

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



Get in the Game

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (New International Version)

I have to admit I enjoy sports. My wife says I watch too many of them (baseball, basketball, football, hockey and now that the World Cup is on even some soccer). While I enjoy a number of sports I'm not very athletic (with the exception of swimming), so I tend to watch from the sidelines more than actively participate. However this summer I decided to try joining our Houghton Grace team in the church softball league. I had a good time and did not do too badly. Last week I even scored our only two runs of the game. And what I've noticed is that while it can be fun to watch sports, it's even better when you can get in the game.

I mention this because when it comes to our Christian faith, many would like to sit and watch from the stands. But Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians that Christianity is not a spectator sport. God calls us to 'get the game.' We can't sit on the sidelines. The scripture tells us to run the race of faith with perseverance. So what does running this race entail?

First it means actually participating, not simply watching. Many times we can come to church on Sunday and feel like the audience. We sometimes fall into the temptation that we are here to be entertained. But worship is meant ultimately for God. God is the audience. We all participate in the worship. So when we come to service may our first thought not be "will I enjoy this service" but "how can give praise to God?"

Second running the race means 'swinging for the fences'. We can't be afraid of 'striking out', or 'dropping the ball'. We need to act in faith. Sometimes that means thinking outside the box and doing some new things. For instance in August one Sunday we are hoping to have a worship service outside. We are looking at going to McLain State Park. Now with the weather, we may not be certain how this could all turn out, but often God calls us to move out in faith, try something new to reach new people. After all, many of the events in the Bible show people who put their faith into action. And some of them faltered and at times stuck out. But because they were willing to step out in faith they also knew what it was like to hit a home run of faith.

Third, running this race of faith means actively training. I know I find myself saying wouldn't it be nice to have a regular exercise routine. I know the benefit of it and yet I also know how hard it is to keep at it. I can start exercising but after a while it's hard to keep at it. Summer reminds us thought to get out and get at it again. Persevering daily is so important to healthy living.

The scripture in Corinthians reminds us that our Christian walk is also a daily adventure. So maybe you've felt out of shape in your faith. Maybe you've been lax with daily talking with God, reading His word, growing in faith. Maybe you don't feel like you're all that athletic when it comes to your walk with God. Well, then know that the great coach, Our Lord is calling to you, "you're up, get in the game!"

Thanks to all those who helped out with this year's Vacation Bible School at Hancock UMC. It was good to see a number of children as we joined in working with Hancock First UMC. There were more than 40 children there. Working together this year allowed the children from the two churches to meet and get to know each other. Well look again to next year working with Hancock UMC as we partner to share Christ's love.

Pastor David Goudie

2010 GCCP Mission Trip: Completed!

We are back from our Mission to God's Country Cooperative located at the Eastern end of the Upper Peninsula having had a productive, safe and fun week. We were so grateful for the support that all of you provided through you contributions, food stuffs, your prayers and through the mission mail you wrote to us and which we opened and shared all week long!

When all was said and done we had an impact on a number of families in the communities at the east end of the U. P. In Newberry we sided a trailer home owned by an older woman, moved a fence and made preparations to install it at the new site. We added soffit and fascia to a home for a gentleman. Also in the city we drywalled a home and repaired it's roof that had a rotten area. We also primed the upstairs of a family home located in the Engadine area and painted bible banners for the church. One crew went all the way to Paradise to dig and install support poles for a trailer shelter.

It wasn't all work. We hosted the "team championship" horseshoe contest at our lodgings, Halfway Lake Resort, and swam and boated on Halfway Lake. The last evening we enjoyed a cookout, bon-fire and lazed around. Mid-week we joined in a community meal at Newberry UMC and Mike and Julie gave a short concert followed by ice cream treats for all. Throughout it all we met new friends and enjoyed fellowship.

Thanks to all our team members who were uncomplaining, hard workers: Ross Michaels, Erik Winsor, Dan Crowl, Kevin Kelley, Katelyn Kelley, Mark Koppana, Dylan Whittaker, Abriana Palovaara, Breanna Gagnon, Katalin Hawley, Carol Plichta.

Julie Crowl and Mike Moore



L to R: Team at the end of the week; team preping trailer for siding; gals priming upstairs of a family home.



Deadlines

The July Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Mon. the 19th; Aug. is on Monday Aug. 16th. All meetings are at 5 p.m. at the offices of Bruce Rukkila in downtown Houghton. The July Vision Team meeting will be Wed., the 13th & Aug. on Wed. the 10th, both at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church.

