

Wesley United Methodist Church

Grand Forks, ND

December 3, 2017



The Candle of Hope

*Our purpose is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

Welcome to Worship at Wesley

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Wesley! If you have questions or special needs, please speak to an usher. Worship activity bags for children are hanging on a rack at the back of the church.

Our ushers have large-print hymnals available.

Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers in Room 202.

Please remember to silence your cell phone during worship.

Gathering for Praise

Gathering Music

Come, Emmanuel
by Ruth Elaine Schram

Marge Myrold

Greetings of Christian Fellowship

***Call to Worship:**

Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness
comes to us in sweeping revelations
and in tiny signs of hope.

Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people.

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Red Hymnal 196

(Birthday for Missions offerings may be brought forward during this song)

***Opening Prayer:**

O God,
we are challenged to be patient during these days of Advent.
Yet we find ourselves growing less patient as we wait in slow retail lines,
manage our overfilled calendars,
and do on-line shopping into late-night hours.
Be patient? Yes, be patient.
In this worshipful moment, strengthen our hearts,
center our minds, and quiet our bodies, for your coming is near.
Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1)

Red Hymnal 211

Offering Ourselves to God in Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and *The Lord's Prayer*

Choir Anthem

Advent Hymn
Arr. by Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir

Children's Conversation

Kellie Burgess

Offering

Once in Bethlehem
by Ruth Elaine Schram

Marge Myrold

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication:**

**O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted,
let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts
and announce the dawn of your kingdom.**

**Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit,
let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice,
and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ.**

**We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your son, our Lord – Jesus
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon

Red Hymnal 12

The Great Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal 13

Receiving the Elements of Communion

Opening Ourselves to God's Word

Scripture Reading	Luke 1: 5-25, 57-66	New Testament, pg. 52-54
Scripture Hymn	<i>Blessed Be the God of Israel</i>	Red Hymnal 209
Sermon	<i>Expectation</i>	Rev. Jerry Bass

Going Forth to Serve

*Closing Hymn	<i>I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</i>	Red Hymnal 206
*Benediction		
*Musical Response	<i>Go Now in Peace (sing twice)</i>	
*Closing Song	<i>How Far Is It to Bethlehem?</i> by Douglas E. Wagner	Marge Myrold

Thanks to all who have helped with today's worship service!

Welcome Team:	9:00	John & Pam Galegher, Dave Kiefel & Ron Elliott
	11:15	John Martin Family
Acolyte:	9:00	Jayna Polries
Lay Reader:	9:00	Kellie Burgess



Join Us for Our Special Christmas Event

This afternoon at 5:00, we will again offer a light supper and special program in our *Journey of Faith* series. Pastor Raenelle Sorenson, who serves churches in Larimore, Arvilla, and Emerado, will share with us a program about *The Meaning of Christmas*, our Journey theme for December. We hope you will come back later today for good food, fellowship, and feelings about the upcoming holiday.

Charge Conference - Tomorrow Evening

At 7:00 tomorrow (Monday) evening, Rev. Randy Cross will be back at Wesley to chair a conference at which time members of our congregation will vote on whether to purchase a parsonage for our next pastor and family. The first motion to be presented will be to authorize our Trustees to purchase a parsonage with a cost not to exceed \$350,000. If that motion passes, a second motion will be to authorize the Trustees to incur indebtedness not to exceed \$150,000 to support that purchase. We hope that all interested members will plan to attend and participate in making this important decision.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth leaders will be meeting later this month to determine a schedule for the remainder of the year. If anyone has any questions, concerns, suggestions, please pass them on to Kellie Burgess, Marge Myrold, or Laurie Guy. Thank you for involving your Youth in our program. Have a wonderful, safe and blessed holiday season.

Today	3:30-7:00	Deliver crafts to shut-ins; back at church to attend faith event on “The Meaning of Christmas”
Dec. 10	5:30-7:00	Lesson at church
Dec. 17	5:00-7:00	Christmas potluck party at church
Dec. 24		NO YOUTH GROUP
Dec. 31		NO YOUTH GROUP

Please note that the above events are “fluid”; meaning, times and events may change, depending on weather, resources, volunteers, etc.

Wesley’s Youth Group is open to all youth in grades 6-12, and friends are welcome at any time! We hope to see you at the above events. If anyone has questions, concerns, suggestions, please see me, Kellie Burgess, or the other leaders – Marge Myrold, Mark Guy, and Laurie Guy.

