

## Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – August 13, 2023 – 9:00 am



**Meditation Verse:** *“But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’” - Matthew 14:30*

### Grace United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 265 | Piedmont, SD 57769

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[gumc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gumc@midconetwork.com)

Pastor John Britt

(605) 787-2414 | [pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com)

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

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Cindy Puckett  
Barb Walker  
Kristin Britt  
Steve Hilton  
Mike Marsland  
Julie Marsland

## Order of Worship

\*Welcome and Opening Prayer

### Call to Worship:

Leader: Beloved disciples, welcome. As we gather, what are you seeking?

**People: We seek God's presence all around us.**

Leader: Beloved disciples, if God's presence is all around us, what are you seeking?

**People: We seek to recognize God's presence among us.**

Leader: Beloved disciples, if God is among you, what are you seeking?

**People: We seek God in the faces of family, friends, and neighbors.**

Leader: Beloved disciples, if God is in the face of your neighbor, what are you seeking?

**People: We seek God in the search and the work for peace and wholeness for all God's creation.**

Leader: As we gather today, may we meet God in our seeking and in our finding.

**People: Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Hymn #110 – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Scriptures: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Matthew 14:22-33

\*Hymn #533 - We Shall Overcome

Kids Message

Message: "What Are You Seeking?"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

- Song: As the Deer

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

**\*Closing Songs:**

- Raise a Hallelujah
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

**\*Blessing**

(\*Please stand if you are able.)

**GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

1) *Grow*. We all want to trust Jesus more fully. How has your trust grown each time that he has been faithful, reaching out in your times of need?

2) *Pray*. Where are you seeking God – in a situation, in a relationship, in a decision? Take some time to seek God's presence and direction this week

3) *Study*. Read Genesis 44. Why do you think Joseph does this to his brothers? When have you been tempted to test someone to see if they have changed?

**Next Week's Lectionary Readings:**

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

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

**Next Sunday's Message:** "Is It Fair?" - We claim to want fairness. Or at least fairness in our favor. But deep down, we do not want fairness but mercy. At least that is what we want from God. Joseph goes from the pit to second in command in all of Egypt. This was a hard road – one lacking in fairness but steeped in mercy. Along the way Joseph learned not to ask "Why me?" but "What does the Lord require of me now?" Life wasn't always fair, but God could be trusted. The Canaanite woman who comes to Jesus had lived more than her share of unfair. She has been overlooked and marginalized and abused. She has learned to persevere. Although Jesus is less than receptive, she is willing to take crumbs – that means she and her child can live a bit longer. Her faith leads Jesus to commend her. She did not come seeking fairness. She sought mercy.

### This Week at Grace

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

### **Announcements:**

Our August Mission of the Month is for UMCOR kits.

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!!**