



Advent and Christmas greetings!

Can you believe it? Can you believe it is December already? Can you believe that we are planning for the J.A.M. Christmas program, Christmas Eve service and all things Christmas?

Has this past year been a journey for you? I believe that it has been for more than others, but we are all on a journey every day of our lives. How do you prepare for your daily journey? Do you spend time with God in reading the Bible and taking time for prayer? If every day of our life is a journey – and truly it is – then we need to prepare each morning for the journey ahead of us each day.

When you plan for a vacation or a trip of some type, I am sure that you, as I, prepare for where you are going. When I went to Belgium to meet my first grandchild, there were things to do and get done before I could leave. First and foremost, I needed a passport. Once that was obtained, I could look at booking my flight. Once I had my ticket I needed to check and see what size of luggage was allowed for an international flight (I was going to be gone for two weeks), then what to pack in that luggage for the climate in Belgium in March, etc. There is planning that goes into traveling. I do not know about you, but for me, the anticipation and planning for a trip is half the fun. Doing all this work was exciting, as if meeting my first grandchild was not exciting enough! I was excited for my first international flight. I was excited about the plans we had made for places to travel to and see while I was there.

One thing is for certain; we never return from a trip or a journey the same. Our journeys shape us. We learn from them. We have unexpected encounters with people that move us and provide memories that last the rest of our lives.

It is no wonder that the word *journey* is used as a metaphor for our spiritual life. In reading the Bible, we see that from beginning to end, that it is a collection of journeys. God called Abraham to leave his home and *journey* to a place that God would show him. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt into the wilderness where they *journeyed* for forty years. The residents of Jerusalem *journeyed* to Babylon defeated and hopeless. The disciples *journeyed* with Jesus throughout Israel for three years. The Apostle Paul *journeyed* throughout the Mediterranean world starting churches and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Many *journeys* - between the front and back cover of your Bible.

Many of us associate the Christmas season with traveling. But have you thought of Christmas as a journey? Advent is the first season of the Christian year. We begin the year moving toward Christmas with things like preparation, getting ready, and waiting as if we are going on a trip. The difference, however, is not to get to *a* destination but to destinations. We find the meaning of Christmas – throughout this journey - to all the places. As the old saying goes, the journey is the destination.

This Advent season we are going to explore the spiritual meaning of the important locations in the Christmas story. We will start in Rome. This may seem an odd place to include on a journey to Christmas, but the birth story in Luke 2 – begins by mentioning Caesar Augustus. A decision made in Rome is what led to a birth in Bethlehem. Without Rome – we do not have the Christmas story as we know it. From Rome we will go to Jerusalem, from Jerusalem to Nazareth and then we finally end up in Bethlehem. What we gain from all these places - will be different for each person, and different even for ourselves over time. God speaks to us where we are, and where we are this Advent season - is different from any year prior.

This Advent, we will take this trip together. Because - journeys are more impactful and fun, when we travel and take them together. And so, I invite you to come on this journey during this Advent season with all your brothers and sisters in your faith family.

Advent and Christmas blessings,
Pastor Velda



Pastor Velda's Schedule for December 2025

First and third Mondays - Peace Quilters

First and third Wednesdays - Coffee at FPC and Kiwanis

Tuesday evenings - Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry

December 5 - Kiwanis Terrific Kids and PAS Elementary School

December 8 - PUMC Worship Committee Meeting

December 9 - Pipestone County Ministerial Meeting

December 10 - PUMC Trustee Committee Meeting

December 13 - Assist with Kiwanis Christmas Care at Fairgrounds

December 14 - J.A.M. Christmas Program at PUMC with Soup Dinner to follow

December 15 - PUMC Leadership Council Meeting

December 18 - UWF at PUMC

Communion at Ridgeview

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 4:30 p.m. Peace UMC

6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church

December 28 - Combined Service at First Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m. coffee fellowship to follow



Worship Service Time Change Coming in January!

Beginning January 4, 2026 Peace United Methodist Church will have a start time of **9:00 a.m.** This start time will continue until May 3rd when we will switch back to the 10:30 time slot.

Please note, we are switching to a 4-month rotation of starting times with First Presbyterian Church and we'll see how that goes in 2026.

December 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Birthdays Anniversaries Church Events	1 Donna Straw Lynda Ewing 9 am Peace Quilters	2 Dennis & Anita Johnson Nancy Harstad 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	3 At PUMC 6 pm JAM and Confirmation Christmas program practice	4	5 Anthony Arreola	6
7 10:30 am Worship	8 Vicki Buffington 11 am Worship Committee	9 Nancy Terry 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	10 At PUMC 6 pm JAM and Confirmation Christmas program practice 6 pm Trustees	11	12 Tabitha Long	13
14 10:30 am Worship  5:00 pm JAM Christmas Program at PUMC	15 9 am Peace Quilters 4:30 pm Leadership Council	16 Jaden Clark 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	17 JAM 6 pm Fun Day! Confirmation 7 pm at PUMC	18 10 am UWF Meeting	19 Preston Wabeke	20
21 Jesse Vander Plaats Jim Whipple 10:30 am Worship	22	23 Quentin & Connie Crow Kenneth Senst 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	24 Christmas Eve Worship at 4:30 No JAM No Confirmation	25 Merry Christmas Wesley Johnson	26 Kenneth & Belva Senst	27
28 Steve Schultze Combined Worship Service at FPC 10:30 am Worship	29	30 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	31 No JAM No Confirmation			
				If you do not see your name(s) listed on the calendar for birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office so that we can update our lists with your information!		

