

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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March 1, 2025

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." - Psalm 51:10

I've always considered myself to be a fairly creative person. Every now and then I'll pretend that I'm good at drawing and start something, only to walk away feeling defeated by how terrible it looks. Or, much to my family's chagrin, I'll try to be creative in the kitchen, which results in a couple open windows and a late night snack later on to get the taste of char out of our mouths. But at the end of the day, I've always been able to nestle into the comfort of creating through music.

Whether that be writing lyrics, learning a new instrument, or building a song from scratch on guitar, piano, or my laptop. Yet, whenever I sit down to do those things, I have to remember something key (pardon the music pun), it's a process. I can't just make something happening at the snap of my fingers, it takes time; time to be inspired, time to screw up and erase, time to try new things.

One thing that both frustrates me and brings me such deep appreciation for the season of Lent is that it takes time. Putting the ash on our forehead and proclaiming that scripture doesn't just magically take us to the empty tomb of Easter. We have a journey ahead of us, no matter how cliché that sounds. When we say "create in me a clean heart", are we willing to make room for that creative process, or do we hope that it's a quick-fix type experience?

Our Wesleyan understanding of grace would certainly allow for both to happen in some ways. Perhaps in a moment like Ash Wednesday, we experience that justifying grace of God, that encounters us as we are, offering the reflection of our mortality and state of sin. When we leave that moment, there's work to be done, the journey just begins. We examine ourselves, which can mean coming to grips with the areas we struggle with and ask, 'are we willing to let that go' or 'do I need to work on that'? That's like sanctifying grace at work. It's God not only meeting us where we are, and creating in us a new heart, but the work of putting a new and right spirit within us. God is inviting us into that creative process of grace that we might be able to appreciate the final outcome, even if it doesn't happen as soon as we had hoped.

This Lent, I encourage you to open yourself up to that creative process of grace. Be willing to dig into the challenging parts of ourselves, and have the strength to rework what doesn't sound or look right. May you lean into not only the creative process, but the God who offers us grace along the way. I do hope you'll make extra intention to join us on Wednesday nights for supper and worship as a part of our Lenten experience.

Blessings my friends!

Pastor Taylor





**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

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

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

- Linda Gibson Larry Possehl
- Eddie Ybarra Carl Lindner
- Anne Roberts



March Birthdays

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



March 3—W. & M. Port



FELLOWSHIP SERVERS WANTED
 Serving Fellowship treats after church can be a fun Family activity or a chance to partner up with a friend. The task sounds a bit daunting, but it is not and is very rewarding. You have a chance to greet old and new church friends as you serve coffee. Yes, you will have to be about a half hour early for church to start the coffee, make some Lemonade, get your treats on trays ready to serve and put out napkins and plates if necessary, and then sneak out before the last song to bring out the Lemonade and Water pitchers. Clean up after is emptying the coffee pot, washing the trays, pitchers and wiping off the tables. There are many of us old hats willing to help if you would want to learn and if we have many people helping you may only have to step in once every few months. Fellowship after church is so important to all of us. It's our connection for the week to our church family.

Oh and did I mention if you don't have time or just hate baking we will always have treats in the freezer to use.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

" Giving Up"

Lent is a time where we may find something to give up as a spiritual practice. What if it's not just items or food, and God is calling us to give up something more?

March 2: Astounded at the Greatness—Luke 9:28-36

March 9: Giving Up Control—Matthew 4:1-11

March 16: Giving Up Expectations—John 3:1-17

March 23: Giving Up Superiority—John 4:7-30

March 30: Giving Up Enemies - Luke 6:27-36

April 6: Giving Up Our Lives—Mark 8:31-9:1

April 13: Giving Up Popularity—Matthew 21:1-11

April 30 (Easter) Giving Up Death—John 20:1-18

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.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Del Larson, CLM

It is my hope and prayer that you have found ways to better connect with God through the previous prayer news articles. I started in December with the Lord's Prayer, sharing how we lose our focus as we pray. I hope that your prayer life is more abundant, and you feel a closer connection with God. If not, don't worry, keep trying. God is patient, and will keep nudging you to get closer. There are people in our church who would be honored if you asked them to pray with you. Pastor Taylor and Pastor John are great resources. We also have lay speaker Diana and myself as a lay minister, and others. The church now offers the Upper Room Devotionals as a prayer resource.

If you have a good Christian friend that you can talk with, ask them about their prayer life and how they connect with God, and/or join a Bible study. Never give up. Never be ashamed for all of us are working on our faith journey. As I have gotten older, I've found more people are opening up about their relationship with God. How one person connects may be different than yours, just remain open to hear what God is telling you, and don't be surprised. God may guide you perhaps to others that can help you discern God's word. Be eager to learn more by talking with others about your faith. When eating out, bow your head to pray silently, and eventually you will find that strength to pray with all at your table. Eventually, you will find the strength from God to be bold. "but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" appears in Matthew 10:33.



