

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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Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

September 1, 2024

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Taylor Johnson

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

Pastor's Phone: (218) 422-6586

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Greetings:

Our son started playing team soccer a few weeks ago, and as excited as he was to play, I was even more excited to watch! I have all sorts of memories growing up and playing soccer in a jersey that was just a little too big while seven other five year olds tried to all kick the ball at the same time. We had practiced all week on dribbling, passing, and shooting, so he felt confident and ready to go. Monday night rolls around and it's game time folks! It was pretty easy to see right away that our team was going to be out-matched, the other kids were bigger, faster, and seemed to have more experience in general. Dexson had a good time overall, but I could tell he was feeling defeated. Afterwards we were talking and he said to me, "the other team was just too fast and too big." I've always been on the smaller size so I know exactly how he was feeling, and thought I'd share a nugget of wisdom I had to take to heart growing up. I said, "buddy, there will always be someone bigger and faster, so make sure no one on that field tries harder than you." He's four, so I'm not sure exactly how much that sunk in, but it's something I hope he learns early. One of our Certified Lay Speakers, Diana Stead, preached a powerful sermon recently about how we build up our faith. She mentioned the different parts of life we're dealing with that hold us



back from building our faith, one of them being envy. I could tell Dex had some envy about how big and fast those other kids were. When it comes to our faith and participation in what God is doing, I worry that we do the same thing. "Well I don't pray as well as that person," or, "I can't serve like they can," and we so easily feel defeated and think we have nothing to offer. Luckily for us, God sees things differently than we do.

We're reminded in scripture that God doesn't look at how big and fast we are, how big our offering is, or measure us against any other physical standard. When anointing the next king of Israel, Samuel looked at Jesse's sons and was looking for the most rugged and strong, the biggest and the fastest, but God kept passing. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Certainly our effort and heart ought to produce fruit. But it's important we don't get hung up on how "big and fast" others are, and continue to put our whole heart into growing in faith, loving God and neighbor, and serving those who God has placed in our path.

Pastor Taylor



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

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

PRAYER LIST at home

- Linda Gibson Wally Walseth
- Larry Possehl Eddie Ybarra
- Dennis Stead Tom Anderson



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 (Sept/Mar).

- 701-799-5112—L. & J. Beck
- 218-429-0046—J. & L. Denny
- 701-205-7268—S. Grow & Family
- 701-403-9063—T. & Doyne Grow
- 701-541-4136—S. & N. Grow
- 701-412-3833—A. Larson & Family
- 701-238-2223—D. & L. Larson
- 701-261-1194—D LeQuire
- 701-237-9055—R. Lofgren
- 701-212-3587—A & D. Maas
- 218-236-9169—L. & O. Roppe
- 218-790-0677—I. Smith
- 701-306-1705—L. Smith



September Birthdays

- 1—D. Burkhardt
E. Boman
- 3—J Fraundorfer
- 4—S. Lindner
- 6—C. Miller
D. Grow
- 12—M. Gumto
- 13—B. Hanna
- 14—P. Anderson
D. Hansen
- 16—B. Rowand
C. Gedrose
- 19—S. Fraundorfer
C. Gedrose
- 20—P. Newgard
M. Larson
- 24—Z. Brown
M. Chandler
- 26—L. Beck
- 30—A. Ybarra



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on September 4h and 18th, 2024 for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex or at www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts or by calling the office, 218-233-1857.



THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your kindness, friendship and for the cards and prayers for our mom and our family. Thank you to the ladies who helped with lunch after the service.—

The Family of Lynette Andel



September



PUMPKIN PATCH WITH CHILI

We're heading back to Buffalo River Pumpkin Patch! Bring your whole family out on Wednesday, September 25th at 5:00 pm. The cost is pending. Plans are for a chili dinner, a horse-drawn ride, access to the grounds and games, and a special take home for the kids! Everyone is invited and welcome to join us for this great fellowship event.

- 2—T. & P. Newgard
- 16—T.& D. Grow
- 27—D. & C. Borgen

3rd Grade Bibles

THIRD GRADE BIBLES



We are going to be distributing third grade Bibles on Sunday, September 29th. If your student has not yet received a Bible from Grace (third grade and up), please contact Pastor Taylor before Wednesday, September 15th to get one reserved.

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.

HAVE YOU BEEN REBORN IN CHRIST?

