



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

United Methodist Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

We Gather

Gathering Music & Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit

"Silent Night"

Guitar Club

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Response

**Restore! Restore! Restore Your love, O Lord
In Christ alone Your one true love is found**

*Call to Worship

Leader: God has done great things for us!

People: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Leader: Holy is God's name!

People: God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Leader: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

People: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

We Praise God

Worship Song

"Follow the Light"

Heffinger/Hart

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Hymn #216

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. Despite all the holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas party preparations, long to-do lists, and exhausting efforts to get the shopping done. We fail to help make a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world to welcome the One who brings us peace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Mary, Did You Know?"

arr. Hayes
Dianne Prieditis

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:39-45 (NRSVUE)

Hymn #230

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

vs. 1-3

A Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

Sermon

"Restore LOVE"

Pastor Lou

We Respond to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Restoration Prayer

O Lord, may we be part of turning your world right side up. There may be personal cost to many of us who honestly are the privileged ones. We pray for love to prevail, for justice to flow down in rivers from above, and for all to recognize the greatness of your love and the needs of all humankind. May the actions of our lives and our fervent prayer always be that we may magnify your love, O God, by following the example of our Savior. Amen.

*Final Hymn #251

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

*Chimes & Parting Music

**Please stand as you are able*

Silent Night

Silent night holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child,
holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent night holy night, son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night holy night, wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia" to our King
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Follow the Light

Star in the sky we behold you.
How could our eyes turn away?
Drawn to the light of mercy
that comes to make a way.

A lamp for our path that was darkness;
eternity's secret revealed.
A hope to illumine these shadows;
a love that was born to heal.

And we will follow the light,
we will follow the light,
seeking the Lamb,
our saving love divine!

Even the night will not shake us;
in the desert our hearts will not fear.
Drawn to the hope of salvation,
we wait for the sun to appear.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright!
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

And we will follow the light,
we will follow the light.
Seeking the Lamb,
seeking the Lamb,
we will follow the light.
We will follow the light,
seeking the Lamb,
our saving love divine.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Hymn #216

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jess's lineage coming,
as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

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.

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn # 230, vs. 1-3

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is
his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of
his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Go, Tell it on the Mountain
Hymn #251

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **December 22, 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 23, 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
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall (lower level)

TUESDAY **December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve**

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY **December 25, 2024 – MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Office Closed

THURSDAY **December 26, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 11:30 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 11:00-3:00 PM Private lessons – Wiltse Center

FRIDAY **December 27, 2024**

- Office Closed
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 2:45 PM Serve at Supper House

SATURDAY **December 28, 2024**

No Scheduled Activities

Information, Events, and Activities

Events and activities are open to all.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE DUNES

Thank you for worshipping here today! After the service, you are invited for fresh coffee and delicious refreshments in the Wiltse Center fellowship area, located at the other end of the main floor hallway. If you are visiting, we hope you will worship again here soon and consider making Church of the Dunes your church.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

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

At this candlelight service, we celebrate Christ's birth with choir, bell choir, harp, soloists, pipe organ, scripture, and a meaningful message.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed:

- Christmas Holiday - Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25
- New Year Holiday – Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1

Regular church office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 29 AT 9:30AM

Next Sunday in worship, we continue our celebration of Christmas with scriptures, carols, and a message for the season.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Offerings received after Sunday, December 29 will be credited as 2025 gifts.

MUSIC GROUPS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday evening Chancel Choir rehearsals and group guitar lessons are on Christmas break. Rehearsals and lessons restart on Wednesday, January 8. Tuesday evening Bell Choir rehearsals resume January 7.

TWO STUDIES WITH PASTOR LOU BEGIN IN JANUARY

Reading the Bible Together

Mondays, 11:00 a.m., one hour, begins January 13

Bring your Bible as we read and discuss the Gospel of Luke together.

Attend weekly or as your schedule allows, no sign-up is needed.

Book Study “The Heart of Christianity”

by Marcus Borg

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – noon, meets 12 weeks, begins January 8

The book offers insight into navigating challenging times as a Christian, and challenges us to deepen our understanding of our love for God and God's love for us. Sign up on the Adult Education bulletin board, located near the church office. Books are available from Pastor Lou. Book fee is \$10. If the book fee is an obstacle, scholarships are available. Please read the introduction and chapter 1 for the first class meeting.

ALSO COMING UP IN JANUARY...

Bible studies, book discussion groups, caregiver and grief support groups, chair-supported yoga classes, knitting, stitching, and craft groups, open pickleball, men's breakfasts at Russ' Restaurant, women's circles, Finishing Well Ministry activities for 55+, and more. To find out more, stop at the Welcome Center desk located in the entrance to this worship space, or contact the church office.

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.

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, and earlier on holiday weeks. 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.

Praises and Prayers

COOKIE WALK THANK YOU AND UPDATE

The 2024 Boutique and Cookie Walk netted \$2,391.55! At the next Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith (UWF) Board meeting, we will decide which missions will most benefit from a monetary gift from these proceeds. Thank you to all who donated, baked, decorated, sewed, knit, crocheted, worked, and shopped to make this event a success.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

December 24 Jo Harvey, Dolores Quackenbush
December 25 Gail Smart
December 26 Kathy Tower
December 27 James Alguire

Giving and Attendance

Schedule note: offerings received after Sunday, December 29 will be credited in 2025.

<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>
December 15	\$12,132	\$9,148	\$8,830	103.6

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/>.

December 15, 2024

In Person	152
Online	99 (66x1.5)
Total Attendance	251

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: Robert Mann
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Guitar Club, Dianne Prieditis, Marna Jeffery
Technology: David Norton, Trevor Larkins
Greeters: Tom & Diane Gordon
Welcome Center: Alice Furst
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Heather Torrance, Nancy Humphrey, John Bartels, Rich Cole
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

Next Week – December 29

Liturgist: Kay Cansfield
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Marna Jeffery
Technology: Don Woodward, Trevor Larkins
Greeters: Carole Woolf
Welcome Center: Elizabeth Dales
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Nancy Humphrey, Heather Torrance, Pam & Dale Zurakowski
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.