

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

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Taylor Johnson

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

Parsonage Phone: (218) 422-6586

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January 1, 2024

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Grace and Peace to you in the year 2024!

That felt weird to type out, but whether we're ready or not, here it is.

Isn't that how it goes sometimes though? On Christmas Eve we talked about how at times getting where we want to go can take forever, and other times it sneaks up on us. Honestly I'm not sure which can be harder to handle, but we all have our ways to deal with challenges like that.



When facing struggles, there's a list of phrases that we often turn to in order to help people feel better, phrases like, "everything happens for a reason", or "God won't give you more than you can handle". It's safe to say that these words come from a good place of compassion and comfort, but can often fall short of what we're trying to convey.

As we begin the new year together we are going to take a look at some of those phrases in our upcoming sermon series, *Half Truths*. Whether you stand firm on the phrases we're talking about, or you are vehemently in opposition to them, I want to encourage you to approach this series with an open mind as we discuss God's nature in the midst of our human predicaments.

I'm looking forward to what 2024 is going to bring for Grace with new and continuing ministry opportunities, new members joining

our church, and growing in love of God and neighbor. I am also looking forward to what 2024 is going to bring for my family with the arrival of our little girl in March/April! May we continue to share in one another's joys and even our struggles, as we live into our mission of being the church of the neighborhood, making followers of Jesus Christ to transform the world.

Pastor Taylor

SERMON SERIES

What starts with a well meaning encouragement can quickly turn into half-truths about God. We'll look at these commonly used phrases, what they might be lacking, and what truth can be celebrated.

January 7—Everything happens for a reason

January 14—God helps those who help themselves

January 21—God won't give you more than you can handle

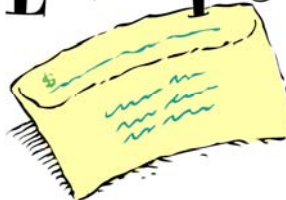
January 28—Love the sinner, hate the sin

February 4—God said it, I believe it, that settles it

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes of 2024 are available. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center if you would like a box of envelopes. A box will be available for pick up the next Sunday.

Offering
Envelopes





**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (St. Catherine S)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)
Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)
JoAnne Oelke (Serenity)

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 #1 (Jan/July).

701-388-9231—J. & R. Beck & Family
605-220-2788—J. & D. Belton
701-367-0371—C. & D. Borgen
701-373-5218—R. & B. Christopherson
903-360-7798—L. Collins
218-233-1969—D. & J. Graning
218-260-7276—D. Hansen
218-671-0653—M. Hoganson
701-373-5286—K. Jacobson
218-790-6266—J. Mann
218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
218-287-3817—A. Severson
218-233-7474—S. & P. Struble



January Birthdays

5—J. Oelke
B. Beck
7—I. Smith
12—L. Roppe
14—J. Miller
16—B. Loeks
C. Gedrose
17—M. Forderer
C. Chandler
19—W. Port
22—L. Hamm
25—J. Eide
27—D. Chandler
28—C. Gedrose
31—C. Gedrose



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are back and will be available January 10, 2024. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, or on the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

**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.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to D. Stead for receiving the Women of Grace "Woman of the Year" award during the Advent Tea.



NEW DIRECTORY

The new address and phone directory for 2024 are available after January 1st. Please take only one directory per family. If you need additional copies, please check with the office.



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements for 2023 will be mailed out around January 15th. Please review your statement and call the office for any changes and or corrections that need to be made.

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SOMETIMES GOD HAS TO USE STRONG TAPS TO GET OUR ATTENTION

by Del Larson, CLM

God's whispers and nudges happen more than you think. Nearly 150 teachers from Moorhead Schools, lost their jobs due to a financial crisis at the beginning of the 1980s. In 1981, we were expecting our third child in April, but were facing a huge challenge with the loss of my teaching position after eight years. There were no teaching jobs available anywhere. I had worked for Scheels Hardware in Moorhead over that winter, and found a hardware managerial job offer in Milbank, SD. I met with one of the owners, in Fargo, who had another store in Browns Valley, MN and wanted to expand. He invited us to Milbank and offered us the job the end of March. Our daughter was born April 12. We accepted and moved to Milbank, the end of May 1981. Interest rates were near 20 per cent which put us at high risk for failure. Fortunately, we were very successful, but it took lots of hard work and long hours.

