



## **Order of Worship: December 14th, 2025**

**Prelude/Postlude** (Casey Derksen)

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Candle Lighting**

**Call to Worship**

**Song:** *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*  
*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

**Advent Song:** *"Light the Advent Candle"*  
**Advent Candle Lighting**  
**Song:** *"Sanctuary"*

**Scripture:**  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Psalm 93  
Luke 1:23-25, 39-45

**Unison Prayer**

**Song:** *"Joy to the World!"*

**Message:**  
*"Room for Relationships"*

**Special Music:** *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* Marsha Mower

**Offering/Doxology/Offertory Prayer**

**Praise Team:** *"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

**Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer**

**Song:** *"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

**Blessing**

## **The Week at Grace**

Monday:  
Genealogy 11am

Tuesday:  
Bible Study 9am

Wednesday:  
Bible Study 4pm

**If you are planning to meet at Grace UMC, please call ahead or email the office to reserve space and to get your meeting on the church calendar. To adjust for heating/cooling needs, Pastor Jen needs to know if/when you are meeting.**

**Office Phone:**  
**218-568-5755**

### **Grace Office Hours**

Tuesday  
9 a.m. to noon  
Wednesday  
10-noon

### **Worship**

Online--available at  
[www.graceumcpequotlakes.org](http://www.graceumcpequotlakes.org)  
In-Person Worship  
Sunday--9am

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 24th**  
**4pm**

## Unison Prayer

God of joy,  
you meet us in the gift of relationships  
that hold us and strengthen us.  
Thank you for the companions who  
encourage,  
for friends who celebrate,  
and for the community that shelters us.  
Teach us to be a sanctuary for one  
another,  
where joy can leap even in hard times.  
Fill us with your joy and send us to share  
it with the world.  
It is in the name of the One who is our joy  
we pray. Amen.

## Call to Worship

L: Come with your questions, your  
burdens, and your blessings.

**P: We come, seeking sanctuary in God  
and in one another.**

L: When companionship is offered, joy  
comes alive.

P: We, too, are called to rejoice together.

**L: This is a place for honest hearts  
and open hands.**

**ALL: Come, Emmanuel, and renew our  
joy.**

## Advent Prayer: Advent UMH #201

Merciful God,  
you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity,  
and may await with joy  
the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.



## Scriptures for next week:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Matthew 1:18-25

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*He will be our peace*

*Micah 5:5*



*Thank You!*

To those that have returned your 2026 pledge card/slip, thank you. If you haven't already done so, you can send your pledge by email to [dorislongnecker@gmail.com](mailto:dorislongnecker@gmail.com) and she will fill out the pledge form for you.

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### December Mission Giving

December's Mission focus will be the Relationship Safety Alliance (Women's Shelter)

If you are giving by check, please note RSA in the memo or use a designated envelope available on Sunday morning.



Please lift prayers of condolences for the family of Sharon Wortham. She passed away on December 7th. A service is being planned for the new year and will be held at Grace. We will have details as the date approaches.



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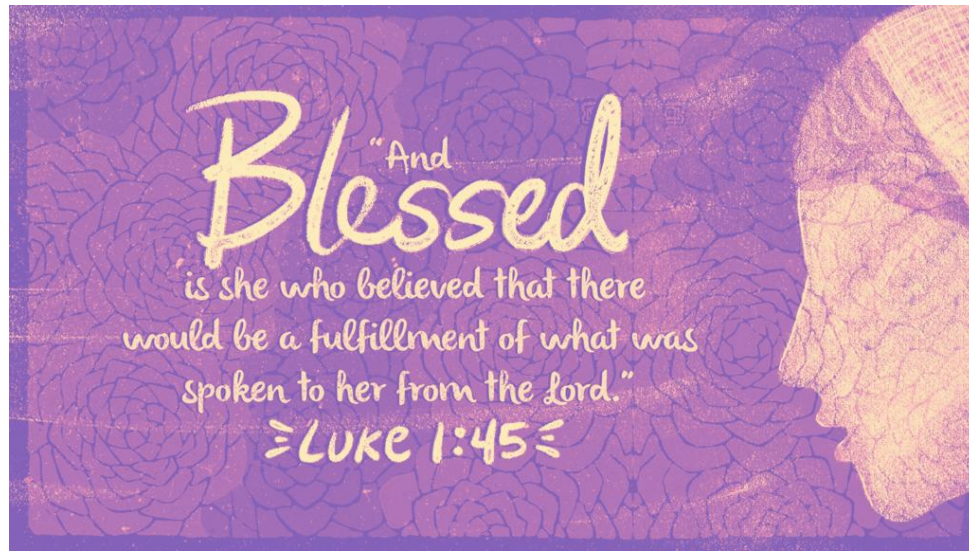
**Saturday, December 13th** is the annual "Santa Bobbin into town" event in Pequot Lakes. This year, after the parade, Grace UMC will be caroling inside at the American Legion from 430-530pm. We will then move to the parade route and sing from atop the Parks Board float





Sunday, December 14th, the handbell choir will be playing in the Narthex before church, beginning at 8:30am. Please come to worship a bit earlier to enjoy the delightful sounds of the bells!

