

December 2021

## GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

191 Bridge Street  
Corning, NY 14830-1997  
607-936-6145  
www.gumccorning.org  
email: gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

Grace Notes  
December 2021



**Nursery Open**  
Temporarily closed

**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 AM

**Sunday School**  
**Children-Youth**

**Adult Sunday School**

**Fellowship Hour**  
11:00 AM

**Office Hours**  
Monday – Thursday  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Closed Fridays

### *Grace UM Church Staff:*

Rev. Kevin Austin, Pastor

Anna Illig  
Administrative Assistant

Terry Oakden,  
Custodian

Jean Tedrick,  
Organist

Kathy Scudder,  
Treasure

December 2021

*open hearts  
open minds  
open doors*



# Grace United Methodist Church

Rev. Kevin Austin, Pastor

607-936-6145

gracemethodist@stny.rr.com

## *Pastor's Christmas Message*

“Advent” is a term we Christians use at this time of year, but what does it mean? The term is derived from the Latin word meaning "coming". The church observes Advent beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending on Christmas. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the [birth of Jesus](#) at [Christmas](#), as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. This year our Advent worship will be based on the book “Faithful—Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph” by Adam Hamilton. Usually, we think of Mary at this time of the year, because there is more information about her in the Christmas story in the Bible. But I believe that there is much that we can learn from the story and experience of Joseph.

I invite you to join us for this series of messages, either in person or via online streaming. Our first Advent service is on November 28 at our usual 10:00 AM worship time and continues for the next 3 Sundays (12/5, 12/12 and 12/19). We will wrap it up with a candlelight Christmas Eve service to be held on 12/24 at 7:00 PM. We will observe the Covid protocols and recommendations in order to protect everyone.

Are you looking for something different this Christmas season? All are invited to join us for this special time. Come as you are and prepare to be moved by the story of Joseph. He was a person just like us ... fearful and imperfect, but chosen by God to play a pivotal role in God's plan to save mankind.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Kevin



**WORSHIP SERVICES  
DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**December 5-** *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*"Whose Child is this?"*

**December 12** – *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater!!*  
*" Raising a Child Not Your Own"*

**December 19** – *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*" The Journey to Bethlehem"*

**December 24-** *7 PM Christmas Eve Service*  
*"The Rest of the Story"*

**December 26-** *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*  
*Day*



**MITTEN TREE**

Each year we decorate a Christmas tree outside of the church office with warm winter mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, which are then given to the children in the Head Start program. Please bring in new or gently used items for the tree and help keep a child

warm.

**RINGING THE BELL FOR THE  
SALVATION ARMY**

Every year members of Grace UMC ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program. Please contact by email or calling office with some dates and times available so that we can set up a date that would work best for the church to help with bell ringing.

**POINSETTIAS**

**LIVING FAITH ENDOWMENT FUND**

It is that time of year when we remember our loved ones by sharing the beauty of poinsettias on the altar or giving a gift to the Living Faith Endowment Fund. If you wish to place a poinsettia on the Chancel for Poinsettia Sunday (Dec. 19 service) and Christmas Eve, please call Northside Floral (962-3103) or florist of your choice to order and have delivered to the church by one on December 16 or before one on December 21-23. If giving to the Endowment Fund, please mail your check to the church office. Names of givers and those honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. The deadline for the bulletin is December 14. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

\*\*\*\*\*

Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_

Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_



In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### TURKEYS

Members have donated \$297 to Corning Community Food Pantry for the purchase of turkeys.

Thank you for your generosity.



December 7, 2021

10:00 AM in the Lounge

Current policy: masks are to be worn in the church until seated.

2021 Theme  
Knitted Together  
for God's Good Work

### PROGRAM The Gift of Mentoring

Objective: To explore the story of Mary and Elizabeth as encouragement for women to mentor one another as spiritual leaders, acting for justice and trans-formation of the world.

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-56

#### Opening Prayer

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, be with us in this hour as we step away from the busyness of the world to pray, study and plan to take action for justice and peace. Bless us with your vision of righteousness and shalom for all people and all creation. Amen.

#### God-Bearer

Mary has received a perplexing revelation from the angel Gabriel. Gabriel tells her to not be afraid (surely a revelation from an angel must have been so strange that she was afraid) and further that she will bear a child. Her immediate reaction is to ask how, because she is in a legal betrothal—a contract in which she is bound to Joseph legally while she still lives under the protection of her father's house, waiting

until the formality of marriage if finalized.

