

All *prayer requests are welcome. Please write them in the book on the desk in the narthex.*

MEMBERS: Please sign the pew pad and pass it down the pew and then back to the start. The last person should put the sheet in the offering plate. All e-mail addresses will be protected in blind copy so no one else sees your e-mail address. If you are receiving regular e-mails from Church, it is not necessary to write it in again.

VISITORS: Please fill out a yellow card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate.

NORTH STAR DISTRICT: Prayer List for this week includes:
Appleton-First—Brenda Kramer King

FIRST MILE MISSION




First Mile Mission Giving begins in all UM Churches with Apportionments: 'A Portion Meant' for mission. Grace's 1st Mile Mission Giving Goal is \$19,860.00 or \$106.25 each member based on a membership of 187. Generous givers are already **Paving The Way** to meeting that goal, with \$5,484.14 given to date.

PRAYER FOCUS

New Life Center residents, Churches United for the Homeless residents, those served by the Food Pantry ministry and the children of Grace UMC is part of teaching

PRAYER CHAIN

 To start a prayer chain for any prayer concerns, please call Paula Horner, 218-790-2141.

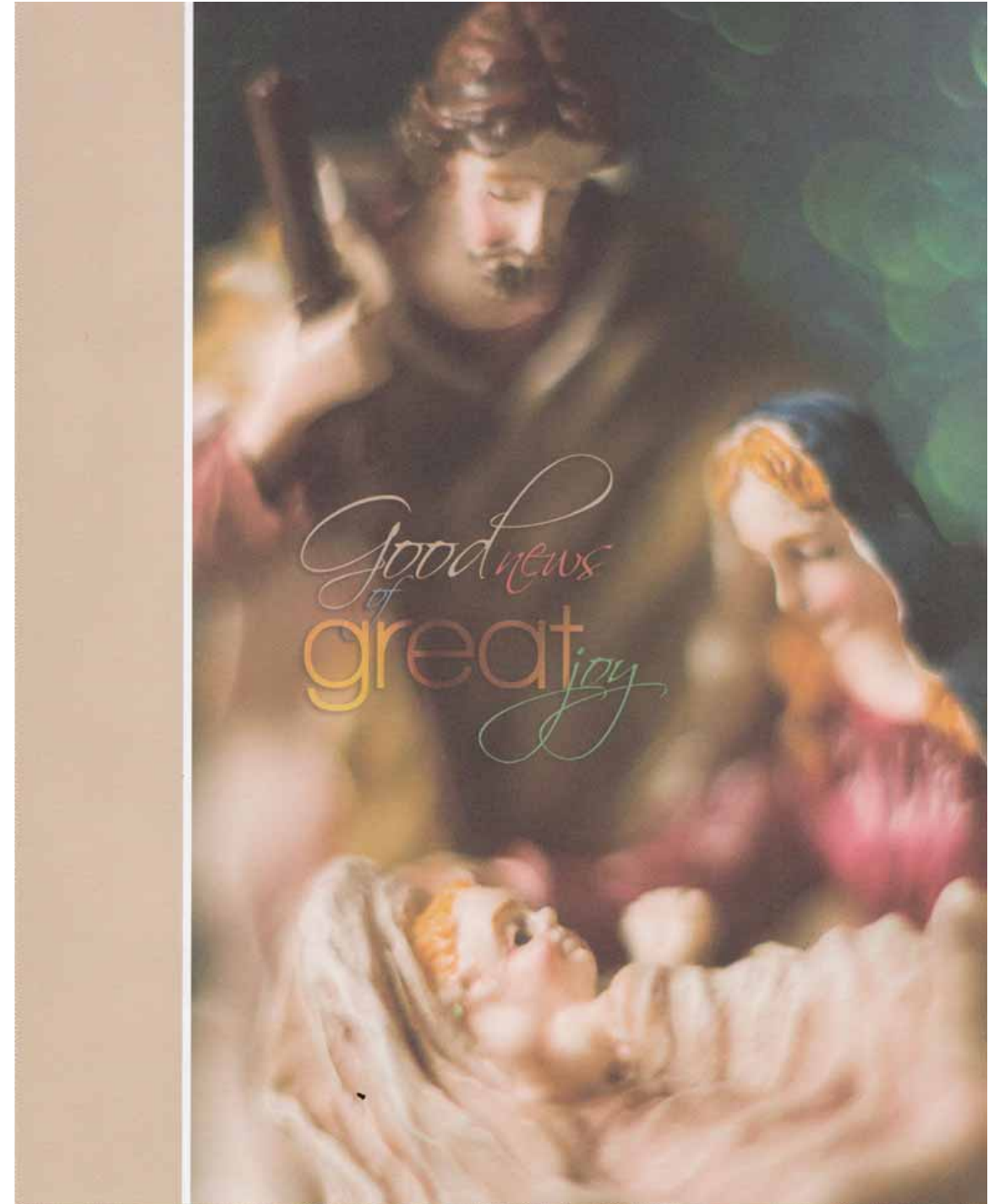
CONTACT INFORMATION:

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2016

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm

The Church of the Neighborhood
Making followers of Christ to Transform the World.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE, PRAY AND BLESS

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Announcements

*Indicates those able may stand

PRAYER PRELUDE: “The Gift”

Olivia Larson, Soloist

***LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

Listen deeply and hear the wonder of wonders.

Thimble-sized breaths whisper across the ages, “Welcome.”

Welcome to love and tenderness claiming their rightful place in God’s creation.

Welcome to nurture and care asserting their place as what makes us human.

Welcome to the manger moment—the birthing cry that echoes across all time.

Tonight we are invited to behold the light in the darkness.

Tonight we are called to live for that light—the light that transforms everything.

Tonight we are called to join the angel chorus and welcome the baby Jesus.

Let us listen deeply. Let us look closely. Let us worship gratefully. Let us love freely.

Tonight we embrace the wonder of wonders.

Welcome.

HYMN: #220 (Blue Hymnal) “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 (CEB)

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS:

HYMN: #230 (Blue Hymnal) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20 (CEB)

HYMN: #245 (Blue Hymnal) “The First Noel”

PRAYER:

Gracious God, we draw near to the centerpiece of your plan. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Give us willing arms to embrace lovingly a tamed mouth to speak kindly. After all, there is a baby at the center of your plan. Most of all, give us hearts to receive the fullness of your love and to love the Christ that lives in our neighbors. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “One Small Child”

Lori Burkhardt, Soloist

MESSAGE: “Embrace the Wonder”

Pastor Roger

TO RESPOND AND GIVE

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

OFFERTORY: “O Come Little Children”

Tiffany Schindler, Flute Solo

Tonight’s Offering will go toward Grace’s Local Mission Outreach.

The New Life Center—Helping Homeless Men Find Shelter and a New Beginning.

Church’s United for the Homeless—Offering shelter for families and veterans

The Fargo Moorhead Community Food Pantry—Providing food in times of need.

Grace Church’s Own Children’s Ministry—Introducing growing numbers of children to the Love of Jesus.

TO BE SENT FORTH

HAND BELL CHOIR:

While the candles are being lit, the Hand Bell Choir will play “Silent Night”. The bells will continue to accompany the congregation with Lori Burkhardt leading the singing.

***HYMN: #239 (Blue Hymnal) “Silent Night”**

***BLESSING:**

Pastor Roger

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Keyboardist: Sharon Fangsrud

Choir Director: Tyler Eliason

Reader: Stephanie Grow

Ushers: