



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE DUNES

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Phone: 616-842-7980 Website: www.umcdunes.org

The Order of Morning Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Gathering

As the church gathers, please feel free to get acquainted with your neighbor.

A “•” invites you to stand, as you are able.

Please silence your cell phone.

Welcome and Ministry Moments

Invitation to Worship

- **Lighting of the First Two Candles of Advent**

All (singing): Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

- **Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

People: alight within us your flame of peace this day.

Liturgist: Grant us openness to hear your message.

People: Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more peace in the midst of fear.

Pastor: And with the angel messengers above us, among us and within us, we sing...

All (singing): Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

- **Opening Hymn**

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

(red book) No. 215

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Isaiah 40, Psalm 85

God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever. We are afraid of your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power. We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace, afraid that you will change the way things have always been. As we wait for you to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see that you have always been here. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Leader: We hear the message of God

All: Do not be afraid. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Response

Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

Arr. Larson

Bells of Glory

Sharing the Word

The Scriptures are opened to the people through the reading of lessons, preaching and music.

Time for Children

Pastor Lou

Nursery for children Young 5's and under is available during both services.

8:30—Worship bags for children 5 and up are available in the Cry Room.

10:30—Toddlers-Young 5's may attend Bible Friends in the Nursery.

10:30—Children in K-5th grades will be lead to their Children in Worship rooms downstairs (rooms 8,9,11&12).

Parents, please pick up your children at 12:15 from their rooms downstairs.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-56

(NT page 53 in the pew Bible)

Leader: This is the Good News for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Nothing is Impossible with God

Rev. Louis Grettenberger

Response to the Word

We respond to God's Word by offering prayers, our gifts and our service for the world and one another.

Youth (6th-12th grades) dismissed for Sunday School during the 10:30 service.

• **Prayer Invitation**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

** (red book) No. 328

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Offertory

Toccata for a Joyous Day

Arr. McElveen

Bells of Glory

Doxology

Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

• **Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

God of peace and possibility, we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your good news for the sake of the world. Amen.

Sending Forth

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's Blessing.

• **Final Hymn**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

(red book) No. 218

• **Benediction and Chimes**

• **The Mission to the Messengers**

All (singing): Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

• **Postlude**

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Sunday, December 10, 2017

Liturgists: (8:30) Jerry Gibbs (10:30) Mary Huntington

Organist: Marna Jeffery

Ushers: (8:30) Rob & Betty Roberts, Ed & Liz Lystra

(10:30) Pete Hicks, Kent Taylor, Doug Mitchell, Vaughn Umphrey

Greeters: (8:30) Margaret Cook (10:30) Donald & Diana Adams

Welcome Center: (8:30) Sue Hafner (10:30) Jean Polk

Children in Worship Program: Pam Zurakowski, Jen Cryst, Carin Snider, Gynell Schaner

Nursery: Karen Aspenson, Kisa Weesies

Coffee Fellowship: Ray & Betsy Komray, Phyllis Simmons

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Liturgists: (8:30) Harold Merz (10:30) Gregg Kelly

Organist: Marna Jeffery

Ushers: (8:30) Rob & Betty Roberts, Ed & Liz Lystra

(10:30) Pete Hicks, Vaughn Umphrey, Elizabeth Dales, Don Adams

Greeters: (8:30) Dan & Darleen Houle (10:30) Greg & Helen Preston

Welcome Center: (8:30) Marnie Mathews (10:30) Sandra Breasbois, Betty Johnston

Children in Worship Program: Laura Burns, Justin/Teracia Graegin, Carin Snider, Tracee Cole/Kevin McCracken

Nursery: Karen Aspenson, Kisa Weesies

Coffee Fellowship: Michael & Tracee Cole & Family

CHURCH OF THE DUNES CORE PURPOSE: We are a family of faith who seeks to grow in God's grace and love, challenges and equips all members to be faithful disciples, to share the Good News and demonstrate and reflect the love of God.

CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers.....	All Members of the Congregation
Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Louis Grettenberger (louis.grettenberger@gmail.com, 231-883-9806)
Assistant Pastor.....	Rev. Eldon Eldred (eldon616@gmail.com, 231-855-6223)
Director of Jubilation Choir, Interim Chancel Choir Director.....	Carol Kirchner (kirchcocarol@yahoo.com)
Director of Youth Choir, Interim Jr. Singers & Chimers Director...	Cynthia Hicks (Cynthia_Hicks@hotmail.com)
Accompanists.....	Marna Jeffery, Cathy Shick
Director of Children's Ministries.....	Laura Burns (lburns@umcdunes.org)
Director of Youth Ministry.....	Ashley Boersma (aboersma@umcdunes.org)
Kitchen Coordinator.....	Sherry Baker (sherry.baker@sbcglobal.net)
Wednesday Night Suppers.....	Tracee Cole and Kelly Grilley
Office Administrator.....	Jan Blanchard (jblanchard@umcdunes.org)
Assistant Office Administrator.....	Shirley Chappell
Custodian.....	Jeff Thomasma (jeffthomasma@gmail.com)
Covenant Missionaries.....	Rev. Nkemba & Mbwizu Ndjungu and Dr. Lester & Debbie Dornon

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY **December 10, 2017**

- 8:30 AM-12:00 PM Nursery Care (for children ages 0-5 years) – Nursery
8:30 AM Worship Service – Sanctuary
(Children Ages 5-5th grade may use a worship bag found in the Cry Room)
9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship – Wiltse Center
9:45-10:15 AM Carillon Ringers Rehearsal – Choir Loft
9:45 AM FaithLink Discussion Group “Called to Love” – Room 4 downstairs. Visitors are always welcome to attend this group.
10:30 AM Worship Service – Sanctuary
10:45-12:15 AM Children in Worship (Sunday morning programming for children in K-5th Grade) – Rooms 8/9 & 11/12 downstairs
11:15 AM-12:15 PM Youth Sunday School – 9th-12th grades in the Youth Room, 6th-8th grades in the Pit (Room 7)
11:30 AM BBQ Book Discussion “Seeing Gray” – Ryder Lounge
11:30 AM Ray Vander Laan Series – 13/14
NO Parenting Discussion Group today
12:15-1:00 PM Youth Choir – Choir Room
2:30 PM Service at Village of the Pines led by Herm Tanis
4:00-6:00 PM Church Wide Caroling to Homebound Members – meet in the lobby area near the church offices
6:00 PM Soup Supper – Wiltse Center

MONDAY **December 11, 2017**

- 9:15 AM Mom's Club – Nursery
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Work Bee – Panera Bread
6:00 PM Quilt Guild – Wiltse Center
6:00 PM Dunesmen – Social Hall
6:00 PM Youth Council – Conference Room
7:00 PM Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

TUESDAY **December 12, 2017**

- 11:00 AM-1:30 PM Staff Meeting and Staff Christmas Lunch – Ryder Lounge & off site
11:30 AM Esther Circle – Kirby Grill
5:30 PM Grand Haven Area Girl Scout Leaders Meeting – Wiltse Center
6:30 PM Worship Committee – Conference Room
7:00 PM Trustees – Ryder Lounge
Bear Den – Room 6 (Scout Room)

WEDNESDAY **December 13, 2017**

- 9:00 AM Morning Coffee – Russ' Restaurant
9:30 AM Disciple IV – Ryder Lounge
5:15-6:15 PM Wednesday Supper (Sloppy Joes) – Social Hall
6:00 PM Knitters – Conference Room
6:00 PM Disciple IV – Room 10
6:00-7:00 PM The Greatest Gift Advent Study – Room 4
6:00-7:15 PM The Apostle's Creed Study – Ryder Lounge
6:00-7:00 PM Jr. Singers/Chimers – Choir Room/Choir Loft
6:00-7:00 PM Youth Small Groups – Youth Room
6:00-7:00 PM Child Care (Birth – 1st grade) – Nursery
7:30 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **December 14, 2017**

