

# Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – December 28, 2025 – 9:00 am



SIGNS AND POWER

Meditation Verse *“Then the young women will dance for joy; the young and old men will join in. I will turn their mourning into laughter and their sadness into joy; I will comfort them.”*

- Jeremiah 31:13

Grace United Methodist Church  
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Check us out on Facebook!

## Church Staff:

Pastor	John Britt
Office Administrator	Phyllis Stevens & Tanya Taylor
Children's Ministry	<hr/>
Youth Ministry	Kristal Hamm
Financial Administrator	Cindy Puckett
Custodian	Tanya Taylor
Digital Campus Host	Kristin Britt
Audio/Visual	Steve Hilton
Lay Leader	Prairie Walkling
Pianist	Julie Marsland

## Order of Worship

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn/Song: Away in a Manger/  
Amazing Grace Medley

### Call to Worship:

Leader: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask "What now?"

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that All the earth awaits.**

Leader: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that All the earth awaits.**

Leader: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that All the earth awaits.**

Leader: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declares good news wherever we go.

**People: We gather today as people who wait, watch and work for the day that all the earth awaits.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Song: All Some Kind of Dream

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:11-17 and Matthew 2:13-23

Kids Message

Message "Signs and Powers"

\*Song of Response: Soon and Very Soon

## Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

### Announcements

\*Closing Song: That's Why We Praise Him

\*Blessing

\*(Please stand as you are able.)

### GPS – Grow, Pray, Study

- 1) *Grow.* Many people today, like Jesus' family, feel unsafe, vulnerable, powerless. How would seeing them and standing alongside them bring safety, security, and power? In what ways could you practically do that this week?
- 2) *Pray.* Where do you see people in power abusing that power continuing injustices in order to maintain or increase their power? Pray for the Prince of Peace to intervene.
- 3) *Study.* Read Jeremiah 31:18-22. When have you recently acted like Ephraim? What brought you out of 'rebellion' (or what could do so now)? How were you changed?

### This Week's Scripture Readings:

Dec. 29 – Ephesians 1:3-14

Dec. 30 – Jeremiah 31:7-9

Dec. 31 – Jeremiah 31:10-14

Jan. 1 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Jan. 2 – John 1:1-9

Jan. 3 – John 1:10-18

**Jan. 4 – Psalm – 147:12-20**

To go a little deeper into the reading for each day this week, go to [pastorjohnb.org](http://pastorjohnb.org)

Next Sunday's Message: "Seeing the Light" – Epiphany and a renewal of our covenant with God begins this new year. Epiphany calls us to the light and John calls us to follow the light of Christ. To do so we must be 'good lookers,' people who want to follow God, who must decide to follow God, and who follow where God leads. Reflecting the light, we will seek the Christ in one another.

### This Week at Grace

- Sun. 9 AM – Worship (in person or online) – Sanctuary

### Upcoming Happenings at Grace

- Week of Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School, Grace Kids...  
resume on their normal schedules

### Announcements

The Mission of the month for December is Piedmont Valley Elementary and Stagebarn Middle School. In January we will support Sturgis' CISS (Crisis Intervention Shelter Services.)

To make a one-time gift to Grace UMC or to the Mission of the Month (or to set up a recurring gift), please scan the QR code. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Please check the sign-up sheets across the hall from the drinking fountains to see when YOU could serve as a greeter, reader, or treat provider.

Please keep food and drinks in Fellowship Hall. Thank You!

**May God bless you throughout the coming week!!**