



Order of Worship: December 21st, 2025

Prelude/Postlude (Jacki Kline)

Welcome/Announcements

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Songs: *"People Look East"*
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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

Scripture:
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7,17-19
Matthew 1:18-25

Unison Prayer

Song: *"Away in a Manger"*

Message:
"Room for Hope"

Special Music: *"Heirlooms"* Jacki Kline

Offering/Doxology/Offertory Prayer

Song: *"What Child is This"*

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Song: *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Blessing

The Week at Grace:

Wednesday:
Christmas Eve Service
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
In-Person Worship
Sunday--9am

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
4pm

Unison Prayer

God of hope,
you enter our lives when we least
expect it. You shine light into
impossible places and speak life
where we only see endings.
Teach us to wait with patience, to
trust with courage, and to act when
your Spirit calls.
Fill us with your hope and send us to
be bearers of hope in the world. It is
in the name of the One who is our
hope we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship

*L: Come, people of God, bring your
worries and your weariness.*
**P: We come, seeking sanctuary in
God's promise of hope.**
*L: When life feels impossible and
choices feel few, God is still at work.*
**P: God's Spirit opens the way where
we see no way.**
**ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, and make
room in us for hope.**

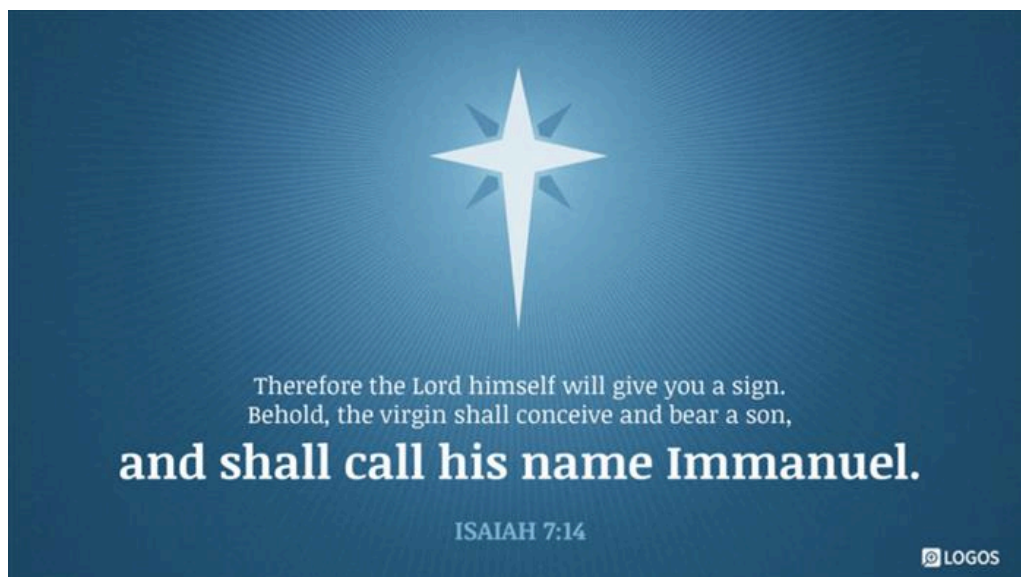
Advent Prayer: Advent UMH #201

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 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Matthew 2:13-23



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 and she will fill out the pledge form for you.

Giving for 2025.

If you want or need your gift to the church to be part of your 2025 giving statement, the church needs to receive it by 12/30.
Thank you for all of your support and prayers for the church over this past year.

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.



We give thanks for our handbell ringers for adding to our services each month this year.
Sunday, the 14th, they gave a special performance before service began.





Thank you to the good hearted and hearty souls who joined in the fun for "Santa's Bobbin' to town event on Saturday the 13th. It was very cold, but so much fun!



Community Action of Pequot Lakes wants to thank Grace United Methodist Church for their participation in the community's Santa's Bobbin' Into Town and its Light Up The Night Parade. The caroling at the Legion was appreciated and lovely, and the group's bravery to be on the Park Board's float went beyond all expectations. Just want everyone to know that the Park Board float won FIRST PRIZE in the non-business category- and this definitely would not have been possible without those carolers. Thanks to everyone and we trust that next year will be warmer. We'll see you then.



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!



Congratulations to the Lakes Area Food Shelf for being named the 2026 non-profit of the year for Pequot Lakes.

[LAFS](#)--see photo here.

What's Happening



Office Hours

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

- Pastor Jen Matthees – jenmatt20@gmail.com

-- Ann Hutchings-Congregational Care Assistant- graceumccare@gmail.com

Communication Reminder.....

The church office email (**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.

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. 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)? 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

Grace United Methodist Church

29318 Patriot Ave - P.O. Box 276

Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Phone: 218-568-5755

Email: graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com

Website: 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 US

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