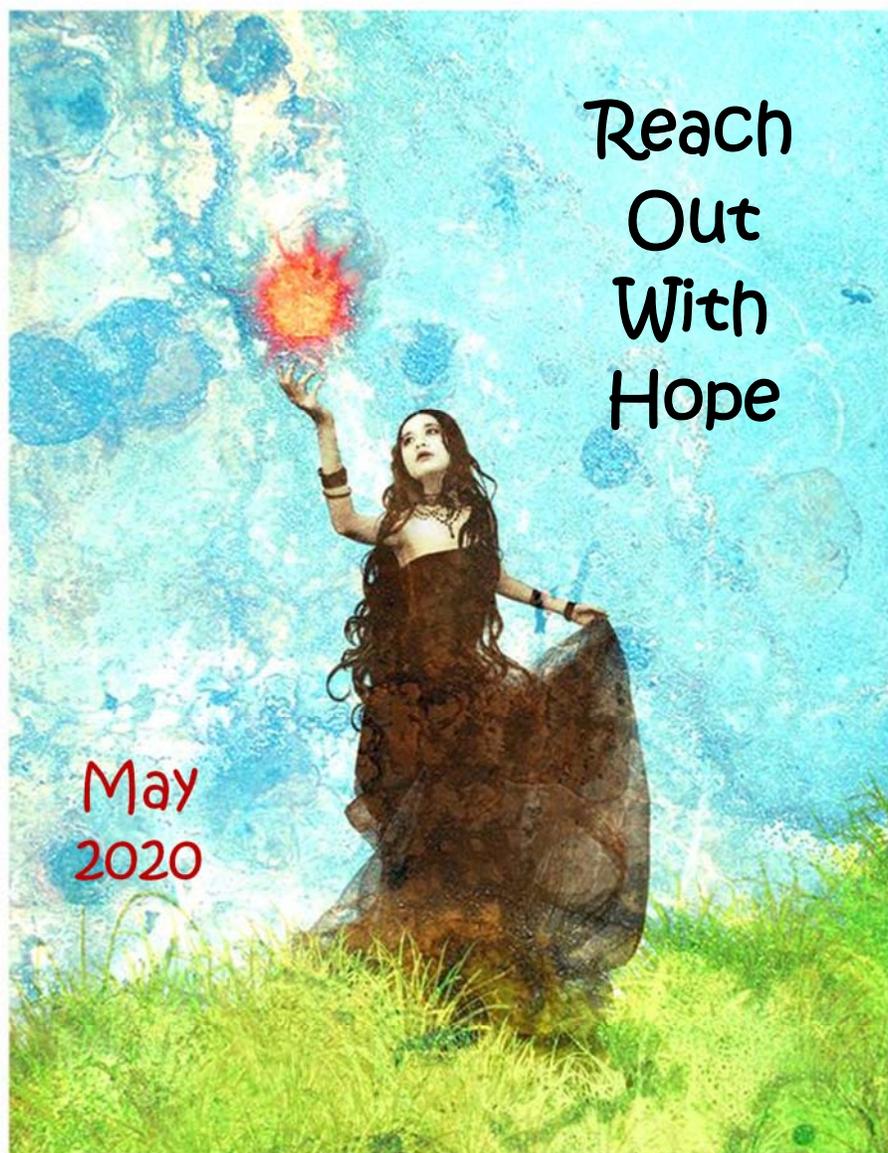


# *Grace Notes*



Reach  
Out  
With  
Hope

May  
2020

**Grace United Methodist Church**

## UPDATE

Bishop Ough extended his earlier request and now asked that all our congregations suspend in-person worship until at least May 30th. See Pastor's posts for more updates.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** We will continue the **March Food Drive** through the end of June. The food that was collected in early March has been taken to 360 Communities in Burnsville. Since we only collected for a couple of weeks, and because the need is greater now than ever, we felt it beneficial to continue with the drive. Kindly check the expiration dates if you made purchases and are hanging on to them. Thank you.

