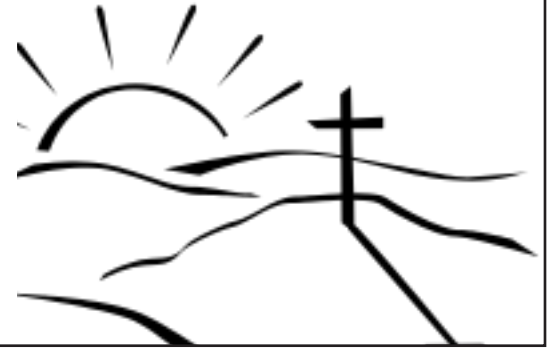


Grace United Methodist Church --
*Built of the Rock;
in the Rock and
on the Rock.*



**“Lent: continuing on to discover joy
through simplicity and generosity”.**

During the month of February our focus has been on “discovering joy through simplicity and generosity”. We’ve been looking at practical matters of finance and stewardship. As such, we’ve seen in the scriptures that there is much joy in living with less clutter in our lives.

One of the people in our church mentioned that it spurred them to take some time to clean and de-clutter their basement. “It’s amazing all the stuff we accumulate, we did not know we even had”, they said. We are often inundated with so much stuff that we cannot discern what has true value. We miss the joy of what we have. Therefore, in order to discover this joy, one thing we often need to first do is an inventory of what we already have.

In the same way, we can think of the season of lent as a time to take a spiritual inventory. Where is our prayer life? Are we active in a Bible Study? Are we growing in our walk with Christ? Lent can be a time where we de-clutter our spiritual life in order to discover what is truly central. We might think of Lent as ‘spring cleaning for the soul’. While cleaning is something we need to do daily, there are also times when we need a special time set apart to get back to the basics. Lent is that special time to get back to the basics.

Practically here are some simple facts of Lent. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and this year it is on March 9th. As a beginning of this journey of lent we will be having an Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm at the church. There are 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (not including six Sundays).

At the beginning of Lent we often hear the story of Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew 4). During this period of time Jesus was tempted by the Devil with the very things that often try to clutter our lives. But Jesus never gives in. Instead he keeps focused on what is essential to his mission. He is on a mission that will take him to the cross and eventually to be raised from the dead.

Therefore, I would like to invite you to join me this Lent to come take a closer journey with Jesus these 40 days. We are invited to set time aside to do a spiritual inventory of what is truly central to our faith. As we journey through these scriptures we will get a better understanding of what is supposed to be central to our lives. In Jesus, we see what it truly means to de-clutter our life and keep focused on God’s ultimate purpose. For it is in some of the most simple things: through prayer and study, by choosing to let go of some of the clutter in our souls; that we are able to truly enjoy the presence of Christ.

Are you open to doing some spiritual spring cleaning? Come journey with me this Lent as we continue to discover the joy that comes from living the de-cluttered life of faith.

Pastor David Goudie

Grace News You Can Use

~ March 2011 Prayer Calendar ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lynn Manchester	Ruby Bianchi	Jackie Manchester	Vi Heafin	Julie Creel	Shirley Bradford	Connie Smith
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Day Light Saving Times begins	Judy Lei		Helen Spence	Pete Larsen	Carol Little	Alexandra Larsen
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Linda Reynolds	Ruby Bianchi	Jackie Manchester	Vi Heafin	Jim Olson	Florence Burch	Kathy Duncan
27	28	29	30	31	Notes:	
		Marge Olson	Dee Little	Deb Bradford		



DEADLINES

The March Finance Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14th. The March Vision Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th.

The deadline for the March Newsletter will Be Wednesday, March the 16th 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: Thanks to You

Thank you to everyone who filled out commitment cards. Thank you for your generosity and your service to God through Grace church. Through our joining together of God's gifts we are able to share the good news of Jesus Christ to our community and beyond!

If you were unable to fill out your cards and return them you can still do so and place in the Sunday morning offering. As we continue to grow in Christ, may we discover more and more the joy which comes through living in simplicity and generosity.

