

March 2026 Newsletter

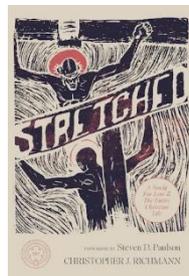
Grace United Methodist Church

605-787-4858 — Email: gumc@midconetwork.com

Web site: www.gracepiedmont.com

Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Hello church! We are well into the season of Lent! I hope that you have chosen to add a practice to your daily routine (rather than to give up something for Lent.) I've enjoyed reading *Stretched*, our Lenten book. This is "adding in" for me personally as I am not normally a "reader." If you have not added anything in to deepen your Lenten journey, perhaps you might try reading my daily devotionals. These connect to the themes of each Sunday and to our weekly Bible readings, adding depth and challenge to your walk of faith. You can even subscribe to receive the daily devotional as an email! You can find these writings and the place to subscribe at pastorjohnb.org. Call if you need any help!! 😊



Thanks for your time!! Blessings to you and your family throughout this Lenten season!! – Pastor John

March 2026 Finance Update

February Giving: \$ 12,189

Year-to-Date Giving: \$ 24,226

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$ 30,709

Overall: - \$6,194

LENT & HOLY WEEK READING SCHEDULE

March 1 – John 3:4-17

Companion for the Journey

March 2 – Exodus 17:1-4

March 3 – Exodus 17:5-7

March 4 – Psalm 95:1-7

March 5 – Psalm 95:8-11

March 6 – Romans 5:1-5

March 7 – Romans 5:6-11

March 8 – John 4:5-42

Journeying in Grace

Lenten Book: “Trial”

March 9 – John 9:1-17

March 10 – John 9:18-41

March 11 – 1st Samuel 16:1-13

March 12 – Psalm 23:1-3

March 13 – Ephesians 5:8-11

March 14 – Psalm 23:4-6

March 15 – Ephesians 5:12-14

Redemption Road

Lenten Book: “Turn”

March 16 – Psalm 130:1-6

March 17 – John 11:1-16

March 18 – Ezekiel 37:1-6

March 19 – Ezekiel 37:7-14

March 20 – John 11:17-45

March 21 – Romans 8:6-11

March 22 – Psalm 130:7-8

Journey’s End & A New Start

Marching Orders (Palm Sunday)

Lenten Book: “Piety”

March 23 – Psalm 31:9-16

March 24 – Isaiah 50:4-9a

March 25 – Philippians 2:5-11

March 26 – Matthew 26:6-13

March 27 – Matthew 26:30-35,
69-75

March 28 – Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

March 29 – Matthew 21:1-11

A New Start (Easter)

March 30 – Isaiah 42:1-9

March 31 – Psalm 36:5-11

April 1 – Hebrews 12:1-3

April 2 – John 13:1-17, 31b-35
(Maundy Thursday)

April 3 – John 18:1-9
(Good Friday)

April 4 – Matthew 27:57-66

April 5 – Matthew 28:1-10
(Easter Sunday)

Grace Kids

Moving into March we journey on in the New Testament! During the month of March we will talk about how Paul escaped danger in a basket, about Lydia's faithfulness, and about the growing community of disciples! Thanks for sharing your children w/us!! — *David Weeks and the Crew*



Art with Heart

We invite all 5th and 6th graders to join us Tuesdays after school to be creative, have snacks, and grow in faith.



Lent has begun and to mark it as a group we traveled to Prouty Pottery in Rapid City to paint bowls. These bowls will be given away at the Empty Bowls fundraiser this month, which raises money for Volunteers of America. We'll have another service project in March.



We love seeing our 5th and 6th graders on Tuesdays. If your student is unable to be with us, please let us know ahead for planning purposes and so we know who to pick up (or not) at the school. Thanks!

Stay warm, all!

--Kristin, Sue, and Pastor John

Youth Group News



And just like that, it's March!
We kicked off February with a high-energy Escape Room challenge (Christian edition). The kids had an absolute blast—and it was fun to watch them get quicker and more confident as they solved each puzzle.

We also began a new series on the Kings, tying it into the season of Lent. Our group participated in Ash Wednesday, and on Sunday,



February 22, we had the privilege of hosting Youth United for area United Methodist youth groups. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and connection.

We'll wrap up the month with another lesson in our Kings series as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Chili Feed and Dessert Auction on March 15! Thank you for your continued support of our youth ministry — we couldn't do it without you!

