



December 5th  
10:00 a.m.

2021  
CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT  
MASHOP



ADULT CHRISTMAS  
CANTATA  
December 19th

Performed at the  
10:00 a.m. Service

RUTH VOLL CIRCLE  
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Wednesday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m.

at the home of Marilyn Oliphant in Lakeville.  
For more information, please contact Marilyn at  
952-469-4387 or mloliphant@charter.net.



Ruth Voll Circle will not be meeting during the months of January and February.

**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS:** We once again have the opportunity to send a holiday card to service persons at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Ramstein AFB in Germany. You may use your own cards or some are provided on the table in the Narthex. There is no way to know if your card will go to a male or female, so please be generic with your writing. *Deadline is early December.* **DO NOT SEAL the envelopes.** Kindly place your cards in the basket. Our efforts provide comfort and encouragement to the troops and their family members.



We are changing up our Giving Tree this year. Instead of supplies for the church we are collecting items for 360 Communities Food Shelf. There will be ornaments on the tree as in the past, but each ornament will have a food item. Please purchase your item(s) and bring them to the church by December 12th and place them in the containers by the tree in the Narthex. This should be a nice holiday family event.

Grace United Methodist Church  
15309 Maple Island Road  
Burnsville, MN 55306-5522  
Phone: 952-435-5696

Treasurer: treasurer@graceumcburnsville.org  
Web Site: www.graceumcburnsville.org

Church e-mail: office@graceumcburnsville.org  
Pastor Amanda Lunemann: Cell phone: 651-503-2242  
pastor@graceumcburnsville.org  
revlunemann@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

# Grace Notes

**Our Mission:** To serve and unite those we touch with the Grace of God.

**Our Vision:** Transforming lives to become the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world.



December, 2021

## Grace United Methodist Church

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

**PLEASE NOTE:** For everyone's safety, if you are attending Sunday's services, please plan on wearing a mask. Thank you.

Monday, December 13th  
Come for a Feel-Good  
Christmas Movie



**NO** Administrative Board Meeting for the month of December. The next one will take place on 1/17/21.

## BOOK CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK

6:30-8:30 P.M.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

Meeting at the home of Nellie Mattis in  
Savage, MN—nnorth94@mail.com



Guests and  
New Members  
are Welcomed.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help keep our sidewalks clear and safe. Remember, if you need to shovel your walk at home, chances are the church needs clearing too. Shovels are at the church, but you might like your own better. For heavy, serious snow we have a snow blower. Kindly let the office know if you are willing to help out. Thanks.

## DECEMBER'S WORSHIP HELPERS

If you are unable to make your scheduled time, please find a replacement. Thank you.

| DATE             | GREETER          | USHER         | SOUND            | LITURGIST    |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Dec. 5th</b>  |                  |               |                  |              |
| 10:00 a.m.       | Glenda Wheelock  | James Milne   | Robert Timmerman | Rick Fossum  |
| Acolyte          | Halsted Brothers |               |                  |              |
| <b>Dec. 12th</b> |                  |               |                  |              |
| 10:00 a.m.       | Rhonda Brown     | Sean Litterer | Tom Litterer     | Cara Kennedy |
| Acolyte          | Meg Molitor      |               |                  |              |
| <b>Dec. 19th</b> |                  |               |                  |              |
| 10:00 a.m.       | Janet Barnes     | Nancy Fossum  | Roy Koenigsberg  | James Milne  |
| Acolyte          | Ristow Brothers  |               |                  |              |
| <b>Dec. 26th</b> |                  |               |                  |              |
| 10:00 a.m.       | Gloria Hanson    | Rhonda Brown  | Dave Chmielewski | Bill Macklin |
| Acolyte          | Chmielewski      |               |                  |              |

