

# 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

Vol. 35, No. 12

Church E-Mail Address: [graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com)

December 1, 2023

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

Pastor: Taylor Johnson

Pastor's E-mail Address: [graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor's Cell Phone (218) 422-6586

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

## Greetings:

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel"

This is easily one of my favorite Christmas songs, if not one of my favorite songs in general. The words speak to so many with the message of the Advent season, that in the midst of their sorrow, hope is on the way. It's not just a temporary hope or a feel good moment that can be achieved with light displays and holiday parties, it's an everlasting and eternal hope that will "disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight." The good news of Advent is that Christ's birth is merely a glimpse of what happens when heaven and earth collide, and that's why I thought Will Willimon's book *Heaven and Earth* was such a good resource for us this year. I hope you'll be able to take time to hear the sermons, watch the weekly videos, or participate in the Bishop's online study on Tuesday nights.

We all have struggles in our lives that can be compounded by the stress and pressure of the holiday season. My prayer is that throughout this season you can see signs of hope here at Grace UMC through the many ministries and opportunities.

You as a church have continued to step up in amazing ways through your generosity for others. We have taken three massive loads of clothes to shelters and organizations throughout the Fargo/Moorhead area. Our Food Pantry cart has been stocked and taken over to the Emergency Food Pantry helping people when the need is higher than it ever has been. You've responded by bringing in items for Christmas gifts for residents at the

New Life Center. Thank you for all of the ways you have lived into being the church of the neighborhood!

During the Advent season we are going to bring back the Reverse Advent Calendar. Each day of December there is a scripture and a food item to be collected for our food pantry. You can purchase the items all at once or week by week as you go along. I heard a great idea last week about teaming up with grandparents or other families to fill a box (I'd love to give credit to whoever had that idea, but I'm blanking on who it was at the moment). We have some boxes available at the Connection Center here at church. Then at either the 10am or 5pm service on Christmas Eve, please bring back your filled up box as part of our celebration for that day! I offered a challenge to pass our total boxes from last year of 20, and I'm confident that we can do that this year.

Throughout this month, take time to notice the ways God is showing up in your life through others, through our gatherings, and through you!

From my family to you and yours,

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Taylor





**PRAYER LIST AT  
Care Facilities**

Pat Walter (St. Catherine S)  
Don Walter (Pioneer House)  
Jim Jameson (River Pointe)  
Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)  
JoAnn Oelke (Serenity)



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 #5 (December/June)  
701-412-7010—L. Anandel  
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  
218-233-3969—R. Richman  
701-200-8413—C. & L. Warriner  
701-630-8035—E. & A. Ybarra

**PRAYER LIST at home**

Carol Devine Lynette Anandel  
Luann Larson Linda Gibson  
Larry Possehl Jean Graning  
Paul Kemper Eddie Ybarra  
Rick Abel



**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

**DONUTS**

The donut makers are on a Holiday Break and would like to take everyone who helped make or purchased donuts. They will return to make your favorite treats again on January 10th. You may place your order after January 2nd for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex, calling the office, 218-233-1857 or the web site: [www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts).

**SERMON SERIES**

**Heaven and Earth**

- Dec 3—"Surprised" - Mark 1:4-6
- Dec 10—"Light" - John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Dec 17—Christmas Program
- Dec 24—"Rejoice!" - Luke 1:26-55



**December Anniversaries**

12—J. & K. Enkers

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service is Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 pm.



**WORSHIP AT GRACE**

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: [graceumcmoorhead.org](http://graceumcmoorhead.org)**

**Offerings may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560**

**Online giving available through Givelify! Go to [graceumcmoorhead.org/give](http://graceumcmoorhead.org/give) and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.**

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Del Larson, CLM

In early November, Luann and I were doing a video chat with fellow Moorhead graduates (Trish and Craig) from South Carolina. Part of our conversation dealt with our love and trust of God. Trish told the story of her son, Ryan, stopping to get gas on a rainy evening. He noticed a man and a woman sitting by the side of the station out of the rain. Their motorcycle stood nearby, but what grabbed his attention was the woman seemed distraught. Then he heard a voice that got his attention to check out the couple. As he talked to them, he felt the Holy Spirit moved him to offer help. I asked Trish and Craig if they would be willing to share this story with you. Here is Trish's story that includes a God Whisper and nudge.

Ryan was driving back to Chester from Charlotte one evening late and needed to pull into a gas station for gas. His wife and 2 kids were asleep. When he pulled into the gas station he was the only car filling up. He noticed a motorcycle (he always looks at them because he is a biker, also) and two people just sitting on the concrete outside the gas station. He watched the couple as he was filling up his car and noticed that they seemed upset as the two were talking. The woman seemed to be crying. He felt like he was supposed to go talk with the couple, and knew that he would probably ask them if he could help them and, of course, pray for them.

He found out that the couple had driven from Virginia recently, coming to the Charlotte, NC area for work, but the job didn't pan out. They were now out of money, and had been sleeping in the elements for days. They didn't know what to do. Our son prayed for them, and then he felt that he needed to offer them a place to stay for the night. He paid for them to put gas in their motorcycle, and told the bikers to follow him home. Our son and his wife housed them for about a week and then things started to show the Lord's intervention in the whole situation.....

-The couple started attending church, and rededicated their lives to following the Lord

-Our son, through connections, helped the man find a job

-The couple found a park close by to camp out with loaned camping equipment (From Craig and Trish)

-The couple has now been given a car

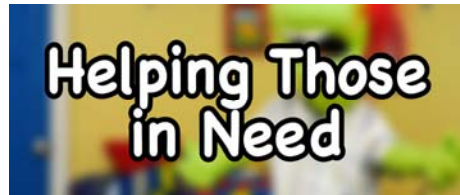
-People have given monetary gifts to help them get back on their feet

-There is a motor home coming available for them soon to stay in.

All of the above has happened in a couple months. The couple is learning to trust the Lord and also learning to trust people again. (They have been recipients of so much rejection in the past 5 years). Anyway, it's so

important for us to stay in tune, and to follow a nudge from the Lord. Who knows what lives will be changed by reaching out with the Lord's love! Love always works!!

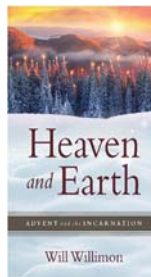
Sometimes we are quick to judge someone by their looks. I'm sure I have missed opportunities to feed and clothe Jesus. This story was a great reminder of what Jesus expects from us. From Matt. 25:34-40 paraphrased: Jesus explained that we are like animals, when He returns, He will divide the sheep from the goats. He was hungry and you gave Him food and drink. When He needed clothing, or was sick you filled his needs, and you visited Him in prison. Unfortunately, the righteous will answer him by asking when did we see you hungry, thirsty, or in need of care?



Jesus replied, *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.”* Matt. 25:40

I found out recently, that my daughter and her husband buy winter outerwear each year for one of their daughters classmates who is in need. Just as we have been asked to help at Grace. Micah's Mission at the Homeless Center, and the New Life facility are filled to over capacity with so many needs. There are those who will live out in the elements this year because there is no room for them. What Are You Being Called To Do?

## ADVENT STUDY BOOK



*Heaven and Earth* is written by Bishop Will Willimon. This study will follow the sermon series as well as weekly digital discipleship videos. The study will introduce you to God who brings heaven to earth and changes everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us.

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck for a four-session Advent Study via Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning Nov. 28. The schedule is:

- **Nov. 28, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m. Central, Chapter 1: Meanwhile (Mark 12:24-37), pages 1-36.
- **Dec. 5, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m. Central, Chapter 2: Surprised (Mark 1:1-8), pages 37-70.
- **Dec. 12, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m. Central, Chapter 3: Light (John 1:6-8, 19-28), pages 71-94.
- **Dec. 19, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m. Central, Chapter 4: Rejoice (Luke 1:26-55), pages 95-140.



# Grace UMC

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Scripture list from *The King is Coming*

- Dec. 1~ Genesis 1-3 ~ Box of Cereal
- Dec. 2~ Genesis 6-8 ~ Peanut Butter
- Dec. 3~ Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-14 ~ Stuffing Mix
- Dec. 4~ Genesis 16:1-13; 21:8-20 ~ Boxed Potatoes
- Dec. 5~ Genesis 29 ~ Mac and Cheese
- Dec. 6~ Exodus 11-12 ~ Canned Fruit
- Dec. 7~ Joshua 5-6 ~ Canned Tomatoes
- Dec. 8~ 1 Samuel 15 ~ Canned Tuna
- Dec. 9~ 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ~ Box of Desserts
- Dec. 10~ 1 Chronicles 22 ~ Jar of Applesauce
- Dec. 11~ 1 Kings 18-19 ~ Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Dec. 12~ Jeremiah 29:1-14 ~ Cranberry Sauce
- Dec. 13~ Daniel 6 ~ Canned Beans
- Dec. 14~ Jonah 1-3 ~ Box of Crackers
- Dec. 15~ Ezra 1,3 ~ Package of Rice
- Dec. 16~ Luke 1:5-25 ~ Instant Oatmeal
- Dec. 17~ Luke 1:57-79 ~ Package of Pasta
- Dec. 18~ Matthew 3 ~ Spaghetti Sauce
- Dec. 19~ Luke 2:21-38 ~ Chicken Noodle Soup
- Dec. 20~ Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 ~ Tomato Soup
- Dec. 21~ Matthew 1:18-25 ~ Can of Corn
- Dec. 22~ Isaiah 9:1-7 ~ Can of Mixed Veggies
- Dec. 23~ John 1:1-18 ~ Can of Carrots
- Dec. 24~ Luke 2:1-7 ~ Can of Green Beans

Bring filled box to Grace UMC on Christmas Eve

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Invite your grandparents! Invite your friends! Invite everyone! We are excited for our All Church Christmas Program during worship on December 17th at 10am. Our program will feature our Grace Kids and Youth, Grace UMC Choir, and many others as we celebrate the Christmas season!

