

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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: Taylor Johnson

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

Parsonage Phone: (218) 422-6586

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December 1, 2022

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

"The miracle of Advent is the central belief of Christianity- not that we love God- but that God loves us." -Layce Warner, *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*

This year I found myself longing for Advent more and more as it got closer. There's a certain feeling in the air that I can't quite explain between extra time with family, holiday events, Christmas music, and all that is offered in our liturgical season. More than any of those great things, it's the focused time to realize the quote above. Advent is about preparing for Jesus' birth, a powerful act of God to dwell among us as a human and display God's love through humility, mercy, and sacrifice.

Throughout the next month, we are using material from *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a helpful resource to think about how we practice Advent through the means of grace. In the first sermon of the series, I briefly explained the basic idea behind the means of grace, how we are invited to not only receive God's unending and infinite grace, but to participate and share it as well. There is a helpful graphic from UMC Discipleship that helps expand these ideas even further. The means of grace are a combination of works of piety and works of mercy, each of those being a combination of personal and public acts. While some acts could be put into multiple categories, I found this to be a helpful framework for our conversations moving forward.



My hope for this Advent season is for us to remember that waiting is not always passive. We certainly live in a time of longing for the hope, peace, and joy that Christ brings. God is once again inviting you and I to participate in preparing the world for Christ by sharing in God's grace! O come, Emmanuel, come and dwell among us.

Merry Christmas friends!

Pastor Taylor



SERMON SERIES

All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas

Nov. 27: Practicing Advent: Preparing the Way
John 1:19-28

Dec. 4: Praying In Advent; Luke 1:5-20

Dec. 11: Practices of Mercy: Embodying God's
Love for Others; Luke 1:46-55

Dec. 18: Grace UMC Christmas Program

Dec. 25: Christmas is Only the Beginning;
Matthew 2:1-12



**PRAYER LIST AT
Care Facilities**

- Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)
- Pat Walter (St. Catherine S)
- Don Walter (Pioneer House)
- Jim Jameson (River Pointe)
- Will Wehrman (Eventide)

PRAYER LIST at home

- Carol Devine Linda Beck
- Luann Larson Linda Gibson



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 #4 (December/June).

- 701-412-7010—L. Andel
- 701-866-0686—C. & D. Burkhardt
- 701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
- 701-361-3586—L. Gibson
- 701-261-6490—R. Hartog
B. Hopkins
- 218-790-2141—L. & P. Horner
- 218-236-8056—P. & T. Newgard
- 218-233-5836—L. Norby
- 218-233-3969—R. Richman
- 701-239-9453—J. & K. Thiseth
- 701-200-8413—C. & L. Warriner
- 701-630-8035—E. & A. Ybarra



December Birthdays

- 1—T. Grow
J. Miller
- 4—M. Hamm
- 6—C. Bellon
- 7—D. Graning
- 14—S. Grow
J. Jameson
- 15—R. Burkhardt
P. Welsh
B. Chandler
D. Bellon
- 16—B. Hopkins
- 17—J. Bellon
- 18—G. Clifton
- 22—S. Simmons
- 25—C. Burkhardt
N. Romanyshyn
- 27—G. Welsh
- 28—J. Eide
A. Burkhardt

WORSHIP AT GRACE
10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

DONUTS



Thank you to everyone who helped make donuts this year. Also a big thank you to everyone who purchased donuts to make this another successful year. The donut crew is taking a break until after January 1st 2023. Please watch for notices of when they will begin taking orders.



December Anniversaries

- 6—R. & C. Goldade
- 12—J. & K. Enkers

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POINSETTIAS



Order forms for Christmas poinsettias are available at the Connection center of the church. This has been a tradition to honor or remember loved ones during the Christmas season. If you purchase a plant you will be able to take them home after our Christmas Eve service.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEW LIFE CENTER GUESTS

We are again collecting **new** items to be given as Christmas gifts to guests residing at the New Life Center.

Donated items can be brought to church starting this Sunday, Nov. 18, until Sunday, Dec. 4. There is a collection box in the church Narthex.

Requested items this year are:

Gloves

Thermal Underwear - tops and bottoms in various sizes

Hand warmers

Long sleeved shirts in various sizes

White bath towels and white washcloths

If you would like us to do your shopping for you, please give your cash donation to either

Phyllis Murray or Kathy Anderson

Questions? Call K. Anderson, 218-329-6477

or P. Murray, 701-361-2745

Thank you again for your support of this critical Mission!

