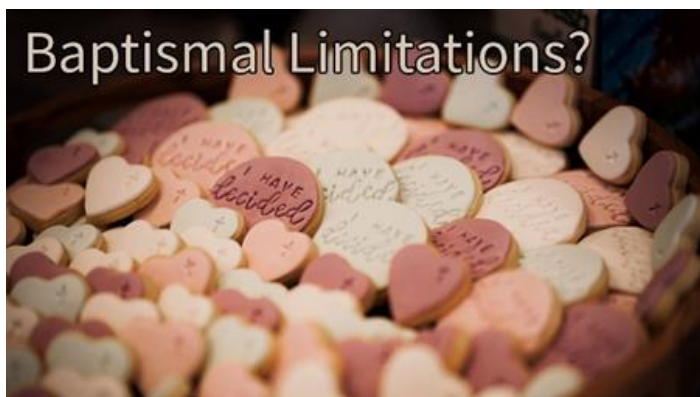


Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – December 10, 2023 – 9:00 am



Meditation Verse: *“John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” – Mark 1:4*

Grace United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 265 | Piedmont, SD 57769

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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	Pam Hemmingson
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: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Leader: Speak to us Lord. As you promised through your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, come to us now.

People: May all the barriers be removed so that we can receive your Word and worship you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Christmas Program

*Hymn #246 - Joy to the World

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, *"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."*

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

People: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's hope and peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Song: Light the Advent Candle, verse 2 and chorus

Kids Message

Message: "Baptismal Limitations?"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings
- Hymn #211 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn: #220 - Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

GPS – Grow, Pray, Study

- 1) *Grow*. In the times when God has called or nudged you to do something, how did prayer play a role in moving you towards action or to action?
- 2) *Pray*. As you consider your prayer life, what is the next stage that you can move to in order to deepen your relationship with God?
- 3) *Study*. Read John 1:1-5. Like Mark, no angels, no shepherds, no stable. What does this "birth story" that begins John's gospel reveal to you about Jesus?

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Next Sunday's Message: "John the Doppelganger" - Have you ever been confused for someone else? That was John the Baptists' experience in the wilderness. People asked if he was the Messiah, Elijah, a prophet. No, he was one simply preparing the way for the One who was to come. His actions were consistent with the one people longed for. He preached repentance, he drew people, he baptized, he changed hearts. Instead of being the One, he was like a doppelganger, one who was testifying to the One who was to come. The question for us is this: How are we Jesus' doppelganger as well?

This Week at Grace

- Wednesday – Noon – “Brown Bag” Small Group – Zoom
- Wednesday - 1:30 PM – Midweek Chat – Chapel
- Wednesday - 6:00 PM – Youth Group – Fellowship Hall
- Thursday - 10:00 AM – Disc. Small Group – SS Room
- Thursday - 5:30 PM – Men's Group – Fellowship Hall
- Friday - 6:30 AM – Women's Study – Chapel

Special Events at Grace

- Dec. 12 – Team/Leadership Meetings – 6:15/7:00 PM
- Dec. 16 – Service Saturday – Solar Ovens – 9 AM
- Dec. 20 – Blue Christmas Service – 9 AM – Chapel
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 1:30 and 4:00 PM

Announcement:

The December Mission of the Month is for Piedmont Valley Elementary and Stagebarn Middle schools.

May God Bless you throughout the coming week!!