Grace Finance Committee

Resource for a Small Group: The Five Love Languages

This is a video presentation. While the focus of this particular version is on couples, the content would be valuable for any relationship. The premise is that there are 'five languages' through which people give and receive love: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch. While all of these expressions of love are important in relationships, each person seems to need one more than the others to feel really cared about. For instance, I enjoy receiving a stem of daisies (Gifts) or being thanked for a nice meal I've prepared (Words of Affirmation), but I feel most loved when my husband just sits with me and shares, so Quality Time is my main love language. Al shovels the snow and takes care of my car which are Acts of Service that I appreciate, but when he holds my hand I feel very connected to him (literally and figuratively!), so Physical Touch is also important to me. The videos share how to know what your love language is and how critical it is for your relationships to know the love language of those whom you love. If a relationship is faltering, it could be that you or the one(s) you care about do not really feel loved, that the internal Love Tank is running on Empty. If you are interested in this, give me a call (906-370-2213 or e-mail me: jamkem.manchester@gmail.com). Jackie Manchester/Connections and Evangelism

Caring For Members of Grace

I feel fortunate to have been able to care for others more than having had to be cared for; however, there have been times in my life when my Grace Church family has been my lifeline. Either individuals or many in the congregation have been Christ's voice, His hands, His feet in service to me and to my family.

There are members of our Grace Family who don't feel they have been cared for, who feel alone and abandoned. Often these members feel hurt but don't say anything. Sometimes they cut themselves off from fellowship, losing contact with other members and stop attending. Is there someone absent who has often sat next or near to you in church? Do you know why? Pastor David inspires us to be in service to others. Perhaps your service is just noticing who isn't there and taking the time to send a note or to make a short call.

It says in the Scripture that all of us are a part of the Body of Christ. Some people by their nature lead and involve themselves in big roles in the church while others perform smaller but equally crucial roles. I am thankful that Justin Miller or Ron Winsor clean my coffee cup almost every Sunday. When I take communion it's because Karen Arceci has prepared it for me. Rudy arrives early and greets me with love and welcome at the door. Connie keeps in touch with shut-ins by writing cards. Every task in His Name is very important. No part of the body is disposable. Each person who attends (or shut-ins who can't attend but pray and support) makes the whole stronger to be able to be a significant Light of Witness to our collective faith in Jesus Christ. If you haven't been attending, I miss you. Others miss you. Even when we are too wrapped up in our own life's responsibilities to take the time to check on you, you are missed. (Connections/Evangelism Team)

Habits

Lorraine Konosky loaned me a book a couple years ago which changed a habit that I'd had. It was called The Christmas Jar. Because of it, instead of paying for things with the exact change, I offer a bill instead and pocket the change which I take home and put in a jar. The idea is to then inconspicuously give the jar full of coins to someone in need, a loving gift of hope and joy. The purposeful habit of keeping the change and putting it in the jar is a reminder that what I have in this life is by God's grace and that I am just a steward. Some habits can be destructive and very hard to change. This habit, on the other hand, helps me to acknowledge that my Father is the Lord of all: A very good habit.

-- Jackie Manchester, Connection and Evangelism

Grace United Methodist Church

Mission Notes...

-- **Become a Mission Sponsor...**Perhaps you can't go to WI in June, or join us when we host groups in to work here in the Keweenaw, so become a **Mission Sponsor**. You can do this by donating to our mission efforts, bake goods, purchase water for the teams or choose a meal to cook or give money for meals on the road. Perhaps you have a special talent that you can give to our groups, so let us know and we'll see how we can use God's gift to you for our teams.

-- **We will be going to Poynette, WI** Never been on a Mission Trip? Get you feet wet and your heart touched. Join us in mission the week of June 12th when adults and youth will travel to WI to share our gifts, talents, time and funds that we raised with new friends who are in need. Contact Julie Crowl at 482-7144.

-- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** Continues on 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.

