

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

Sunday – September 17, 2023 – 9:00 am



**Meditation Verse:** *"Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" – Matthew 18:21*

**Grace United Methodist Church**

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Pastor John Britt

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Check us out on Facebook!

**Church Staff:**

Pastor  
Office Administrator  
Children's Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Financial Administrator  
Custodian  
Digital Campus Host  
Audio/Visual  
Lay Leader  
Pianist

John Britt  
Phyllis Stevens  
Kelly Carter  
Kristal Hamm  
Cindy Puckett  
Pam Hemmingson  
Kristin Britt  
Steve Hilton  
Mike Marsland  
Julie Marsland

## **Order of Worship**

\*Welcome and Opening Prayer

### **Call to Worship:**

Reader: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

**People: How many times should I forgive?**

Reader: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

**People: How many times should I forgive?**

Reader: Until God turns the question around: "How many times have I forgiven you?"

**People: Seventy times seven.**

Reader: "How many times have I loved you?"

**People: Seventy times seven.**

Reader: "How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?"

**People: Seventy times seven.**

Reader: Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God's, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

**People: Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Hymn #389 – Freely, Freely

Scriptures: Matthew 18:21-35

\*Hymn #2269 – Come, Share the Lord

Kids Message

Message: "The Math of Forgiveness"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

- Song: Sanctuary

## Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

### Announcements

#### \*Closing Songs:

- Living Hope
- My Life Is in You

#### \*Blessing

(\*Please stand if you are able.)

### **GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

- 1) *Grow*. How do you recognize your wounds (or those you've inflicted) in today's parable from Jesus? What are some steps forward that you can take?
- 2) *Pray*. How can today's parable and teaching guide you in finding healing and reconciliation in your broken relationships? Ask God for direction and guidance.
- 3) *Study*. Read Matthew 19:16-30. How has mercy sometimes been a stumbling block to you or a hindrance to your faith?

### **Next Week's Lectionary Readings:**

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

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

**Next Sunday's Message:** "A Fair Wage" - Jesus tells us a story to explain what the kingdom of God is like. A vineyard worker hires some extra hands at 6 a.m. and they agree on a fair wage. More workers are hired throughout the day. The owner simply promises a fair wage to each. At the end of the day, the last are paid in full. Each worker from each group, in turn, receives the same wage - one denarius. (*continued...*)

The early risers, the hardest workers, are very upset. Demanding an explanation, all they get is, "It's my money. I'll do with it what I want." God is generous with us too. In God's kingdom, the last will be first. Sometimes we want to shout, "They don't deserve God's grace!" And then we look in the mirror and realize that we do not deserve it either. So it is in the kingdom of God.

#### This Week at Grace:

- Wednesday – 1:30 PM – Midweek Chat – Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday – 9 AM – Discipleship Small Group
- Thursday – 5:30 PM – Men's Group – Fellowship Hall
- Friday – 6:30 AM – Women's Study – Chapel

#### Upcoming Special Events:

- September 16 – 9 AM – Service Saturday (*garden area*)
- Sept. 27 – 3:30 pm – GriefShare begins (*13 sessions*)
- September 30 – 10 AM – Imagine Day
- October 27 – 5 PM – Fall Family Festival

#### **Announcements:**

September Mission of the Month is for the Hope Center in Rapid City.

Thank you once again to all who were a part of the Annual Church Rummage Sale. \$3,118.26 was raised and will be split between our Children's and Youth ministries.

Please consider signing up to serve on a Sunday morning. Simply choose a Sunday that is convenient for you and sign up on the sheets opposite the drinking fountains! Thank you for serving.

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