

Grace United Methodist Church  
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## December 2025 Newsletter

Grace United Methodist Church  
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Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Hello church! We are half way through our “extended Advent” and starting on November 30, we shift to Part 2, titled “Toda La Tierra Espera” (or “All the Earth is Waiting.”). Verse 1 of this beautiful hymn offers us these words: *“All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.”* These words are so true today. Each



Sunday we will be centered around “Signs and \_\_\_\_.” Each week we will look, in turn, at the signs that point to times, stories, truth, faithfulness, glory, and power. As we work through these signs it is my hope and prayer that we are the answers to this longing.

On December 1 the installers will be here to start removing and replacing the carpet and linoleum in several main areas: fellowship hall, the entry and hallway, the sanctuary, and the multipurpose room. I’m not sure what words to use to describe how I feel about starting fundraising on November 2 then starting the project on December 1. You all are amazing, generous, supportive... A “thank you” seems to fall way short of how blessed I am to be a part of this awesome church that we call Grace.

Thanks for your time! Blessings to you and your family! - Pastor John



### November 2025 Finance Update (through 4 Sundays)

Total Revenues through November 2025 —> \$ 203,228

Total Expenses through November 2025 —> \$ 189,384

2025 Year-End Balance —> \$ 13,804 *(includes some carpet donations)*



# ADVENT 2025

## READING SCHEDULE

### Signs and Stories

Dec. 1 – Psalm 72:1-7  
Dec. 2 – Isaiah 11:1-10  
Dec. 3 – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Dec. 4 – Romans 15:4-6  
Dec. 5 – Romans 15:7-13  
Dec. 6 – Matthew 3:1-6  
**Dec. 7 – Matthew 3:7-12**

### Signs and Truths

Dec. 8 – Isaiah 35:1-7  
Dec. 9 – Isaiah 35:8-10  
Dec. 10 – Matthew 11:2-6  
Dec. 11 – Matthew 11:7-11  
Dec. 12 – Psalm 146:5-10  
Dec. 13 – Luke 1:46-55  
**Dec. 14 – James 5:7-10**

### Signs and Faithfulness:

Dec. 15 – Isaiah 7:10-13  
Dec. 16 – Isaiah 7:14-16  
Dec. 17 – Psalm 80:1-7  
Dec. 18 – Psalm 80:17-19

*(Continued...)*

Dec. 19 – Romans 1:1-7  
Dec. 20 – Matthew 1:18-19  
**Dec. 21 – Matthew 1:20-25**

### Signs and Glory:

Dec. 22 – Isaiah 52:7-10  
Dec. 23 – Hebrews 1:1-12  
Dec. 24 – John 1:1-14  
Dec. 25 – Isaiah 63:7-9  
Dec. 26 – Psalm 148  
Dec. 27 – Hebrews 2:10-18  
**Dec. 28 – Matthew 2:13-23**

### Signs and Power:

Dec. 29 – Ephesians 1:3-14  
Dec. 30 – Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Dec. 31 – Jeremiah 31:10-14  
*January 1 – Eccl. 3:1-13*  
*January 2 – John 1:1-9*  
*January 3 – John 1:10-18*  
**January 4 – Ps. 147:12-20**

### Upcoming Events and Meetings at Grace UMC

#### Weekly Spiritual Grow Opportunities:

- Sun. — 8 AM — Adult Sunday School — Sunday Sch. Room
- Sun. — 9 AM — Worship (in person or online) - Sanctuary
- Mon. — 3 PM — Grace Kids — Fellowship Hall
- Tues. — 3 PM — Art with Heart — Fellowship Hall
- Wed. — 7:45 AM — Women's Small Gr. — Sunday Sch. Room
- Wed. — 1:30 PM — Midweek Chat — Chapel
- Wed. — 5:30 PM — Youth Group — Fellowship Hall
- Thur. — 5:30 PM — Men's Bible Year Study — Fell. Hall
- Fri. — 6:30 AM — Ladies' Bible Study — Chapel

#### Upcoming Monthly Events and Meetings:

- Dec. 14 — 9 AM — Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 16 — 6:15/7 PM — Team/Leadership Meetings
- Dec. 21 — 6 PM — Blue Christmas Service (*In the chapel*)
- Dec. 24 — 1:30/4 PM — Christmas Eve Worship



