

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – August 23, 2026 – 9:00 AM



Meditation Verse: *"And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own."*
- Exodus 18:21

Grace United Methodist Church
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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
Tanya Taylor
Jennifer Hall
Kristal Hamm
Cindy Puckett
Tanya Taylor
Kristin Britt
Steve Hilton
Prairie Walkling
Julie Marsland

Order of Worship

Welcome and Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn #467 – Trust and Obey

Call to Worship:

Leader: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

People: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

Leader: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

People: God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.

Leader: In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?

People: God exercises power with – with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

Leader: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

People: Will we side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace – How do you think we should use the power that we each have in this world?

*Hymn #370 – Victory in Jesus

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Matthew 16:23-30

Kids Message

Message: "Power"

*Song of Response: Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing: Death Was Arrested

*Blessing

*(Please stand as you are able.)

GPS – Grow, Pray, Study

- 1) *Grow*. When has exercising your power on behalf of another helped you to grow in your faith? How can this become a more regular practice for you?
- 2) *Pray*. Do you sometimes hold back, not wanting to risk even though you sense God calling you to action? How might spending time in prayer help with this?
- 3) *Study*. Read Exodus 2:11-25. How is power used well here? Poorly? What lessons can you apply to your life from the example Moses and God provide here?

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Aug. 24 – Exodus 3:1-3

Aug. 25 – Exodus 3:4-15

Aug. 26 – Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Aug. 27 – Romans 12:9-13

Aug. 28 – Romans 12:14-21

Aug. 29 – Matthew 16:21-23

Aug. 30 – Matthew 16:24-28

To go a little deeper into the reading for each day this week, go to pastorjohnb.org

Next Sunday's Message: "Acceptance" – This Sunday, we focus on overcoming our natural resistance to God's call, drawing parallels between reluctant biblical leaders and our own modern hesitations. In worship we will provide a space to honestly acknowledge our reluctance to lead or serve, helping us all to actively move from resistance to acceptance. Ultimately, we will be encouraged to lean on God and our faith community to boldly fulfill our shared mission together.

This Week at Grace

- Sun. – 9 AM – Worship (in person or online) – Sanctuary
- Wed. – 6 PM – Church Garden Volunteering
- Thurs. – 5:30 PM – Men's Group – Fellowship Hall
- Fri. – 6:30 AM – Ladies' Bible Study – SS Room
- Sat. – 9 AM – Church Garden Volunteering

Upcoming Happenings at Grace

- Many Youth and Adult Offerings starting this fall.
Please register online @ gracepiedmont.com/events

Announcements:

The Mission of the Month for August is the Sturgis/Meade County Animal Shelter.

To make a one-time gift to Grace UMC or to the Mission of the Month (or to set up a recurring gift), Please scan the QR code.
Thank you for your generosity and support!



Please check the sign-up sheets across from the drinking fountains to see when YOU could serve as a greeter, reader, or treat provider.

If there is a Hymn/Song that you'd like to sing during worship on Sunday's, please leave a note with song and # in the donation box.

May God Bless You throughout the coming week!