

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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December 1, 2017

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

There's not a hint of snow on the ground and its 40 degrees. It hardly seems like Advent and Christmas are just around the corner—unless, of course, you take a look at Grace's worship space or Church calendar. Thanks to the hands of some enthusiastic decorators the church is aglow with Christmas. The women's Advent luncheon is set for December 2nd with a praise band to follow. December 3rd we gather around the purpose of the decorations and traditions of Christmas to help us focus on the meaning of the season. The choir-lead Christmas Sunday is scheduled for December 10th—with extra practices scheduled before. The children's program is on December 17th with prep and practices along the way. Plus, this year, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday with the 10 AM Advent service and the 5 PM Christmas Eve service the same day.



Add in a few items from your personal calendars (perhaps some family coming your way or your own traveling) and December may seem hurried and hectic. We don't know what month Jesus was actually born. We do know things were hurried and hectic for Mary and Joseph—and an entire country as people traveled to their home-towns to be counted by the Romans, and taxed accordingly. Unlike our Christmas preparations, there was no choice for Mary and Joseph—or all the other travelers; they were forced to uproot and enter the chaos of the census. For them, there wasn't even an assurance of shelter and they were traveling at

the worst possible time for Mary who was so close to giving birth. **Maybe that's part of what makes the Christmas story so powerful—a God-moment amidst the stresses and worries of life.**

At the center of the season is stillness, beauty, wonder, awe, new-life. As one new mother said upon holding her first baby, "I've never seen anything so perfect." I've been privileged to hold my children moments after their birth. I was fortunate to hold my granddaughter within a day of her birth; I've been blessed to hold others' sons or daughters at their baptisms. In each one is a beauty, hope and promise that exceeds the majesty of the stars in the sky, the waves on the shore and the snow-capped mountains. Within each of them, with each thimble-sized breath they take, is the awesome reminder how precious life is. Each of them reflects the image of God.

Whatever else the weeks ahead bring your way, **my hope and prayer for you is for a God-moment to find its way into your life—a still, sweet, life-giving reminder of the goodness of a God who is with us and who treasures us.** For all of us, **I pray we will never give up in seeking to help others find their "God-moments"—the moments that change everything by bringing meaning to every struggle and hope in every challenge.**

In the name of Jesus, I wish you hope, joy, peace and love.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas
Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
 Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
 Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
 Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
 Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
 Tom Collins (Eventide)
 Mary J. Phillips (Sheyenne Crossing)
 Jeanne Schwager (Bethany))
 Clara Krook (Bethany)
 Eleanor Payton (River Pointe)
 Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
 Reeta Herman (Fairmont)
 Pat Walter (Elim)
 Emily Elliott (Rosewood)
 Roger Helland (Fairmont)
 Ruth Opp (Edgewood Vista)



Ministry TEAM Program. A Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation. TEAM #6 (Dec/June) TEAM coordinators are S. & N. Grow and T. & D. Grow

701-412-7010—L. An del
 701-361-3586—L. Gibson
 701-866-0686—C. & D. Burkhardt & Family
 218-329-6750—J. Burkhardt
 701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
 218-303-1145—B. Hopkins
 701-630-8035—E. & A. Ybarra & Family
 218-790-2141—L. & P. Horner
 218-236-8056—P. & T..Newgard & Family
 218-233-5836—L. Norby
 701-239-9453—J. & K. Thiseth
 701-280-2097—J. Devine
 218-236-7579—J. Oelke
 218-233-3969—R. Richman
 701-261-1672—M. Swan

PRAYER LIST at Home

Vicky Westra Cullen Fraendorfer
 ArNetta Monge Doyne Grow
 Pat Walter David Reed
 Joe Morlan Myrna Swan

December Birthdays



5—T. Grow
 J. Miller
 4—J. Wilson
 M. Hamm
 5—M. Burkhardt
 7—M. Ladwig
 D. Graning
 14—S. Grow
 15—R. Burkhardt
 P. Welsh
 16—B. Hopkins
 17—T. Grafenstein
 18—G. Clifton
 20—B. Johnson
 22—S. Simmons
 23—T. Wilson
 25—C. Burkhardt
 28—J. Eide
 29—E. Brendemuhl



DONUTS
 Homemade Buttermilk Donuts have gone on vacation. The donuts will return on January 17th., 2018. To place order for donuts, call the office, 233-1857, after January 1st. There will also be a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

CONTRIBUTIONS



All contributions must be received in the office by 10:00 AM, on December 31, 2017 to be counted as a 2017 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2018 contribution. Grace is not responsible to count your contribution for 2017 if it is lost in the mail.

OFFERING ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes for 2018 will be available starting December 3rd. If you would like envelopes and do not find a box with your name, please take a box and write your name next to the number on the sheet. Remember to discard your 2017 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

December Anniversaries



6—R. & C. Goldade
 11—T. & J. Wilson
 12—J. & K. Enkers
 17—T. & L. Collins
 18—R. & N. Lofgren

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
 November**

INCOME: \$ 14,247.05
EXPENSES: \$ 13,626.27
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 502.34



NEW LIFE CENTER NEWS

We are collecting the following Christmas gifts items for The New Life Center shelter residents. Stocking caps; Work gloves and ski gloves Socks (white and colored crew socks - not tube socks); White undershirts - various sizes Underwear - various sizes briefs or boxers Thermal underwear - tops and bottoms in various sizes.

