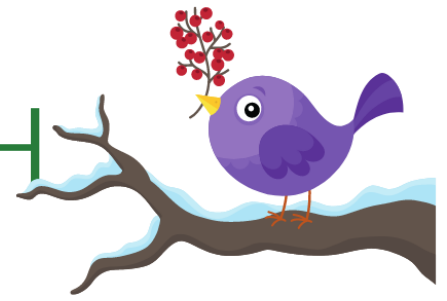


g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



From the Pastor

A number of people in my circle of pastors, friends etc., are experiencing loss these days. Whether it be through the untimely death of loved ones, having wayward or transitioning children and so on. This has caused me to reflect on the reality of life on earth as a Christian.

Someone once said, "Nothing belongs to us, even the air we breath has to be exhaled". I am grateful for each breath the Lord gives, even though sometimes like Paul, I wouldn't mind if they stopped so I could go to my eternal home. But I am also aware that even my life is not my own. It is given to me to glorify Him.

I remember a story from an African Christian who said, "us North American Christians expect God to bless us. But where I live we have 5 or 6 children, grateful if maybe 2 or 3 will survive. You get upset when the restaurant is full and you have to wait, we are grateful if we get to eat something in the next few days. It's offensive to us when you tell us that if we had more faith our children would survive and we would have plenty of food. We don't trust in God's material blessings" he said, "we trust in Jesus. We trust that God will give us what we absolutely need to survive in this life, or if not this life, in eternity. You doubt him when you don't get everything you want." I was pretty convicted by this faithful person.

God promises to be there with us in our trials, to give comfort and wisdom. To help us find peace and perspective in surrendering to whatever His will may be. Also, to be reminded that this is not our home, and when things are difficult here, the idea is for us to draw closer to Him, recognize we

have a better home prepared for us, and be grateful that we haven't gotten what we really deserve as sinful humanity. To cause us to focus our minds on things above, our true home, not on things of earth.

Yet, we are still human, we do still grieve, and have other emotions. And God has promised that we will never be given more than we can handle – in Him, under the power of the Holy Spirit. In our flesh without God, no, but with Him, yes.

But perspective is so important in terms of how these things affect us. Do we pray always for deliverance from difficulty? Nothing wrong with that, but what if it is not God's will to deliver? What if he has another plan for that situation? Then we may actually be praying against His will sometimes.

If we pray only based on our desires, we must be careful not to expect that he will always grant those prayers. And it shouldn't cause us to doubt Him or his goodness. Remember even Jesus' prayer for deliverance in the Garden of Gethsemane was not granted, but he trusted His Father's will.

Can we draw comfort from these truths as Christians, even if these truths in the moments of our grief and hardship, are not terribly comforting to our flesh?

- Pastor Sean

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GRACE YOUTH

We are entering into retreat season! Both the Jr. and the Sr. Youth will be having their winter retreats coming up!

Sr. Youth are heading off to camp Cedarwood this weekend, February 2-4, for their winter retreat, where we will be having James Shiels as our speaker.

Jr. Youth will have their winter retreat at Winkler Bible camp February 16- 18, where Alex Janzen will speak on God is our Father.

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel, have lots of fun, and ultimately grow in our faith.

Upcoming:

Jr. Youth:

Feb. 5 - No Youth
Feb. 12 - Regular Youth Night
Feb. 16-18 - Winter Retreat @ WBC
Feb. 19 - No Youth
Feb. 26 - Small Group Night

Sr. Youth:

Feb. 2-4 - Winter Retreat
Feb. 7 - Regular Youth Night
Feb. 14 - Regular Youth Night
Feb. 21 - Regular Youth Night
Feb. 28 - Small Group Night

To receive the weekly youth emails on what is happening, please
email: youth@gracechurchwinkler.com

Blessings, Pastor Brad

welcome
little one

Congratulations to Ben & Jami Schroder on the birth of their daughter, Gwen Holly Laurel Schroeder. She was born on January 24th weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Congratulations, also, to proud grandparents Larry & Patti Schroeder.



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
- Marian Harder
- Helen Gerbrand
- Allan Derksen
- Helene Kuhl
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Guenter Strempler
- Henry Hiebert
- Margaret Ayala
- Linda Jenkins
- Irene Hildebrand
- Katy Dyck
- Alexander Sauer

Continue to pray for Gladys Wiebe. She is currently in Riverview Health Center.

