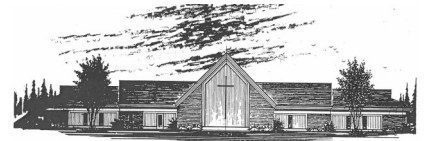




Grace Connection



March 2023 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church



Regular Sunday Worship Services
are at 10:00 AM

*Communion is offered on the
1st Sunday of the month.*



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
March 24th at 10:00 AM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
March 29th at 1:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:00 AM



Men's "BYOD" Meeting on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

The Book of Acts Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.

Missions Workday for Mobile Home Park Delivery on Thurs., March 7th at 9:00 AM.

Seniors on the Move Planning Meeting on Thurs., March 7th at 10:00 AM.

UWF Meeting on Thurs., March 14th at 1:00 PM.

Pastor Stephanie at Rosemore Village conducting an In-person Service on Wed., March 20th at 10:00 AM.

Pastor Stephanie at DCOM in Stevens Point all day on Thurs., March 21st.

Missions Meeting on Thurs., March 21st at 11:00 AM.

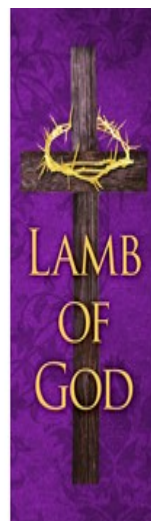
Trailer Park Food Delivery on Sat., March 23rd. Meet at the church at 8:00 AM.

Finance Meeting on Tues., March 26th at 11:30 AM.

Church Council Meeting on Tues., March 26th at 12:30 PM.

EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Make plans to attend the Easter Pancake Breakfast on Easter Morning (March 31st). This event is sponsored by the Men's BYOD. The breakfast will start at 9:00 AM and our Easter Worship Service which will start at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.



CHRISTIAN QUOTES FOR EASTER

As the most important holiday in Christianity, there are lots of quotes about Easter. Here are a few quotes from various public figures:

- * "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time." - Martin Luther, German Priest.
- * "Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." - Clarence W. Hall, American Author.
- * "Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like Himself before He takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility and our ultimate destiny." - Rick Warren, American Pastor.
- * "The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." - Robert Flatt, American Pastor.
- * "Because of the empty tomb, we have peace. Because of His resurrection, we can have peace during even the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world." - Paul Chappell, American Pastor.

| Profit & Loss - Actual Versus Budget - January, 2024 | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | ACTUAL YTD | BUDGET YTD |
| Sunday Offerings | \$21,123.82 | \$13,563.50 |
| Apportionment Giving | \$1,627.00 | \$2,111.00 |
| Other Monies Offered | \$4,509.54 | \$3,500.00 |
| Missions Income | \$2,142.00 | \$583.00 |
| Total Income | \$29,402.36 | \$19,757.50 |
| Payroll, Taxes & Ministry Exp. | \$10,513.65 | \$10,078.18 |
| Ministry Operating Expenses | \$5,974.04 | \$2,709.16 |
| Apportionment Paid on 2/5/24 | | \$2,111.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$16,487.69 | \$14,898.34 |

This first month has been a challenge learning a new system. A special thanks to those who have patiently waited for me to learn. There is still much more that I need to figure out and several accounts that have to be transferred over. So continued patience is greatly appreciated. This is still a work in progress.

I am so proud of this congregation's generous support of our missions and ministries. Several folks have used the Vanco system to continue their giving even while they are traveling. Others use the system for convenience. It is a great way to assure your support is here for the work we do.

| Income & Expenses in Relationship to Budget | Account Balances as of January 31, 2024 | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| Average income budgeted per month \$13,564.00 | Checkbook Balance | \$5,068.41 | Up | \$2,516.90 |
| Average income received per month \$28,442.90 | Savings (includes the \$11,000.00) | \$24,529.15 | Up | \$19,900.90 |
| | Memorial Fund Thrivent | \$12,668.67 | Up | \$135.18 |
| Average expenses budgeted per month \$17,016.00 | Scholarship Fund Thrivent | \$3,603.62 | Unchanged | |
| Average expenses paid per month \$16,535.53 | Bainbridge Fund Thrivent | \$27,000.00 | Unchanged | |
| | WI Foundation | \$66,950.51 | Down \$10,523.84 Transferred to savings | |

THE "THIRD" BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ

Firsts and seconds are important, but so are thirds! This quiz is all about who or what came third in passages scattered throughout the Bible. How well will you do? Will you get all the answers right on your first try, or will it take a second, or even THIRD attempt? Warning: Many of these are tough!

