

## 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 \$21,646.00 or \$123.00 each member based a membership of 176. Generous givers are already **Paving The Way** to meeting that goal, with \$4,476.74 given to date.

## 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.

## PRAYER CHAIN



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

## CONTRIBUTIONS



All contributions must be received in the office 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.

## NEW TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



The new address and phone director for 2017 will be printed in January. There is a copy on the table in the Narthex, please verify that your address and phone number is correct



*Do not be afraid*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

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:**

\***LIGHTING THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE: #2090 (Black Hymnal) vv. 1-4**  
**“Light the Advent Candle”**

\***HYMN: #234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” v. 1**

**PRAYER:**

O Lord, awaken us. Let our eyes see the dimly lit glow of a distant stable. Let our ears hear the cattle lowing and the far off angels singing. Let our spirits walk the journey like shepherds of old to find the holy in the ordinary. A man, a woman, the pains of labor followed by the cries of newborn life, let the glorious story echo across the hillsides and the centuries until we, too, find ourselves kneeling in awe of the fullness of God’s love in the baby Jesus. Let our lives cradle the peace-filled promises held in the manger-baby.

**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Gift”**

**Olivia Larson**

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 (CEB)**

**HYMN: #196 (Blue Hymnal) “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENTS:**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:47-55 (CEB)**

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

**MESSAGE: “Preview of the Promise”**

**TO RESPOND AND GIVE**

**SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYERS: -**

*(Please wait for the microphone and speak clearly, keeping it about an inch or two from your mouth.- Thank you)*

**LORDS PRAYER: #895 (Blue Hymnal)**

**OFFERING:**

\***DOXOLOGY: #95 (Blue Hymnal) “Praise God”**

**TO BE SENT FORTH**

\***HYMN: #234 (Blue Hymnal) “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vv. 3-5**

\***BLESSING:**

This birth changes everything, if we let it change everything.

**Open our hearts, our hands, and our homes to cradle baby Jesus.**

This birth changes everything, if we let it.

**Fill us with hope as we ponder and live into the meaning of Jesus’ birth.**

This birth changes everything.

**Transform our understandings and our actions in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.**

\***RESPONSE: #204 (Blue Hymnal) “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

**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: Judith Eide**

**Ushers: Clint &indsay Warriner,  
Claire and Kate**