- 9:00 AM Craft Circle/Appreciation Tea for all knitters – Ryder Lounge
9:30 AM Weight Watchers – Social Hall
11:00 AM-1:00 PM Poinsettia Pickup – Ryder Lounge
7:00 PM Creativity, The Arts and God – Social Hall
7:00 PM Ruth Circle – Ryder Lounge
6:00-7:00 PM Tiger Den
Wolf Den, Webelos I

FRIDAY **December 15, 2017** **Dunes Digest Deadline**

Pastor Lou's Day Off

SATURDAY **December 16, 2017**

- 11:00 AM-6:00 PM Belling Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Grand Haven Walmart

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PAGE 1

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS: Welcome to the Church of the Dunes. If you are a first-time visitor or a life-long member, we want you to feel at home in the circle of God's love. This is a place where all who come are welcome. Please take time to note the persons sitting near you. If you see a new-comer in your pew, welcome them and invite them to the coffee hour. If a regular attender is missing, send them a card, or give them a phone call when you get home. When we pass the friendship pads, take time to put names and faces together. "For there is no longer Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free, for we are all one in Christ Jesus."

THE NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED. You may pick yours up during Coffee Fellowship in the Wiltse Center today. You may also pick your directory up from the church office Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. These are available by request to anyone who would like one, not just to those who were photographed.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY! Meet at 4:00 pm at the main entrance by the church office and we'll break into groups to go caroling to our homebound members and friends. Bring enough cans of soup to feed your group, and our Soup Team will make a delicious dinner for everyone to enjoy in the Wiltse Center when we get back to church at 6:00 pm! Table service and drinks will be provided. Let's share the spirit of Christmas with our extended Dunes family!

DECEMBER DUNESMEN MEETING: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend five months away from home, hiking from border to border through some of the most wild and remote country in the lower forty-eight states? If you would like to hear what it was like for one person, come join us at the December Dunesmen meeting. Our own Phil Weesies will give a presentation on his thru-hike of the Continental Divide Trail, which began in April of this year. Dinner will be served on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall. Please let Roger (rsandb3@sbcglobal.net) or Sandee Klop (sandeecvo@gmail.com) know if you plan on eating so they will prepare enough food. Hope to see you at the meeting!

THE APOSTLE'S CREED BY ADAM HAMILTON: Join us on Wednesdays in the Ryder Lounge, 6 pm-7 pm as Pastor Eldon Eldred leads us in this powerful Advent Study of the truths and deeper meanings found in the Apostles' Creed that relate to us today. No books are needed. Handouts are provided at each class. Open to all weekly!

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC: Sunday, December 17 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the Wiltse Center.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY is next Sunday, December 17 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the church. Fun, creative, festive Christmas attire is encouraged.

FAMILY PROMISE NOTICE – Beginning December 17th Church of the Dunes will be hosting Family Promise. There is still an opportunity to help by volunteering to be an Overnight Host (12/17, 12/20 or 12/23); we need new coordinators for laundry and food supplies (please call me for details); and I could use some help setting up on the afternoon of December 17th. The families we host are extremely appreciative of our welcoming congregation. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this mission. Dave Hoffman, 616-847-8438.

THE MONDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will be meeting on Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge to discuss *The True Gift* by Patricia MacLachlan. Everyone is welcome each month. This group is led by Gayle Cox.

WE ARE OFFERING FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AT CHURCH OF THE DUNES for congregation members and members of the community from January 14 through March 11, 2018 on Sundays from 11:45 am-12:45 pm. What if you knew where all of your money was going each month? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey's faith-based class, financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. If you are interested in learning more about this class, contact Susan Thorpe at 248-310-2312.

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is now posted on the wall outside the Wiltse Center. You may sign up to sponsor the sanctuary flowers on a specific Sunday. The cost is \$30 and the church office staff will order the flowers for you.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Receipts

For Operating Expenses

2017 Weekly Average

\$9,956

Weekly Attendance

Last Week: 335

Last Year: 355

SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK & WHITE: THOUGHTS ON RELIGION, MORALITY, AND POLITICS, by Adam Hamilton, Sundays in the Ryder Lounge 11:30 am-12:30 pm. This class is led by Jill Miller. Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it. One solution that hasn't yet been tried, says Adam Hamilton, is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us.

