

Grace Notes

June, 2020



KEEP MOVING
FORWARD

Making Disciples of Jesus

Grace United Methodist Church

PLEASE NOTE: We will continue the **March Food Drive** through the end of June. Since we only collected for a couple of weeks, and because the need is greater now than ever, we feel it's beneficial to continue with the drive. Kindly check the expiration dates if you made purchases and are hanging on to them. Thank you.



Since March, many things have been happening at the church. Mostly it includes organizing and extensive cleaning. A huge thank you to Lynn Kilian for her efforts in both these endeavors. Here's an FYI—cleaning supplies have all been put in the electrical closet with the exception of the supplies under the sinks throughout the church. Painting supplies can all now be found in Room #4. Also, we are very well stocked in both of these areas. We are also well stocked in the Sunday School prep room. If you can't find something, please don't assume that we don't have it and go out and purchase it. Ask either myself or Lynn. We are now very familiar with where things are located. I especially worked on organizing. Also, if you take something off a shelf or out of a room, please try to remember and put it back in its place. If you can't remember where you got it from, PLEASE check with one of us. We would appreciate it if things aren't randomly placed anywhere room can be found or on a counter. It has taken months to gather things and put some logic into organizing things. Now for the "Thank Yous." Thank you to Lynn and Gerry Danek for helping to move chairs and furniture when the carpet cleaners were here. Fifty-seven chairs were also cleaned. Thanks to the Halsted family for helping to put things back in place afterwards. Thanks to Rhonda Brown, Suanne Turner and Lynn for helping me with cleaning the remaining chairs. Thanks to Brenda Bly for tending to the gardening and to Brian Halsted for mowing. **It is early and there is much more of this outdoor work to be done. Please contact the office if you are willing to help out with either chore.** Thanks to Dave Chmielewski for his expertise and recording work with the U-Tube videos and to James Milne, Lynn Kilian, Marilyn Oliphant and Patricia Swanson for also participating with the videos. Thanks to the Christenson family for painting the picnic tables. Gabe is working to earn his citizenship in the community merit badge with the boys scouts. Lastly, thanks to Judi Bolitho for donating a nice couch for the Youth Room. A little sprucing up goes a long way.

Linda Shook, Admin. Asst.



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PSALMS FOR THE SUMMER

Psalm 4:1 “Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.”

It's been an emotional time. Feelings of doubt and uncertainty with the coronavirus itself. We have fears about economic prospects and how this has been reshaping our lives. We have daily political drama. Add now the unconscionable killing of George Floyd and the racial and social justice questions that demand to be heard. It raises a storm of protest, anger and pain in us. Feelings can overwhelm us looking for expression. How long will this go on? See the top of page four for a link that can advise you in ways you can help.

Are there words to convey my soul? Do we have any scriptures to echo our humanity? The bible world is no stranger to these harsh realities and questions. Philip Yancy has a chapter on the psalms, “Spirituality in Every Key” in his book *The Bible Jesus Read*.

“The 150 psalms present a mosaic of spiritual therapy in process. Doubt, paranoia, giddiness, meanness, delight, hatred, joy, praise, vengefulness, betrayal – you can find it all in psalms. Such stewing of emotions, which I once saw as hopeless disarray, I now see as a sign of health...I have learned that I can rightfully bring to God whatever I feel” P.122.

The Psalms help us to be honest with our feelings. We can move in the conflicted desires of seeking stillness, hope and assurance while not ignoring our search for answers or signs of God's presence in the midst of grief. In our emotions we can also see vistas of God's mystery, grandeur and beauty. If you are like me, this range of emotions can happen in a single day. This is why the Psalms are so powerful. They show that “feeling” too. They may seem ancient and confusing, but are rich with wisdom for our spiritual life at this time

Let's use them in worship to start this summer as a spiritual framework. We continue to plan options for safe worship methods and schedules. We will coordinate with the phasing plans from our bishop and state health guidelines. You will receive separate communications with those updates. As a congregation you have been so supportive during this unusual time. Thank You!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rory

TWIN CITIES RESPONSE TO DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

How you can help?

Many congregations and individuals are looking for ways to put their faith into action and participate in immediate relief efforts in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Here's a compilation of opportunities, both hands-on and financial, involving Minnesota United Methodist churches. They include joining a new conference Rapid Response Facebook group, donating food and essential supplies, praying, tutoring students, becoming a prayer partner, and contributing financial resources to a variety of efforts that are meeting vital needs. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/twin-cities-response-how-you-can-help-14014383>



Anyone have some spare time and feel like painting? Room #6, the Adult Sunday School room, is need of a good coat or two of paint. There are lots of scratches, dings and nicks. As we are a central location in the River Valley District, Superintendent Cynthia Williams has been using it the last couple of years to have annual performance and development conversations with the clergy. It would be nice to have that room look a little more presentable. This would be a good project for a husband and wife duo or family. Social distancing wouldn't be an issue then. We have all the necessary supplies. Please contact the office if you are interested.



You will notice a new addition on the wall in the narthex on the right-hand side just before you enter the hallway down to Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Tanner Triplett, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop 9204, we now have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Obtaining and setting this up was his Eagle Scout Project. We are so grateful to be receiving this life-saving device and thank him for thinking of us and for all his efforts. Congratulations on reaching this milestone. To learn more about this device go to <https://americanAED.com/dvd/onsite>. We may have in-person training after Covid-19. Please let the office know if you are interested in partaking.

I want to thank Carol Greibrok and the Administrative Board for the Target gift card. It will come in handy for emergencies.

Lynn Kilian

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is still on the calendar for July 26th-29th, but we are going in a different direction. It will now be taking place virtually. We are looking into two different themes and will let you know what they are as soon as a decision is made. Most likely included will be games, crafts, lessons, music and for sure fun. Watch for details.