



December 1, 2024

First Sunday in Advent

United Methodist Church of the Dunes
717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Pastor
616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

We Gather

Gathering Music & Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit

"Keep Your Lamps"

Thomas
Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Response

**Restore! Restore! Restore our hope, O Lord
In Christ alone our only hope is found**

*Call to Worship

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

People: into Christ's world of light.

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

People: into God's strength and hope.

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

**People: Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we come to restore our souls
and wait for the coming of Christ.**

We Praise God

*Hymn #211

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(vs. 1, 2, 6, & 7)

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Advent Hope"

Martin
Chancel Choir

*Doxology (to the tune of #219 What Child is This?)

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and hope to our world. Surprise us with your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures		Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSVUE)
Worship Song	<i>"Shine on Us"</i>	Smith/Smith
A Reading from the Gospel		Luke 21:25-36
Sermon	<i>"Restoring HOPE"</i>	Pastor Lou

We Respond to the Word

The Great Thanksgiving

Time of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of abundance and mercy, we give joyful thanks for your eternal love and healing presence in our celebration of bread and cup. Bless this Body of Christ that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants, with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

*Final Hymn #2091 *"The King of Glory Comes"*

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

*Chimes & Parting Music

**Please stand as you are able*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Hymn #211

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Doxology

Hymn #219

(tune: What Child is This?)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise God, God's Child, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Shine on Us

Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your light shine on us

Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us

Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us
Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let Your light shine on us

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Eternal Promise, in the midst of our doubt and fear we give you thanks for the promise of your coming.

People: Restore us, O God, fill us with a hope that casts out our fear and doubt.

Leader: We give thanks for Jesus the Christ, who came in weakness and with his life, death, and resurrection showed us the power of your love for the world.

People: Restore us, O God, so that in our weakness we may find your strength.

Leader: We give thanks for the Holy Spirit, whose whispers of encouragement enable us to live in the now and not yet of our faith.

People: Restore us, O God, and give us the courage to wait for your coming with grace and patience.

Leader: We give you thanks for your Church, where we can raise our voices in hope that all things will be made new.

People: Restore us, O God! Come in your power, come in your weakness, and make all things new.

Leader: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall never hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."

Leader : On the night he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body, broken for the healing of the world. Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me."

O Holy One, send down your Spirit that these gifts of grain and grape, use these ordinary gifts to express mystery of your extraordinary love. Unite us with Christ forever and bring us with the whole creation to your eternal realm. Amen.



The King of Glory Comes
Hymn #2091

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people curing their illness.

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother;
in all of Galilee was never another.

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **December 1, 2024**

- 9:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM Sunday School - Room 8
- 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship - Wiltse Center fellowship area
- 10:45 AM Faith Linked – Ryder Lounge

MONDAY **December 2, 2024**

- 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 1:00 PM Our Hope Has Come study – Room 13/14
- 1:30- -5:30 PM Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 2:00 PM Gun Violence Prevention – Room 2
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall (lower level)

TUESDAY **December 3, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Pastor Lou's Office Hours
- 10:00 AM Preparing My Heart study – Room 2
- 11:00 AM Staff – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 6:00 PM UWF Board – Room 10
- 7:00 PM Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

WEDNESDAY **December 4, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:30 AM Organ Lesson – Choir Loft
- 11:00 - 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 5:15 PM Supper – Wiltse Center
- 6:00 PM Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 6:00 PM Guitars – Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM The Journey study – Ryder Lounge
- 7:00 PM Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **December 5, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:30 AM Community Choir – Choir Room
- 11:00 – 4:00 Set up for Candlelight Christmas – Wiltse Ctr
- 11:30 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 1:00 PM Mary Circle – Ryder Lounge
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas – Sanctuary, Wiltse Ctr

FRIDAY **December 6, 2024**

- Office Closed
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center

SATURDAY **December 7, 2024**

No Scheduled Activities

Information, Events, and Activities

Events and activities are open to all.

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – RESTORE

During this season, through scripture, sermons, and music, we will be working to help God RESTORE hope, peace, joy, and love to the world.

HUNGER OFFERING FOR SUPPER HOUSE – TODAY

Today in worship, we gather a hunger offering for Supper House, a Muskegon Heights-based organization that provides hot evening meals for many in need. If you would like to give and will do so by check, make payable to Church of the Dunes and note “hunger offering” on the memo line.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:00 p.m.

All are invited for this performance by a dulcimer/guitar duo in the sanctuary, followed by holiday refreshments in a beautifully decorated Wiltse Center. Open to all, no tickets or reservations needed.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: LIFE AFTER LOSS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1:00 p.m.

These meetings are held once a month and are open to all dealing with a death-related loss. A qualified professional from Trinity Health-At Home hosts and leads the discussions in the Ryder Lounge at church (main floor).

COOKIE WALK AND BOUTIQUE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Select from a delicious array of holiday goodies and hand-crafted items in the Wiltse Center fellowship area. Proceeds from this United Women in Faith event go to missions that serve children, women, and youth.