Peace United Methodist Church

Missions



Quilts, Quilts, Beautiful Quilts (and blankets too!)

The Peace Quilters gifted quilts and fleece blankets to the following organizations for distribution.

Pipestone Fire Department — 6 fleece blankets

Sleep Tight Pipestone—8 quilts and 8 fleece blankets

Flandreau Indian School—14 fleece blankets and 8 quilts

Kiwanis Christmas Care—21 quilts and 13 fleece blankets

Child Protection Social Service—12 fleece blankets



Blessings for New Life Treatment Center in Woodstock, MN

There is a plastic bin in the Narthex that you can place items to bless and support the clients of New Life Treatment Center in Woodstock. Items needed are mens and womens clothing in small to medium sizes. Used clothes in good condition (no stains) such as novelty t-shirts and sweatshirts and blue jeans are appreciated. New mens and womens socks can also be donated. One item of great need is shoes in all sizes for both men and women. These can be gently used in good condition as well. Other items needed are hygiene products such as: shampoo, conditioner, body soap, body lotion, (these can be sample sizes that you pick up at a hotel and have not used or can be full sized bottles), deodorant, feminine hygiene products are of great need.

Think about the items that you use on a daily basis - they need all those items as well.

After the first of the year in 2026 we will have a Change for Change donation received for items needed in specific sizes for undergarments.

Think about various ways that you can support and be a blessing to those who are fighting to overcome addiction.



MANY THANKS!

Our September Change for Change went to Atlas Treehouse Ministries. Below is a thank you.

We sincerely thank you for your generous donation and thoughtfulness to the Tree House Ministry of Atlas for Life. It is such a privilege to witness God move and work in the hearts of teens. To God be all glory!

Blessings,

Jess Peterson and team of Atlas

A message from Pastor Velda

Thank you, thank you for the Clothier by Dawn gift card for Pastor Appreciation month.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness are appreciated.

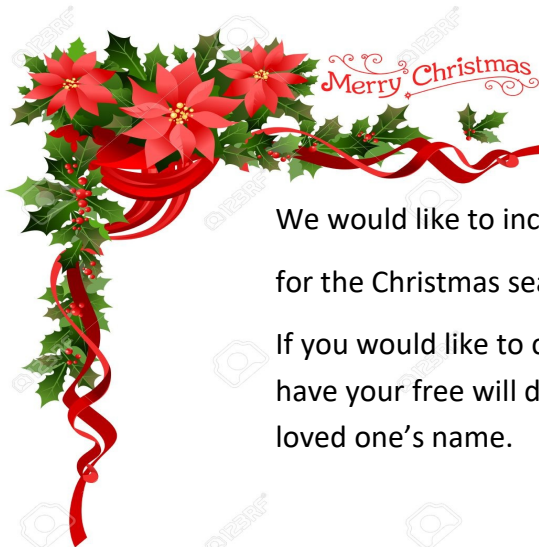
Pastor Velda

A message from Southwest Health & Human Services

Thank you so much for the donation of the wonderful blankets for those families we are working with. They are perfect and so appreciated!

Happy Holidays!

SWHHS Child Protection Team



Poinsettias for Christmas

We would like to include poinsettias in decorating the sanctuary of the church for the Christmas season.

If you would like to contribute to a poinsettia in honor/memory of a loved one, please have your free will donation to the office by Sunday, December 21st along with your loved one's name.

In Honor / Memory of: (circle one)

From:



Reminder!

All special gifts to the church
must be received by

December 21, 2025

to guarantee to be on your
2025 Giving Statements

For Sale

Mashed Potatoes

1 bag \$12.50

1 box (4 bags) \$50.00

Ways you can give back to your church!

By USPS:

Peace United Methodist Church; PO Box 26; Pipestone, MN 56164

Auto Giving through your bank:

Set up by the church treasurer in the church office. You will be able to designate the amount and frequency of your donations. All that is required is filling out a form and bringing in a voided check.

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE
TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

DECEMBER 8

DECEMBER 24

JANUARY 11

ALL ARE WELCOME!



UWF meets Thursday,
December 18, at 10 am



United
Women
in Faith



The JAM students and advisors have been busy preparing a special Christmas program.