The deadline for the September Newsletter will Be Wednesday, August 18th in the morning. The deadline for Sunday's order of worship and to insert an announcement in the bulletin is each Wednesday morning.

Dates to Check Out

- July 1-3, Family Mini-camp, Michigamme
- July 4-10, Science Camp, Camp Michigamme
- July 11-17, Summer Games Camp, Camp Michigamme
- July 18-24, Junior High Camp, Camp Michigamme
- July 25-31, Elementary Camp, Camp Michigamme
- Aug. 1-7, Family Camp, Camp Michigamme
- Aug. 8-14, Music Camp, Camp Michigamme
- Aug 16-18, Teen Scrapbooking Camp, Camp Michigamme
- Aug 17- 20, Area School for Pastoral Ministry, Lansing, MI
- Aug 20-22, Quilt Camp Weekend, Camp Michigamme
- Aug 27-29, Scrapbooking Camp, Camp Michigamme



Heart of the Warrior Men's Weekend

The weekend is a three-day quest into the recovery of your masculine heart based on the book *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge. This is not a typical men's event. Through the stories of other men, teaching sessions, films, guided periods of reflection, and adventure activities (high ropes, zip line, 40' climbing wall, skeet/rifle/pistol shooting, archery), we will journey together on a daring expedition to get your masculine heart back (John 10:10; Galatians 5:1).

The adventure begins on Thursday, August 26th at 6pm and concludes about noon on Sunday, August 29th. The setting is the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp in Little Lake (south of Marquette).

For more information, go to the web site: www.hwup.org, or contact Dave Poplawski (pop@mtu.edu, 482-8819).

Celebrate Nativity Scenes

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 6th and come to our Celebrate The Creche display taking place during the Ruth Circle Fall Bazaar. There will be Nativity Scenes from all over our community, a live scene and plans are in the work for storybook time about the Nativity for toddlers and elementary students.

To get prepared while you cleaning your home put your Creche Scene near the attic stairs, or bring it out of its cubby hole in your basement. Then this fall share your scene with members of Grace UMC and those attending the event. Look for more information about the event, how to participate and more in coming newsletters and church bulletins.

Ruth Circle News

The Annual Ruth Circle Salad Luncheon this past June 3rd raised over \$900 towards support of many programs. These include: our missionaries the Smallwoods, the Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter, Bay Cliff Health Camp, Oak House Trip Fund, Elaine Bacon Literacy Fund, Keweenaw Family Resource Center, Omega House, Amazing Grace Ministries of the Keweenaw, Inc., and the Grace Minister's Discretionary Fund.

The first fall meeting of the Ruth Circle will be on Monday, September 13th due to Labor Day falling on the first Monday of the month. Program details to be announced in the very near future. Watch the church bulletin for further information about this upcoming meeting.

Grace United Methodist Church

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jack Lubinski
..... Sharon Bird
- 4 Tim Niemi
..... Annette Lawrence
..... Matthew Geiger
- 12..... Erik Winsor
- 14 Randy Little
- 15 Adam Plichta
- 16 Joyce Winsor
..... Amy Evans
..... Scotty Arceci LeClair
- 17 Carol Little
..... Becky Ahola
- 18 Karen Seely
- 19 Gina Skipper
..... Donna Poplawski
..... William Lewis
- 24 Julie Crowl
- 25 Henry Santeford
- 27 Davy Sproule
- 30 Dee Little

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Autumn Winsor
..... Alana Hocking
- 3 Jocelyn Przywara
..... Naomi Haycock
- 4 Dan Crowl
..... Emily Moore
..... Ros Miller
- 5 Sarah Anderson
- 10 June Koski
- 12 Esther Keeling
- 13..... Karen Kelley
..... Heather Aho
- 14 Gabriella Sorvisto
..... Barb Wuthrich
..... Matthew Chard
- 15 Katalin Hawley
..... Breigh Lawrence
..... Adrienne Geiger
- 17 Pauline Grier
..... Craig Anderson
- 18 Amy Chard
- 19 Florence Burich
- 20 Andee Goudie
- 21 Devyn Sorvisto
- 21 P.J. Sproule
..... Geof Crowl
- 24 Jaydon Manchester
..... Cheryl Roberts
- 25 Dennis McKee
- 26 Katherine Manchester
..... Riley Quinn

GRACE UMC STAFF

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

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

Grace UMC News You Can Use

New Member Class July 18-25 after Church

Have you thought about becoming a member of Grace United Methodist Church ?

