

# Grace United Methodist Church

United Methodist Mission Statement

*The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**December 2, 2018**

**First Sunday of Advent**

## GATHERING

Prelude People, Look East J. Bertolozzi

Welcome and Announcements

\*Prayer

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise *Joy To The World* #246

\*Responsive Reading *Canticle of Light and Darkness* #205

\**Gloria Patri* #70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

Children's Message

Reading of the Word Jeremiah 33:14-16

Proclamation of the Word *Glorious Anticipation*

## RESPONSE

Joys and Concerns and Morning Prayer

Hymn of Response *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #196

Invitation to the Table

Confession

**Our heavenly Father, who by your love has made us, and through your love has kept us, and in your love would make us perfect: We humbly confess that we have not loved you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ loved us. Your life is within our souls, but our selfishness has hindered you. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted your Spirit. We have neglected your inspirations. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in your Spirit direct what we shall be; that you may come into the full glory of your creation, in us and in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offering/Offertory We Wait Grace Choir

\*Doxology #95

The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

## GOING FORTH

\* Hymn *He Is Born* #228

\* Benediction

\* Postlude From Heaven Above D. Schack

**Children's bulletins** and crayons are available in the front pew. You are welcome to take a bulletin to work on during worship. Return crayons after worship. Enjoy!

Helping Us			
<b>Head Usher</b>		Thomas Yarris	
<b>Organist</b>		Kathy Russell	
<b>Communion ~ December</b>		Susan Parker	
<b>Today</b>		<b>Next week</b>	
<b>Offering Counter</b>	Carolyn Rutkowski Melvin Ruediger	<b>Offering Counter</b>	David Ciuchta Walter Rutkowski
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Rich Caugherty	<b>Lay Reader</b>	George Reese
<b>Acolytes</b>	Sadie Brown	<b>Acolytes</b>	Skylar Brown
<b>Sunday School</b>	No Sunday School	<b>Sunday School</b>	Linda Schaefer
<b><i>In our hearts this week:</i></b>			
<b>Vie Riemer</b> 522 Cumberland Woods Village Allison Park, PA 15101			
<b>Joyce Euler</b> 1011 Montana Avenue Natrona Heights, PA 15065			

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1333 Freeport Road, Natrona Heights, PA 15065 / 724-224-7663

**Church Office Hours** Tuesday 9-12pm and Wednesday 9-3pm

graceumchurch@hotmail.com / <https://gracechurch-today.org>

**Rev. Dr. Andrew P. Spore, Pastor**/814-450-3606/[drspore@hotmail.com](mailto:drspore@hotmail.com)

**Office hours** Tuesday 10:30 – 1:00pm

**Wednesday floating between both churches and by appointment**

Upper Allegheny Valley Director of Ministry & Community Development

**Pastor Raphael Koikoi**/ 281-620-9928/ [emailpastork@gmail.com](mailto:emailpastork@gmail.com)

Established in 1877

This week at Grace United Methodist Church	
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December	Gift Card Order Day
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in December	Gift Card Distribution (back table)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Change for UMCOR
Monday	9:30 am Thrift Shop Sorting/Cleaning
Monday	6:30 pm Book Study
Wednesday	1:00 – 4:00 pm Thrift Shop

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**Last Week for POINSETTIA Orders.** Extra order forms are on the back table near the bulletins. You can place in the offering plate.

**Administrative Council Meeting** – Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

**Gift Cards** –Pick up your cards on the back table today and place your next order! Order forms are next to the bulletins. Place your orders for Christmas gift giving and donating to people in need. We will place orders every week of November for the upcoming holiday season. All proceeds benefit Grace UMC mission & outreach. **This fundraiser is in jeopardy of ending. We have lost a large contributor of this fundraiser. It will continue through the holidays when the council will make a decision on its future profitability. The shipping for the cards is between \$8.50 and \$13.50 each order.**

**Foster Love Project** – We've completed 7 back packs and collected numerous loose items to fill bags. Please see Joanne Maeder or Pastor Koikoi to find out what else is needed to complete bags. This mission will run December 10<sup>th</sup> when a representative will present them to the Foster Love representative. Thank you for all your hard work and generosity to make this a success.

**The Finance Committee** is looking to draw up the weekly Counter Schedule for 2019. We would greatly appreciate volunteers to work with a partner to count the offerings. The schedule will likely be once every 5 or 6 weeks. Please contact Linda Schaefers (724.295.9652 or linda1950@hotmail.com) with your willingness to serve in this capacity.

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword gainst nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

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## **THE WORD**

Jeremiah 33:14-16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Leader: This is the Word of God

**Thanks be to God**