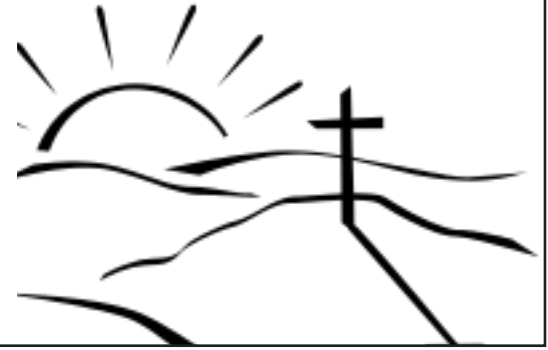


Grace United Methodist Church --
*Built of the Rock;
in the Rock and
on the Rock.*



The Message of Easter

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20

"But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep".

Christ is Risen! This is the simple but life altering message of Easter. I know we have heard it before, but, particularly as we approach Easter, we are reminded that this is our central belief as Christians. We hear a lot of messages today. And the Christian faith has a number of important messages to convey. Yet, in all those messages we should make sure not to lose what is absolutely vital for us. Jesus has risen from the grave and it makes all the difference in the world.

In January of this year we began the confirmation class. Confirmation teaches the basic tenants of the faith. We ask the question what sets us apart from other beliefs? What holds us together as Christians from all different denominations (Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, etc.)? Well to answer it as simply as possible, it is our belief in Jesus Christ. It is our belief that he is Son of god who died for us and rose from the grave. This belief is what makes us distinct from all other religions.

I am excited that we have a good group of youth who are taking the confirmation class. There are about 12 youth who have attended. It's scheduled for them to be confirmed in May. There are many things we will cover from now until then. And there are many things that we will not have the time to be able to address. For the reality is there are many aspects of being a United Methodist. But if there was only one thing I would like for them to really grasp from the class, it would be to know that Jesus rose from the dead and because of that when have faith in him we too are raised to new life.

So as we approach Easter, let us keep this core belief at the forefront of our celebration. Jesus is Risen! Without this belief our faith is futile, meaningless, pointless. (1 Corinthians 15). In fact if it is not true than we are to be pitied Paul says. But the good news is that it is true. And it is what transforms our lives. It is the message we proclaim. It may seem apparent but unless we remind ourselves that this is what we celebrate this Easter, we and others might miss the most crucial message ever given. Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

Pastor David Goudie

Grace News You Can Use

~ April 2011 Prayer Calendar ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Louisa Willis	2 Karen Arceci
3	4 Shirley Bradford	5 Connie Smith	6 Tim Jenkins	7	8	9 Helen Spence
10	11 Pete Larsen	12 Alexandra Larsen	13 Brandon Veale	14 Judy Leil	15 Lorraine Konosky	16 Lynn Watson
17	18 Jim Olson	19 Carol Little	20 Lynn Manchester	21 Rudy Bianchi	22 Jackie Manchester	23 Vi Hedin
24	25 Julie Crowl	26 Laura Moore	27 Kathy Duncan	28 Lynn Manchester	29 Marge Olson	30 Dee Little



DEADLINES

The April Finance Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th. The April Vision Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th.

The deadline for the May Newsletter will Be Wednesday, April the 20th in the morning. The deadline for Sunday's order of worship and to insert an announcement in the bulletin is each Wednesday morning.

Financial Team: Latest Report

We are off to a good start for the first two months of 2011. The church have been fulfilling all financial obligations and we have been tithing (our portion of budget designated to support United Methodist ministries at conference level).

Giving \$29,727.00 12.8% of budget

Expenses \$32,182.91 13.9% of budget

Mortgage Balance \$356,489.85

Of this expense we have contributed Apportionments \$1,500 to date of \$20,275.00 or 7.4%

As of the end of February 2011 we are at 16.67% of our year, so we are about 4% below in giving. In regards to Stewardship Sunday and commitments to the church, the financial secretary has received 46 pledge cards totaling \$110,600.00 in pledges. This is 47.76% of our budget for the year, if these pledges are fulfilled.

I would ask that everyone pray about the needs of our church and our mission. The finance team welcomes thoughtful ideas to reduce our fixed expenses while meeting the needs of our property, people, and community. The team has also begun discussing reinstating the Wish List for items needed for all categories of expense. If you have needs that might fit with the wish list please share with Pastor David or myself.

Gods Peace, *Tim Jenkins*

NEWS FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Easter flowers

It has been a tradition at Grace Church to place Easter lilies in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. However, because so many people have allergic reactions to lilies, we have decided to try something different. It has been suggested that lilies, daffodils and/or tulips could grace our sanctuary on Easter Morn, and then come spring, be planted in our Memorial Garden (unless of course, you preferred to plant yours in your own garden). If you would like to provide a spring flower, then please bring them in on Good Friday. If you wish to plant it in your own garden, then please put your name on it. You can pick it up any time after Easter. If you wish it to be in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please phone that info into the office no later than April 19th so the info can be printed in the Easter Bulletin.