Gabriel tells Mary—her mind still questioning how this pronouncement could possibly be true—that her relative Elizabeth is also pregnant. How Mary is related to Elizabeth is not made clear in the scripture, but Mary knows that Elizabeth is older and had never had children. Once Mary knows about Elizabeth's baby, another miracle, she decides to say yes to God, to say yes to be the bearer of God into the world. The Eastern Orthodox Church calls Mary Theotokos, or "God-bearer," because she is the first to say yes to Jesus, to say yes to God's plan for the world through Jesus.

#### Shared Joy

Mary could have stayed in her parents' home, yet she goes "with haste" on a journey to visit Elizabeth. Together these women share their joy of expectation. When Mary is with Elizabeth, she is empowered to sing her song of praise. Mary stays with Elizabeth for three months, which means that she was with Elizabeth until just before the birth of John the Baptist. As Mary's pregnancy begins, Elizabeth's comes to fruition. We could assume that Mary's older female relative shares with her the wisdom and knowledge of preparing for the birth of a child, for caring for her own body.

Elizabeth functions as a prophet, announcing as soon as she sees Mary that her child shall be the Lord, which is Luke's title for Jesus. Elizabeth makes this pronouncement before Mary tells her that she is pregnant. Through the Spirit, Elizabeth has wisdom to share with Mary. Being pregnant in itself is not an easy thing, but an unanticipated pregnancy that draws attention from everyone around can be very stressful. We can imagine that Elizabeth's mentoring of Mary through the first trimester would have helped Mary to handle the pressure and stress that she was to face.



## 2021 DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Page 3: Bronson, Pam – Telephone #: 368-8235  
Darcangelo, Mrs. Betty – Address: 120 Creekside Drive, Room 40  
Painted Post, NY 14870

Page 6: KUHNER, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Donna - Delete the Painted Post address

Page 9: SUTTON, Mrs. Linda – Correct email: suttonLL42@gmail.com

Page 10: VINE, Mr. John\* - Correct telephone: 846-8352

VINE: Mrs. Velva\* - Correct telephone: 846-8351

Page 4: Jacalyn & Charles Grinnell 23 Morningside Drive, Painted Post, NY 14870

Copies of the Directory are available in the church office. You may pick up a copy if you haven't already received one. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please send a \$1.00 donation to cover the cost of postage and the large mailing envelope.

Thank you.

### Volunteer Opportunity in the Community

The Gaffer District will be putting on their annual Crystal City Christmas including the Parade of Lights, Sparkle, and Santa's Crystal House this coming Holiday Season and it takes many hands to put on our events. Their three main events include:

- The Parade of Lights is Saturday, November 27th and they are in need people from approximately 6 to 8 PM.
- Sparkle is Saturday, December 4th and they are in need people throughout the day and evening for specific shifts.
- Santa's helpers work 2 or 3-hour shifts every weekend throughout the season in the Crystal House.

Any interested in helping the Gaffer District with upcoming events please contact: GINNY COON (607) 937-6292 or [ginny@gafferdistrict.com](mailto:ginny@gafferdistrict.com)

### Community Information

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) season began October 1, 2021. This program helps low-income New Yorkers pay their energy bills. If you need assistance with a HEAP application, please call the Office of the Aging's Benefit Access team a call at 607-664-2298.

The Heating Equipment Repair Replacement Program (HERR) runs from October 1, 2021 until September 30, 2022 . Please call the Office of the Aging for more information on this program.

Medicare Open Enrollment is open October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to the Office of the Aging if you need help reviewing your Medicare Health Insurance plan by calling 607-664-2298.

### Thank You Notes

Dear Grace Church Members,

I want to thank you for the prayers and cards I received from the church and individual members, I appreciate your kindness.

December 2021

God Bless You.

Carol Walwarth

Pat Edger would like to thank Gerry Bruielly, Phyllis Crook, Betsy Austin and Nancy Wood for their assistance with fellowship hour. Along with Linda Sutton and Vida Johnson

### STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

As we prepare for another celebration of Christ's birth this Advent season, let me take this opportunity to wish you a joyous and fulfilling holiday season.