NAME TAGS: If you would like a new magnetic name tag, please write your name on the list on the clipboard on the table in the Cry Room near the name tag rack. Once your name tag has been completed you may find it on or near the clipboard. Please allow up to two weeks for your name tag to be completed. An alphabetical listing including name tag numbers may be found in the notebook located in the Cry Room. If you forget your name tag please use a handwritten one from the Welcome Center.

FROM THE SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE: We are encouraging everyone to use the main entrance, by the offices, during the week. Please observe the signage that is posted. We are looking to enhance our security and provide better foot traffic efficiency. During the Sunday events, the regular entrances will be utilized.

POINSETTIA PICKUP for those delivering to our homebound members and friends will take place on Thursday, December 14 from 11 am-1 pm in the Ryder Lounge.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRINTED "JOYS AND CONCERNS" may be placed on the backside of our blue Response Cards, which are available at the Information/Welcome Center in the narthex. You may also call the church office on or before Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. each week or e-mail your request to jblanchard@umcdunes.org.

Please let the church office know in a timely manner if you or a family member is hospitalized, going to be having surgery, or are homebound and desiring a visit. Please let us know if you have experienced a death in your family. Because of confidentiality laws in place, we have no way of knowing unless you tell us. We would like to be supportive but we also need your help. Thank you.

PRAISE GOD FOR

Thank you to my church family for the cards, flowers and visits for my 96th birthday. Carol and Bonnie singing happy birthday was special and visits from Pastor Eldon always make my day. Lillian Peoples

A big thank you to Jeff for the great job of getting our tables set up and ready for Christmas by Candlelight, to our hostesses for all the beautiful table decorations and desserts and also the planners for the lovely music program. It made for another great Christmas by Candlelight memory. Bev Parrott

CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: December 11-Terry Minor, Carol Scherpenisse, Pam Zurakowski; 12-Grant Bell (14 yrs.); 13-Richard Turner; 15-Glenn McCoy, Dorothy Wheat, Dale Zurakowski; 16-Darla Minuth; 17-Merrie DeWilde, Rhonda Reece.

Please keep Pearl Patterson in your prayers as she is experiencing serious health concerns. Contact the church office if you would like a mailing address for Pearl.

PLEASE JOIN UNITED METHODISTS AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE PRAYING FOR: Ukraine: Lithuania: Providing a Christian camping experience for children and youth; and Genilma Boehler, missionary.

PLEASE KNOW THAT OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IS VIDEO-TAPED and the sermon only is posted for later viewing on our church website. Every effort is made to focus our camera only on the pastor. On very rare occasions, persons seated near the front of the church may appear in this sermon video. We do not have the time or facility to edit out these images. If you have objections to inadvertently appearing in a sermon video that will be posted on the church website, we would encourage you to find seats toward the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to take pictures or video of your children during a musical performance in our worship services or other church activities, however, please refrain from posting any videos or photos to public places, such as Facebook or YouTube, as the **musical performances are copyright protected** and some parents may not have consented to public use of images.

NEED A HELPING ELBOW? Ushers and/or Greeters would love to lend you a supportive elbow, wheelchair, walker, or umbrella if it would make the walk from the parking lot to the sanctuary more comfortable and safe for you on Sunday mornings. Please stop by the Information Center (Welcome Center) to pick up a colorful card with the umbrella logo pictured here. Place it in your car in a window visible to the church's main entrance and a Greeter or Usher will come out to assist you. If you cannot pick up a card from church, or to request assistance ahead of time, please call the church office by noon on Friday with your name, which service you will attend, and car make and color, and we will make arrangements.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment. Please note: Pastor Lou's day off is Friday.

DEADLINES: Bulletins-Wednesdays at 3 p.m.; Dunes Digest Newsletter-the 15th day of each month.