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The annual UWF Christmas drama and luncheon took place on Thursday the 4th.







THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made *Kid's Shop Day* such a success!  
At least 40 kids shopped for gifts for their families, and we were reminded of the joys of the holiday for the little ones!  
Mark your calendars for next year to be a part of this event on the first Saturday in December!



*On Wednesday, December 24th we will celebrate Christmas Eve together at 4:00pm with a service of story, carols, and communion. The Grace Praise Team invites you to come early and join us at 3:45pm for a Christmas Carol Sing-along. We look forward to singing some of our favorites with you!*

The SPRC will be hosting a "Thank You, Ann Hutchings" event during fellowship hour on Sunday, December 28, 2025, to celebrate Ann's many years of being our Secretary and Congregational Care Assistant. Abby Jacobs, of SPRC, will host the event. If you cannot make it that day, please leave a note for Ann and put it in Abby's box. You could also send it to Grace UMC, P.O. Box 276, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 attn. Abby Jacobs. It will be a great celebration!



The church office is open **Tuesday from 9am until noon. It is also open on Wednesdays from 10-noon.** Ring the doorbell and we will come to open the south door!

--Church office phone: 218-568-5755

-- Church office (for all general inquiries and administrative/clerical duties)

**[graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com](mailto:graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com)**

- Pastor Jen Matthees – **[jenmatt20@gmail.com](mailto:jenmatt20@gmail.com)**

-- Ann Hutchings-Congregational Care Assistant-**[graceumccare@gmail.com](mailto:graceumccare@gmail.com)**

### **Communication Reminder.....**

The church office email ([graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com](mailto:graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com)) should be used to inform the office about ALL events, meetings, or use of the building you would like to schedule so they can be added to the master calendar. This enables us to avoid scheduling conflicts and make sure the areas of the building are cooled/heated as needed.

The official church calendar is maintained by volunteers.

Our Congregational Care Assistant, Ann Hutchings, is in the office on **Tuesdays from 9:00-noon**. Her role is to follow-up with our church family, through telephone calls, notes and email, as well as greet and welcome those who visit our church and assist with any needs they might have. Ann's email ([graceumccare@gmail.com](mailto:graceumccare@gmail.com)) should be used for "congregational care" needs only.

If you have something that should be added to this newsletter from your group or mission, please speak with Pastor Jen or email the details to her at [jenmatt20@gmail.com](mailto:jenmatt20@gmail.com). The E-Grace is generally completed by noon on Thursdays, so articles need to be received by Thursday 10am.

If you wish to connect with me directly and it is not an emergency, please know that I will respond as needed during regular office hours. I am generally in the church on Tuesday (830-1130) and Thursday (10-1) call the office to be sure, as my weeks vary. You may find me here at other times too! I check my emails frequently throughout the day, and this is the best way to contact me. **Friday is my day off** as needs allow, and **Monday is a full school day** (unless it is an emergency, Monday calls will be returned on Tuesday).

--Pastor Jen.

Did you know the church calendar is available on our website ([graceumcpequotlakes.org](http://graceumcpequotlakes.org))? There is a tab near the top, right side you can click to see the calendar!



### **Important note**

If you are mailing something to the church, ***you must use our P.O. Box for the address.*** We do not receive mail at the church, and if you use the physical church address it will get returned and could delay your notices to us or offerings.

**P.O. Box 276  
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

Visit our website

On our website you can find links to past services, a spot to watch this week's service, an online link to giving, and much more!

[www.graceumcpequotlakes.org](http://www.graceumcpequotlakes.org)



**Grace United Methodist Church**

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Website: [www.graceumcpequotlakes.org](http://www.graceumcpequotlakes.org)

(use P.O. box for mailing)



**The United Methodist Church forms disciples  
of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy  
Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and  
**lead courageously** in local communities  
and worldwide connections.**

Grace United Methodist Church | 29318 Patriot Ave PO Box 276 | Pequot Lakes, MN 56472  
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