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The Dakotas and Minnesota camps' leadership team has been working closely with local and state health officials, as well as conference and camping industry leadership, to decide how to move forward with camp this summer. After much prayer and consul-

tation, they made the difficult decision to suspend the conference-sponsored summer programs through August 29, 2020 at Lake Poinsett, Wesley Acres, and Storm Mountain in the Dakotas, and Northern Pines, Camp Koronis, and Kowakan Adventures in Minnesota. For now, camp events on the schedule after this date will go forward as planned unless otherwise announced.

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## FIRST QUARTER LEWIS HOUSE MISSION

Due to another extension regarding in-person worship, we have decided to conclude our collection for the Lewis House "Going Green Drive." We will take and deliver to them what has already been collected. If you had purchased something with hopes of bringing it in to the church, hang on to it for the next quarter. Thank you to those who donated early. It's nice that we are able to bring some things to them.

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# Pastor's Post

## Online worship only, continues toward the end of May!

### I should have used a pencil!

I am still old school in the calendar world. I use a paper one. I like being able to write my notes on the date squares. Some things were written in pencil. Others were in pen. Pencil notes can be erased. Pen notes need to get crossed out.

Today I marked off and erased some plans for May and June. Some of the things I have “crossed off” my calendar: Annual Conference in Sioux Falls, clergy meetings, major denomination events such as General Conference. You may have had to change your summer church camp plans. Baptisms and confirmation are still needing to be rescheduled and our Vacation Bible School in July needs to be kept in pencil. I can think of other plans that have changed for my family and I am sure you can too.

Today I wrote down notes about Sunday worship. Bishop Ough is asking us to suspend in-person worship through May 30th “and to spend that time carefully and prayerfully developing a plan for how to return to in-person worship in a gradual manner.” Recommendations for that plan are quite detailed and will not be a return to normal! I will be consulting with our Administrative Board so watch for updates. We may need to wear masks, stagger the seating, and not sing. It’s possible that we will have two smaller sized services with one outside and one indoors. We will need to do some work with that! Many of our church family are in the higher risk categories and will be encouraged to still stay at home! I support these practices as a way of witnessing to our faith. Denying our own preferences, so we can provide healthy and servant leadership in our communities, sounds like a Jesus thing to do!

Last month we were able to worship online due to the videography skills of Dave Chmielewski and our worship service helpers. Currently we are pre-recording the service on Fridays and posting it to our YouTube channel. This option that also gives us wider outreach and inclusion, so let’s see if we can provide this even after we return to in-person worship!

This might be the month for a few more of us to try Zoom or Go to Meeting. Keep those e-mail conversations going. Check on our church Facebook posts. I would be remiss as your pastor if I did not also thank you and remind you of how important it is for us pay our expenses as we continue to be not only the church online but a church with a building and a budget.

Let’s keep doing what we know how to do. Pray, share kindness, serve others, be good and safe neighbors. Enjoy the gifts of nature. Share good humor and joy.

*Continued on the top of the next page* 3

Be the church at home as we  
worship in this newer way!

Keep your pencil sharp!

Inked with Grace,

Pastor Rory



Anyone in need of a shed? This shed, which you may recognize from the far end of the parking lot, is in need of a new home. The developer for the land sale deal informed us we need to remove it or it will be demolished. It measures approximately 12 by 12 feet and is divided with a front and back section. There is a side door to the back part. You would be responsible for removing it yourself and it would have to be removed within two to three weeks. Please contact the office if you are interested.

### **Joint Annual Conference canceled Minnesota to have One-Day Virtual Gathering**

The Dakotas and Minnesota Cabinets and respective Sessions Teams have made the decision to cancel the joint Dakotas-Minnesota Annual Conference, scheduled for June 10-12, 2020 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The May 28 Minnesota Clergy Session has also been canceled and will be conducted virtually at a later date yet to be determined. At this point, the Minnesota Annual Conference Session plans to meet virtually for one day in mid-to late-August. They will spend the coming months preparing a much shorter, yet still engaging, efficient, and uplifting, online experience around their theme “Be the Light: Live Hope!” and their gospel imperative to heal a broken world.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Vacation Bible School (VBS), will tentatively be taking place this year July 26th-29th. This year’s theme appropriately will be “Under Construction.” Children are invited to come on site and learn the tools needed so they can build a strong Christian foundation and work on becoming the beautiful construction that God had planned for them to be.

More information to follow as the date draws nearer.



(eventually)