

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – December 31, 2023 – 9:00 am



Meditation Verse: *“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” – Luke 2:30-32*

Grace United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 265 | Piedmont, SD 57769

(605) 787-4858 | www.gracepiedmont.com
gumc@midconetwork.com

Pastor John Britt

(605) 787-2414 | pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook!

Church Staff:

Pastor	John Britt
Office Administrator	Phyllis Stevens
Children's Ministry	Kelly Carter
Youth Ministry	Kristal Hamm
Financial Administrator	Cindy Puckett
Custodian	Tanya Taylor
Digital Campus Host	Kristin Britt
Audio/Visual	Steve Hilton
Lay Leader	Mike Marsland
Pianist	Julie Marsland

Order of Worship

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Christmas tree lights have dimmed.

People: The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.

Leader: But the awesome love of God still shines brightly in our hearts.

People: Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.

Leader: God is with us!

People: Thanks be to God! AMEN.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn #228 - He Is Born

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

*Hymn #62 - All Creatures of Our God and King

Kids Message

Message: "The Cliffhanger"

Covenant Renewal Liturgy and Prayer

Song of Response: Above All

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Songs:

- Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
- Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Blessing

Please stand if you are able.

GPS – Grow, Pray, Study

- 1) *Grow*. As we lean into 2024, what new or expanded role might God have for you in Jesus' unfolding story? What might help you step into that role?
- 2) *Pray*. As you reflect on 2023, what faith commitments do you wish you kept better? Offer prayers of repentance and for God's strength to lead in 2024.
- 3) *Study*. Read the "Introduction" section in your Bible. If there is not one there, read this one at <https://www.christianbiblereference.org/summary.htm>

This Week's Bible Year Readings:

January 1 — Genesis 1:1-3:24
January 2 — Genesis 4:1-5:32
January 3 — Genesis 6:1-9:17
January 4 — Genesis 9:18-11:32
January 5 — Gen. 12:1-14:24
January 6 — Genesis 15:1-17:27
January 7 — Genesis 18:1-20:18

To go a little deeper
with these readings
each day this week,
please go to:
pastorjohnb.org

Next Sunday's Message: "Creation and Early Pains" – We begin with the two creation stories, delving into the complexity and nuance of the biblical narrative. Moving on, we walk a bit with Cain and Abel, reflecting on our own challenges with sin. We close with Noah and the flood, where God resets the story line once more.

This Week at Grace

- Friday – 6:30 AM – Women's Study – Chapel

Special Events at Grace

- Jan. 20 – 9 AM – Service Saturday (working on lights)

Announcements:

The January Mission of the Month is for CISS – Crisis Intervention Shelter Services in Sturgis. This organization helps women and children who have experienced domestic violence, providing shelter and other needed services.

We will welcome those wishing to join Grace UMC into our church family on Sunday, January 14. Please let Pastor John know if you are interested in taking this step.

Growing out of a few conversations, Pastor John would like to gauge people's interest in a monthly "Fellowship Dinner." Seven to eight people from the church would gather in a home for a shared meal. The host would provide the space and the beverages while others would bring the main dish, sides, and dessert. Each month we would rotate homes, groupings, and meal responsibilities. This is open to couples and singles alike. Our trial run would be from February through May. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the drinking fountains. If you have questions, see Pastor John.

May God Bless you throughout the coming week!!