

Light of Grace

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

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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,

My prayer is that this letter finds you and yours healthy and Covid-free. That said, none of us is unaffected. Due to Covid-19 some are unemployed, others work overtime in health, education, and essential settings; those in shipping and delivery are gearing-up for what will be a high-volume season. Surging numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths mean many of us will choose to be apart from loved ones beyond our immediate household. Even socially-distanced, however, we are together in being affected by the virus in a myriad of ways.

The year of Jesus' birth we know there was a census ordered by Caesar Augustus. On the one hand, it meant people were traveling home. On the other, they were not doing so of their free will. Traveling to the towns of their birth, meant much of the population was uprooted, stressed, out-of-sorts, inconvenienced, and sometimes without medical-care or shelter even when it came time to give birth. Even socially-distanced by 2,000 years, our lives and their lives are bound together by similar basic human needs and challenges.

How do we keep on keeping on in a year that uproots our traditions, expectation and plans? Early summer I took the opportunity to begin a Masters Certificate in Non-Profit Leadership. I soon discerned that I needed to withdraw if I wished to have the physical, emotional and spiritual reserves to minister well with Grace UMC during 2020. However, Dakota Wesleyan University and the MN Annual Conference made a way for me to continue one project I started and continue working with a coach specializing in that area. In one of our virtual meetings the coach used the phrase, **"Holding the Hope."** Her words stuck with me. How do we live in these times as Christians? How do churches share Christ's love when we do not gather in buildings? How do pastors minister when in-person is not possible? We **"hold the hope."** We hold it like a candle in the darkness. We hold it like a blanket wrapping our human frailty with comfort. We hold it like an open book with a litany of God's promises written

upon the pages.

This year's Advent/Christmas theme at Grace is **"Hold the Hope."** Each Sunday worship will provide suggestions for spiritual resilience in 2020: ways to lean into a God who promises to have the last word and chooses to be born among us, sharing our vulnerability in a world filled with risks and challenges.



Friends, many, many things this year will not be like other years. There will be some sadness in that. **Nevertheless, I invite us to "hold the hope" that God will see us through.** There may be opportunities to grow in spirit, understanding, and compassion. The Sunday's will include a Grace Kids Virtual Christmas program, and a Christmas eve virtual-hymn-sing ending with Silent Night and candlelight.

Carrie Newcomer, Singer and Author, shared these words a few days ago. I think they are words that **"hold the hope"** well. She wrote, **"Be safe. Be Well. Be Grateful. Whenever possible be kind. And, my friends, be brave; love is on the way; it is already here."**

Be Blessed by Christmas, Christ born among us, God made flesh,

Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
 Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
 Pat Walter (Villa Maria)
 Don Walter (Villa Maria)
 Marilyn Wollitz (Fairmont)
 Jim Jameson (River Pointe)

PRAYER LIST at Home

Carol Devine Lorraine Taggart
 Shirley Mohr Ilo Koening
 Luann Larson JoAnn Oelke
 Leretta Smith Julie Posschl
 Lynette Andel



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



December Birthdays

5—T. Grow
 J. Miller
 4— M. Hamm
 7— 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
 25—C. Burkhardt
 28—J. Eide

LECTIONARY TEXTS

December 6 - Isa 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2, 8-13, II Pet 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
December 13 - Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, I Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 20 - II Sam 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
December 27 - Isa 61:10-62:3, Ps 148, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40



December Anniversaries

6—R. & C. Goldade
 12—J. & K. Enkers

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to the family of Mary Jane Phillips who passed away on Friday, November 6th. A graveside service was held on Thursday, November 12th.

WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.

FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:
 Grace UM Church Moorhead page
 Roger Grafenstein's page

WORSHIP ALSO LIVESTREAMS ON THE WEBSITE: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Kids Devotions on the Website and on FACEBOOK: Grace UM Church Moorhead

AS OF OCTOBER 27th THE BUILDING IS LIMITED TO 10 PEOPLE CURRENTLY FAMILY-ONLY FUNERALS OF NO MORE THAN 10.