Easter Prayer Vigil:

Sign up for a time (one or more hours) on the sign up sheet in the Lobby area of the church on the table by the stairway. When it is your time, find a quiet place. During daytime and early evening hours many folks choose to conduct their Vigil in the Sanctuary at our church. The doors will be open. During the nighttime and early morning hours folks are encouraged to find a quiet place in their homes to hold their vigil.

In your vigil time there are several things that you can do:

- Pray: for your family, friends and co-workers; Pray for our church and our church family; Give gratitude; For the world; For leaders; For our Missions and Missionaries: the Smallwoods, the Amazing Grace 2011 mission season (Trip to Poynette, WI and receiving three mission teams.)
- Sing your favorite hymns and those specific to the season: 527 Do, Lord, Remember Me; 432 Jesu, Jesu; 491 Remember me; read 135 Canticle of Moses and Miriam
- Sit in silence and listen
- Read bible passages, especially those that depicts Holy Week from Christ's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, including the dinner in the upper room, the betrayal, the trial and crucifixion. Enter the Psalms and read. Pick from Psalms 16, 19, 22, 23, 30, 33, 36, 42, 46, 51, 53, 69, 70, 71, 98, 110, 114, 116, 118.
- Journal your thoughts about your vigil time.

Grace United Methodist Church

News Notes...

Holy Week Services are as follows:

- **Palm Sunday, April 17th at 10 a.m.**
- **Maundy Thursday, 4- 21 at Grace UMC
Service is at 7 p.m.**
- **Good Friday Services, 4-22 at First U
in Hancock at 7 p.m.**
- **Easter Sunday, 4-24 at Grace UMC at
10 a.m.**

-- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** Continues on meeting bi-monthly. We are knitting, teaching and learning knitting, and enjoying each other's company. Now we are asking if you know someone in our congregation or in our community that might need a shawl, please let us know. If you know of a male who might benefit from a lap-ghan, please let us know. Contact Julie Crowl@ 482-7144.

-- **Our Apologies:** We wish to apologize to Kristy and Karl Buche for the misspellings of their names when we reported their birthdays in the February and March Newsletters.

GRACE UMC STAFF

PASTOR.....David Goudie
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....Carol Little
 TREASURER.....Deb Bradford
 BUILDING SUPERVISOR.....Gerald Smith
 SECRETARY..... Linda Reynolds

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



2	Lorraine Konosky
.....	Mary Erva
4	Mark Plichta
5	Nell Kerr
6	Amanda Plichta
8	Callen Richards
10	Allison Engel
.....	Zachary Stoor
11	Bob Hocking
12	Vaughn Plichta
16	Dyson Bastian
.....	Maryellen Trehwella
21	Mari Buche
24	Karl Snortland
26	Shawn Spear
27	Katelyn Kelley
.....	Patrick Walls
28	Elsie White
30	Michael Ackerman
.....	Davin Evans

(Don't see your birthday listed? Contact the office @ 482-2780 and let us know when you celebrate your special day.)

April 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Salvation Army Day 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Music 10:00 Worship 11:30 Sunday School 6:00 UMYF 6:30 Bible Study 1209 E. 7 th Ave.	4 Noon Men's 4 th Day @ Franklin Sq. Inn 6:00 Choir	5 Noon Women's 4 th Day @ Bradford's 7:00 Women's Study @ Poplawski's	6 9:30 Hymn Sing 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Worship Team 7:00 Guitar Bulletin Deadline	7 6:30 Prayer at The Bluffs	8 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins 10:00 VBS program review	9 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins 9:00-11:00 Men's Breakfast
10 9:15 Connections Café 9:30 Praise Music 10:00 Worship 11:30 Sunday School 6:30 Bible Study/1209 E. 7 th Ave.	11 Noon Men's 4 th Day @ Franklin Sq. Inn 6:00 Choir	12 Noon Women's 4 th Day @ Bradford's 7:00 Women's Study @ Poplawski's	13 9:30 Hymn Sing 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Vision Team 7:00 Guitar Newsletter & Bulletin Deadline	14 6:30 Prayer at The Bluffs	15 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins 9:00-11:00 Men's Breakfast	16 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins 9:00-11:00 Men's Breakfast
17 9:15 Connections Cafe 9:30 Praise Music 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Bible Study/1209 E. 7 th Ave.	18 Noon Men's 4 th Day @ Franklin Sq. Inn 5:30 Finance @ Rukkilas 6:00 Choir	19 Noon Women's 4 th Day @ Bradford's 7:00 Women's Study @ Poplawski's	20 9:30 Hymn Sing 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Worship Team 7:00 Guitar Bulletin Deadline	21 6:30 Prayer at The Bluffs	22 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins	23 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins
24 9:15 Connections Cafe 9:30 Praise Music 10:00 Worship POTLUCK 6:30 Bible Study/1209 E. 7 th Ave.	25 Noon Men's 4 th Day @ Franklin Sq. Inn 6:00 Choir	26 Noon Women's 4 th Day @ Bradford's 7:00 Sisters's in Christ In Sanctuary	27 9:30 Hymn Sing 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Worship Team 7:00 Guitar Bulletin Deadline	28 6:30 Prayer at The Bluffs	29 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins	30 8:00 Women's 4 th Day @ Perkins

2011 Mission Season



Excitement builds -- Wisconsin Site wants our team one day early!

