

Sunday  
**December 10, 2017**  
10:30 a.m.

## Second Sunday of Advent

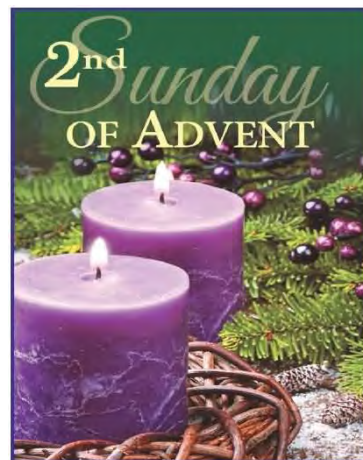
Pastor Greg

We are alive in Christ.  
We love God,  
we care for one another,  
and we help people here  
and around the world.



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Plain print indicates worship leader.  
**Bold print indicates congregation.**  
*\*Indicates please stand as able.*

### Gather to Worship

#### Welcome

#### Ministry Opportunities

#### Call to Worship (*seated*)

The frenzied pace of the holiday season and a frantic news cycle can leave us dry and brittle.

**And yet, the hand of the Lord still comes upon us.**

We find ourselves in the valley wondering whether life is possible.

**And yet, the Spirit sets us down where we need to be.**

We come together today seeking to hear the Word of the Lord.

**Come, Lord God, speak to us. Breathe upon us, that we may live.**

#### Call to Confession (*seated*)

The Lord has spoken to us through prophets and through God's own Son, Jesus Christ. Despite this, we often feel lost and completely cut off. Confession is an opportunity to take an honest look at ourselves and to ask for the Holy Spirit to come upon us once more. Please join me as we pray together the prayer of confession...

#### Prayer of Confession (*seated*)

**O Lord, our God, You have called us to be Your people and to stand on Your Word. Even though You have granted us hope, breath, and life itself, we confess that we have allowed the noise, violence, and injustice of this world to dry up our faith. Sin leads us to graves of our own making. Speak to us once more, O God. Bring us back. Help us to live. Cause us once more to know that your Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

#### \*Words of Assurance (*rise*)

**Mortals, the good news of our faith is this, Jesus has opened up the grave and brought us back to the land of the living. We have been forgiven. The Holy Spirit is at work within us. We shall live as God's own people. Know that the Lord has spoken and acted on our behalf. Through Christ we can be at peace. Amen.**

\*Hymn: #62 All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1, 5, 7)

## Lighting the Second Advent Candle ~ Luegge Family

Our world is often frightening and overwhelming. Peace seems absent from the headlines. Such situations are nothing new. Ezekiel lived in a time of exile. His vision of a valley of dry bones reminds us that people have always dealt with violence and injustice. Peace was in as short supply then as it is today. Fortunately, God did not allow the story to end there. Ezekiel was called to prophesy a message of restoration, life, and peace.

During Advent we prepare to receive the one who was able to overcome death and offer us everlasting peace. Today we light the candle of peace. We remember that Jesus was called the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. John's Gospel (14:27) tells us that Jesus offered that peace to his disciples, and to all of us, when he said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

We light this second candle as a sign of the peace of Christ given to us. (*Light the candle.*)

May we always remember this peace and allow it to sustain us throughout this Advent season. Let us pray...

**Almighty God, we seek to love You and live in the Spirit of truth. Often, however, we find ourselves overcome by the world. In this moment we ask You to reveal Yourself to us through Your word once more. Help us to remember the peace that Your Son offers. Prepare our hearts once more to receive Him throughout this Advent season. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Children's Time:** *Pastor Greg*

**Anthem:** Christmas Medley ~ *performed by Beth and Lynn Griner*

**Sermon:** "Unbroken Words: Word of Life"

**\*Hymn:** #3186 Days of Elijah

**Praying for Others and for Ourselves**

**Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

Offertory: The Secret of Christmas ~ *performed by Beth and Lynn Griner*

**\*Doxology:** #94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Living God, we commit ourselves to breathing deeply of all the life that You give so that we may be equipped to heal the brittleness of our world with the healing power of Your Spirit until we are one as You are one — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** #420 Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verses 1-3)

**\*Blessing**

**\*Depart to Serve**

*Coming up next Sunday, December 17: Chancel Choir Cantata*



Check out the new look  
of our website at  
<http://vicksburgumc.org/index.html>.  
Thank you, Mike Pendola,  
for the many hours of work.

## Prayer for Family and Friends

*Kat Gensler-Nic's appointment with the Chiari-neurosurgeon went very well. She reports that he treats his patients as "family." He is recommending 8 weeks of physical therapy, meeting with a rheumatologist, and treatment at a pain clinic—surgery as a last resort if these do not help alleviate her symptoms. Thanks for your prayers.*

*Paul Evans (brother of Diana Pomeroy's good friend) is in the hospital with a blood infection that is inhibiting his chemo for cancer.*

*Sarah's (Vera Walker's niece) daughter lost her husband at age 38, and her other daughter lost a baby.*

*Sandy Whiteman (Mark and Michelle Harrison's friend) is struggling with stage 3 lung cancer.*

Phillip Arnold (Linda Cleveland's brother) is recovering from back surgery.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Eloise Emmert is recovering from bilateral sacrum fractures.

