

**Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!**

Sunday – January 7, 2024 – 9:00 am



## Creation and Early Pains

**Meditation Verse:** *“But if you don’t do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it.” - Gen. 4:7b*

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

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Pastor John Britt

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Check us out on Facebook!

### **Church Staff:**

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Pastor                  | John Britt      |
| Office Administrator    | Phyllis Stevens |
| Children’s Ministry     | Kelly Carter    |
| Youth Ministry          | Kristal Hamm    |
| Financial Administrator | Cindy Puckett   |
| Custodian               | Tanya Taylor    |
| Digital Campus Host     | Kristin Britt   |
| Audio/Visual            | Steve Hilton    |
| Lay Leader              | Mike Marsland   |
| Pianist                 | Julie Marsland  |

## Order of Worship

Welcome and Opening Prayer

\*Opening Songs:

- \* Hymn #451 – Be Thou My Vision
- \* You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Call to Worship:

Reader: We believe God still creates –

**People: We want to see more clearly.**

Reader: We believe God still speaks –

**People: We want to listen more carefully.**

Reader: We believe God still guides –

**People: We want to walk more faithfully.**

Reader: We believe God still breathes life into the world –

**People: We want to inhale more deeply.**

Reader: May this be a time of seeing, hearing, walking, breathing.

**People: May this be a time of true worship. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

This Week in the Bible Year

Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-28, 2:20-23, 4:1-7, 7:1-5

Kids Message

Message: "Creation and Early Pains"

Sharing in Holy Communion

- \* Hymn #147 – All Things Bright and Beautiful

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

\*Closing Song: God of Science

\*Blessing

*\*Please stand if you are able.\**

## **GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

- 1) *Grow*. How have you recently struggled to “be like God?” How can subverting your will to God’s will better align your heart with God’s heart?
- 2) *Pray*. Do you “give” to God more like how Abel to God or how Cain gave to God? Spend time in reverent prayer seeking to have a heart more like Abel’s heart.
- 3) *Study*. As you read this week’s Genesis passages, look for the recurring themes of humanity’s desire to be like God and of God’s role as heartbroken parent.

### **This Week’s Bible Year Readings:**

January 8 — Genesis 21:1-23:20

January 9 — Genesis 24:1-25:18

January 10 — Gen. 25:19-28:9

January 11 — Gen. 28:10-30:43

January 12 — Gen. 31:1-36:43

January 13 — Gen. 37:1-41:57

**January 14** — Genesis 42:1-45:28

To go a little deeper  
with these readings  
each day this week,  
please go to:  
[pastorjohnb.org](http://pastorjohnb.org)

**Next Sunday's Message** "We ARE Family" - We begin with the birth of Isaac, born to Abraham and Sarah late in life. Two generations later, Esau and Jacob’s tussle in the womb spills out into all of life, tearing at the family. We conclude with Jacob wrestling with God, bringing him back into the family.

### **This Week at Grace**

- Monday – 3 PM – After School Program – Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday – 3 PM – After with Heart – Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday – Noon – Bible Year Study – Zoom
- Wednesday – 1:30 PM – Midweek Chat – Chapel
- Wednesday – 6 PM – Youth Group – Fellowship Hall
- Thursday – 10 AM - Bible Year Study – Sun. Sch. Room

(Continued)

### This Week at Grace (Continued)

- Thursday – 5:30 PM – Men's Bible Year Study – Fell. Hall
- Friday – 6:30 AM – Women's Bible Year Study – SS Room
- Sunday – 8 AM - Bible Year Study – Sunday School Room

### Special Events at Grace

- Jan. 17 – 3:30 PM – GriefShare *begins*
- Jan. 20 – 9 AM – Service Saturday (working on lights)
- Jan. 22 – 6:30 PM – Financial Peace University *begins*

### Announcements:

The January Mission of the Month is for CISS – Crisis Intervention Shelter Services in Sturgis. This organization helps women and children who have experienced domestic violence, providing shelter and other needed services.

We will welcome those wishing to join Grace UMC into our church family on Sunday, January 21. Please let Pastor John know if you are interested in taking this step.

Growing out of a few conversations, Pastor John would like to gauge people's interest in a monthly "Fellowship Dinner." Seven to eight people from the church would gather in a home for a shared meal. The host would provide the space and the beverages while others would bring the main dish, sides, and dessert. Each month we would rotate homes, groupings, and meal responsibilities. This is open to couples and singles alike. Our trial run would be from February through May. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the drinking fountains. If you have questions, see Pastor John.

**May God Bless you throughout the coming week!!**