United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon

December 9, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Church Fellowship Hall

RSVP via church office at 772-1869

or email Helen DeMaster at cdd.hfd@gmail.com



Guest speaker will be from the Women's Pregnancy Center. There will also be installation of officers, turkey ala king lunch and some Christmas music. Men & non-members are encouraged to attend as well as UMW members. Please get your reservations in early. Thanks!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CHANGE

The Children’s Sunday School Christmas program date has been changed, due to an unexpected scheduling issue. **We will now practice on Saturday, December 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the program will be performed at the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 17.** Thank you for your cooperation and assistance, and I do apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Kellie Burgess

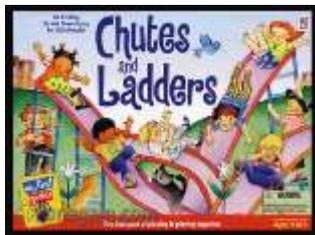
CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM



United Methodist Women's Cookie Sale

December 17, 10:00 a.m., in the church basement following the first service. Price is \$5.00 per dozen. Please plan to donate some cookies, bars or candy. Please put them in a container that can be used at the sale. Bring items in early on December 17 or on Saturday from 10:00—12:00 p.m. where the program practice is, put them down in the kitchen and label what they are for.

We Need Your Help!



Pastor Jerry issued a challenge to us at Wesley: to provide every Grand Forks Head Start family with a board game that they could play together. In years past, Wesley families donated Christmas gifts for upwards of 100 Head Start students and siblings every holiday season. Since this program was declined for a variety of reasons by Head Start leaders, we decided to continue our support of that program's families by providing these games.

We are less than halfway toward the goal of 150 games with only a week or two left before we will need to wrap and deliver them to the Head Start program. Will you help us meet this ambitious goal?

For the past several years, members of Wesley UMC have donated calendars to Roger Ose Ministries. These calendars were donated to prisoners in MN, and a girls' school in Tanzania. Due to health problems, Roger Ose is no longer engaging the calendar projects.

I have placed a box for collection of 2018 calendars in our reception area, as I could offer the calendars to Northlands Rescue Mission or some other area organization. If anyone has a suggestion for where the calendars could be well used, I would consider transporting the calendars to such an organization. Thank you. Joyce Ann Wicklund

Adult Sunday school class for Advent

The adult "library" class will begin an Advent video study this morning. Anyone interested is invited to join them for this study based on the book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*, from Matt Rawle's "The Pop in Culture Series." It will show us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the life of the present and the resurrection of future, this Advent study will "bless us every one" and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith. This class meets at 10:10 am on Sundays in the Wesley library. Please join us!



Wesley UMC Calendar for December 3 – December 10

Sunday, December 3	8:30 a.m. Coffee fellowship 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday school 11:15 a.m. <i>Ignite</i> Praise Service 5:00 p.m. "The Meaning of Christmas", Main Floor Fellowship Room 3:30 p.m. Youth Group
Monday, December 4	7:00 p.m. Charge Conference, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 5	No Mary-Martha Circle 3:00 p.m. Wesley Coffee Club, Panera 7:00 p.m. Advent Devotion, Chapel
Wednesday, December 6	1:30 p.m. Worship in the Parkwood Place Chapel 1:30 p.m. Quilting 4:15 p.m. UMW Executive Meeting, library 5:30 p.m. Kids Bells (grades 2-8) 6:15 p.m. Adult Bells 6:15 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Ignite Praise Rehearsal
Thursday, December 7	8:00 a.m. Wesley Breakfast Club, Denny's
Saturday, December 9	10:30 a.m. UMW Christmas Luncheon, Church Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 10	8:30 a.m. Coffee fellowship 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday school 11:15 a.m. <i>Ignite</i> Praise Service 12:30 p.m. Nepali Worship Service 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Youth Group



Last Chance to Beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas

Look for the insert in today's bulletin!



Last week's attendance: 110

Last week's giving: \$2,399.60

Offering to date: \$218,188.65

We're glad you are here today!

Thank you for your support!



Worship with our Praise Band at 11:15

Sing a Song
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Everlasting Arms
Noel

Luke 1: 5-25, 57-66

Pastor Jerry's Message:
Expectation