

March
2019

GRACE NOTES
YOUR ACCESS TO
GRACE CHURCH
NEWS & EVENTS



SPECIAL SESSION
VERMONT DISTRICT
OFFICE: DISCERNING
OUR WAY FORWARD



PASTOR'S NOTE
THE 40 DAYS
OF LENT
TRADITIONS



**SCRIPTURE
THROUGH THEIR
EYES**
CHILDREN'S COLUMN

GRACE NOTES

Discerning Our Way Forward after Special Session

Beloved United Methodists in Vermont:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today, the day after the conclusion of our Special General Conference. As many of you already know, the delegates at the conference voted 438 to 384 to approve an amended version of the Traditional Plan. This is the one plan among several prepared by the Commission on the Way Forward and other groups within the larger church which affirms the current language of the Book of Discipline regarding human sexual and gender identity and which intends to more strictly enforce limits on ordination and the officiating at and hosting of marriage ceremonies. Both the One Church Plan and the Simple Plan were debated and then defeated by delegate votes. There is still much more work to be done by the Judicial Council, the General Council on Finance and Administration and Wespeth, and other leading bodies within our connection in the coming weeks and months before more definitive answers will be available to us regarding how the actions of General Conference will be born out. For more information about what happened at General Conference and what is happening now that it has concluded, see the following the link on our conference website: www.neumc.org/GC2019.

All of this said, I acknowledge that some of us receive this news as an affirmation of what we believe with regards to scripture, while many others of us receive this news as a painful condemnation of who we are and how we hope to live out our faith in Christ Jesus. I cannot begin to name the range of feelings we are experiencing, and dare not try at the risk of unintentionally failing to name and validate where you are. Those of us who watched the conference unfold witnessed deep pain and division in our beloved church akin to that which has been present for over 45 years, but arguably even more acute. We have or may experience this deep pain and division in our homes, our congregations, and our communities, too. We also witnessed courage, conviction, truth spoken in love, and prophetic passion for Christ's church. May we be blessed with some of these same gifts and an abundance of others from the Spirit in the coming days and weeks.

As mentioned in previous communications, there will be 'Courageous Conversation' sessions around the conference in the coming weeks to afford us opportunities to be together, laity and clergy alike, to unpack the events and decisions of the 2019 General Conference, and to allow us to process our feelings and experiences together. You are welcome to attend any

event that is convenient for you. Check the calendar at www.neumc.org/events to find event details.

—Vermont District Superintendent Rev. Jill C. Robinson

Pastor's Note:

It is well known that Lent consists of forty days. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the day before Easter. But if you count these days, the result is not forty days but forty-six days. Why? According to the Early church tradition, the forty days of Lent were fast days in the broad sense, times of self-examination and self-restraint and discipline. But the Lord's Day – Sunday - was at all times a feast within the church. On those Sundays, Christians had gathered and celebrated the communion and shared meals together.

“Why forty days? In biblical terms, forty is a round number symbolizing fullness.”

Therefore, in order to have forty days of fasting, six Sunday must be excluded from the count. Lent in truth is forty weekdays plus six Lord's Days.

Why forty days? In biblical terms, forty is a round number symbolizing fullness.

Rain fell in Noah's time for forty days and nights. Moses and Elijah who represent the Law and the Prophets dwelt at Horeb for this same period of time. For forty days Jesus endured temptation in

the wilderness and later for the same period was revealed to the disciples after the resurrection.

Nineveh was given forty days in which to repent. For forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness prior to enter the Promised Land. Eli was a judge over Israel for forty years, and Saul, David and Solomon are reported to have had reigns of forty years each.

In the early centuries, forty days was the time of intensive preparation for baptism and thus a pattern for Lent developed. Lent begins soon and we are about to start our forty days journey. In March I will be preaching the journey of Israel from Egypt to the land of Canaan.

Follow their excitement, suffering, and pain in the wilderness, I will explore and examine God's heart and his attributes. Join us in our Lent services.

Journey well into this Lenten wilderness.

Remember that you are not alone. The God of Israel shall walk along with you.

Shalom, Your Pastor *Kyu*

Scripture Through Their Eyes

By: Brooklyn Gingue

“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.”

Matthew 21:12-13

To me these verses mean if you go to church God wants you to treat church with respect. When Jesus entered the temple he was mad because he saw that the people were not treating it nicely. They were selling and buying. He overturned the tables and he overturned our hearts too. God wants us to go to church and treat it with respect and he also wants us to not be like those people. He doesn't want us to go to church and treat it with disrespect.

He wants us to obey him. That's all he wants us to do. He loves us. Just remember this God wants us to treat his house of prayer with respect!

Prayer Requests

Let's keep in our prayers:
 Our church for revival
 Our community for renewal
 Our country for restored civility
 Our world for healing which comes through Christ!

THANK YOU

To our Liturgists, Fellowship Hosts, Newsletter Folders, Musical Talent, Ushers, and Greeters for your needed services this month. Grace wouldn't function without you ALL



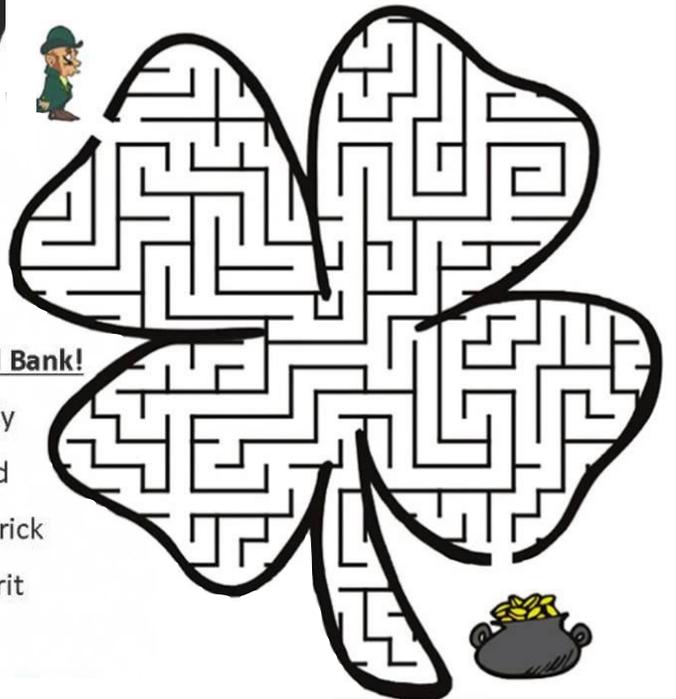
Join our AGG (A Grace-ful Group) on Facebook for more scripture, polls and fun.



Just like the leaves on the shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity! First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son, and the Holy Spirit together as One!



KID'S CORNER



F	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	S	P
A	H	O	L	Y	A	S	O	T	A
T	W	E	D	R	R	N	H	I	R
H	Y	O	Y	E	T	Y	T	R	T
E	G	E	V	N	K	H	I	I	S
R	N	O	I	H	K	L	A	P	W
O	L	A	H	O	R	E	F	S	E
C	S	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	R

Word search Word Bank!

- Father Son Holy
- One Three God
- Clover Saint Patrick
- Mystery Faith Spirit
- Parts

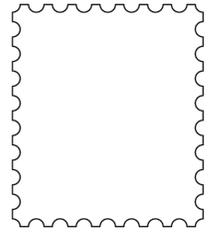
MARCH 1, 2019

GRACE NOTES



Grace

United Methodist Church
36 Central Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
www.stjgracechurch.org



Join us for Worship — Sunday at 10:30am

