

ORDER OF WORSHIP

\*indicates that the congregation will stand.

welcome Rev. Ryan Mowen

preparing our hearts for worship  
"Rejoice"

announcements  
So we can get to know you better, please sign and pass the connection pad.

lighting of the advent candle: Joy

\*song of response: "Unspeakable Joy"

\*song of response: "Creations King"

\*passing of the peace  
leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
people: And also with you.

giving back to God (place prayer cards in offering plates)

song of preparation: "Is He Worthy?"

kid's moment and prayer of sending for the kids

scripture: Luke 2:10-14

message: Advent: Joy Rev. Joe Stroup  
"God With Us? Creation"

communion

\*closing song: "God With Us"

\*benediction (a blessing said over us as we go)

SERMON NOTES:

Prayer List as of Thursday, November 29

Please remember to mention during the hospital admission process that you are a member of Graystone. Also, if you know of a member who has been hospitalized please notify the church office.

Prayer Concerns: Graystone Members

Floyd Lewis Lois Miller  
Montie Miller Don and Gladys Rodgers  
Clair Ruffner Shirley Shearer  
Beverly Stuck

Prayer Concerns: Friends and Relatives

Deloris Bishop Diana Campbell Family  
Kathy Beatty's mother  
Judy Cessna Dawne Davis Family  
Lois Miller's daughter  
Diane Eret Frank and Reatha Eret  
McCune's sister-in-law Sonja McCune's parents  
Courtney LeBlanc Andrew Manzek  
Katie and Randy LeBlanc's daughter friend of Karen Brown  
Bud and Peggy McCune Lindsay Regos  
Larry McCune's parents Ron & Deb Port's daughter  
Quinn Santini Pam Stroup  
Clair & Donna Ruffner's great granddaughter Joe Stroup's mother

Sympathy to:

Cathy Stahr and on the death of her mother Nellie White on November 25. Family and Friends of Ruth Arlene Zbur who passed away on November 26.

Serving in the Military

We rejoice with the Family of Russell Blankenship who returned safely from serving in the Middle East!  
Caleb Bracken - US Navy  
Justin Ming - Serving in Anchorage Alaska  
Andy Neely - Serving in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Payton Smith - Navy; USS Delaware  
Dylan Wells - Fort Bragg, North Carolina  
Derek Watson, Shane Bothel, and Tyler Bothel - Navy Pilots

Mission Focus

Child Evangelism Fellowship  
CEF is a Bible-centered organization composed of believers whose mission is to evangelize children with the Good News of the Lord for them and to ground them in the Word of God and in the local church for Christian living.

Ministry Focus

We pray for those who are mourning this Christmas season. For those who have lost someone close and maybe this season is especially difficult and the joy that comes with Christmas may not be an easy thing to find. May they find comfort in times of grief and may the light of Jesus be with them in the darkness of this season.

Serving Today

Greeters: Patricia Moorhead, Tiffany Buffone, Michelle Hill, Judy Cunningham

Ushers: Ron and Marian Marshall, Amanda Lieb, Cindy Turnbull, Barry Uhron, Darlene Uhron, Sara Watkins

The Chancel Flowers are being shared by Ida Evans to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her dear friend, Maude Cramer.

A PRAYER TEAM is available under the right balcony after the service. A box for prayer requests is in the rear of the sanctuary as well as the office.

## What's YOUR next step?

### EVERYONE WELCOME ONE

### GATHER

This season we have an amazing opportunity and challenge. What if each one of us lived into the mission of who we are and what we are about as we "welcome people and follow Jesus"?

Invitation cards are available today and our challenge is to take one of these cards and approach someone in your life and invite them to join you with us this **Christmas Eve** for one of our services. Our kid-friendly service is at **6:00 p.m.** this year and our traditional, candlelight service is at **9:00 p.m.** We're prayerful for how God will use this to reach our community with good news for all people.

### CONNECT

**ANNUAL 'FALL' WOMEN'S GATHERING!** All women, teens and up, are invited to the Ashe's home (295 Williams St, very end of N. 3rd) Sat. Dec. 8, 2-4pm. Come when you can, leave when you must for a time of merriment. A variety of hot drinks are provided, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and a friend!