HOLIDAY CONCERT, GHHS SELECT ENSEMBLES – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 p.m.

Grand Haven High School Choral Ensemble and Advanced Women’s Ensemble present a concert of festive and inspiring Christmas and holiday selections in the sanctuary. This Dunes Concert Series event is free and open to the public. If you need a ride, please contact the church office.

CHAIR-SUPPORTED YOGA CLASSES – MONDAYS 5:30 p.m., THURSDAYS 11:30 a.m.

These classes are open to all adults and include gentle stretches designed to support flexibility and relaxation. A \$1 per class donation helps with expenses. This meets in the Social Hall on the lower level of the church. There is lower-level parking at the rear of the building. (No session on 11/28.)

CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE FOR KIDS BELONG – IN THE WEEKDAY ENTRANCE

The Missions and Social Concerns team is sponsoring a gift tree for Kids Belong, a local organization that supports foster and adoptive families. To participate, take a gift tag ornament from the tree located in the weekday entrance, purchase the suggested item, and return it to the base of the tree before Christmas. Please **do not** gift wrap the items.

ART EXHIBIT IN THE RYDER LOUNGE

Blythe Metternich Smith is an accomplished painter and a member of Church of the Dunes. Her artwork featuring florals, botanicals, and other nature-inspired subjects, is on display in the Ryder Lounge through the month of December. The lounge is located on the main floor of the church, near the sanctuary.

FAMILY MINISTRIES NEEDS YOU

Family Ministries has opportunities for Sunday School helpers, nursery attendants, chess players (help with the beginner group for kids), set-up and clean-up for get-togethers and other events, and more. Sign up to help occasionally, as your schedule permits, or for a regular schedule, if you prefer. For info, contact Jodie, Director of Family Ministries. For assistance, contact the church office.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

At this candlelight service, we celebrate Christ's birth with choir, bell choir, special guest instrumentalists, and a meaningful message.

Sundays at Church of the Dunes

Worship - 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary

For a link to the recorded livestream, visit www.umcdunes.org/worship.

Nursery - available during 9:30 a.m. worship

It is located a short distance down the hall from the worship space.

Sunday School for Children - Hosanna classroom (Room 8), lower level

The pastor will dismiss students to Sunday school from worship after the Children's Time.

Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. - Wiltse Center fellowship area

Please stop by for fresh coffee and delicious refreshments.

Faith Linked - 10:45 a.m. - Ryder Lounge

Discussion of topics and current events from a faith-focused perspective. Open to all adults.

Notes from the Church Office

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or by appointment.

The bulletin deadline is noon on Tuesdays. Bulletin space is limited and often fills up well before the deadline. Early submissions are recommended.

Church of the Dunes would like to stay connected with you and to be supportive of you and your loved ones. If your contact information has changed, please let the church office know. If you or a family member is hospitalized, going to be having surgery, or is homebound and would like a visit, please let us know. Let us know, as well, if you have experienced a death in your family.

Snowbirds, please keep the office updated on your departure and return dates. Your winter address remains on file from year to year, but your dates away need to be updated annually so we can continue to stay in touch. We will miss you and look forward to your return in the spring.

All are Welcome

The United Methodist Church of the Dunes aspires to love as Jesus loved.

We open our hearts, minds, and doors to all.

This congregation invites persons of all races, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of the Christian life.

Praises and Prayers

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Michelle DeVito in honor of her mother, Bette DeVito, for her birthday December 3.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Today	Wanda Ferrell (96)
December 4	Betsy Peterson
December 5	Jerry Lundeen
December 6	Gerald Mathews

Giving and Attendance

<u>Date/Week Of</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>	<u>Weekly Average Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Weekly Budgeted</u>	<u>Percent of Budget</u>
November 24	\$5,136	\$9,094	\$8,830	103

To give by mail, please send offering to United Methodist Church of the Dunes, 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417. To give online, visit <https://umcdunes.org/give/>.

November 24, 2024

In Person	167
Online	58.5 (39 x 1.5)
Total Attendance	225.5

Since one view may include more than one person viewing together, the Michigan Conference of the UMC recommends multiplying the number of views by 1.5 to estimate total online attendance.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist: Diane Gordon
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Chancel Choir, Marna Jeffery
Technology: David Norton, ArSarNi Grettenberger
Greeters: Dave & Nancy Parsons
Welcome Center: Jan Lipfert
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Neal Miller, Joel Lumbert, Karyn & Gary Gillan
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

Next Week – December 8

Liturgist: Cathryn Marshall
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Bells of Glory, Marna Jeffery
Technology: David Norton, Trevor Larkins
Greeters: Larry & Kate Cole
Welcome Center: Vicki Reis
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Rob & Betty Roberts, Ron and Tim Kurburski
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

Church of the Dunes is a family of faith which seeks to:

- grow in God's grace and love.
- challenge and equip all members to be faithful disciples.
- share the Good News.
- demonstrate and reflect the love of God.



Church office hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Lou directly on his cellphone at 231-883-9806.