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WOMEN OF GRACE ADVENT TEA



Celebrate the holiday season with Women of Grace! All women and their guests are invited to our Advent Tea, Saturday, December 3rd at 2 p.m.

There will be a program presented by the MSUM Dragon Carolers, a presentation for the Grace Woman of the Year Award, and tea, coffee, and goodies. Instead of tickets, monetary and food donations for the Emergency Food Pantry will be collected. If you have any questions, please contact J. Graning.

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NEW DIRECTORIES



A copy of the current directory with your address and phone number is on the table in the Narthex. Please take a minute to verify that your contact information is current. If everything is correct put an "ok" by your name or make the necessary corrections.

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CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas eve Candle Light Service is Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY



We will be having a combined worship service with Latter Rain Ministries on Christmas Day at 11:00 am. Join us for a morning of celebrating Jesus' birth through music, dance, sharing God's Word, and a time of holy communion with our friends from LRM.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



We are once again participating in a reverse Advent calendar at Grace! There are boxes available at the Connection Center of the church to fill up and bring on Christmas Eve before worship. Please use the list provided in this newsletter to gather items and use as a devotional each day throughout December. After we collect the filled boxes, we will take them to the Emergency Food Pantry to help stock their shelves. Thank you for your generosity and participation!

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." - C. S. Lewis

WHAT'S ON YOUR LIST?

A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year...
These make a Merry Christmas!

- John Greenleaf Whittier





Grace UMC

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Scriptures follow "All The Good" Devotion Material

- Dec. 1~ Isaiah 11:1-3 ~ Box of Cereal
- Dec. 2~ Isaiah 35:8 ~ Peanut Butter
- Dec. 3~ Isaiah 40:3 ~ Stuffing Mix
- Dec. 4~ Matthew 3:2-6 ~ Boxed Potatoes
- Dec. 5~ Luke 1:17 ~ Mac and Cheese
- Dec. 6~ Mark 1:2 ~ Canned Fruit
- Dec. 7~ Isaiah 7:14 ~ Canned Tomatoes
- Dec. 8~ Luke 11:1-4 ~ Canned Tuna
- Dec. 9~ 1 John 5:14-16 ~ Box of Desserts
- Dec. 10~ Psalm 150:6 ~ Jar of Applesauce
- Dec. 11~ Psalm 23 ~ Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Dec. 12~ Ephesians 1:17-19 ~ Cranberry Sauce
- Dec. 13~ Matthew 5:43-45 ~ Canned Beans
- Dec. 14~ Matthew 6:7-8 ~ Box of Crackers
- Dec. 15~ James 1:27 ~ Package of Rice
- Dec. 16~ Matthew 25:35-40 ~ Instant Oatmeal
- Dec. 17~ Exodus 20:7 ~ Package of Pasta
- Dec. 18~ Deuteronomy 24:19 ~ Spaghetti Sauce
- Dec. 19~ Isaiah 1:17 ~ Chicken Noodle Soup
- Dec. 20~ John 15:13 ~ Tomato Soup
- Dec. 21~ 1 John 4:19-21 ~ Can of Corn
- Dec. 22~ Genesis 12:1-3 ~ Can of Mixed Veggies
- Dec. 23~ Exodus 19:5-6 ~ Can of Carrots
- Dec. 24~ Luke 1:28-31 ~ Can of Green Beans

Bring filled box to Grace UMC on Christmas Eve



BORN IN A BARN

While growing up, if my sisters and I behaved rudely at the table, my mom would ask, “Were you born in a barn?”

Too often, rude behavior isn’t restricted to meals. Even adults behave badly toward others, intentionally or unintentionally. Our lack of consideration, good manners and kindness might be likened to the behavior of animals, not guided by concepts of right and wrong.

Jesus was literally born in a barn because we sometimes act like we were born in a barn, failing to put others ahead of ourselves. Through Jesus, God willingly entered the mess and stink of human existence. We know that Jesus can relate to the lowest of human experience because he was laid into a feed trough for animals, surrounded by their sounds and smells. Born alongside us in the “barn” of earthly life, Jesus taught us not only politeness but love.

One day, when I dine with Jesus at the heavenly banquet, I trust Mom will be pleased with my table manners.

ROSE



This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus’ nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn’t send cards and didn’t plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I’d be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God’s gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn’t this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God’s gift of love.