Blessings,
Kristal

Piedmont Valley
Community Church



“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for the One who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:23-24).

Lent has begun. Have you changed any of your routine in order to grow closer to God? The study book we are using at Grace is Stretched by Christopher J. Richmann. I learned two things reading the Introduction and the Appendix that described the origins of Lent. One is that the word Lent comes from an old English word for Spring that means “lengthen” or “stretch”. As followers of Jesus Christ we may feel stretched as our faith is tested. We may feel stretched as our faith grows. This is because, while we may think of Lent as a time when we “do something” -- such as fasting, increasing our study of the Bible or our community service – it is actually God acting in us through all of that.

How will you open yourself this season so that God may act on you, in you, and through you?

Reminder: At the end of April, we will continue Livestreaming Worship on Facebook and the Grace United Facebook page will remain active, but PVCC will no longer be a part of our online presence. Until then, I will continue posting prayer requests and the Bible Verse of the Day on PVCC, and encourage you to take part in any discussions that follow!

In peace,

--Kristin



PVCC is an outreach ministry of Grace UMC on Facebook, seeking to grow our faith, to develop servant hearts, and to share the love and hope of Jesus in an online community.

Upcoming Events and Meetings at Grace UMC

Weekly Spiritual Grow Opportunities:

- Sun. — 8 AM — Adult Sunday School — Sunday Sch. Room
- Sun. — 9 AM — Worship (in person or online) - Sanctuary
- Mon. — 3 PM — Grace Kids — Fellowship Hall
- Tues. — 3 PM — Art with Heart — Fellowship Hall
- Wed. — 7:45 AM — Women's Small Gr. — Sunday Sch. Room
- Wed. — 1:30 PM — Midweek Chat — Chapel
- Wed. — 5:30 PM — Youth Group — Fellowship Hall
- Thur. — 5:30 PM — Men's Bible Year Study — Fell. Hall
- Fri. — 6:30 AM — Ladies' Bible Study — SS Room

Upcoming Monthly Events and Meetings:

- March 8 – 6 PM – Second Sunday Gathering
- March 21 – 9 AM – Service Saturday – *THOUGHTS?????*



Birthdays for March:

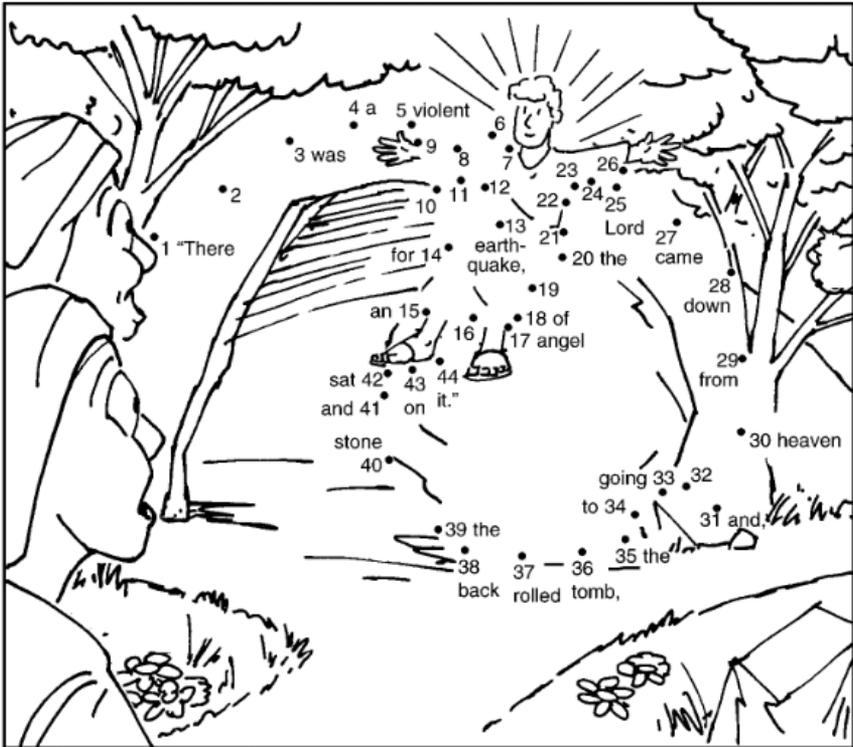
March 1 – Tom Carter
March 3 – Bob Powles
March 6 – Nolan Hautala
March 6 – Natalie Hilton
March 7 – Norah Brennan
March 8 – Rick Hanson
March 11 – Lacy Elrod
March 11 – Cherie Hilton
March 16 – Ron Puckett

March 19 – Lisa Hilton
March 20 – Chris Boylan
March 23 – Joann Stock
March 27 – River Clendenin
March 29 – Jackie Koupal
March 29 – Lavincia Pfister
March 31 – Helen Benning



After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. What happened next?

