



# Grace United Church

## Lectionary

### Scriptures

#### **December 5**

2nd Sunday Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke :1-6

#### **December 12**

3rd Sunday Advent

Zephaniahs 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

#### **December 19**

4th Sunday Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Psalms 80:1-7

#### **December 26**

1st Sunday After

Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Galatians 3:23-24, 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

Psalms 147

## Jesus, Our Hope

We've already begun the advent season with all of the anticipation it brings. Yet, this time of year, with its cold days and long dark nights can also be a season of despair. While placing candles in our windows, I was reminded of how one small candle can create such a change. And so it is with hope. As we draw close to God, our perspective improves. Paul offered this prayer for the church in Ephesus:

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, **you may know what is the hope** to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,*

During this advent season, let's remember the great hope that God gave us by sending baby Jesus. May the eyes of all of our hearts be enlightened!

## *Pastor Karen*

Here is a link to the Disciples of Christ website for reflections during Advent. There are prayers and daily meditations.

[https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Advent-Reflections\\_2021.pdf](https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Advent-Reflections_2021.pdf)

## You Belong Here!

Church Contacts:  
585-593-5015

Office email:  
graceunitedch  
@gmail.com

Linda's email:  
graceunitedad  
@gmail.com

Website:  
www.grace-  
united.church



Please bring in poinsettia plants for Christmas. Pick up a slip in the Narthex of who it is in memory of and give it to Sue Johnson. We will have a list to share.

## **UPCOMING Holiday EVENTS**

**Sunday December 5 - Ornament Exchange and Hot Cider 2 PM**

**Sunday December 12 - Bells & Ginger Bread Houses 2 PM**

**Sunday December 19 - Christmas Caroling 4 PM**

**Friday December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7 PM**

**The Ministry Committee** is delighted and thankful for the generosity of our congregation. On Monday, Nov. 15th we delivered 3 carloads of food to the Salvation Army. We are collecting donations in the "Christmas Egg" for Community Action Christmas Angels. We will accept donations until Sunday, Dec. 5th. This money will go toward gift cards for children ages 11 to 18.

*Also, please check out Grace United's Christmas tree on the library lawn.*

**Fun Activities** each Sunday in December, join us for one or all.

**Dec. 5th - Ornament Party, Hot Cider; 2 pm**

Pick an ornament that you made, bought, or picked from the back of your tree. Wrap it, bring it to church and we'll have some fun. First, we'll place them on a table where each can either select a gift from the table or steal someone else's. Yes, steal, in church! It's quite a fun process, and everyone goes home with a lovely new ornament. We have extras, so be sure to invite friends! We'll also have delicious mulled cider for everyone to enjoy.

**Dec. 13th - Bells, Carols & Gingerbread House 2 pm**

The sounds of Christmas! Join in the fun as we enjoy listening to and even playing bells, sing carols and then build a GingerBread village. If you love Christmas music and the joy of watching people use frosting to assemble tiny houses, you'll not want to miss out on the fun. Be sure to invite children and your "artsy" friends.

**Dec. 19th - Caroling on Main 4 pm**

Drop off your favorite Christmas treats at the church on your way to the greenspace downtown with the xylophone as we spread Christmas cheer. Then we'll head back to the church for hot chocolate and enjoy homemade treats and a time of fellowship. Invite your friends who love music.

**Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm**

Join us as we sing Carols and tell the long ago story of Jesus's birth.

The service concludes as we sing Silent Night by candlelight.

Make plans to be a part of this special evening.



**From the Praise Committee: Praise Music starts at 9:50 am on Sunday. Masks are required.**

**Please join us during this Advent Season**

**Bible Discussion**: Sundays at 11:15 am with Rev. Gerald Borchert

Tuesdays at 7 pm with Ann Gardner

**Children's Church** during worship. Children are dismissed right before the Sermon. If you would like to help out once in awhile, Linda Elliott has compiled a list of leaders. Curriculum is available.

**Way of the Child**: Sundays at 11:15 am. It's a Montessori-like setting that allows children to engage with Scripture in new ways. If you would like to help with this, see Pastor Karen.

**Rehearsal's Wednesday Nights**

**Hand Bells** at 6:30 pm    **Choir** at 7:30 pm,    **Praise Band** at 8:30 pm.

Remember if you are away on Sunday and unable to join us, you can watch a prerecorded service on the church's Facebook page or on YouTube under Grace United Wellsville.

## Special Offering

In December, both the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ will be collecting for  
**2021 Christmas Fund on December 12th and 19th.**

The United Church of Christ has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees for over 100 years. They provide emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This past year has been specially difficult for many clergy who continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income.

The Disciple of Christ Mission Fund supports ministries of our region. They connect congregations to each other; foster faith development; gather Disciples in camps, conferences and assemblies; nurture the development of a new generation of pastors, assist churches in calling new ministers, interpret the global mission; represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings; counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit; lead the Church to address racism; inspire leaders to experiment and create and witness to the power of God to make things new.

### **Tuesday, December 21 @ 1pm 'Adult Group' Monthly Event**

Make a Felted angel with local alpaca wool from Kellogg's Alpacas  
Reservations requested so we have enough materials.  
Contact Kim Toot at [kimtoot@gmail.com](mailto:kimtoot@gmail.com) or call church 593-5015

### **Christmas Card Post Office**

If you want to give Christmas Cards to your church family, there is a place in the narthex. There are slots above the letters of the alphabet to place your cards, for the person who's last name start with that particular letter.

### **From Grace United Christian Sojourners team.**

The Christian Sojourners who support Missions in other countries sent a donation of \$2,000. to Haiti Outreach. Their organization supports community development in clean water, hygiene and sanitation in Haiti. Hundreds of people will benefit from this donation. Haiti has experienced an earthquake and other unfortunate events in the past few months. Haiti Outreach continues to be active in Haiti. Due to the generosity of their supporters they are making a HUGE difference in the lives of thousands of children, women and men in Haiti every day. You can check their website of more information: [www.HaitiOutreach.org](http://www.HaitiOutreach.org) or follow them on Facebook.

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

12/5 Ann Giddings  
12/13 Sharon Ash  
12/13 Lois Decker  
12/15 Jessica Borchert  
12/17 Dan Johnson  
12/18 Dakota Pratt  
12/25 Ted Crowell  
12/26 Carol Flurschutz  
12/28 Dale Johnson

### **October Financials**

Total Income: \$ 12,259.92  
Actual expenses: \$13,319.62  
Net difference: (\$1,059.70)

Total for the year:

**Income: \$94,825.17 Expenses: \$104,565.94**  
Net difference: (\$9,740.77)

Grace United Church  
P. O. Box 408, 289 North Main St.  
Wellsville, NY 14895-0408

December 2021 Newsletter for Grace United Church

**Holiday Assistance Program!**

Accord Community Action Angels are accepting applications for the 2021 Holiday Assistance Program! Visit their website or call 585-268-7605, select option 2, and a Service Navigator will assist you.

**Usher & Reader Schedule for December**

**December 5 – Head Usher** Roxy Schmidt

Liturgist: Kim Toot Ushers: \*Carol & John Flurschutz

**December 12 – Head Usher** Roxy Schmidt

Liturgist: Sue Johnson, Ushers: Sharon Ash, \*Roxy Schmidt

**December 19 - Head Usher** Dave Toot

Liturgist: Bob Shook, Ushers: \*Sharon Czarnecki, Sue Williams

**December 26 - Head Usher** Dave Toot

Liturgist: Sharon Ash, Ushers: \*Marcia Pratt, Kim Toot

**Star & Underline denotes Security Usher who stays and locks door and watches for latecomers.**