GRACE UMC STAFF

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Joy McLean
- 3 Kevin Kelley
- Ian Evans
- 4 Jean Burich
- 6 Kari Buche
- 8 Matthew Schulz
- Adam Little
- 9 Mabel Wakeham
- 10 Tyler Sarazin
- Aidan Quinn
- Jim Lutzke
- 11 Brooke Bastian
- 15 Sylvia Binkley
- 16 Jonathan Bostwick
- 18 Bob Fricke
- Michael Cole
- 19 Daniel Friedrich
- 20 Byron Quinn
- 23 Mae Goodreau
- 24 Tom Cole
- 27 Jessica Spear
- 28 Helen Bowden
- 29 Josie Ledgerwood
- Dave Poplawski

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

New Faces at Grace UMC



Two new faces at Grace Church are David Kamin who is joined by Samantha Ball in Pastor David Goudie's Office during a recent Sunday School Class. The couple, engaged to be married, share a background of time studying abroad in Japan followed by living in that country and teaching English.

In this year of “growing in Christ”, we at Grace Church are excited to welcome some new faces at our church. They are:

...**Samantha “Sam” Ball**, is originally from Ohio. Sam did her undergraduate work at the University of Mount Union majoring in Japanese. She comes to our area after living and teaching English in Japan. Sam is currently applying to grad schools and will seek a master's degree in divinity. After grad school she would like to return and work in mission in Japan. During our conversation she mentioned that for a first world country, only one percent of the Japanese are Christian, which is a low number. Through working with intercultural communications to break down barriers [and within the Japanese cultural concepts of ‘in and out groups’] she would like to help bring that number to two percent and Samantha appreciates the Japanese Christians have a sense of being a larger family: the worldwide Christian family. Sam also hopes to work to solve three larger challenges that face Japan through her ministry and work in that country: homelessness, racism and sexism.

...**David Kamin** is from Midland, Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree in math from Michigan Tech and will be receiving his master's degree from Tech this coming May, also in math. While serving as a teaching assistant during his graduate studies David discovered that he loves to teach math and that it is extremely rewarding. He hopes to pursue a PhD in math and teach in the coming years. He also has a love of traveling, and formerly played the sax and drums. In the past David has studied abroad in Japan, and also has lived there and taught English. He is engaged to Samantha Ball.

...**Al Kempke** married Grace UMC member Jackie Manchester last August and they reside in Oskar. Al is originally from Harvey, IL and received his degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Tech. Now retired, he serves as the Rotary Youth Exchange Student Coordinator. His participation with this program grows out of his experience of growing up during the Vietnam War era and a desire for world peace through actions other than war. He feels the exchange program is a better way to achieve that goal. Al also has an interest in alternative energy and is exploring business options in that area.



Al Kempke enjoys time in Sunday School class in Pastor David's Office.

Children & Youth At Grace

Have you noticed two new pieces of art work (rendition of stained glass)? The high school class has completed their work and it is now up in the Fellowship Hall, for all of us to enjoy. When you see our students, let them know they did a great job.

March - May 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.

OPEN YOUR EYES WHEN CRUISING THE DOWNSTAIRS

- There is a new bulletin board with children's handiwork
- The hallway leading to the Sunday School classes is full of projects your children have done

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.

That's it for now -- JudyLell

Upcoming Confirmation Schedule:

March 13 Lesson 4

March 27 School break will not meet

April 10 Lesson 5

April 24 Easter will not meet

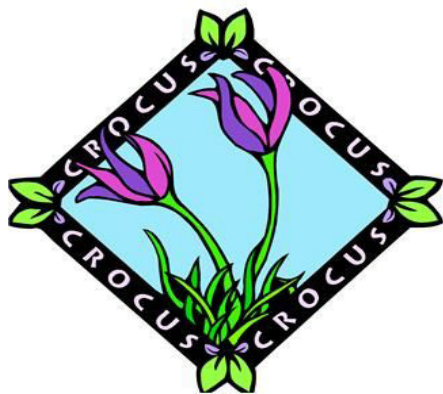
May 8 Lesson 6

May 22 Confirmation Sunday

Message Themes for March

Date	Scripture	Message Theme
March 6	Philippians 4:10-23	The Joy of Giving Celebrate: Receive Pledges
March 9	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	“Return to Me” Ash Wednesday
March 13	Genesis 2:15-17 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11	I’ve Fallen & I can’t get up (First Sunday in Lent)
March 20	Genesis 12:1-4a J& ohn 31:1-17	Will You Answer the Call (2nd Sunday In Let)
March 27	Exodus 17:1-17 & Romans 5:1-11	Lodging a Complaint (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Grace United Methodist Church March, 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