Please place unwrapped gifts in the labeled bin in the narthex by December 8th. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Anderson, 218-329-6477.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 17th during the regular worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service is Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 P.M.

NEW DIRECTORY



The new address and phone directory for 2018 will be printed in January. If you have moved, or changed phone numbers, please let the office know so your correct information will be available.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OTHERS IN TIME OF NEED

A funeral coordinator is needed. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Pastor Roger.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle's Christmas meeting will be on Thursday, December 14th at the Holiday Inn in Fargo at 11:30 am. Dutch treat.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Do you find yourself with months where you run out of money before you run out of month? Do you visualize yourself being able to retire with dignity? Do your dreams for your future appear to be a fading mist or are you able to see it in High Definition? Grace United Methodist Church is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University! This 9-week course will walk you through all of the relationships with money that you've ever wanted to learn, but had never gotten before. From a small emergency fund, through paying off debts, saving for kids' college, all the way to a basic understanding of how to save for retirement and build wealth using your greatest tool, your income. Join us as we walk through this journey together! For more information, feel free to visit with T. or D. Grow, or sign up and order your class materials at <https://fpu.com/1052100>. The first class will begin January 13, 2018 at 9:00 am.

WREATHS FOR SALE



The Women of Grace wreath fund raiser is ongoing. Please consider purchasing a fresh, beautiful wreath for yourself or as a gift. All proceeds will be given to Grace Church Missions. The money will help our budget needs and continue our ministry to our neighborhood outreach

LYDIA CIRCLE

The annual Christmas party for Lydia Circle will be held at 6:00 on December 14, at the home of W. Walseth (815 10 ST S). Remember a potluck dish, a "white elephant" gift to exchange and socks, gloves, hats or scarf to donate to the homeless coalition of Fargo-Moorhead. We would love to have anyone attend who may be considering joining the fun group of women of Lydia Circle wandawalseth@gmail.com, 701.200.4286. if there are any questions.

Grace United Methodist

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 11:00 am Advent Luncheon
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Hanging of the Green 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	4 1:00 m ELR 1:00 pm Quilting	5 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 1:00 pm ELR 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Choir	7 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	8	9 Choir Practice
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship W/ Choir Cantata 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	11 1:00 m ELR 1:00 pm Quilting	12 6:30 pm Operations and Resources	13 1:00 pm ELR 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Group	14 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 11:30 pm Martha Circle—Holiday Inn 7:00 pm Lydia Circle—W. Walseth home	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program	18 1:00 m ELR 1:00 pm Quilting	19	20 1:00 pm ELR 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Group	21 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 am No Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am No Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25 Office Closed	26 6:30 pm Vision and Ministry	27 1:00 pm No ELR 6:15 pm No Confirmation 6:30 pm No Youth Group	28 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 am No Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Living Nativity 10:15 am No Children's Sunday School						

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Fri, Dec 1	am: 140, 142 ,pm: 141, 143	Isa 24:14-23	1 Pet 3:13-4:6	Matt 20:17-28
Sat, Dec 2	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	Mic 7:11-20	1 Pet 4:7-19	Matt 20:29-34
Sun, Dec 3	am: 146, 147, pm:111, 112, 113	Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8	1 Thess 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
Mon, Dec 4	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Amos 2:6-16	2 Peter 1:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
Tues, Dec 5	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
Wed, Dec 6	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
Thur, Dec 7	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
Fri, Dec 8	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
Sat, Dec 9	am: 20, 21, pm:110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
Sun, Dec 10	am: 148-150, pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
Mon, Dec 11	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
Tues, Dec 12	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
Wed, Dec 13	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
Thur, Dec 14	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
Fri, Dec 15	am: 31, pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
Sat, Dec 12	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
Sun, Dec 17	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
Mon, Dec 18	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
Tue, Dec 19	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
Wed, Dec 20	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51
Thur, Dec 21	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
Fri, Dec 22	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
Sat, Dec 23	am: 55, pm:138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
Sun, Dec 24	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
Mon, Dec 25	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:26-31
Tues, Dec 26	1am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Isa 62:1-5	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:1-12
Sun, Dec 27	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Wed, Dec 28	2am: 97, 98, pm: 118	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Thurs, Dec 29	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	2 Sam 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	Luke 1:57-66
Fri, Dec 30	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 5:1-15
Sat, Dec 31	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	am: 1 Kg 3:5-14	Jam 4:13-17; 5:7-11	John 4:46-54



**POINTSETTIA PLANT
ORDER FORMS**

There will be poinsettia plants displayed in the church throughout the Christmas season. The congregation is invited to purchase these poinsettias (at a cost of \$12.00 each). Please place the form below with your payment into the offering plate or drop off the form and payment in the office **before December 17.**

Name _____

Number of plants purchased _____

Amount of payment _____

Name of honoree:

Name for memorial:

POSSIBILITIES

Imagine the possibility of Grace UMC meeting the needs of a rapidly growing FM community with a second service. If you are interested in exploring the possibility please talk with Pastor Roger.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you have the Spirit of Christmas;
which is Peace,
The Gladness of Christmas;
which is Hope;
The Heart of Christmas;
which is Love,
The Gift of Christmas;
which is Christ.

- Ada Hendricks

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Grace United Methodist Church
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Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857*