Last month I shared the first 5 of 8 worry-stoppers on prayer with you, from the book *Fearless* copyright (Thomas Nelson 2009) by Max Lucado, followed now by worry-stoppers 6-8 this month. From what I have heard many have started on some of these. If not, let's get started.

Pray, first. Don't pace the floor, kneel down and pray first, cast your concerns and worries on Him.

Easy, now. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him (Psalm 37.7)

Act on it. Don't worry or dwell on them. Don't waste an hour wondering. Be a doer, not a stewart.

Compile a worry list. Maintain that list, then a month or two later did anything really bad happen?

Evaluate your worry Categories. This will help you see where your troubled areas are and pray.

Focus on today. God meets daily needs daily. Not weekly or annually. He will give you what you need when it is needed. "Let us therefore boldly approach the throne of our gracious God, where we may receive mercy and in his grace find *timely* help"

(Heb. 4:16NEB). An ancient hymn expresses the heart this patient eating creates. See *Not So in Haste, My Heart - Hymnary.org*

7. *Unleash a worry army.* Share your feelings with a few loved ones. Ask them to pray with and for you. They're more willing to help than you might imagine. Less worry on your part means more happiness on theirs.

8. *Let God be enough.* Jesus concludes his call to calmness with this challenge. "Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matt. 6:32-33 NLT)

Right steps. **Pray first. Easy, now. Act on it. Compile a worry list. Evaluate your worry categories. Focus on today. Unleash a worry army. Let God be enough.**

P-E-A-C-E-F-U-L

God's arms are wide open, waiting patiently, eager to chat with you. I have been laid up by Covid recently while writing this article. I have isolated myself. I've gotten frustrated by the coughing, lack of sleep, and losing my taste for chocolate. That one hurts the most. Yet, I feel that love and warmth from God who surrounds me and is helping me to heal. I know I am a sinful man, but

I also know that I am forgiven, and that I shall overcome the challenges that I face with God as my Father, until the day I enter God's Kingdom. I'm so glad that He is there to listen to me and guide me in what I do. I prayed this morning at breakfast after I finally got a better nights sleep in my chair, thanking Him for me not being hospitalized. I praise Him for how He has made my wife's life better in assisted living, and that our love continues to grow with that experience. He is there for her now to

attend to her loneliness, since I cannot be with her. It's a great feeling to know that God is always there for us. Prayer preceded any smart phone or AI creation. Prayer also gets you the right connections. God is real, not artificial. A relationship with God should not be for our convenience, but rather for understanding why God has put you here in this spot, at this very second in time, and is asking you to do something. You are a Christian because you are a believer in all that Christ has done. Open yourself to the power of prayer and accept what God has to offer you. Pray often, and don't forget to give thanks. God has you covered. May this knowledge give you comfort, peace, and understanding. Amen.

BAR SIGN UP



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

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Mar 1	am: 63, 98,pm: 103	Dan 9:3-10	Heb 2:10-18	John 12:44-50
Mar 2	am: 41, 52,pm: 44	Gen 37:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
Mar 3	am: 45,pm: 47, 48	Gen 37:12-24	1 Cor 1:20-31	Mark 1:14-28
Mar 4	am: 119:49-72,pm: 49, 53	Gen 37:25-36	1 Cor 2:1-13	Mark 1:29-45
Mar 5	am: 50, 59, 60,,pm: 19, 46	Gen 39:1-23	1 Cor 2:14-3:15	Mark 2:1-12
Mar 6	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Gen 40:1-23	1 Cor 3:16-23	Mark 2:13-22
Mar 7	am: 55,pm: 138, 139	Gen 41:1-13	1 Cor 4:1-7	Mark 2:23-3:6
Mar 8	am: 24, 29,pm: 8, 84	Gen 41:14-45	Rom 6:3-14	John 5:19-24
Mar 9	am: 56, 57, 58,pm: 64, 65	Gen 41:46-57	1 Cor 4:8-21	Mark 3:7-19a
Mar 10	am: 61, 62,pm: 68	Gen 42:1-17	1 Cor 5:1-8	Mark 3:19b-35
Mar 11	am: 72,pm: 119:73-96	Gen 42:18-28	1 Cor 5:6-6:8	Mark 4:1-20
Mar 12	am: 70, 71,pm: 74	Gen 42:29-38	1 Cor 6:12-30	Mark 4:21-34
Mar 13	am: 69,pm: 73	Gen 43:1-15	1 Cor 7:1-9	Mark 4:35-41
Mar 14	am: 75, 76,pm: 23, 27	Gen 43:16-34	1 Cor 7:10-24	Mark 5:1-20
Mar 15	am: 93, 96,pm: 34	Gen 44:1-17	Rom 8:1-10	John 5:25-29
Mar 16	am: 80,pm: 77, 79	Gen 44:18-34	1 Cor 7:25-31	Mark 5:21-43
Mar 17	am: 78:1-39,pm: 78:40-72	Gen 45:1-15	1 Cor 7:32-40	Mark 6:1-13
Mar 18	am: 119:97-120,pm: 81, 82	Gen 45:16-28	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mark 6:13-29
Mar 19	am: 42, 43,pm: 85, 86	Gen 46:1-7, 28-34	1 Cor 9:1-15	Mark 6:30-46
Mar 20	am: 88,pm: 91, 92	Gen 47:1-26	1 Cor 9:16-27	Mark 6:47-56
Mar 21	am: 87, 90,pm: 136	Gen 47:27-48:7	1 Cor 10:1-13	Mark 7:1-23
Mar 22	am: 66, 67,pm: 19, 46	Gen 48:8-22	Rom 8:11-25	John 6:27-40
Mar 23	am: 89:1-18,pm: 89:19-52	Gen 49:1-28	1 Cor 10:14-11:1	Mark 7:24-37
Mar 24	am: 97, 99, 100,pm: 94, 95	Gen 49:29-50:14	1 Cor 11:17-34	Mark 8:1-10
Mar 25	am: 101, 109,pm: 119:121-144	Gen 50:15-26	1 Cor 12:1-11	Mark 8:11-26
Mar 26	am: 69,pm: 73	Exod 1:6-22	1 Cor 12:12-26	Mark 8:27-9:1
Mar 27	am: 107:1-32,pm: 107:33-43	Exod 2:1-22	1 Cor 12:27-13:3	Mark 9:2-13
Mar 28	am: 102, 108,pm: 33	Exod 2:23-3:15	1 Cor 13:1-13	Mark 9:14-29
Mar 29	am: 118,pm: 145	Exod 3:16-4:12	Rom 12:1-12	John 8:46-59
Mar 30	am: 31,pm: 35	Exod 4:10-31	1 Cor 14:1-19	Mark 9:30-41
Mar 31	am: 121 – 123, pm: 124 - 126	Exod 5:1-6:1	1 Cor 14:20-40	Mark 9:42-50