NEW LIFE CENTER NEWS

The New Life Women's Auxiliary is collecting gifts again this year for the men who are guests at The New Life Center. Items requested are new unwrapped men's winter gloves and refillable water bottles. Since items cannot be collected at the church, the items will be collected directly from you by Tuesday, December 8th. If you prefer to make a cash donation, the shopping will be done for you. If you have gifts to be picked up, or have any questions, please call Phyllis at (701) 361-2745 or Kathy at (218) 329-6477



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's Christmas program will be live streamed on Sunday, December 20th at 10:00 am



CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service will be live streamed on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 P.M.



NEW DIRECTORY

The new address and phone directory for 2020 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.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Annual Charge Conference was a virtual meeting held in conjunction with other District United Methodists Churches on Tuesday, November 17th. A booklet with the information discussed at the meeting is available to be picked up during regular church office hours or it can be e-mailed if requested.



CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions must be post marked by December 31, 2020 to be counted as a 2020 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2021 contribution. If you are making a contribution for 2020 and 2021, please write a check for each year.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available in December. If you would like envelopes they can be picked up during regular office hours.

Remember to discard your 2020 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

"I CAME THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE & HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY"
(JESUS)



An e-mail, facebook post and information on how to view this worship service created by the leaders of the MN Annual Conference UMC on Dec. 27th will be provided the week prior to this worship. It will take the place of our 10 AM livestream Grace Worship.

Grace United Methodist

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion on www. graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship on www. graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship	14	15 6:30 pm Vision and Operations and Resources	16	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship on www. graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship 10:00 am "Hold the Hope" Children's Christmas Program Premiere	21	22	23	24 5:00 pmc Christmas Eve Worship Live steam on www. graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship	25	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 am Worship on www. graceumcmoorhead.org Facebook Live Worship	28	29	30	31		

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Tues, Dec 1	am: 146, 147, pm:111, 112, 113	Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8	1 Thess 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
Wed, Dec 2	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Amos 2:6-16	2 Peter 1:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
Thurs, Dec 3	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
Fri, Dec 4	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
Sat, Dec 5	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
Sun, Dec 6	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
Mon, Dec 7	am: 20, 21, pm:110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
Tues, Dec 8	am: 148-150, pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
Wed, Dec 9	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
Thurs, Dec 10	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
Fri, Dec 11	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
Sat, Dec 12	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
Sun, Dec 13	am: 31, pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
Mon, Dec 14	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
Tues, Dec 15	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
Tues, Dec 16	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
Thurs Dec 17	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
Fri, Dec 18	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51
Sat, Dec 19	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
Sun, Dec 20	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
Mon, Dec 21	am: 55, pm:138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
Tues, Dec 22	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
Wed, Dec 23	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Zeph 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
Thurs, Dec 24	am: 45, 46, pm: 89:1-29	Isa 59:1-15a	Gal 3:23-4:7	Lk 1:26-80
Fri, Dec 25	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:26-31
Sat, , Dec 26	1am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Isa 62:1-5	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:1-12
Sun, Dec 27	3am: 103, pm: 148	Isa 65:15b-25	Rev 21:1-6	Matt 2:13-23
Mon, Dec 28	2am: 97, 98, pm: 118	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Tues, Dec 29	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Wed, Dec 30	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 5:1-15
Thurs, Dec 31	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	1 Kg 3:5-14	Jam 4:13-17; 5:7-11	John 4:46-54

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the

Light of the World - he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

CHRISTMAS IN US

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If he's not born in thee
Thy soul is still forlorn.

The cross on Golgotha
Will never save thy soul;
The cross in thine own heart
Alone can make thee whole.

- Angelus Silesius

CALL ON CHRIST

Early in the 20th century, Howard Bliss, a missionary to Syria, wrote an article about what Christ can mean to anyone who would take him seriously. Consider these insights:

Does Christ save you from your sin?

Call him Savior!

Does Christ free you from the slavery of your passions?

Call him Redeemer!

Does Christ teach you as no one else has taught you?

Call him Teacher!

Does Christ mold and master your life?

Call him Master!

Does Christ shine upon the pathway that is dark to you?

Call him Guide!

Does Christ reveal God to you?

Call him the Son of God!

Does Christ reveal ideal manhood to you?

Call him the Son of Man!

In following him, are your lips silent in your incapacity to define him and his influence upon you?

Call him by no name, but follow Him!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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1120 17 St S
Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