- What is the third word in the book Genesis?
- What did God create on the third day?
- Who was the third son of Adam and Eve?
- Who was third son of Jacob?
- What was the third plague in Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go?
- What is the third of the Ten Commandments?
- In the divided kingdom, who was third king of Judah?
- What did Queen Esther ask for at the third banquet she prepared for the King and Haman?
- Supply the missing words from the third chapter of Proverbs. "Trust in the LORD with all your _____ and lean not on your own _____;"
- Who was the third disciple called by Jesus?
- The first two beatitudes begin, "Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are those who mourn." What is the third beatitude?
- In Jesus' parable of the four soils, what is the third kind of soil, and what did it represent?
- Where was Peter the third time he denied Christ?
- On the third day after Jesus died, who was the first person to visit his tomb?

Resurrection Greetings!

What an exciting time of year it is, especially for those of us who have put our trust and faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior!

A portion of scripture in the Bible shows the tremendous victory Christ won over death as He arose from the grave in power and authority. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV) — 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. It almost seems that the Apostle Paul is taunting death as He knows the resurrection of Christ was then, and continues to be the ultimate testimony to the truthfulness of the claims of Christ.

In a world of decaying values and shifting “truths,” we as believers know there is One who has never changed and never will change! Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) — 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

From the moment Jesus breathed his final breath on Friday, it seemed death would win, and life would lose. Yet, death had never encountered such a victor as Jesus Christ! He was without sin, so death could not win! That first Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday) was coming, and Jesus would come out of the powerless tomb!

Friends, we have a reason to celebrate and worship! In a world that seems overwhelmed with sin and despair, we as Christians should be shining our light MORE and not less! This nation needs Revival! This nation needs to experience the life that Christ offers that resulted from His victory on the Cross and the resurrection that took place! Revival needs to start with each of us asking God to move powerfully in our lives.

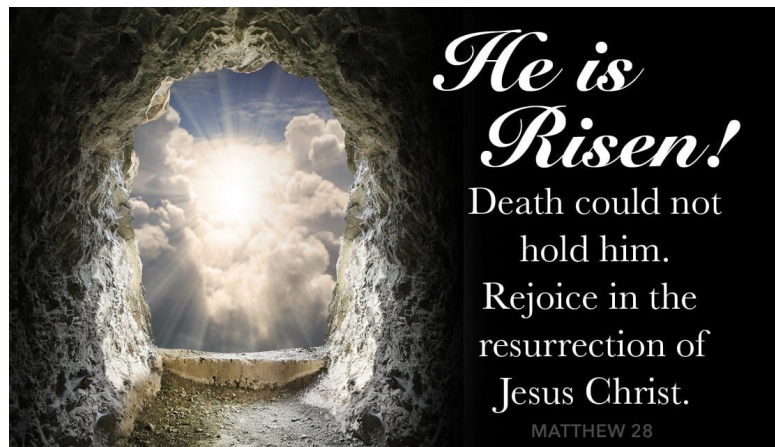
Jesus is still alive and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God, making intercession for us today!

Join us on Easter Sunday for a powerful time of worship and Word!

Death has been canceled!

Easter Blessings,

Rev. Stephanie J. Taylor



WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS TO REPORT FROM MISSIONS!!



Our Heifer Project income totaled \$2,147.00 so Missions committee decided to take another \$53.00 from our undesignated funds which will then allow us to purchase FOUR WELLS and FOUR WATER BUFFALO. And to make it even more wonderful, Heifer has a "Match" going right now which will double our giving.....Just think - that's Eight Wells and Eight Water Buffalo giving relief, health, food, and smiles to 16 families.