The 12 Symbols of Christmas

Join us on December 14 at 5 p.m. at Peace United Methodist Church as we celebrate the Reason for the Season! Soup supper to follow in the Fellowship Hall after the program.



JAM Schedule

December 3, 2025 - [Peace UMC](#)
 December 10, 2025 – [Peace UMC](#)
 December 13, 2025 – Program Practice at [Peace UMC](#)
 December 14, 2025 – JAM Christmas Program at [Peace UMC](#)
 December 17, 2025 – FUN DAY!
 December 24, 2025 – **No JAM – Christmas Break**
 December 31, 2025 – **No JAM – New Year’s Eve**

January 7, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church
January 14, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church
January 21, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church
January 28, 2026 – **Singing and Crafts at Ridgeview**

February 4, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)
 February 11, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)
 February 18, 2026 – **No JAM, Ash Wednesday Service**
 at [First Presbyterian Church](#)
 February 25, 2026 - [Peace UMC](#)

March 4, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church
 March 11, 2026 – First Presbyterian Church
 March 18 – First Presbyterian Church
 March 25, 2026 – **Singing and fun at Ridgview**

April 1 – **No JAM – Easter Break**
 April 8, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)
 April 15, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)
 April 22, 2026 – **JAM End of Year Bash** - [Peace UMC](#)



Monday, December 1st at 7 p.m.

Peace UMC now has a sign-up list for various areas of the church building that you can specify and commit to cleaning. If your already signed up for an area, be sure you've been keeping up . Please see the sign-up sheet for further details.



CHANGE FOR CHANGE For November

\$ Will be reported next month
To benefit
Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry

December Change for Change



To Benefit — Methodist Nomads

**Please lift up our shut-ins in your prayers, and please visit them!
You can see Gretchen Blom at Good Samaritan Society of Pipestone.**



2025 Giving Goal

\$125,303

Needed Each Month

\$10,442

Received in October

\$6118.00 (as of November 23)

Leadership Council Meeting
November 17, 2025
4:30 pm

Present: 7 Members present

Pastoral Report: Pastor Velda

Pastoral Calls and Visits - 65 text messages, 20 phone calls, 13 email and 6 in person visits

Zoom meeting with UMC District Office - 1

PUMC Parish Meetings - 3

FPC Parish Meetings - 0

Pastoral Prayer Breakfast - 3

Peace Quilters - 2

Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry - 3

Human Rights Commission Meeting

Graveside Service

Funeral

J.A.M. and Confirmation – 4

Treasurer's Report:

All bills and apportionments are paid to date.

Monthly reports from Kinner & Company were distributed.

Turkey Dinner

Deposits	\$12,954.00	Expenses	\$7,644.63	Profit	5,309.37
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Trustees Report: Mark Wiese

November Meeting – Met on November 12 with 6 members present

Waiting for the fireplace guy to come check the fireplace.

Dishwasher is working again. Thanks Steve Schulze. Dishwasher needs to be descaled. Dale Wussow is going to take care of that.

There are a few heating problems in the church. Dan Steinhoff and Billy Quist are checking on that.

Thank you to Chuck, Don, Mark for picking up leaves. Thank you Rick for the use of your lawn mower and Pete for the use of your trailer.

Garden plots have been removed. Thank you Dale for the use of the skid steer.

Thank you Rick for installing a new faucet in the upstairs restroom.

UWF Report: Jan Wussow

United Women in Faith met on October 16th in the Fireside Room. Discussion was held on the Craft and Bake Sale to be held on Saturday, November 29th. The whole congregation is asked to contribute bake or craft items. There will be a sign-up sheet for workers and a suggested price list for marking items in the Fireside Room the first part of November.

Worship Committee Report: Elly Erks

Met on November 10th with 4 members present

Elly opened the meeting with prayer.

All Saints Day –Candles will be ordered for next year.

Decorate for Advent on Sunday, Nov. 23 after church. A pot luck will be offered to those who assist. Decisions were made of how to decorate & a job list was compiled.

Combined service on Nov. 30. First Sunday of Advent. Committee will meet on Tues, Nov 25 at 11 to set up for the pot luck being held on Nov. 30. Leftovers from the turkey dinner will also be served.

Xmas Eve service was discussed & some plans finalized.

Joint service at Presbyterian church on Dec. 30 at 10:30.

“Tackle Hunger” will begin in Jan. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food items until Feb 1. A potluck brunch will be served then.

Jan 4 is Epiphany. Some holiday décor will be removed later that week.

Next meeting: Dec 8

No Reports from Shared Ministry Council, Peace Foundation, Children's Ministry, SPRC, Lay Leader, Mission

If you are unable to join us in person on Sunday mornings, remember we are available online! You can watch our Sunday Worship broadcast live on

Facebook Live every Sunday at 10:30 am!

www.facebook.com/peaceUMCpipestone/



PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO BOX 26

PIPESTONE, MN 56164