#### Birthdays for December:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dec. 2 — Milo Kroger        | Dec. 27 — Gloria Hauan     |
| Dec. 4 — Della Hall         | Dec. 27 — Pat Rice         |
| Dec. 4 — Howard Baird       | Dec. 22 — Patti Romanjenko |
| Dec. 7 — Stephen Hennies    | Dec. 29 — Stacie Jacobsen  |
| Dec. 18 — Cheryl Stockham   | Dec. 31 — Kristin Britt    |
| Dec. 19 — Corlena Toennies  |                            |
| Dec. 22 — Pete Romanjenko   |                            |
| Dec. 23 — Maynard Stock     |                            |
| Dec. 24 — Christine Gingras |                            |
| Dec. 26 — Jordy Jacobsen    |                            |
| Dec. 26 — Riley Jacobsen    |                            |



Piedmont Valley  
Community  
Church



*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for the One who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:23-24).*

Moving deeper into Advent, here are a few thoughts to consider:

- \* How do you read the signs in our times?
- \* What invitations do you sense from your stories?
- \* What joy of “some day” could you experience even now?
- \* How does your faithfulness impact your witness in the world?

Please join us in our weekday scripture-inspired conversations.

*PVCC is an outreach ministry of Grace UMC on Facebook, seeking to grow our faith, to develop servant hearts, and to share the love and hope of Jesus in an online community.*



Service Saturdays — On the third Saturday of each month folks from the church gather to serve for about 3 hours. On December 20<sup>th</sup> we are painting at the Piedmont Library!!

Advent 2025 at Grace



During part two of Advent we will lean into the season as an active and watchful waiting. Doing so, we tap into the world's longing for redemption, salvation, and transformation. The beautiful hymn “Toda la Tierra,” #210 in the United Methodist Hymnal, is a reminder of what is at stake. “All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty” in the first verse allows us to look back to the story of the Incarnation and to look forward to the coming of the kingdom of heaven, when the will of God will be done on earth as in heaven. All of creation is waiting for this fulfillment. In worship, we can see the signs of the nearness of Emmanuel, God with us.

There are small group and individual study guides available for these series. Join the Adult Sunday School class or the Men’s Group (Thursdays@5:30 pm) or the Early Riser’s Ladies Group (Friday@6:30 am)... or pick up a copy and learn on your own! Booklets are available on the front table!

On Sunday, December 21, we will host our annual Blue Christmas Service at 6 pm in the chapel. This service of healing and hope is for those grieving during the holidays. Grief comes in many forms: the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, the loss of independence, the loss of a relationship. If you or someone you know is grieving, please join us, please invite those you know who are grieving.



Christmas Eve services will be at 1:30 and 4:00 pm. Both services will include the traditional stories and carols, ending with the candlelight singing of “Silent Night.” Join us!!



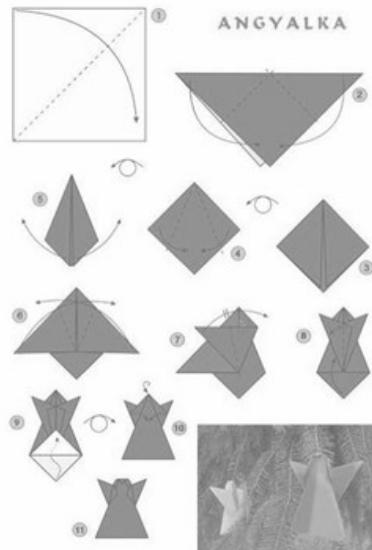
## Grace Kids

Our after school program has grown by two more students! In part of our time, we have been working on songs and lines for the Christmas Program. Speaking of such, there will be a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 12, after school. The church van will be used to bring students to the church. Pizza will be provided this night too. The program will be during church on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Blessings!! — David Weeks and the Crew



## Art With Heart

We invite all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to join us Tuesdays after school to be creative, have snacks, and grow in faith.



Here's a little craft to try – origami angels! If you don't have origami paper on hand, any square lighter paper will do (not construction paper).

We will not have Art With Heart on December 23.

Merry Christmas!

--Kristin, Sue, and

Pastor John

## Youth Group News

Merry Christmas from the Youth Group!



We kicked off the month with a game night, and I rediscovered how fun *Clue* is — I haven't played it since I was a kid, but I'm officially a fan again!

We were also blessed to help with the Annual Turkey Dinner. What a gift it was to serve not only our church family, but our wider community as well.

The following week, we spent time discussing our growing faith and the places where we most strongly feel God's presence and peace. The youth shared thoughtful answers, and a common theme was feeling closest to God at church and in the quiet of their own rooms.



On the third Wednesday, we were blessed by a member of our congregation with dinner at Pizza Ranch and then headed to Target to shop for our Angel Tree. The kids did a wonderful job choosing gifts they themselves would love — thoughtfully giving to another young person in need.

We're taking the last Wednesday off to enjoy Thanksgiving break.

I pray you all have a blessed and joyful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of our youth — it truly makes a difference. - Blessings, Kristal