We became active in our church, and I started teaching Sunday School in 1983. One Monday in early October, I was having coffee with the minister. I told him how much I loved teaching Sunday School again, and how I missed teaching school. The very next day, I got a call from Moorhead Schools, asking me to come back to Moorhead to teach a sixth grade class. I had gotten a call in the summer offering me a position, but I was not interested. Things were going well with the store, and I was a leader in the community. However, after that meeting and discussion with the minister, I knew where I belonged. God was leading me back to teaching. Little did I know the major impact I would have in the classroom, school, and district, all because of a whisper from God, guiding me to return to teaching. Two weeks later I was back in the classroom.

Unfortunately, the teachers went on strike in February of 1984, just months after I had returned. Obviously, it was a difficult time for all. Our original Moorhead church became divided. This was the church I grew up in, and was an active member. When a few members told my mother that I wasn't a good Christian, our family left the church and came to Grace, because Luann's parents attended Grace. It was hard on my mother when we left. I tried to console her, but it was difficult to be with people who called themselves Christians, but rather put politics and personal agendas ahead of God's love.

We are thankful that God guided us to Grace. In fact, it was a woman from Grace, Alice Neilson, who wasn't on either side, but helped settle the strike. It will be 40 years here at Grace for our family next spring. Many changes have come and gone at Grace. This church has had its struggles over the years also, but I remember a senior

member of the church telling me that this was her church. God had planted her here, and she would continue to do God's work, and not let any strife affect her Christian home at Grace. Wow! That's Powerful !!!

God has unique ways of guiding us to make decisions, or put us into places that we will be needed at God's point-of-time. It might be a dream, sermon, music, scripture, or just being still. Be ready for His call. Accept it. Be open so that the Holy Spirit can guide you.

From **John 17:21** *That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

Tapping into the Power of God

When I started writing about God Winks this fall, I made a list of my God experiences. If you are curious about any of these God Stories, let me know which one.

Barb F going to see Luann when she coded in hospital

telling staff she was her sister.

Student Canoe Trip down the OtterTail River

Special Olympics. Amanda lost in Milbank

God helped me with boy thinking of suicide

People who helped raise me after my dad died.

Motorcycle Accident and I didn't fall

Getting our son from Korea, but they offered us a

different child as it was taking so long

My friend Ron and I cutting trees. I pulled him back

just before a huge limb fell where he was.

My dog chased a deer while pheasant hunting. 3 hours later I found him, back where we started.

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GRACE YOUTH FUNDRAISER



Grace Youth is once again putting on a Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sandwich Fundraiser! Order forms will be available the second week of January both at the church and online. This fundraiser will go to support mission opportunities for our youth over the coming years. #

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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



We've got the group starting up for those interested in making prayer shawls. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5pm starting January 10th. Previous experience is not required, but a willing heart is always helpful!

Grace United Methodist

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:00 pm AA	3 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	4 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	5	6 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
7 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	8 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting	9 7:00 pm AA	10 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	11 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	12	13 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
14 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	15 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	16 7:00 pm AA	17 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	18 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	19	20 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
21 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	22 9:00 am Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting	23 7:00 pm AA	24 6:00 am Donut Making 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	25 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	26	27 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
28 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	29 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting	30 7:00 pm AA	31 9:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries			