Del Larson, CLM

It's that time of year with all the seasonal changes. It's also time to check our faith status. From a devotional the other night, the topic of being "reborn" was the focus. I thought, "I have been reborn," but I asked God to show me what I needed to do to hold that claim. Our goal should be to get closer to God, to get that ticket to eternity. As I read this study from Oswald Chambers, I started to question, just what does it really mean to be reborn, and how can you keep it? We are sinful by nature and always will be, but by being reborn into Christ, will we be closer to God? The answer is **YES!** Being reborn is "a spiritual enlightenment and transformation causing a person to lead a new life in Christ." First, we need to undergo a meaningful spiritual change. We must intentionally put God first in our lives, and make an internet speed connection with Him. To become "Christ-like" is a 24/7 commitment.

This change means we are seeking to get rid of our old ways that hinder us from entering the Kingdom of God. If we are honest with ourselves, we already know what these hindrances are. They're fairly easy to recognize. What are the things we are doing now that are not pleasing to God. What actions, thoughts, words, or attitude is not "Christ like?" Is God our first priority? That's how our ticket gets punched. Now, my mind is spinning, and my heart is racing as I contemplate this rebirth.

God can't mean changing all the fun stuff can he? It's a beautiful weekend and we want to be at the lake. It's OK, go and enjoy! This is part of God's miracle of creation. How can we include God in that fun? Can we take time to watch the online service and worship with Him? Did we remember to praise God and thank Him for the beautiful day, and the gifts of fun we enjoy? We need to be intentional in our relationship. Everything is about God. It is important to remember who is in control, and who is responsible for the gifts we enjoy.

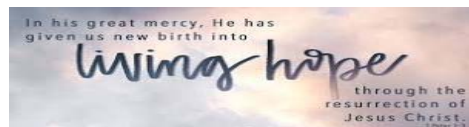
Perhaps we are on the golf course ready to play a round. Do we recognize the gift of the ability to play golf, or to afford golf? Stop and ask yourself, what did I do that was Christ-like today? Can't think of anything? That's OK. Think back over the past week. Anything there? For me, it is sometimes easier to remember the things I could have done, rather than the things I actually did. How about you? Did you realize God was speaking to you, when you remembered what you should have done? To be "Reborn" again, is to focus on the Spirit and seek a change of heart, by putting God first in all you do.

Characteristics of Born again Christians:

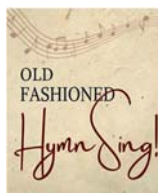
- They speak the truth at all times.
- They are good listeners.
- They hardly take offense.
- They are quick to forgive.
- They are reliable.
- They are supportive.
- They have an appetite for prayer and fasting.
- They rely on the Word of God.
- The more God lifts them up, the more they connect and see eternity.

We will still continue to sin, because we can only be "like" Christ. What is amazing is how you start to recognize God is connecting with you to help you avoid sin, and to remind you when you fail. When you are connected with God, you are seeking a transformation, a rebirth with Him. You soon realize life becomes easier, and sinful ways slowly disappear. God's whispers and visions are clearer. He wants to help you grow into a stronger Christian.

How is faith like a pasture or grasslands? Even when you are trampled, eaten, and infested, the roots with God remain strong and bound together, no matter what happens. Sounds exactly what I need. How about you? It's time for a rebirth! Amen



HYMN SING



On Labor Day weekend, September 1st, we will be having a hymn sing in lieu of the sermon. Over the next few weeks, take a look through the Hymnal or Faith We Sing and get your favorite hymns picked out. We'll do a verse or two of hymns you suggest.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY



Plan now to attend the Fall Kick-off on Sunday, September 8th. The day begins with an outdoor worship service at 10:00 am followed by food, fellowship and plenty games including the Dunk Tank.

BASIC TRAINING

One of our members, K. Beck, is away at basic training in the Army. We've received her address and want to invite congregation members to send letters or cards with words of encouragement, fun stories, or anything else. We ask that you keep the outside of the envelope plain with just the addresses and stamp, no extra stickers. On the front of the envelope please use this address:

PFC Beck, K.
Bravo CO
35th EN BN
Building 6102
Indiana Avenue
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

On the back of the envelope, please put:
PFC Beck, K.
Bravo CO

Grace United Methodist

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship— Hymn Sing w/Communion 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	2 Office Closed Holiday	3 7:00 pm AA	4 6:00 am Donut Making 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	5 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	6	7 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
8 Kickoff Sunday 10:00 am Outdoor Worship 11:00 am Picnic and Games 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	9	10 7:00 pm AA	11 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	12 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	13	14 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
15 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:15 am WOG Meeting in Lounge 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	16 6:30 pm Leadership Team	17 7:00 pm AA	18 6:00 am Donut Making 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	19 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	20	21 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
22 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	23	24 7:00 pm AA	25 5:00 pm Pumpkin Patch 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	26 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	27	28 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
29 10:00 am Worship 3rd Grade Bibles Presentation 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	30					

