

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church**  
**We are glad you are here!**

**9:30 A.M. Worship**

**10:45 A.M. Sunday School**

**November 29, 2009**

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**The Gathering**

Gathering music, fellowship, sharing with family and friends, announcements.

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

**Bill & Ruth Norris**

**UMH 211 (vs. 1 without refrain)**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. (Jeremiah 33:14-15)

It was through the words of the prophets that the Jewish people found comfort and hope. These same words remind us of the possibilities we have in Christ. Show us how you work God; remind us of your ancient promises.

As we light the first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope, let us think about what signs we are seeing of God at work right now. Let the light of Hope shine in our hearts this week and remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes to see where God is working in our lives and in our world.

**UMH 211 (refrain)**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**Opening Prayer (Psalm 25, Luke 21): Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised one—the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn UMH 171**

**There is Something about That Name**

**Children's Moment**

**Howard Gray**

**The Renewal**

**Call to Prayer (1 Thessalonians 3, Luke 21):** Just as Paul prayed night and day to meet face to face with the Thessalonians, that he might restore whatever was lacking in their faith, so Christ invites us to be alert at all times, praying that we may have the strength to stand true before the Son of Man. Let us offer our prayers to the one who promises us eternal life.

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer Hymn: UMH 349**

**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

**The Lord's Prayer by Kristen Chenoweth**

**Lara Lirely**

**Offering and Offertory**

**Friend of Mine**

**Steve Lirely**

**Doxology**

**Scripture Lesson**

**The Word**  
**Luke 21:25-36**

**Charlotte Cave, Reader**

**Witness to the Word through Music**

**Steve and Lara Lirely**

**Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction: Now May the Lord**

**by Steve Lirely**

**Postlude**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Prayers of Thanksgiving: for the beginning of the Advent season.

Prayers for our Active Duty Military Personnel: Tom Alexander and Jamie Perry.

Prayers For Upcoming Events and Our Community: Holy Spokes Advent Service.

Prayers for: Our Home Bound and Nursing Home Members; All Congregations in Jacksonville; Our Bishop; Our District Superintendent; Our Pastor; Our Church; Its Ministry; and Its Stewardship.

### MISSION EMPHASIS

In December, we are looking for donations for Jacksonville Area Food Center. Because of the economy, the Food Center is serving more first-time families. It is reported that their food provisions are very low, so if you can, please contribute anything you are able. They need canned foods such as vegetables, fruits, soups, and canned meats as well as packaged "dinners" and "Helpers." Thank you in advance.

The Advent letter should have been received by now. If you didn't receive a letter, please notify the office. You will note that there are four recipients this year. They are: Volunteer Health Clinic, Crisis Center, Jacksonville Area Food Center, and Woodhaven Hospice. Your donation can be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning or sent or delivered to the Church office anytime during Advent, before Christmas Eve.

### ADVENT SERVICE

The Holy Spokes Cluster is sponsoring an Advent Service this evening, in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm. The speaker for the evening will be Janet McCarty, a United Methodist missionary, who serves in the Philippines. Everyone is invited to this special service. Following the service there will be time for fellowship and light refreshments.

### WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Our annual Christmas gift to the community, "Walk Through Bethlehem" will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, from 2 pm to 6 pm. Please invite your families, friends and neighbors to experience a very inspiring, and joyful afternoon.

### CHICK FLICK

Our December Chick Flick will be Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be a chance for the ladies to relax, forget about the work they have left to do and come and enjoy a heart-warming movie. The movie will show at 6:30 pm. Come early for soup and a sandwich.

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ALL NIGHT BAKERY

The Senior High Youth Group will be having an All Night Bakery on December 11. They will be making Christmas favorites, such as peanut brittle, chocolate toffee, and peppermint bark. They are taking advance orders and the forms are available in the office, in the Parlor or from Sara Corder. All orders will be ready for pick-up on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH CANDY SALE

The Jr. High is planning a candy sale, but not all night and they are not taking orders. They will have their goodies in the Parlor to sell December 13<sup>th</sup>, the same day you are to pick-up bakery goods ordered from our Senior High.

### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

All Women of Grace, "It's that time of year..." for our annual Women's Christmas Brunch. It will be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Mark your calendar. Bring a friend. You could win a basket filled with items designed to "pamper" yourself. Rod Nicholson will be the entertainment. Homemade goodies will be available for purchase. It's some Christmas fun; we hope you'll come.

### YOUNG DISCIPLES

Young Disciples will meet on Sunday afternoon, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 -3:30 pm. We will be busy with various Christmas activities and we look forward to a special time together this Christmas season.

### OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

You will want to come to the December Wednesday afternoon program on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. A well-known Jacksonville entertainer, Robert Sampson, will be here to share his talents with us with Christmas carols and songs. Please put the date on your calendar because it promises to be an afternoon of joy and fun. Remember we have Worship and Food & Fellowship every Wednesday, starting at 11:30 am.

### BLUE CHRISTMAS, A SERVICE OF HOPE

We are planning a special service for those who find this season difficult. We want to make it a service of hope and fond memories. Please come and invite friends from the Jacksonville community. It is a season to give of ourselves to help those around us.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Fellowship - Parlor

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship – Deaf Faith Community

1:00 p.m. Deaf Youth Ministry

6:00 p.m. Holy Spokes Advent Service

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00 p.m. Deaf Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Food & Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

2-6 p.m. Walk Through Bethlehem