

# Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve



**Meditation Verse:** *“Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11*

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
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Check us out on Facebook!

## Church Staff:

Pastor  
Office Administrator  
Children's Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Financial Administrator  
Custodian  
Digital Campus Host  
Audio/Visual  
Lay Leader  
Pianists

John Britt  
Phyllis Stevens  
Kelly Carter

Cindy Puckett  
Barb Walker  
Kristin Britt  
Steve Hilton  
Mike Marsland  
Lisa Teachout  
and Julie Marsland

## **Order of Worship**

\*Welcome and Opening Prayer

### **Advent Candle Lighting:**

Leader: We have heard the call to keep watch. But what are we keeping watch over? Maybe we're looking for something that will define us, something that will remake us, transform us. Some relationship, some hope, some love that will make us new. Maybe we're looking for the gift we remember this night.

**People: O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Leader: What we go out to see in the muddle of our world is not necessarily the Christ child or the light that glows within. No, I think what we watch over is the world that he came to save: the masses of humanity who think they can find salvation in the stuff of this life, like we know we do sometimes. When we forget. A world that has room for a Savior, even when we've forgotten it. And part of what we're keeping watch for is to see whether we can make room—room for grace, room for joy, room for peace, even at our worst. At our most needy. And most helpful, and grace-filled. Keep watch. Let us light these candles and complete this circle as we rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness and declare with joy and with hope –

**People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Hallelujah. Amen.**

\*Advent Song

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!**

Leader: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

**People: This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Amen!**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Opening Hymn: #219 – What child Is This?

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 20:1-20

Kids Message

\*Hymn: #217/378 – Away in a Manger/Amazing Grace

Message: "Keeping watch"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings  
- Song: Light of The World

Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the Passing of the Light

\*Closing Song: 238 – Silent Night

\*Announcements

\*Blessing

*(\*Please stand if you are able.)*

### **GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

*1) Grow. As the story unfolds, the shepherds realize more and more that they are part of God's story. How has your understanding of this grown in your life?*

*2) Pray. When has someone shined the light or love of Christ into your life? Offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for the way that God was at work in your life.*

*3) Study. Read Luke 2:21-38. As Jesus grew and heard about these events, how do you think they shaped his life and ministry?*

## **Ways to Engage at Grace UMC!!**

We would love for you to become a part of our community of faith. In addition to Sunday worship, we offer children's programs, youth ministry, adult small groups, community service projects, and so much more. If you would like to become engaged but don't know how or where, please call or stop in to talk with Pastor John. Here are a couple of upcoming offerings we'd like to highlight:

### **Upcoming Discipleship Class**

As we begin the new year, we will begin a new study called "The Comeback." It's all about how God is in the business of giving fresh starts!! We all know what it feels like to have life disappoint us and not work out as we'd hoped. We all know what it's like to long for something different, something better, something *more*. This study offers encouragement and perspective, and it's for you if you feel frustrated or confused, if you're sorrowing or in pain, if you've made mistakes or are grieving, if you're disappointed or feel as though life doesn't make sense. The good news is that God is in the business of giving fresh starts to people. God is the God of the comeback, no matter what kind of challenge you're facing. And your story can become a great comeback story too. We'll meet January 4, 11, 18, 25, and February 8 and 15 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin each night with a FREE soup and sandwich meal too!!



### **Financial Peace University**

We would also like to invite you to consider enrolling in a class that will begin on Mondays in January. Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" is a world-renowned program that helps individuals and families with their financial world. For more information, please look under "Ministries" on our web page. Call the church office with any questions!