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sept 1	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27	Acts 12:1-17	John 8:33-47
Sept 2	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Job 12:1, 14:1-22	Acts 12:18-25	John 8:47-59
Sept 3	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16	Acts 13:1-12	John 9:1-17
Sept 4	am: 31, pm: 35	Job 19:1-7, 14-27	Acts 13:13-25	John 9:18-41
Sept 5	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Job 22:1-4, 21 23:1-7	Acts 13:26-43	John 10:1-18
Sept 6	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6	Rev 14:1-7, 13	Matt 5:13-20
Sept 7	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Job 32:1-10, 19, 33:1, 19-28	Acts 13:44-52	John 10:19-30
Sept 8	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Job 29:1-20	Acts 14:1-18	John 10:31-42
Sept 9	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31	Acts 14:19-28	John 11:1-16
Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	Job 29:1, 31:1-23	Acts 15:1-11	John 11:17-29
Sept 11	am: 40, 5, pm: 51	Job 29:1, 31:24-40	Acts 15:12-21	John 11:30-44
Sept 12	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Job 38:1-17	Acts 15:22-35	John 11:45-54
Sept 13	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Job 38:1, 18-41	Rev 18:1-8	Matt 5:21-26
Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Job 40:1-24	Acts 15:36-16:5	John 11:55-12:8
Sept 15	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Job 40:1, 41:1-11	Acts 16:6-15	John 12:9-19
Sept 16	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Job 42:1-17	Acts 16:16-24	John 12:20-26
Sept 17	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Job 28:1-28	Acts 16:25-40	John 12:27-36a
Sept 18	am: 69, pm: 73	Est 1:1-4, 10-19	Acts 17:1-15	John 12:36b-43
Sept 19	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Est 2:5-8, 15-23	Acts 17:16-34	John 12:44-50
Sept 20	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Est 3:1-4:3	Jam 1:19-27	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Sept 21	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Est 4:4-17	Acts 18:1-11	Luke 1:1-4, 3:1-14
Sept 22	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Est 5:1-14	Acts 18:12-28	Luke 3:15-22
Sept 23	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Est 6:1-14	Acts 19:1-10	Luke 4:1-13
Sept 24	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Est 7:1-10	Acts 19:11-20	Luke 4:14-30
Sept 25	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Est 8:1-8, 15-17	Acts 19:21-41	Luke 4:31-37
Sept 26	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Hos 1:1-2:1	Acts 20:1-16	Luke 4:38-44
Sept 27	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Hos 2:2-14	Jam 3:1-13	Matt 13:44-52
Sep 28	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Hos 2:14-23	Acts 20:17-38	Luke 5:1-11
Sep 29	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Hos 4:1-10	Acts 21:1-14	Luke 5:12-26
Sep 30	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Hos 4:11-19	Acts 21:15-26	Luke 5:27-39

**The Women of Grace Fall Festival
Oct. 19th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
This is our big fund raiser for the year
we need your support!**

The donut team will make donuts and we will sell them by the dozen and half dozen. There will be coffee and a donut for sale in the morning.

Our Country Store, which is usable items for sale, but no clothing. We will need donations of items, assistance with setting up the sale, on Oct. 14,15, and 16 from 9:30 am to noon. The day of the sale we will need cashiers. Items can be brought to church any time and placed in the Sunday School room with a sign, "Country Store Donations." Good items to collect are: Books, Holiday décor., kitchen items, towels, dishes, bedding, toys, craft supplies.

The Silent Auction: We need items, gift cards, donations from businesses.

Craft and bake sale: Asking for donations for baked goods and craft items. You can bring your items to church on Friday, Oct. 18th from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm, or during office hours that day from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We also need help setting s up on Friday at 4:30 and 2 cashiers.

A lunch of hot dogs and chips will be available for a "free will" donation starting at 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

After the sale we will be cleaning up on Monday, Oct. 21st. We box all the leftover Country store items, donate them to a thrift store, and put the rooms we used back in order.

Most of all we would love for your families and friends to come and attend this big event! Any questions, call P. Murray at 701-361-2745 or J. Graning at 701-367-3587. There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex for help. We Welcome men, women and youth and look Forward to you joining us.



WOMEN OF GRACE

On Sunday, September 15th after Worship, all women are invited to our meeting in the Lounge. Our Fall Festival and Advent Tea program will be discussed. Come join us! Questions? Contact P. Murray, 701-361-2745, or J. Graning, 701-367-3587



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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