We received notice this week that the Poynette, WI hosts have asked us to arrive a day early for our week with them, thus our week will begin on Saturday, June 11th with our travel to WI. Sunday morning we will lead the Poynette UMC in Worship and join them for a meal. In the afternoon we have been asked to make music all over town.

Monday morning will find us at worksites in the town. Nancy, one of our contacts, is a former agency coordinator helping those elderly homeowners in the area who need home repair services. In the coming weeks along with our friend Andy Ross, she will let us know if we will be building ada ramps, replacing windows or other activities.

Special note: We will be taking a half-a-day off from our work to visit the Wisconsin Dells for a bit of fun and enjoyment. Poynette is a short distance from this tourist area.

Kevin Kelley works mudding a wall at one of the AGMK projects during the 2010 summer. Team members on the mission week work on projects providing labor, support the team while they work and lend their expertise. Team members use their gifts or gain new abilities while they serve on a team.

...Two teams scheduled to work in the Copper Country this Summer; one more may also come on mission here in Keweenaw...

In June we will welcome a team of about 15 folks from Bath, MI UMC which is nearing Lansing. This team will be staying at the Calumet UMC and a private home. They will work on The Fifth Street Project and at a local project to frame in an addition. In July we will welcome a team of 30 people from Covenant Lutheran of Stoughton, WI. They will stay at our Church and will continue work on the aforementioned projects. We are also connecting with an Upper Peninsula church to come to work at sites in the Copper Country and will have more information in the coming weeks. Please being to pray for all these mission teams and efforts.

A note from Bishop Keating on Japan

I don't need to explain what has happened in the nation of Japan since they were hammered by two major earthquakes and a devastating tsunami. The pictures displayed on television and the Internet are worth a million words. But I will ask that Michigan United Methodists participate in more than one World Day of Prayer for the living and the dead. Pray daily for them. As with the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the 2005 hurricane Katrina in the U.S., recovery takes years not months. Also, make a donation to feed the hungry, shelter thousands of homeless, protect the citizens from a potential nuclear meltdown, etc. I have written a check to UMCOR joining others in emergency relief for our brothers and sisters. Please pray and give what you can "to make the wounded whole" and "keep hope alive." God bless you.

*Donations may be made through your conference treasurer. Please use Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317. Visit <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=3021317> to donate online.
Bishop Jonathon Keaton*

Children & Youth At Grace

2011 Children Sunday School Topics

- Mary Honors Jesus
- The Man at the Pool
- Follow My Example
- The Last Supper
- Praying in the Garden
- Peter's Denial
- Hosanna
- Jesus Lives
- Thomas Believes
- Breakfast on the Beach
- The Great Commission
- Peter and Aeneas
- Peter's Great Escape

These lessons will build a heart of faith for our young children. We would enjoy having you in your child's class room should you wish to participate with your child. You are always welcome.

NEWS ALERT:

We are planning to have VBS this year at Grace - dates will be June 13-17th, during the day, 9:00 - 12:00. Empower your kids with ReNew: The Green VBS, which brings together the Bible and environmental stewardship. The daily themes are: "A Sower Went out to Sow"; Path & Birds; Gocky Ground; Thorns; Good Soil. We will give you updates as they develop.

Upcoming Confirmation Schedule:

April 10 Lesson 5

April 24 Easter will not meet

May 8 Lesson 6

May 22 Confirmation Sunday



The males at Grace Church gather on the altar to illustrate a recent point from a message. They worked together tallest to shortest under the direction of Carol and Mark Plichta with flowing water!



A recent children's moment where some of the children from the congregation pay attention to Pastor David as he makes his point. After the Children's moment they move to the lower level for Children's Church under the direction of Judy Lell.

Message Themes for April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Message Theme</u>
April 3	1 Samuel 16:1-13 John 9:1-41 (selected verses)	Power Displayed in Weakness
April 10	Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45	Bones Come To Life
April 17	Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 4-9	Shouting Crowds
April 24	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 Matthew 28:1-18	The Demise of Death

Grace United Methodist Church April, 2011 Newsletter



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 Cafe Open

9:30 Praise Music in Sanctuary

10:00 Call to Worship

11:00 Fellowship

11:15 - Noon Sunday School

*Look on Page 4 for Holy Week/Easter
Service information and times.*