Did you know the start of Advent is the start of the New Year in the Christian “rhythm-of-life” (liturgical) calendar? Advent is Christianity’s spiritual New Year! It’s the time when Christians declare boldly and paradoxically, “We turn our faces towards the revelation of Christ in the world anew and walk the journey towards the manger, where Christ’s revelation meets us in the embodiment (incarnation) of baby. A baby who’s entire purpose is to love this world in all it’s fleshy messiness and invite it back to the heart of God. How beautiful. How poetic. How brilliant. *Our hope in the end leads us to start right back at the beginning. It leads us to Emmanuel – God with us.*

And boy do we need that message right now. The world seems all sorts of upside down. We’ve been on a jarring roller coaster ride we never wanted or asked to get on and are now just getting off it and asking, “Where are you, God? What just happened? What’s going to happen next?” And so we wait and ponder these questions in our hearts. Yet, waiting seems to be all we’ve been doing for a year and a half. Waiting for a pandemic to level out enough and ALL that came with that pandemic. Waiting to gather in groups and crowds and once again embrace the joys of social life. Waiting for justice to be reflected in the trial of Derek Chauvin and the other officers in the murder of George Floyd (half of which came, half of which we are still waiting). Waiting for a better system of policing and community safety that upholds the well-being of ALL people, including black, brown, and native bodies. Waiting for political systems and governance that actually reflects and uplifts the voices of ALL it’s constituents – especially the most vulnerable and invisible - instead of serving and reflecting the wealthiest amongst us.

But the waiting of Advent is a different kind of waiting. It’s an active waiting. A waiting that determinately places Hope in the driver’s seat of that jarring roller coaster ride. *A hope that invites us to return home to the incarnation of Christ within us all. A hope that invites us to see and reflect the ways in which “God with us” (Emmanuel) is making all things new.* That is why the focus of our Advent worship for this year is “Coming Home”. As a church community, we are just beginning our journey of “Coming Home” again in person. We are pondering how and *what* Christ wants to build here within our spirits and in our physical space. We are pondering how the surrounding towns and cities will meet and know Emmanuel through who we are and what we do next. We are pondering. And that pondering is active – pointing us forward and back to the manger. The journey of Advent is upon us, Grace Church. Let us “Come Home.” Let us trust what The Divine is calling us to be next. Let us hold tight to the promise of Emmanuel – God with us!

**Please see the insert for the Advent & Christmas Schedule & Year-End Giving Reminder**

Expectantly Waiting in Hope, Pastor Amanda

## GIVING REMINDER

We thank everyone who has continued to financially support Grace UMC over this unique and unusual past year. Your faithful and ongoing giving in a year of pandemic and construction has helped stabilize and equip us to emerge in a time of exciting ministry opportunity ahead! God is building something new here at Grace Church! Therefore, we ask that you **consider making an additional year-end gift to the ministry and future of what God is doing here at Grace**. If you do plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, please make sure it is postmarked by December 31, 2021 or hand delivered to the church mailbox by December 30, 2021. Statements showing what has been pledged so far this year can be found in your mailboxes by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and onward. Please pick them up and use that information in your ongoing discernment for contributing to a year-end financial gift to the church.

Finally, we continue to encourage you to look into our electronic giving options for your 2021 year-end gifts and/or regular 2022 offerings. If you need help getting that set up, please contact Doris Marek ([damarek73@gmail.com](mailto:damarek73@gmail.com)) or Pastor Amanda ([pastor@graceumcburnsville.org](mailto:pastor@graceumcburnsville.org)). Both will walk you through that *secure* and easy process.

Again, thank you all for your faithful spiritual practice of tithing and your financial support of Grace UMC! An exciting year of ministry awaits us in 2022!

**Stay in Peace and Every Good,  
Rev. Amanda Lunemann**

### ADVENT 2021: COMING HOME

November 28<sup>th</sup> - *Time to Come Home*

December 5<sup>th</sup> - *The Fear of Home*

December 12<sup>th</sup> - *The Joy of Home*

December 19<sup>th</sup> - *The Blessing of Home*

### Christmas Eve Services ~ Welcome Home

December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m. - (Family Interactive Service)

December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 p.m. - (Contemplative Candlelight Service)