG Spring Meeting, Sunday, March 10, in the lounge following worship service. There are several items and events to discuss and your input is important. If you have questions, please contact P. Murray, 701-361-2745.



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Soup and sandwich supper on Wednesday night is served from 5:00 pm — 6:00 pm. All meals are 'pay as you are blessed', and open for all! Following the meal is a 30 minute worship service with song, prayer, and meditation .

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Mar 1	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Jere 1:11-19	Rom 1:1-15	John 4:27-42
Mar 2	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Jere 2:1-13	Rom 1:16-25	John 4:43-54
Mar 3	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Jere 3:6-18	Rom 1:28-2:11	John 5:1-18
Mar 4	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Jere 4:9-10, 19-28	Rom 2:12-24	John 5:19-29
Mar 5	am: 69, pm: 73	Jere 5:1-9	Rom 2:25-3:18	John 5:30-47
Mar 6	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Jere 5:20-31	Rom 3:19-31	John 7:1-13
Mar 7	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Jere 6:9-15	1 Cor 6:12-20	Mark 5:1-20
Mar 8	am: 80, pm: 77, 79	Jere 7:1-15	Rom 4:1-12	John 7:14-36
Mar 9	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Jere 7:21-34	Rom 4:13-25	John 7:37-52
Mar 10	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Jere 8:18-9:6	Rom 5:1-11	John 8:12-20
Mar 11	am: 42, 43, pm: 85, 86	Jere 10:11-24	Rom 5:12-21	John 8:21-32
Mar 12	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Jere 11:1-8, 14-20	Rom 6:1-11	John 8:33-47
Mar 13	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Jere 13:1-11	Rom 6:12-23	John 8:47-59
Mar 14	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Jere 14:1-9, 17-22	Gal 4:21-5:1	Mark 8:11-21
Mar 15	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Jere 16:10-21	Rom 7:1-12	John 6:1-15
Mar 16	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Jere 17:19-27	Rom 7:13-25	John 6:16-27
Mar 17	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Jere 18:1-11	Rom 8:1-11	John 6:27-40
Mar 18	am: 69, pm: 73	Jere 22:13-23	Rom 8:12-27	John 6:41-51
Mar 19	am: 107:1-32, pm: 107:33-43	Jere 23:1-8	Rom 8:28-39	John 6:52-59
Mar 20	am: 102, 108, pm: 33	Jere 23:9-15	Rom 9:1-18	John 6:60-71
Mar 21	am: 118, pm: 145	Jere 23:16-32	1 Cor 9:19-27	Mark 8:31-9:1
Mar 22	am: 31, pm: 35	Jere 24:1-10	Rom 9:19-33	John 9:1-17
Mar 23	am:121-123, pm: 124- 126	Jere 25:8-17	Rom 10:1-13	John 9:18-41
Mar 24	am:119:145-176,pm: 128-130	Jere 25:30-38	Rom 10:14-21	John 10:1-18
Mar 25	am: 131, 132, 133,pm: 140, 142	Jere 26:1-16	Rom 11:1-12	John 10:19-42
Mar 26	am: 22,pm: 141, 143	Jere 29:1, 4-13	Rom 11:13-24	John 11:1-27
Mar 27	am: 137, 144,pm: 42, 43	Jere 31:27-34	Rom 11:25-36	John 11:28-44
Mar 28	am: 24, 29, pm: 103	Zech 9:9-12, 12:9-13:9	1 Tim 6:12-16	Matt 21:12-17
Mar 29	am: 51, pm: 69:1-23	Jer 12:1-16	Phil 3:1-14	John 12:9-19
Mar 30	am: 6, pm: 94	Jer 15:10-21	Phil 3:15-21	John 12:20-26
Mar 31	am: 55, pm: 74	Jer 17:5-10, 14-17	Phil 4:1-13	John 12:27-36

Grace United Methodist

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Confirmation	2 Retreat 10:00 am Later Rain Dance Practice
3 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 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	7 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	8	9 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
10 Daylight Saving Begins 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am WOG-Lounge 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	11 1:00 pm Quilting	12 7:00 pm AA	13 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	14 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	15	16 10:00 am Sarah Lindner Bridal Shower 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
17 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	18 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	19 7:00 pm AA	20 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	21 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	22	23 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
24 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	25 1:00 pm Quilting	26 7:00 pm AA	27 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	28 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	29 6:00 pm Good Friday Service	30 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
31 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries						

BAR SIGN UP



Please sign up to donate a 9 x 13 pan of bars during Lent that are served on Wednesday nights before worship service. The sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

SERMON SERIES

"Depths of Love"

- 3-3: I Will Raise It Up—John 2:13-22
- 3-10: Loving the Light—John 3:14-21
- 3-17: Whoever Serves—John 12:20-33
- 3-24: Palm Sunday Cantata
- 3-29: Hail, King of the Jews—John 18:1-19;42
- 3-31: You Are Looking For Jesus— Mark 16:1-8

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 24—10:00 am - Palm Sunday w/
Cantata
- March 29— 6:00 pm—Good Friday Service
- March 31—10:00 am— Easter Sunday Service
w/Laurie Kantonen, District Superintendent

PASTOR'S LEAVE

During our meeting on February 19, the Leadership Team of Grace UMC, doing the work of Staff Parish Relations, received Pastor Taylor's request to the Bishop for paternity leave. Our District Superintendent, Laurie Kantonen, received the request and has sent it along to Bishop Lanette Plambeck, while also agreeing to fill in and preach at Grace UMC on Easter Sunday. With the anticipation of their second child, Pastor Taylor is taking leave through the month of April, and will return to preaching and working from home in May, returning to full hours in June. The Leadership Team accepted this request, and during Pastor's leave, they will work with the lay leadership of Grace, retired clergy Pastor John Roberts, and the District Superintendent to fulfill the roles and responsibilities until Pastor's return. Please contact the church office with any pastoral needs during that time.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

