



## 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 \$21,600 or \$123.00 each member based on a membership of 176. Generous givers are already **Paving The way** to meeting that goal, with \$4,960.08 given to date.

## PRAYER CHAIN



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

## PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray for a world in need. We see so much brokenness, pain and unrest. Yet, in the baby Jesus is the whisper of hope, peace and love. May the promise of hope break through the hardest and the weariest of hearts. May the angel-songs and God's hopes for peace echo throughout the world this day. May the love of parent for child, God for all people, and a baby for a parent fill the world with kindness and compassion—especially where it is needed most.



## 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 for contribution lost in the mail.

## VISION AND MINISTRY

The Vision and Ministry Team meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 26th has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018.

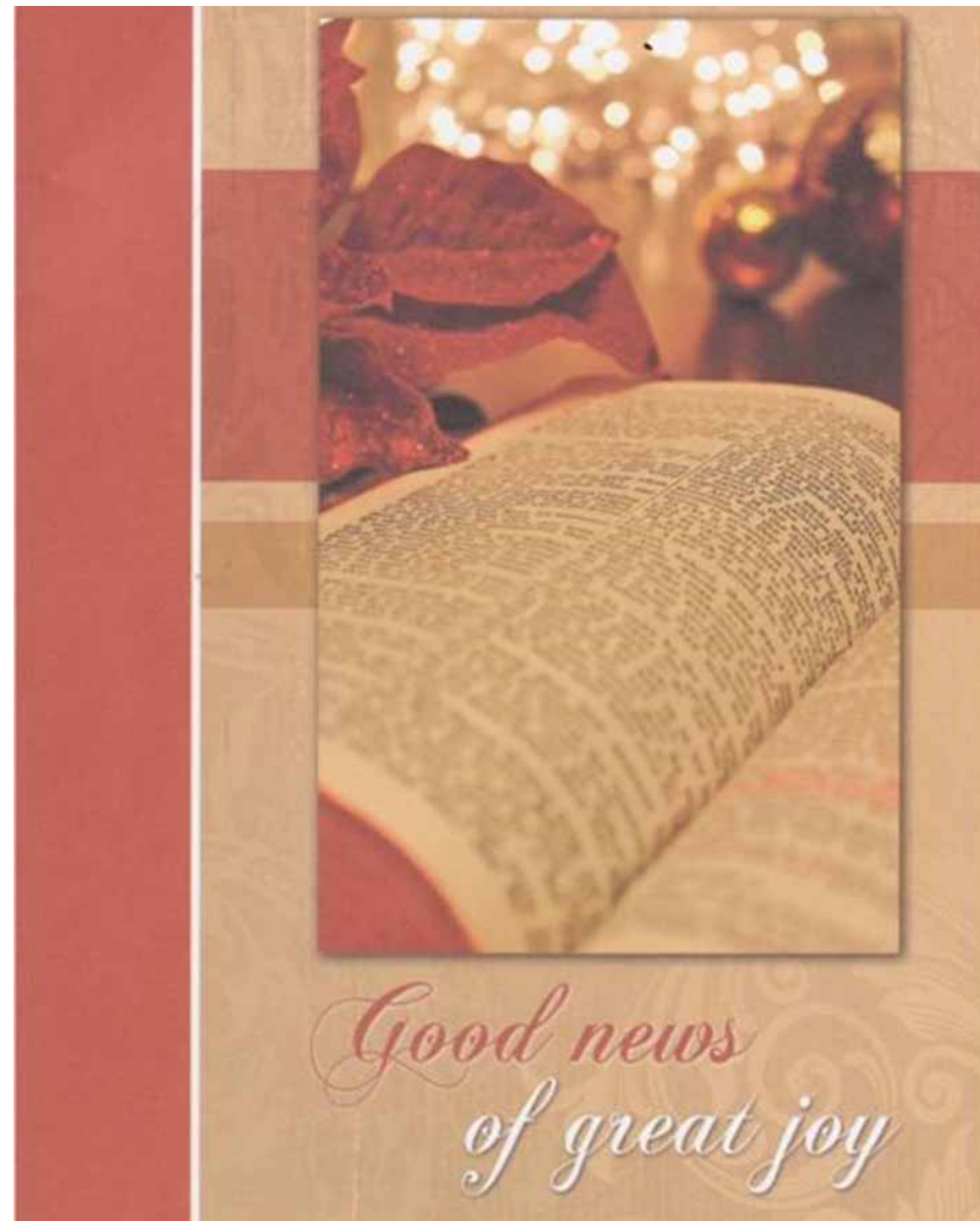
### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Pastor Roger -Office:** (218) 233-1857; **Parsonage:** (218) 233-0255

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**Website:** [www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org)



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm

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

**WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**GATHERING PRELUDE:**

Three Chimes calls us to our gathering announcements and Worship  
Announcements

\*Indicates those able may stand

**PRAYER PRELUDE:**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** Todd & Doyne Grow

Listen. Listen and hear long-ago wonders draw near once more.

**A baby’s breaths whisper across the ages, “do not be afraid.”**

Love and tenderness gently proclaim their rightful place in God’s creation.

**Nurture and care assert “we are the traits define humanity”.**

Angel songs beckon.

**“Come to ponder. Be those who watch over the vulnerable.”**

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

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

Tonight we are called to live for the light.

**Tonight we are called to join the angel chorus welcoming the baby Jesus.**

Listen deeply. Look closely. Worship gratefully. Love freely.

**Tonight we are privileged to embrace Jesus.**

Welcome.

**Amen.**

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

**SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENTS:**

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

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)**

**PRAYER:**

Gracious God, we draw near the centerpiece of your plan. Give us gentle arms to embrace and tame mouths to speak tenderly. After all, there is a baby at the center of your plan. Grant us humble hearts so we may receive the fullness of your love—and the miraculous ability to love the Christ that lives in our neighbors. Amen.

**HYMN: #217 (Blue Hymnal) “Away in a Manger”**

**MESSAGE: “Embrace God’s Change of Plans”**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Breath of Heaven” Lori Burkhardt, Soloist**

**TO RESPOND AND GIVE**

**OFFERING: “Mary Did You Know” Sharon Fangsrud, Soloist**

**TO BE SENT FORTH AS BLESSING**

**\*HYMN: #239 (Blue Hymnal) “Silent Night” Hand Bell Choir**

**\*BLESSING: Pastor Roger**

**POSTLUDE:**

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

**EVERYONE:** 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.

**GUESTS:** 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:  
Long Prairie—Gary Taylor, Church Pastor

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Ministers: All the People** Pastor: Roger Grafenstein  
**Keyboardist: Sharon Fangsrud** Choir Director: Tyler Eliason  
**Reader: Todd Grow and Doyne Grow** Ushers: