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GRACE CHURCH Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



From the Lead Team

1 John 3:23,24

23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Jesus' message was really quite simple, however it seems we always find a way to make it complicated. I am guilty of trying to be clever and creating processes and structures to be a better Christian or to be a better Church when really His instruction to us is so simple:

Believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God – the confident trust in Jesus is not optional. It is a requirement for salvation however it is that simple, just believe.

Love one another – this is nothing new but it is a simple, fundamental teaching of Christianity and has been from the very beginning.

So my encouragement to you is to remove the clutter and focus on and Believe in the Son and then Love others as he has commanded. When we believe in Him we are filled with the Spirt that will allow us to love others in the selfless way Christ loved us.

May you all celebrate this Easter season with remembrance and thankfulness at the sacrifice of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

- Derek Hiebert

Easter Services

Good Friday Service - April 15 @ 6:30 pm Easter Sunday Service - April 17 @ 10:45 am

Parent Night:

How to Have Hard Conversations



Does it ever feel like conversations with teens are like navigating a minefield of emotion? Perhaps you have something important to talk about with your teen but you're not sure how to get the conversation started. There are a few helpful principles that we'd like to share that will hopefully make this hard task just a little easier.

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Monthly Matters

The LT met this past week just ahead of our "Easter Storm" to discuss the business of the church however I will also say it was a great blessing to spend some time as brothers sharing and praying for each other and our church.

A few business pieces to update you on:

We will be putting up new roller blinds in the sanctuary to replace the old horizontal blinds. Of course, the purpose is not to hide the beautiful stained-glass windows, however, with the way the light comes in, especially with our livestream, it is important to control how that sunlight shines into that space. We also discussed a few other improvements including some painting, screen/projector improvements, and possible LED lighting upgrades.

Thank you to those that attended our Round Table discussion. We appreciate the feedback and hope to create more opportunities for these kinds of discussions. From this discussion we are moving forward with a search for 2 pastoral positions: Pastor of Care and Connections and Pastor of Youth and Family Discipleship. We have advertised on approximately 8 different Seminary/Bible Schools and Job posting sites. If you know of someone who might be interested or want to learn a bit more about these positions, we have posted both descriptions under the "Our Staff" section of the website, just above Pastor Sean's picture.

It is also exciting to see many new and familiar faces during our Sunday Worship Service. I was really blessed by our time of communion together. We also appreciate the feedback we got on the process/presentation of the communion meal and we will work at making some improvements so that participation will be less hindered by any distractions.

Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for our staff, pastors, and many volunteers faithfully serving our Lord.

Prayer and Praise

Pray for our shut-ins and those with on-going health issues:

- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Marie Brown
- Anne Enns
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Margaret Ayala
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Maria Loewen
- Karl Redekop
- Henry Hiebert
- Bev Rempel

Sunday School

A big "Thank You" to those who have volunteered to join our Sunday School team. We look forward to building relationships in the classrooms.

Happy Easter!

Office Update

Wendy will be on holidays from April 15-24. Emily Harder will be covering her duties in the office.

Winter Fun Day



Thanks to everyone who came out last Sunday to make our Winter Fun Day a success. We had a great time of skating,

hockey and games. Certainly no lack of food, which was delicious!

Mark your calendar for our next event: Summer Fun Day on June 12th.

Partnership Focus



Winkler/Morden Habitat chapter has announced 2 new building projects starting this year. A single family home in Winkler and a duplex in Morden. This

means there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in fundraising and volunteering in the actual building projects.

Fundraising plans include a community garage sale in June and the children's playhouse raffle this festival season. Will keep you posted on the upcoming events



Both Pan de Vida orphanage and Esperanza orphanage were

ChildrenofHope set up on rural properties well away from the bustle of city life. In the past few years both have seen heavy development take place in their areas, resulting in hundreds of homes being built very close to their properties. This has led to a dramatic increase in thefts, as well as a loss of privacy for the children in the orphanages.

This past fall Esperanza had some sheep stolen, and their dog alerted the directors to some men who were in the process of stealing their cement mixer (which one of our prior teams had donated). The thieves almost made away with it. Both orphanages are in the process of completing tall cinder block walls around their properties.

Please pray for all the orphanages and soup kitchens run by Pan de Vida, as well as for the directors and children they minister to.



Update from Gordon

Praise: After a long wait his resident permit in Finland was granted for a year.

Prayer: Pray for their fifth grandchild that is due this week.

Pray also for Gordon's travels as he leave April 23 for Nepal and will return May 10. This is the first trip since Covid so pray that doors will be open to their work.

Prayer for Ramadan

Last weekend, the Islamic world began the holiest month of their calendar year, the month of Ramadhan. Fasting from all food, drink, tobacco and sexual relationships from sunrise to sunset... some are doing this to fulfill Islamic duties (it is the one of five pillars of Islam that even the most nominal Muslim makes a fairly concerted attempt at completing), some are hoping to curry favour and good points with Allah, while others are mostly just in it for the nightly feasting and partying that begins as the sunset call to prayer goes out.

Responses and motivations are as varied as the one billion people worldwide who will honour this month as sacred... but one thing is sure, people are living in a heightened state of spirituality and are either extra close-minded... or extraordinarily OPEN and desperate to hear from the true and living God.

We want to invite you to join us in DAILY, FOCUSED INTERCESSION for the millions of Muslims who will be fasting this month. Use this guide in your personal devotions, with your family or in a small group ... and let's Ask Father for a Ramadhan of harvest like no other!

https://northafrica247.pray4movement.org

Coming Events

Seniors' Supper

Tuesday, April 19 @ 5:00 pm

Supper will be provided. We are please to have the Glory Bound Quartet share their music and song with us.

Presentation on situation in Ukraine

Tuesday, April 26 @ 7 pm

Speakers: Dave & Hildie Regehr Friends of Mennonite Central Ukraine

All are welcome. Offering will be taken to support relief efforts



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