—Heidi Mann

“We find a delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Grace United Methodist

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	2	3 2:00 pm WOG Advent Tea
4 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	5 1:00 pm Quilting	6 7:00 pm AA	7 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10
11 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	12 1:00 pm Quilting	13 6:30 pm Leadership Team 7:00 pm AA	14 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	16	17
18 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Christmas Program 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	19 1:00 pm Quilting	20 7:00 pm AA	21 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Services
25 9:00 am No Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/ Communion and Latter Rain Ministries	26 1:00 pm No Quilting	27 7:00 pm AA	28 6:00 pm No Youth Group 6:00 pm No Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30	31

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Dec 1	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Isa 1:21-31	1 Thes 2:1-12	Luke 20:9-18
Dec 2	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Isa 2:1-11	1 Thes 13-20	Luke 20:19-26
Dec 3	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 2:12-22	1 Thes 3:1-13	Luke 20:27-40
Dec 4	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Isa 3:8-15	1 Thes 4:1-12	Luke 20:41-21:4
Dec 5	am: 20, 21, pm: 110,116,117	Isa 4:2-6	1 Thes 4:13-18	Luke 21:5-19
Dec 6	am: 148,149,150, pm: 114, 115	Isa 5:1-7	2 Pet 3:11-18	Luke 7:28-35
Dec 7	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Isa 5:8-23	1 Thes 5:1-11	Luke 21:20-28
Dec 8	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Isa 5:13-25	1 Thes 5:12-28	Luke 21:29-38
Dec 9	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Isa 6:1-13	2 Thes 1:1-12	John 7:53-8:11
Dec 10	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Isa 7:1-9	2 Thes 2:1-12	Luke 22:1-13
Dec 11	am: 31, pm: 35	Isa 7:10-25	2 Thes 2:13-3:5	Luke 22:14-30
Dec 12	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Isa 8:1-15	2 Thes 3:6-18	Luke 22:31-38
Dec 13	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Isa 13:6-13	Heb 12:18-29	John 3:22-30
Dec 14	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Isa 8:16-9:1	2 Pet 1:1-11	Luke 22:39-53
Dec 15	am: 45, pm: 47,48	Isa 9:1-7	2 Pet 1:12-21	Luke 22:54-69
Dec 16	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Isa 9:8-17	2 Pet 2:1-10a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 27	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 33	Isa 9:18-10:4	2 Pet 2:10b-16	Matt 3:1-12
Dec 18	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Isa 10:5-19	2 Pet 2:17-22	Matt 11:2-15
Dec 19	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Isa 10:20-27	Jude 17-25	Luke 3:15-20
Dec 20	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Isa 42:1-12	Eph 6:10-20	John 3:16-21
Dec 21	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Isa 11:1-9	Rev 20:1-10	John 5:30-47
Dec 22	am: 66, 6, 7, pm: 116, 117	Isa 11:10-16	Rev 20:11-21:8	Luke 1:5-25
Dec 23	am: 72, pm: 111, 113	Isa 28:9-22	Rev 21:9-21	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 24	am:45,46, pm: 89:1-29	Isa 35:1-10	Rev 22:12-17	Luke 1:67-80
Dec 25	am:2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Zech 2:10-13	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36
Dec 26	am: 28, 30, pm: 145	2 Chron 24:17-22	Acts 6:1-7	[Acts 7:59-8:8]
Dec 27	am: 93.96, pm: 34	Isa 62:6-7, 10-12	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 1:18-25
Dec 28	am: 8, pm: 19, 126	Jere 31:1-17	Rev 21:1-7	Matt 18: 1-14
Dec 29	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Dec 30	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	Isa 25:1-9	Rev 1:9-20	John 7:53-8:11
Dec 31	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	Isa 26:1-9	2 Cor 5:16-6:2	John 8:12-19

THE MEANING OF ADOPTION



When a class of young children began discussing the subject of adoption, the teacher first asked for a definition. An 8-year-old girl answered by saying, "I'm adopted. If you're adopted it means you grew up in a mother's heart instead of her tummy."

St. Paul said we Christians are all adopted. To the church at Ephesus he wrote, "[God] destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5, NRSV). We have been in God's heart all along.

"He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." - Augustine of Hippo

RECONSIDER THE RUSH



The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective:

"Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries—[more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christ rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal."

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

