

# 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 16, 2018**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

## GATHERING

Prelude While By My Sheep G. Young

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 *Sing We Now of Christmas* #237

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Kaelyn Yedlowski, Ariel Rhine, Sierra Brown

\*Responsive Reading *Psalms 146* #858

\**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

The children present "Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior"

## RESPONSE

Joys and Concerns and Morning Prayer

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

## Confession

**We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from you. You know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Offering/Offertory Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child Coventry Carol

\*Doxology #95

\* Prayer of 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.**

## GOING FORTH

\* Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #213

\* Benediction

\* Postlude Unto Us a Child is Born G. Young

**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 ~ January</b>		Jamie Tinnemeyer	
<b>Today</b>		<b>Next week</b>	
<b>Offering Counter</b>	Carolyn Rutkowski Joyce Euler	<b>Offering Counter</b>	Sue Herman Justin Tinnemeyer
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Howard Russell	<b>Lay Reader</b>	Linda Schaefer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Sierra Brown	<b>Acolytes</b>	Haiden Ball
<b>Sunday School</b>	Carol Peters	<b>Sunday School</b>	Jamie Tinnemeyer
<b><i>In our hearts this week:</i></b>			
<b>Lucy Croker</b> 598 Parker Road Sarver PA 16055			
<b>Elizabeth Johns</b> 1514 Neely Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065			

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

**Church Office Hours** Wednesday 9-3pm and Friday 9:15 am- 12:15pm

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**

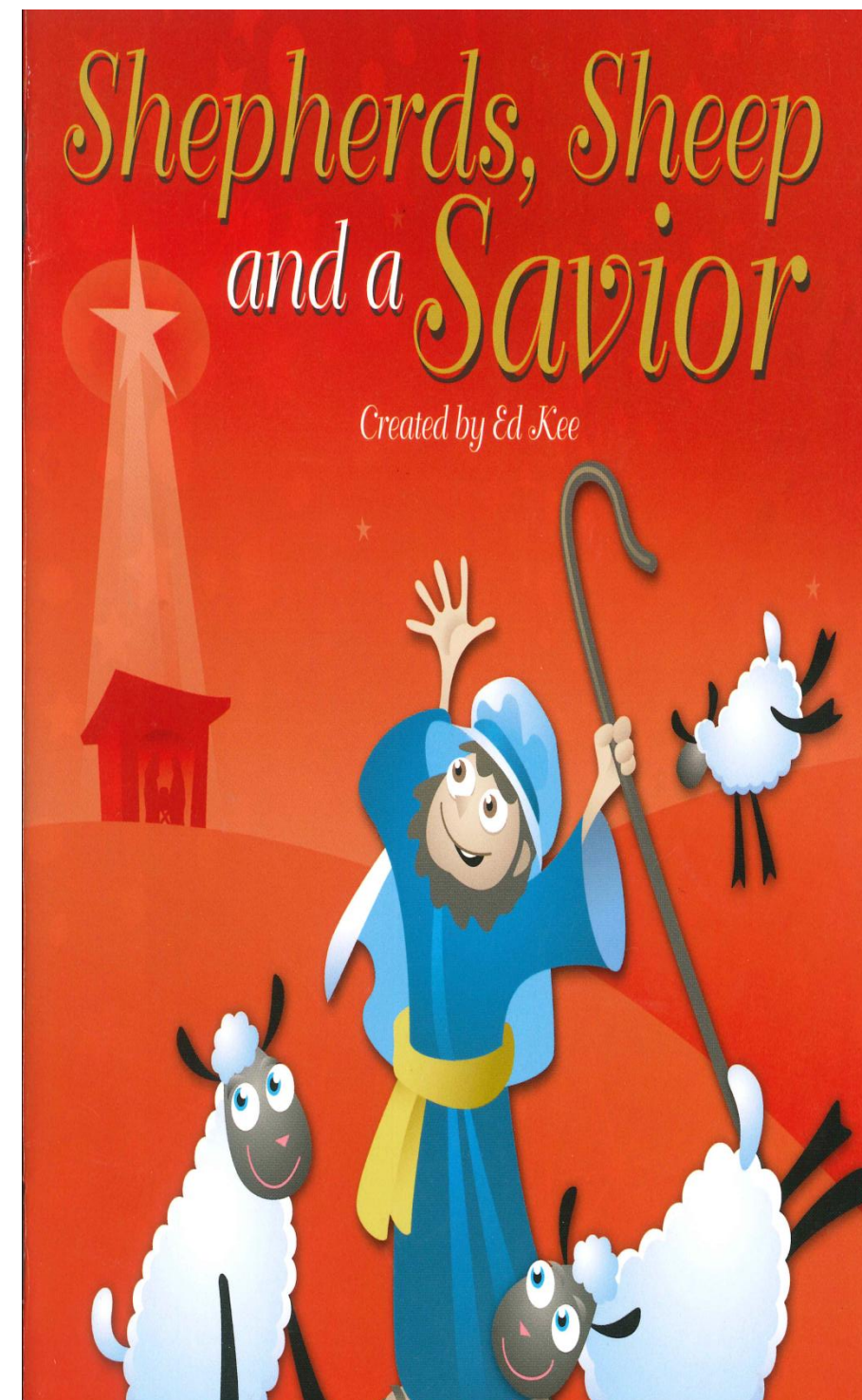
**Wednesday floating between both churches and by appointment**

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	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Gift Card Order Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – 4:30 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

**UMCOR Relief for Puerto Rico** – Thanks to all who contributed to our 2018 UMCOR Relief Initiative. We collected \$93.66 last week, bringing the **grand total to \$1,143.32.**

**Administrative Council Meeting** – Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

**Bell Choir** - Practice will be December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30. The Bell Choir will perform on December 23<sup>rd</sup> during worship.

**Gift Cards** – Order forms are next to the bulletins. All proceeds benefit Grace UMC mission & outreach. **Going forward Grace will place one order a month for gift cards. This order will be placed the 2nd Sunday of the month and delivered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Order dates: 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10 and 12/8. Plan ahead to purchased gift cards on these dates.**

**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 Schaefer (724.295.9652 or linda1950@hotmail.com) with your willingness to serve in this capacity.

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**Advent 2018**  
**Third Sunday**  
**Isaiah 35:10 (NRSV)**

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.