Grace United Methodist

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	3 1:00 pm Quilting	4 7:00 pm AA	5 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Lent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	6 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Begins 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	10 1:00 pm Quilting	11 7:00 pm AA	12 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:15 pm No Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	13 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	17 1:00 pm Quilting	18 7:00 pm AA	19 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:15 pm No Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	20 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	21	22
23 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	24 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	25 7:00 pm AA	26 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 6:15 pm No Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	27 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	31					

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



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

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on March 5th, and 26th 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 Connection Center, or the website:

www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

ROOF PROJECT

Over the last few years we've had some concerns about the roof with leaks during melting and major rainfall. In 2024, we utilized the expertise of congregation members and called in three roofing companies to do assessments and offer guidance. Each company noted significant issues with the roof over the Connection Center and Kitchen area, encouraging us to give priority to repairs there. After looking over proposals and quotes from each company, the Leadership Team approved Dalsin Roofing Co. with the contract, totaling just over \$70,000. There will be a banner displayed in the church helping to track our progress. We ask that everyone prayerfully consider donating to help with this special project, even if that means you can only give \$5. It's important that each of us contribute what we can to help maintain the building that houses so many vital ministries. Once you've donated, you'll be invited to place a "shingle" on the banner with or without your name on it, as we show our group commitment!

YOUTH UPDATE from E. Beck

Greetings Grace!

The Youth Group began February with a conversation about justice and mercy. Many efforts can be put towards showing mercy to others, such as forgiving those who have done wrong. Things can also be done to ensure justice, like showing integrity in all situations.

We also discussed poverty in two ways: how people respond to it and how people cause it. In many ways, responding to poverty is like showing mercy. Similarly, helping stop the causes of poverty is comparable to creating justice. As we continued on with the evening we made note that our reason for doing good is just as important as the deed itself. If we seek justice only for personal gain or only show mercy out of guilt, we aren't truly doing good. We must understand that when we do good we are spreading the love of God and we must do this in joy. Micah 6:8 tells us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly; that is what we should strive for in our day-to-day lives.

The following week, we studied the book of Ruth! This four-chapter story follows Ruth through some challenging times. After both being widowed, Ruth is determined to stay

with her mother-in-law Naomi. They return together to Bethlehem- Naomi a native, but Ruth an unwelcome foreigner. Once there, Ruth gains the favor of Boaz, who sees Ruth as the loving person she is rather than a stereotypical foreigner. This story teaches us not only to love one another but to look past stereotypes and see people for who they truly are. I know it sounds super cliché, but it's true! It's very easy to look at someone and automatically give them a label without thinking twice. We must make an effort- especially in this day and age- to see people as individuals rather than a group or stereotype. This will help us truly show the love of God to others.

Last month's Youth Sub Fundraiser was a success! We raised \$1,500 for our mission trip to Denver! Thank you so much for all your support. If you're still interested in giving, the Youth will continue to benefit from your donations through Grace's website <https://graceumcmoorhead.org>. Without your support, our mission trip would not be possible. Whether you realize it or not, you are helping spread the goodness of God by helping us reach those in need. Thanks again!