Traditionally, those individuals who wish to do so have contributed to a staff Christmas gift so that we might remember our staff in a special way at this time of year. This is being done again this year. Please put your contribution in an envelope marked "Staff Christmas" and give to Dave Patterson on any Sunday between now and December 15 or you may mail it to the church office to my attention. **If writing a check, please make it out to Dave Patterson.**

Again, best wishes to you and your family, and thank you for your continued support of our church.



Yours in Christ,  
*Dave Patterson*

#### MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet on Monday, December 6, at 6:00 PM in the lounge. All men of the church are invited to participate in the monthly meetings. There is always good food to share while they celebrate birthdays! Come and check it out!

#### UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

Make sure to wear your ugly Christmas sweater on Sunday, December 12. Let's see how many crazy sweaters are out there!!

#### LIVING FAITH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Living Faith Endowment Fund offers an important alternative form of giving to Grace United Methodist Church. Money given to that fund is invested and the interest, when favorable, makes a significant contribution to the church. As such, it is a fund that works for us and keeps on giving. A gift in memory or in honor of a loved one is a gift that will continue to give and support the mission and ministry of Grace Church.

**The office will be closed for the  
Christmas & New Year's Holiday  
December 25 & 26; January 1**

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## ***CHURCH BIRTHDAYS***

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 - Robert Bush
- 4 - Betty Darcangelo
- 10 - Julie Einfeldt Kellon
- 12 - Laura Dickerman Kram
- 19 - Pat Bennett
- 24 - David Bush
- 25 - John Slaven, Jr.  
Terry Johnson
- 30 - Zachary Bush



### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 21 - Marvin & Hyung Lee

#### **PAY PAL**

The church is set up to accept secure donations through Pay Pal. You can access Pay Pal by going to the church's website ([gumccorning.org](http://gumccorning.org)). Please be aware that when using Pay Pal, 2.9% of the donation and \$.30 per transaction is taken from the contribution.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Want to attend Sunday worship, but don't have the transportation? Grace Church's Membership Care Committee offers a transportation service. Contact the church by Thursday morning and we will arrange to have Vet Taxi service pick you up and take you back home. Contact the church office (936-6145) for more information

#### **IN THE HOSPITAL?**

Due to the HIPAA privacy rules, the church doesn't always receive notification from the local hospitals when someone is admitted. Please call the church office, or have a family member call, if you are in the hospital and would like to receive a visit. Also, if you are at home recuperating and would like a visit, just give the office a call (936-6145).

#### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

The church newsletter isn't just for committee news - it's for news about you!! If you would like to share information with the rest of the Grace Church family - be it a special birthday, anniversary, a promotion or retirement, a birth or a wedding, a homerun or being in the school play - let Anna in the church office know. Deadlines for articles is the Monday before the last Sunday of the month. We want to share in your joy!!

David and Cathy Patterson share the joy of the arrival of their first grandchild, Avery Charles Patterson, on November 8th. The very proud parents are Joseph and Michelle Patterson of Westminster, CO.



# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2021

*Please note that there are many areas in need of volunteers.  
Let the church office know if you would like to help out in any of these areas.*



Thank you to all who volunteer their time for these ministries and to those who donate flowers or bulletins.  
Your time and help is very much appreciated!

Date	Greeters - 3	Flowers
12/5	1. 2. 3.	
12/12	1. 2. 3.	
12/19	1. 2. 3.	Poinsettias
12/26	1. 2. 3.	
12/24 Christmas Eve	1. No Greeters 2. 3.	Poinsettias

*Merry  
Christmas*





# December 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	2	3	4
5 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	6 6:00 Men's Group, L 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	7 10:00 Women's Group	8 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	9 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	10	11
12 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship <i>Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</i> 11:00 Trustees	13 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance  <b>Office Closed</b>	14	15 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	16 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	17	18
19 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	20 <b>Office Closed</b> 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	21	22 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	23 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	24 <b>Office Closed Christmas Eve</b> 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>
26 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day</b> 10:00 Worship, S 11:00 Fellowship	27 4-8:45 Corning Ballroom and Latin dance	28	29 6-7:30 Corning Ballroom & Latin Dance 6:00 Boy Scouts, RH	30 6:00- 7:30 Girl Scouts	31	ABBREVIATIONS K = Kitchen L = Lounge S = Sanctuary BC = Bethany Chapel DR = Dining Room RH = Reed Hall