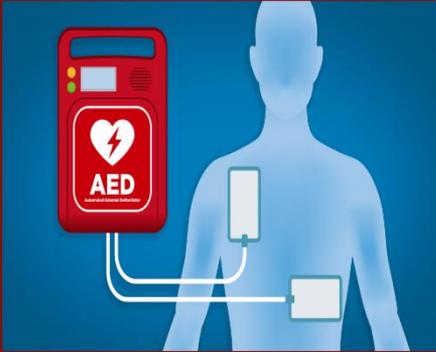
Connect the dots and read along the way.



Holy Week Dates and Times

- ✦ Palm Sunday – March 29 – 9 AM
- ✦ Maundy Thursday – April 2 – 6 PM
- ✦ Good Friday – April 3 – 6 PM
- ✦ Easter Sunrise Service – April 5 – 6:30 AM (Chapel)
- ✦ Easter Sunday – April 5 – 9 AM

Mission of the Month



Grace AED Fund

Help our church to purchase a potentially life-saving device to have at the church!!



Chili Contest and Sweet Eats and Treats

Sunday - March 15
10:30 am

Sign up for the Chili contest or to bring a Sweet Eat/Treat on the table just inside Fellowship Hall!!



Present: Pastor John, Tanya Taylor (Recording Secretary), Prairey Walking (Chair), Kelly Kruger (Finance & Stewardship), Tom Stevens (Kitchen Committee), Matt Pfister (SPP), Jeff Kottwitz (Trustees), Mike Marsland, Lavincia Pfister.

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Prairey. Pastor John shared reflection time from "Daily Guidepost", based on how and what things a person can do to help themselves grow. This was followed by prayer.

Discussion was had on October 2025 Minutes, as we did not meet in December. Jeff made motion to approve minutes followed by Tom who 2nd them. They were approved by all.

Ministry Reports as follows-

*Finance & Stewardship – Kelly K.

- Looking into five-year trend, will plan accordingly
- Broke even financially in 2025
- Budget items were discussed w/Jeff

*Kitchen Committee – Tom S.

- Turkey Dinner- Record total of 391 plates served (most since pre-covid), which included, 44 adults and 33 children in need. With a \$2,000 profit.
- Need to purchase 4 new roasters
- Kitchen Comm. will tithe 10% to General Fund
- March 15 – Chili Cookoff and Sweet Eats & Treats
- March 29 - Kitchen Comm. will serve after Church

*Staff Pastor Parish – Matt P.

- Make job posting for a Christian Education Director, 8-10 Hrs./wk. Would oversee younger youth programs: Sunday School, Monday and Tuesday ASP, VBS, and Family Fall Festival.
- Will Keep Phyllis on Wednesdays form 10 AM – 1 PM.

*Trustees – Jeff K.

- Pastor John and Loren replaced some sofit that had blown off.
- Flush valve will be fixed in men's restroom.
- Cindy received new computer,
- New flooring for 3 offices and Adult SS Room, 700 sq. ft. Four rooms total. Andy (same guy who did our carpet) bid us \$1301.56. We have enough leftover carpet squares and glue. We will move furniture and remove molding. Andy would tear out carpet and old glue, prep and install carpet squares. We will replace moldings and furniture.
- Possibly replace carpet on Chancel, need estimate from Carpet Garage and Andy. Jeff made motion and Kelly 2nd. Everyone was in favor.
- Repaint Mountains in Sanctuary to match carpet, Need quote on paint prices. Jeff made motion and Tom 2nd, all passed unanimously.

*Old Business –

- N/A

*New Business –

- Pastor John will take a 4-week extended leave in April. Four Preachers will be lined up to cover his absence.
- Need to reach out to Bob & Brandon Powles for septic field on adjacent lot 3.
- Voted to have next TEAMS and Leadership meeting on May 19th, 6:15/7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM by Jeff and 2nd by Mike. All were in favor and passed.

Prayer was led by Pastor John.

Minutes by Tanya T.

Grace United Methodist Church

10060 Foothills Drive

PO Box 265

Piedmont, SD 57769