



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Drinking from the Abounding Fountain of Grace

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:8-15)

Once we have experienced the abounding Grace of God through faith in Christ, the Cross becomes meaningful to you, and you then begin to experience the abounding grace of God in your daily life. The theme of Grace embraces the Cross of Christ—for we are sustained by the grace of God, and that supply of grace is in abundance. Note that God's grace abounds because of God's love and faithfulness to his children and not that we deserve it. Because of God's grace, it is possible for us to abound in every good work. In my faith journey with God, both in the ministry and ordinary life, there is no need too great, no burden too heavy, no trial too severe to exhaust God's grace or deplete His sufficiency—even the pastor must look to the supplier of grace for strength to carry on in our faith journey—past and present!

What Abounding Grace means to us?

1. For Past & Present: *Abounding grace of God produces spiritual enrichment, bountifulness and thanksgiving in the lives of believers (v. 11).

*It over-flows to bless the lives and meet the needs of my brothers and sisters in Christ (v. 12-13).

*It provides a living testimony to others in the family, at work, and in our hearts and lives (v. 14).

2. For the Future: *It leads to continual thanksgiving to God for His unspeakable Gift of graces (v. 15). The Holy Spirit, which I had often bear witness to in messages, led Apostle Paul to explain yet another application of God's abounding grace in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (read it for yourself). Paul had a thorn in the flesh and it is understandable that he wanted it removed. God gave him a surprising, but very significant answer -"My grace is sufficient: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

3. Supports us in Healing—spiritually and physically

Contrary to the false teachings of many concerning physical healing, it is not always God's will to heal. His ability to heal anyone, anytime is certain; but often, as in the case of Paul, the abounding grace to bear the thorn in the flesh (or in your suffering and trials) accomplishes God's will in the life of His own children, indeed, in addition to providing a needful testimony before others. We may not like this, but there is truth about how God deals with us on a personal basis. "All, in the midst of our quests, God's grace is sufficient."

And let us not forget that the abounding grace of God for the present includes access to the Throne of Grace where every believer is invited to come boldly (confidently) with the assurance that we can always expect mercy and "find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:14-16).

Grace demands practice of spiritual discipline, hence, a call to pray, reading the word and having fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We should continually grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

The Church depends on your Faithfulness—Prayer and Presence in worship. Remember your Church—in prayer, your presence, and your financial offerings. Your support is a blessing and strength to continue our services to the community and other global ministries.

Lovingly in Christ, Pastor Dominic Tommy

Soup and Salad Luncheon
Sunday, March 8
Fellowship Hall—All Are Invited!

The Education Committee is planning it's annual Soup and Salad Luncheon following worship on Sunday, March 8. There is sure to be a variety of delicious soups and chilis.



Why not bring a friend to worship so we can show them how the Methodists eat!

If you'd like to help out, desserts and salads are always welcome!



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	03/16 Charlie Reiser
03/01 Earl Strater	03/19 Lily Kostanko
03/02 Terri Catt	03/25 Harold Dennie
03/03 Ian Shears	Jeanna Gibbs
Bev Corston	03/27 Eunice Goodmoot
03/04 Ray Dykhouse	Anniversaries
03/08 Randy Klein	03/06 Bill & Jewel Eckstrom
03/10 Claire Freidhoff	03/28 Bill & Tina Walker
03/12 Pam Shears	03/30 Von & Sharlene Goodmoot
03/14 Tony Barcroft	

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION Tuesday, March 3 —2:00 pm (<i>Volunteers at 1:30.</i>)	Fellowship & Caring —Tues., March 10, 6:30 pm
COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS:	Friendship Group - Fri., March 13 & 27, 12 pm
Worship Committee —Tues., March 3, 7 pm	Finance Committee —Mon., March 23 , 6 pm
Respite Group - Thur., March 5 & 19, 1-4 pm	Administrative Council —Mon., March 23, 7 pm
	Education Committee —Tues., March 24, 7 pm

BUILDING SECURITY

It has been noted, too often, that doors have been left unlocked. Because there is not any one person doing a building check every night, we all need to be caretakers of our church. The person who takes on the responsibility to UNLOCK the door is also responsible to LOCK the door when he/she leaves. If there are still members in the building, they can always let themselves out.

In addition, coffee pots and lights have been left on overnight or longer, especially in lower and upper levels. These cost the church money and, of course, are unsafe.

We ask that all be good stewards of God's church by securing the premises and conserving our resources. Thank you. ~~~Your Board of Trustees


NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next UMW event is scheduled for:
Ruth Circle Meeting —Monday, March 9, 2020, 1:00 pm, in the Church Lounge.
Hostess: Thelma Curtis **Program:** Manna's Market

Special Notes:

- ⇒ Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8. Don't be late for church!!
- ⇒ Finance Committee will meet on March 23 rather than March 16 to coincide with the Ad Council meeting.
- ⇒ There will be no kids Sunday School before or during the school spring break (April 5th and April 12th).
- ⇒ There will be no Choir until Sunday, April 19.

PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE

Family of Marie Possehn	Family of Carol Leak	
Family of Bonnie (Carter) Witt	Perry Thomas family	
Family of Jack Wickham	Family of Jim Johnson	

LOOKING FOR HELP!!

The Education Committee is looking for some helpers to teach elementary Sunday School in April and May. The materials are easy to use and the girls are fun. Any Sunday you could teach would help. You don't have to be a teacher to do this job, you just need to have a willing heart. Jane Kostanko would be happy to talk you through a lesson if you'd like her too. Julie Nelson was a faithful servant even though teaching made her a bit nervous. Her absence is being felt and we'd love a few new volunteers.

UMCOR SUNDAY—formerly One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 22

Your generous gifts support UMCOR's administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the project you specify and ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis. Prayerfully consider giving to this worthy offering on Sunday, March 22.



A baby shower was held for Jackie Spagnuolo on February 16 following worship. Congratulations to her and Brandon for the birth of Jacob Matthew born February 16.



State of the Church Report

Stats for January 2020

Average Attendance: 63

Operating Fund:

Receipts	\$10,626.43
Expenses	\$13,046.51

Other Designated Giving:

Building Fund	\$ 345
General Missions	\$ 120
Aviations Ministries	\$ 50
Missionary Delbert Grove	\$ 20
Barry Community Hospice	\$ 66
Human Relations Day	\$ 20
Respite Program	\$ 200
General Education Fund	\$ 38

Upcoming Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 12 to 5:45 pm



If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Marian Durkee at 616-374-7489.



Fresh Food Distribution Tuesday, March 3, at 2 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged and asked to arrive by 1:30.