## 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 until Wednesday,

December 6th . 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 P. Murray or K. Anderson

Questions? Call K. Anderson, 218-329-6477  
or P. Murray, 701-361-2745

**Thank you again for your support of this critical Mission!**

## YEAR END GIFTS



Please remember that all year end gifts for 2023 must be in the office or postmarked by December 31 in order to be counted for this year. If making donations for 2023 and 2024, please make two checks.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE SUMMARY



Thank you to all who attended our Church Conference in November! We affirmed the call of three lay leaders to continue or begin their ministry: Del Larson, Angela Ybarra, and Diana Stead, approved the 2024 budget, and celebrated the ministry from the past year.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st for the holidays.

## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



Hanson-Runsvold Funeral home is hosting their 35th Annual Holiday Service of Remembrance. This meaningful service is specifically designed for people who are looking for ways to remember their deceased loved ones during the holidays. You are invited to attend on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00pm in their chapel. Please RSVP to 701-232-3222.

## HOPE IS BORN

A little child, a shining star,  
A stable rude, the door ajar.  
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all the world was born.  
- Author unknown



# Grace United Methodist

## December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 2:00 pm WOG Advent Tea
<b>3</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
<b>10</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Grace Program Practice
<b>17</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Christmas Program 11:00 pm Leadership Team 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm Quilting	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Grace Youth Group 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>22</b> 5:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries Christmas Program	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
<b>24</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am No Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm AA	<b>27</b> 9:00 am No Bible Study 7:00 pm No Grace Youth Group 6:00 pm No Choir 7:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Latter Rain Dance Practice
<b>31</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am NO Sunday School 12:00 pm Latter Rain Ministries						

<b>Date</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Dec 1</b>	am: 146, 147, pm: 111-113	Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8	1 Thess 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
<b>Dec 2</b>	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Amos 2:6-16	2 Peter 1:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
<b>Dec 3</b>	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
<b>Dec 4</b>	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
<b>Dec 5</b>	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
<b>Dec 6</b>	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
<b>Dec 7</b>	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
<b>Dec 8</b>	am: 148-150, pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
<b>Dec 9</b>	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
<b>Dec 10</b>	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
<b>Dec 11</b>	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
<b>Dec 12</b>	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
<b>Dec 13</b>	am: 31, pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
<b>Dec 14</b>	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
<b>Dec 15</b>	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
<b>Dec 16</b>	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
<b>Dec 17</b>	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
<b>Dec 18</b>	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51
<b>Dec 19</b>	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
<b>Dec 20</b>	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
<b>Dec 21</b>	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
<b>Dec 22</b>	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
<b>Dec 23</b>	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Zeph 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
<b>Dec 24</b>	am: 45, 46, pm: 89:1-29	Isa 59:1-15a	Gal 3:23-4:7	Lk 1:26-80
<b>Dec 25</b>	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Zech 2:10-13	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36
<b>Dec 26</b>	am: 28, 30, pm: 145	2 Chron 24:17-22	Acts 6:1-7	[Acts 7:59-8:8]
<b>Dec 27</b>	am: 93.96, pm: 34	Isa 62:6-7, 10-12	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 1:18-25
<b>Dec 28</b>	am: 8, pm: 19, 126	Jere 31:1-17	Rev 21:1-7	Matt 18: 1-14
<b>Dec 29</b>	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
<b>Dec 30</b>	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	Isa 25:1-9	Rev 1:9-20	John 7:53-8:11
<b>Dec 31</b>	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	Isa 26:1-9, Isa 65:15b-25	2 Cor 5:16-6:2	John 8:12-19





### TEA TIME

Celebrate the holiday season with Women of Grace! All women and their guests are invited to our Advent Tea, Saturday, December 2nd at 2:00 pm. Our program, will be presented by the MSUM Dragon Carolers. Also included in our program is a presentation for the Grace Women 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 E. Vollbrecht.

### NEW DIRECTORIES



A copy of the current directory with your address and phone number is on the table in the Connection Center. 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.

### 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.

### KEEPING CHRISTMAS

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem [two thousand] years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

—Henry Van Dyke

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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