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Jan 1#	am: 103, pm: 148#	Isa 62:1-5, 10-12#	Rev 19:11-16#	Matt 1:18-25#
Jan 2#	am: 34, pm: 33#	1 Kg 19:1-8#	Eph 4:1-16#	John 6:1-14#
Jan 3#	am: 68, pm: 23, 27#	1 Kg 19:9-18#	Eph 4:17-32#	John 6:15-27#
Jan 4#	am: 85, 87, pm: 89:1-29#	Josh 3:14-4:7#	Eph 5:1-20#	John 9:1-12, 35-38#
Jan 5#	am: 66, 67, pm: 145#	am: Prov 2:1-15#	Col 3:12-17#	John 6:41-47#
Jan 6#	am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100#	Isa 49:1-7#	Rev 21:22-27#	Matt 2:14-21#
Jan 7#	am: 103, pm: 114, 115#	Deut 8:1-3#	Col 1:1-14#	John 6:30-33, 48-51#
Jan 8#	am: 117, 118, pm: 112, 113#	Exod 17:1-7#	Col 1:15-23#	John 7:37-52#
Jan 9#	am: 121-123, pm: 131, 132#	Isa 45:14-19#	Col 1:24-2:7#	John 8:12-19#
Jan 10#	am: 138, 139, pm: 147#	Jer 23:1-8#	Col 2:8-23#	John 10:7-17#
Jan 11#	am: 148, 150, pm: 91, 92#	Isa 55:3-9#	Col 3:1-17#	John 14:6-14#
Jan 12#	am: 146, 147, pm: 111- 113#	Gen 1:1-2:3#	Eph 1:3-14#	John 1:29-34#
Jan 13#	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7#	Gen 2:4-25#	Heb 1:1-15#	John 1:1-18#
Jan 14#	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11#	Gen 3:1-24#	Heb 2:1-10#	John 1:19-28#
Jan 15#	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14#	Gen 4:1-16#	Heb 2:11-18#	John 1:29-42#
Jan 16#	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50#	Gen 4:17-26#	Heb 3:1-11#	John 1:43-51#
Jan 17#	am: 16, 17, pm: 22#	Gen 6:1-8#	Heb 3:12-19#	John 2:1-12#
Jan 18#	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117#	Gen 6:9-22#	Heb 4:1-13#	John 2:13-22#
Jan 19#	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115#	Gen 7:1-10, 17-23#	Eph 4:1-16#	Mark 3:7-19#
Jan 20#	am: 25, pm: 9, 15#	Gen 8:6-22#	Heb 4:14-5:6#	John 2:23-3:15#
Jan 21#	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39#	Gen 9:1-17#	Heb 5:7-14#	John 3:16-21#
Jan 22#	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48#	Gen 9:18-29#	Heb 6:1-12#	John 3:22-36#
Jan 23#	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42#	Gen 11:1-9#	Heb 6:13-20#	John 4:1-15#
Jan 24#	am: 31, pm: 35#	Gen 11:27-12:8#	Heb 7:1-17#	John 4:16-26#
Jan 25#	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43#	Gen 12:9-13:1#	Heb 7:18-28#	John 4:27-42#
Jan 26#	am: 63, 98, pm: 103#	Gen 13:2-18#	Gal 2:1-10#	Mark 7:31-37#
Jan 27#	am: 41, 52, pm: 44#	Gen 14:1-24#	Heb 8:1-13#	John 4:43-54#
Jan 28#	am: 45, pm: 47, 48#	Gen 15:1-11, 17-21#	Heb 9:1-14#	John 5:1-18#
Jan 29#	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53#	Gen 16:1-14#	Heb 9:15-28#	John 5:19-29#
Jan 30#	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118#	Gen 16:15-17:14#	Heb 10:1-10#	John 5:30-47#
Jan 31#	am: 40, 54, pm: 51#	Gen 17:15-27#	Heb 10:11-25#	John 6:1-15#

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR RESULTS

Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, we were able to donate many boxes of food, and many pounds of food to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

If you are looking for a service opportunity, Feed My Starving Children are hosting a packing event at the Fargo Dome on January 4-15. Their goal is to pack 10 Million meals in 10 days (quite a lofty goal!) Find some friends/family and sign up for a packing session at <https://www.fmssc.org/volunteer-listing/?mobilepack=2401-104EA>. Be sure to send any pictures of you and your group serving to graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you, members of Grace, for your generosity in providing Christmas gifts for the New Life Center guests. This congregation never ceases to amaze us.—

P. Murray and K. Anderson,

Women of Grace

New Life Center Auxiliary Delegates.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