We would love to have you come to a class to learn more about the ministries of Grace UMC and the larger United Methodist Church. Whether you would like to simply check it out, or whether you've decided you want to become a member, all are welcome.

On Sundays July 18 and 25 we will meet after church in Pastor David's office. For more information call the church office at 482-2780 to talk with Pastor David.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES TO CONTINUE IN FALL

In addition to our continuing Bible Studies that are held each week (Wednesday a.m. and Sunday nights) we will have Sunday Adult Education opportunities beginning in September. The topics are yet unknown and I welcome anyone with ideas and a desire to lead to let me know. It is our hope that the Sunday offerings will continue to support the direction of our Sunday Messages which will be based on the theme of "Growing in Christ."

The video series will continue and you can expect other opportunities to get into the bible and its messages. Look for more information in the August Bulletins.

-- *Karen Kelley*

Grace UMC Has a New Web Site!

Have you seen our new web site yet? There are lots of new things to check out. We've updated our web site with a monthly calendar of events, pictures of the staff, sermon manuscripts, links to special events and much more.

You can still get there with the same web address houghtongraceumc.org. Check it out.

Joy Filled Work with our Children

It is joyous to see how God is working in our Church. Childrens Church is going well with 12-14 children each Sunday. The Childrens Education team would like to thank all those who have volunteered to serve in this ministry.

We know what God does for us and gives us. The Childrens Education Team is asking for volunteers to teach our children who God is and what He does for them.

The following age groups need your help: Pre-school, K-1st, 2-3rd, and 6-8.

We ask that you pray about this precious ministry and let the Lord guide you in your decision/commitment. If God is leading you in this ministry, there will be a teachers meeting on Sunday August 8th directly after church service. We will be going over the fall curriculum and planning for the Sunday School kick-off, Advent activities and the Christmas pageant. Please contact Judy Lell at: judyell@yahoo.com; or call 483-0586.

Also, something new coming our way for the beginning of our Sunday School year, on September 12th. Please join us in the fellowship hall for Craft Sunday and Coffee Hour. All children and adults are welcome.

Parents will need to help their child with a craft they wish to make. There will be many projects to choose from, no need to stop at making just one. You can make one for someone special (PS: its also Grandparents Day).

Also, please make sure you sign your children up for a class. Also, at this time adults will be able to look through all the classes that will be available to choose from, and you may wish to sign up as well.

July 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI 6:30 Prayer at the Bluffs		8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds
Wisconsin based Volunteers in Mission at Grace						
4 9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship	5	6 Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	7 3:30 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline	8 Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI	9 7:30 PMMF Concert /Grace	10 8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds
11 9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship	12	13 Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	14 6:00 Vision Team Bulletin Deadline	15 Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI 6:30 NO Prayer Meeting at The Bluffs	16	17 8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds
Volunteers in Mission Team from Royal Oak at Grace all week						
18 9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship New Member Class	19 5:30 Finance at Rukkila's	20 Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's 7:00 CROP Walk meeting/Grace	21 3:30 Worship Team Newsletter & Bulletin Deadline	22 Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI	23	24 8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds
25 9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship New Member Class	26	27 Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's 7:00 Trustees/Spears	28 3:30 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline	29 Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI	30	31

Message Themes for July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Message Title</u>
July 4	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30	Who do you depend on?
July 11	1 Kings 19:1-15 a	
July 18	2 Kings 6:1-7	Who Cares About An Ax?
July 25	2 Kings 8:1-6	“A God-incidence”



Grace United Methodist Church July/August 2010 Newsletter



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Cafe Open
9:15 Praise Music in Sanctuary
9:30 Call to Worship
10:30 Fellowship

August 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship		Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	3:30 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline	Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI 6:30 Prayer at the Bluffs		8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds	
Janesville, PA based Volunteers in Mission here at Grace							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship		Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	3:30 Worship Team Newsletter & Bulletin Deadline	Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI 6:30 Prayer at The Bluffs		8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
9:30 Gather here at Grace to be bussed out to McClain's State Park for service and picnic	5:30 Finance at Rukkila's	Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	3:30 Worship Team Bulletin Deadline	Noon Men's 4 th Day at 316 REKHI		8:00 AM Women's 4 th Day @ McDonalds	
29	30	31					
9:00 Connections Café 9:15 Praise Worship 9:30 Formal Worship		Noon Women's 4 th Day/Bradford's	Bulletin Deadline				
Heart of the Warrior Retreat ends							
Heart of the Warrior Men's Retreat at Bible Camp in Little Lake, MI (near Gwinn)							