**CHRISTMAS STORY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!** Dec 9 - 30, we'll take a fresh look at the various Bible accounts of the Christmas story in preparation for the season! Upstairs in room 202, during the 9:45 Sunday School Hour, led by Colin and Heather Ashe. Everyone is welcome!

**EPIC RETREAT - JR/SR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT** - Registration opens soon for our youth winter camp from Feb 1-3 as we go to Beulah Beach with over 200 other young people from our presbytery. This is an amazing weekend away of fun and learning about God and we'd love to have all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students join us! For more information and for online registration soon. Visit [www.graystoneyouth.org](http://www.graystoneyouth.org).

### SERVE

**FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION** - TODAY everyone who enjoys the decorations of the Advent and Christmas season, is encouraged to join in the fellowship of making wreaths to decorate the church as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Bring your family, your work clothes, pruning shears and come and enjoy as we gather as the family of God.

11:00 a.m. Set up  
12:00 noon Lunch (\$3.00 per person and \$10 per family)  
12:30 p.m. Wreath Construction (Until we are finished)

Join us again **Saturday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m.** to help put up the decorations in the sanctuary and around the church.

As 2018 comes to an end, let's get ready to close out the year and **finish strong**. Thank you for your gifts to help us close the year well financially!

This is also the time to be getting pledge cards in for 2019 so that we are in the best place to **start well** next year!

#### Weekly Income (11/25/18)

Core: \$15,806  
Mission: \$ 2,466  
Finish Strong: \$ 300  
Total: \$18,572

#### Weekly Attendance (11/25/18)

8:30 a.m. 112  
11:00 a.m. 181  
Total: 293

Also, 2019 **OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the Welcome Center. If you wish to have giving envelopes for 2019 and there are none ready for you, please contact the church office and we will assign you a number.

**THE FINANCE TEAM LOOKING FOR OFFERING COUNTERS** - If you would be willing to help count the Sunday offerings on Monday mornings, please contact Connie at the church office. Clearances will be required.

## CALENDAR

### Happening today

8:00 a.m. Prayer for Worship - Library  
8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Celebration Choir  
12:00 noon Advent Festival - Gathering Place  
5:00 p.m. Thanksmas (Youth Ministry) - Gathering Place

### Happening this week

**Monday, December 3**  
6:30 p.m.

Bells - Center Social Hall

**Tuesday, December 4**

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
6:30 p.m. Personnel Team - Room 101

**Wednesday, December 5**

8:00 a.m. Prayer Group - Library  
9:30 a.m. Image Bearers - Room 101  
6:00 p.m. Transitional Pastor Search Team - Library  
6:00 p.m. Mission - Shari's Outer Office  
6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team - Stone Room  
7:00 p.m. Facilities Team - Room 101  
7:30 p.m. CCO - Gathering Place

**Thursday, December 6**

6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers Bible Study - Eat N Park  
9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study - Room 101  
1:00 p.m. Library Team - Library  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir - Room 211  
7:30 p.m. Worship Team - Sanctuary

**Saturday, December 8**

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Perkin's Restaurant  
1:00 p.m. Youth Skating - S and T Arena  
2:00 p.m. Sanctuary Decorating  
2:00 p.m. Ladies Open House - Ashe Home

**Sunday, December 9**

8:00 a.m. Prayer for Worship - Library  
8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Celebration Choir - Green Room  
12:00 p.m. CCO Lunch - Center Gathering Place  
6:00 p.m. Stone PM - Youth Room

# Welcoming People, Following Jesus

# ADVENT "God with Us? Creation"

## GRAYSTONE VALUES...

#### FOLLOWING JESUS WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES

We are not content to just follow Jesus on Sunday mornings but in every square inch of our lives.



#### TRUSTING GOD'S WORD

We are people who are anchored, fed, and shaped by God's Word.

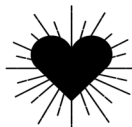


#### PURSUING COMMUNITY

We are together because God made us a family and even when it's messy, it's worth it.

#### SHARING THE LIFE- CHANGING MESSAGE OF JESUS

We bring the hope found only in Jesus into our homes, communities, and the world.



#### EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

We equip parents, children, youth, and young adults to lead our church and the world into a future defined by the Gospel.



December 2, 2018

11:00 a.m.