Grace Events

Pastor Tim is inviting you to kick off the Lent season with an evening of prayer. Join us at the church on Thursday February 15th at 7:00 pm.

Youth Missions Team update

Thanks church for your excitement and support of our Youth Missions Trip!

Check out the pictures in the foyer to see who is on our team. We'd so appreciate your prayers as we raise funds and prepare to go.

We are excited to announce the return of our Youth Meal Auction as our next fundraiser. Keep an eye on the newsletter for a date to be announced soon!

Mark Your Calendar

Feb 2-4	Sr Youth Retreat
February 3	Mission Night - Introduction to Kenny & Brittany Beacham
Feb 9-10	Love & Respect Marriage Conference
February 11	Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser
Feb 16-18	Jr Youth Retreat
Feb 28	Coffee with the staff
March 7	Annual General Meeting

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY *Fundraising Lunch*

Sunday, February 11th
following Sunday's service

Main Course: Chicken & Pilau (rice & vegetable dish),
Coleslaw
(honey garlic chicken for the
non-adventurous eaters)
Dessert: Brownies & ice cream with homemade
caramel sauce

**Donations will go towards a
new home for Binwa & Rita Mulume**

please sign up by February 4

* For anyone unable to attend the fundraiser, donations can be made to the church prior to Feb 11. Make cheques payable to Grace Church and put Habitat for Humanity in the memo line. E-transfers can be sent to office@gracechurchwinkler.com. Make sure to include the memo.

LOVE & RESPECT

**Video
Marriage Conference**

**The Love she desires
The Respect he needs**

February 9 - 10
Grace Mennonite Church
cost: free

SCHEDULE:

Friday night:

7:00-9:30pm - Introduction and "The Crazy Cycle" (Dr Emerson Eggerichs)

Saturday:

9:00-10:30am - "The Energizing Cycle" Pt. 1 (Dr Emerson Eggerichs)

10:30-11:00am - Break & discussion

11:00-12:30am - "The Energizing Cycle" Pt. 2 (Dr Emerson Eggerichs)

12:30-2:00pm - Lunch Break

2:00-3:15pm - "Practical Application" (Sarah Eggerichs)

3:15-3:30pm - Break & discussion

3:30-5:00pm - "The Rewarded Cycle" (Dr Emerson Eggerichs)

5:00pm - Closing and dismissal

Registration is not required. Invite your friends.

*Coffee breaks (& snacks) will be provided. Bring your own lunch or eat offsite.
Childcare will not be provided.*

Community Events

Boundary Trails Health Centre Palliative Care Program will be offering a grief session.

It will be on Monday February 26th from 1pm-3pm at Morden Activity Center.

We offer a safe, structured and caring environment where those who have experienced a loss of a spouse to come and learn how to care for themselves. For more information please contact Jerri-Ann Froese (PC Vol. Coordinator) @ (204) 331-8815.

A PVBC FUNDRAISING EVENT...



VALLEY-TINES DATE NIGHT

TICKETS \$25
FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
JEFF BANMAN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2024
at **PEMBINA VALLEY BIBLE CAMP**

DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM **DINNER + PROGRAM 6:00 - 8:30PM**

for tickets, please contact our office @ 204-246-2008
or
purchase at Winkler or Morden Co-op food stores



REALITY APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

February 23 6 - 9:30 pm
February 24 9 am - 6 pm

Christian Life Centre, Morden

RSVP



For more information:
<https://www.realityapologetics.com>

Partnership Focus



As I shiver in our Manitoba winter, I am again reminded of the many less fortunate folks who go to UGM for an escape from this. The weak and wounded are received with loving hearts and warm smiles. No judgment; just compassion.

Praise item: After many years, 320 Princess is now fully staffed with daytime, evening, and weekend missionaries, who provide hope through God's Word.

And each week 300 sandwiches, sealed with encouraging Bible verses, go from Grace to UGM.

Ways you can help:

For the daily drop-in afternoons - cookies & muffins, bought or homemade, and single serve fruit packs. Mark for "UGM" and drop off in the church kitchen.

Their website has a list of 'Urgent Needs'. Donated items should be labelled "UGM" and left in the hall by the kitchen door.

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Most importantly, please remember UGM in prayer!



WINKLER BIBLE CAMP / Fundraising Event

10 Activities Open!

\$5/person

- Free hotdog per person included
- Additional food available for purchase

WINTER CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 19 12-5PM

For more information, visit www.winklerbiblecamp.com