Christy Hanes (Michael and Lori Tichvon's daughter) needs guidance, support, and care with current and future living arrangements and life decisions.

Delber Jackson (Andrea Read's friend) is battling cancer.

Nate and Sara Pfeil are praying for a safe and healthy delivery of their baby girl.

Larry and LaVon Rolfe

Linda Schuring (David and Carol Eaton's friend) is battling cancer.

Beth Smith is recovering from surgery.

The Sproull family (Joe and Susan Hayes' friends) at the death of Hank Sproull

Arden and Penny Sult and family at the passing of Arden's mom, Bethel Sult

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

Prayers for safe travels for all snowbirds

### For Cheer and Hello

Liz Anderson	Beverly Nimmo
Mary Evelyn Bell	Robert & Carmen Parsons
David Bretz	Char Rice
Alice Dibble	Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Barb Griner	Al Thomas
Pat McClelland	Mina Willett
Iris McGahan	

### This Week's Celebrations

<b><u>Birthdays</u></b>	12/15 Tyler Fenwick
12/10 Briar Luegge	Cassandra Heikes
Jack Page	Danne Willoughby
12/11 Sharon Wagner	<b><u>Anniversaries</u></b>
12/12 Marshall Linebaugh	12/15 Rollie & Andrea
12/14 Hannah Fenwick	Read
Madeleine Geiger	12/16 Dennis & Marlene
Dennis Sellers	Sherman

Today's acolytes are  
Kelsey Tuinier and Kylie Tuinier

Dec. 3 attendance:  
Worship 139, Sunday School 37

### The General Rule of Discipleship



To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### In Service to Our Country

Matt Kohler	Tyler Smith
Jeff Kudary	Richie Steinacker
Ryan Miller	Geoff White
Walker Polsinelli	





## Help is needed at the Welcome Center

We need your help to serve at our Welcome Center. This is only a monthly commitment. You will arrive a half hour before the service to welcome people as they arrive for worship and answer any questions.

Karen will be calling to recruit volunteers in early December. There is also a clipboard at the Welcome Center to sign up. If you have any questions, please call Karen Simpson (269-870-0113).

## Flowers for the church altar

We need flowers for Sundays. There is a sign up sheet for this. If you need help, contact Dee Morton about ordering flowers from Heirloom Rose in Schoolcraft for \$25.

## Coffee hour

If you would like to help out with coffee hour goodies, its simple. Drop off 4 to 6 dozen cookies or combination of crackers/cheese, grapes, pretzels, etc., by 9:00 on Sunday. Or prior to Sunday, leave in the old kitchen marked coffee hour (there is a refrigerator and freezer for this purpose).

The coffee and juices are provided and set up by Member Care. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

## Poinsettia deliveries

If you would like to help Caring Ministries deliver poinsettias, see Beth, Vera, or Dee.

## Thank you

Thank you to the UMW for the generous Christmas gift. ~ *the Stamm family*

## Calendar

### Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. PPRC meeting with D.S., Taylor Room
- 10:00 a.m. PIT Crew in the Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Church Conference in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor, Taylor Room

### Monday, December 11

- 6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Troop meeting, Taylor Room

### Tuesday, December 12

- 6:30 p.m. Scout Committee meeting, Room 125

### Wednesday, December 13

- 10:30 a.m. SCCS Wednesday Winners, Taylor Rm
- 2:30 p.m. SHED (7th-9th grade outreach), Rm 107
- 5:00 p.m. HELIX (7th-9th grade) in Room 107
- 6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Scouts, Room 125
- 7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. PPRC meeting, Library

### Thursday, December 14

- 10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC
- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SCCS gift distribution, Rm 219
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. SCCS gift distribution, Room 219
- 3:30 p.m. Kids Hope party setup, Taylor Room
- 5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th-6th grade)
- 5:30 p.m. Preschool Board meeting, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Play Gym in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. RAW (HS Youth) in the FLC

### Friday, December 15 - Pastor's Day Off

- 10:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether in Room 219
- 3:30 p.m. Kids Hope party, Taylor Room

### Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Boy Scout Court of Honor, FLC

### Monday through Friday

- 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

## Coming Events

### Sunday, December 17

- 10:30 a.m. Choir Cantata in the Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Tuinier family in the FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Stamm students piano recital, Sanctuary

### Monday, December 18

- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting, Library

### Tuesday, December 19

- 6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee meeting, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Den meeting, FLC

### Friday, December 22

- 12:00 p.m. SCCS Senior Christmas Party, Taylor Rm

## Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 on Friday, Dec. 15