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Even with all this “whoa” talk, my impression of Grace church is still a “wow.”

Wow for your faithfulness and encouragement. “Wow” for your ongoing financial support. Wow for your willingness to do no harm as we set aside our personal worship preferences for the sake of our community. Jesus gives us a path of love that cares for the sick and vulnerable. That’s your witness. The future is still a

Pastor Rory



SOLAR OVEN VIRTUAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

While we are not able to travel to distribute ovens, we are offering a new form of joining a mission team: A virtual mission! Our team will meet via a platform similar to Zoom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on August 15th for orientation and August 22nd-29th for the actual mission time. Between orientation and the mission itself, team members will have assignments to research an aspect of the ministry or the Dominican Republic or to plan devotions. During the first four days we will share what we have been able to learn on our own, and on the last four days, we will deepen our understanding by connecting live with our partners in the Dominican Republic. By joining this mission, you will take part in shaping a new way of being in mission. This might be something we continue even after we can travel again.

If you've always wanted to participate in a mission, but couldn't due to health, childcare, work or finances, now you too, can grow spiritually through the mission experience! If you've wondered if a traveling mission is right for you, join the virtual mission to explore what it's all about. During this time that we are staying home as much as possible for the common good, we don't have to be isolated. Connect socially, even across the Caribbean Sea, while distancing physically. And when we're done, you can connect with your local church members virtually to share what you've learned.

To register, send an email to office@solarovenpartners.org with your name, address and phone number and previous experience (if any) with Solar Oven Partners. Then send a \$20 check to Solar Oven Partners, Suite G, 910 Fourth Street, Brookings, SD 57006.

If you have questions, please email or call Marj at director@solarovenpartners.org or 612-226-6556.

Sincerely,

Marj Evans-de-Carpio
Director, Solar Oven Partners
605-692-3391



Grace Notes

August

See Pastor's Post for
why Whoa made
the cover.



2020

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

Grace United Methodist Church



PLEASE NOTE that we are part of the statewide mask order.
Don't forget your mask when you come in the building.

WOW AND WHOA!

The **DAKOTA BRASS QUINTET** is offering a free concert in front of Grace Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 2nd. It will take place much like our drive-up worship service. You will stay in your car as we continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines. In the event of rain, it will be rescheduled to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 4th. The Brass is well-known to most music from hymns to jazz to classics. Members are Clay Andreasen and Greg Mochinski, trumpet; Erin Winchell, horn; Jim Peterson, tuba and Bill McNeff, trombone.



RUTH VOLL CIRCLE will not be having their annual picnic this year. A regular meeting, however, will be taking place on Wednesday, August 26th at 1:00 p.m. outside the church as they have done the past couple of months.



MOVIE NIGHT is starting up again on Monday, August 10, 2020. We will not be continuing with the series, The Crown at this point, but offering a short, lighter, up-beat themed movie to get things rolling again. At this time, we have not picked a movie, so come and be surprised. We will wear masks, keep six feet apart, and for good measure, throw in a couple thorough hand washings.

PLEASE NOTE: Linda Shook will not be in the office the week of August 3rd. If you need assistance you can contact Pastor Rory on his cell phone at 218-330-7367. Thank you.

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Linda got out the Grace Notes for August 2019, one year ago. It's a good practice to do that as a way of preparing a newsletter. She showed me the cover with a smiley face and the title, "Why is Pastor Rory Saying WOW!?" Linda said this year we should be saying WHOA! I told her I would probably use that. One year ago I was saying "wow" as you had raised funds for the roof replacement that was in process during that newsletter printing. We had finished VBS so I noted how I was looking forward to getting to know more children and youth on Wednesday evenings. Our one worship service on Sundays was increasing our sense of attendance and community! We were waiting for progress on the property sale. We now can say the sale has been completed. The mortgage is paid off! I can't imagine what our church financial situation would be like in this pandemic time if that had not happened. We currently have no information about the developer's construction timeline. That seems to be another "whoa" for our own outreach and landscape timing. My "whoas" this past few months have been felt for confirmations and baptisms, memorial services, VBS, Annual Conference, General Conference and so much more.

One of the sentences in my 2109 August pastor's notes was this: "We know it's a time to try new things. This spirit of adaptation and experimentation is a key to any church vitality and health." I had no idea how "prophetic" those words would be for this year! We have already adapted with worship recordings, drive-in worship, and Zoom meetings.

August typically points us to the September ministries that would start up: choir rehearsals for adults, children and youth, Coming Together Sunday with a special gathering meal, Sunday school and Wednesday activities. This year those things are "whoa" . . . slowdown . . ., not yet.

Honesty, I don't know when we will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary.

We will continue to explore physical distance ways of worship. Some nice autumn weather can be a blessing for our outside options! Some small group activities are being phased back in. Wearing masks and social distance practices will be the standard for **ALL** activities inside the building for quite some time. We may be wanting to "return to normal" as we turn the page to September, but the virus has no respect for a mere calendar! As you are away, this is a case where science, health trends, state and denominational guidance, mixed in with some political and economic pressures do create an uncertain and often changing situation. We will continue to use special emails to keep you updated as plans evolve.

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