God is Good.

More good news!

Everything Chocolate goodies covered three tables and brought in \$250.00 from THRIVENT and \$763.10 from sales. We will be sending Sara Flores and Mujila Falls Agriultural Center \$500.00 each. By having this successful day, we will NOT need to request any monies from the General Budget to meet our \$1,000.00 commitment.

Once again, God is Good.



PLEASE consider helping on March 23rd when we distribute food to the mobile home parks and local families. We need vans, drivers, and people willing to carry groceries to the homes. We have a generous donor, a \$250.00 grant from THRIVENT, and a \$100.00 grant from Kwik Trip, but could use a few more monetary donations if you are able to help in that capacity. It is a heart-wrenching but heart-filling day of spreading our love to our Spanish community members. Let Judie Batterman know if you can help in any manner.

The Waushara Food Pantry needs and appreciates our quarterly food drive. Be sure to grab a bag and bring it back with groceries by March 10th.



We will be sponsoring a hole at the Treehouse Central Youth Center's annual "Golf for Hope" fundraiser. If you participate, look for GUMC on a hole poster.

Please take a minute to look at the Missions Statistical Report printed in the newsletter. This form must be submitted to our conference each year. It shows just how generous and caring you were throughout 2023.

WAY TO GO, GRACE.



GRACE UMC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN AED/CPR TRAINING



HI, WELCOME TO HISTORY 101

Phyllis Grebe, Church Historian

In 1902, a house was purchased on the S.E. corner of Main and Oxford Streets at the cost of \$1,500.00. It is no longer there. It was used as the parsonage for the pastor.

My Mother, Frances Teska, was a Sunday School Teacher.

This is a list of one of her classes:

- ♦ "Primary Dept." 6, 7, 8 years old
 - Joan Hanson, Beth Scovill, Carol Jean Hanson, Kathryn Ann Young, Phyllis Teska, Richard Reilly, Norlin Harke, Howard Dutcher.

This class was held in the church that burned in January, 1944.

See you next month!

ANSWERS TO THE "THIRD" BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ

1. beginning: Genesis 1:1.
2. Dry land, seas, and vegetation; Genesis 1:9.
3. Seth; Genesis 4:25.
4. Levi, Genesis 29:32-34.
5. Gnats; Exodus 16.
6. *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.* Exodus 20:7, KJV.
7. Asa, I Kings 14:21- I Kings 15:8.
8. That she and her people be spared from Haman's plot to destroy the Jewish people; Esther 7:3.
9. heart, understanding; Proverbs 3:5.
10. Philip: John 1:40-44.
11. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.* Matthew 5:5.
12. Thorny soil; *"The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.* Matthew 13:1-9, 22.
13. Standing by the fire, John 18:25-26.
14. Mary Magdalene, John 20:1.

Visit our church website at
Graceumcwaustoma.com
and also our Facebook page at
GraceUMCWaustoma.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> |
| 3 Communion 10:00 AM Worship | 4 | 5 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM Bible Study - The Book of Acts | 6 | 7 9:00 AM Missions Workday for Mobile Home Park Delivery 10:00 AM Seniors on the Move Plan- ning Mtg. | 8 | 9 |
| 10 10:00 AM Worship | 11 | 12 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM Bible Study - The Book of Acts | 13 | 14 1:00 PM UWF Mtg. | 15 <i>April Newsletter Deadline</i> | 16 |
| 17 10:00 AM Worship | 18 | 19 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM Bible Study - The Book of Acts | 20 10:00 AM Pastor Stephanie In-Person Service at Rosemore Village | 21 Pastor Stephanie at DCOM in Stevens Point all day 11:00 AM Missions Mtg. | 22 | 23 8:00 AM Mobile Home Food Delivery (meet at the church) |
| 24 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Worship  | 25 | 26 9:00 AM Men's "BYOD" 10:00 AM Bible Study - The Book of Acts 11:30 AM Finance Mtg. 12:30 PM Church Council Mtg. | 27 | 28 | 29 Good Friday 1:00 PM Service  | 30 |
| 31 Easter 10:00 AM Worship  | | | | | | |