



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

An Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

All youth and children ages 4-18 are invited to come to rehearsal on **Saturday, December 17** from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. There will be parts for adults as well as the children.

The **Christmas program** will be presented on **Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.** as part of our worship service.

Be sure to bring friends, family and neighbors! It helps all ages remember and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

The Fellowship Committee has invited everyone to a sloppy joe lunch following the service. Don't miss this special generation to generation Christmas event!



christmas eve offering

will support Hope Harbor

Mission Committee will match your

Christmas Eve gifts

as well as the gifts given for Ukraine

(up to \$300 each)





Christmas Day Worship

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2022



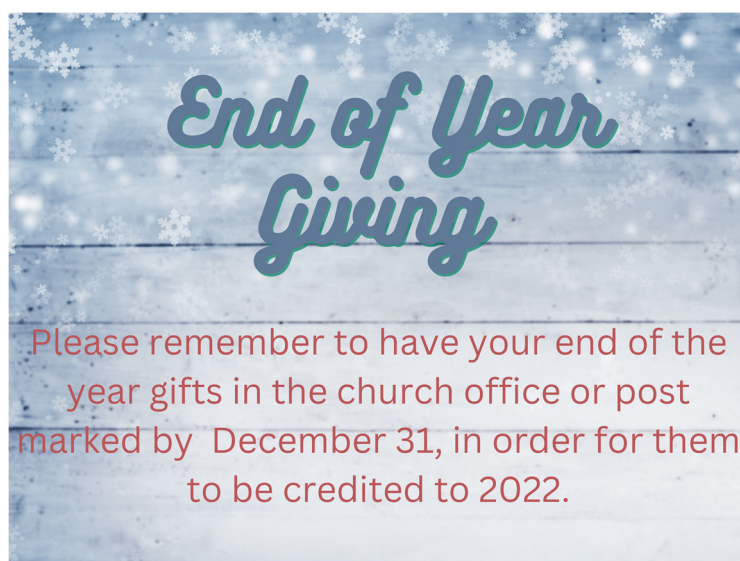
Happy Birthday!

Jacob Anderson	December 1
Zachary Anderson	December 1
Steve Kohner	December 3
Kjersti Anderson	December 9
Rena Dornfeld	December 10
John Johanson	December 12
Abby Johanson	December 12
Jodi McGill	December 19
Walt Gilbertson	December 20
Gloria Rockwell	December 22



Happy Anniversary!

Jack & Cheri Looman	December 28
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The is a friendly reminder that if you are responsible for your committee's annual report, it is due in the office by Friday, January 27.

Pastor's Page



December is the last month of every year and it always seems to sneak up on us. First, we are preparing for the Thanksgiving feast considering all the time we have for Christmas shopping, and hanging up Christmas lights, and then suddenly it's the second week of December and we have yet to place our orders or consider that there are fewer than 30 days left in the whole year. Before you know it all of those end-of-the-year goals have suddenly reached their deadline. Is it just me, or do the days grow shorter as our lives grow longer?

It's not just me, I know. It is actually a strange, but well-known and investigated, a phenomenon that happens in our brains. The easiest part to grasp is the concept that when we are young time passes more slowly, because each moment is a larger percentage of our lives than when we are an adult. 5 minutes to a two-year-old is a long time because they have only been alive for two years. 5 minutes to an adult is a very short period of time because it makes up a much smaller percentage of how long they have been alive. I have never been good at explaining science, or math, so I won't try. But the idea that time moves faster as an adult is not completely foreign or inaccurate. It is a truth of our perception. And since it is about perception I thought I would try to do something I haven't done in a while. I hope you enjoy this Holiday Poem.

This Time of Year

By Rev. Rachel Rosendahl

When I was a child
and this season approached
I couldn't wait for that blessed day.
I longed to sing the hymns by candlelight
with family who came to stay.
I loved hearing all the stories
Scrooge, The Grinch, The Virgin Birth.
But in all my impatience to get to the presents
I never knew what that time was worth.

I still get excited
about this time of year.
But with the excitement comes anticipation
which adds a bit of fear.
What if I run out of time
to do the things I meant to do this year?

I wanted to make all the presents,
but I find my shopping online.
I meant to start the cookie baking
two weeks ahead of time.
I wonder how I will get to things
when every weekend stressed.
Between shopping trips and family events
there is barely time to rest.

But in my head, a child sings
a sweet refrain
over the chorus of passing time,
"Still Still Still"
so clear and plain
that from head to heart
the message climbs.

So here in the stillness, I will wait
and treasure every moment come and gone.
For the night will too soon be over
and the stars will make way for dawn.

Sunday School News

John Knox News

December

MEMORY VERSE

*"Now faith is
confidence in
what we hope for
and assurance about
what we do not see."*

Hebrews 11:1



This year our church filled 19 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We pray that our Lord directs each box the child it fits best!

The boxes were dedicated during worship service on November 13 and then taken to the collection site in Winona. Operation Christmas Child brings the Hope and Love of Jesus to children in need throughout the world.

Thank you for your participation this year in this special mission!

Also, a huge thank you to our anonymous, very generous person who paid the shipping costs for all the boxes! Bless you!

John Knox Presbytery held their quarterly meeting here at Grace Church in November. At that meeting Pastor Rachel and Pastor Danielle (from First Congregational Church) presented how 5 small churches here in Winona helped wipe out over \$2 million dollars of medical debt. The **Generosity Task Force** decided this was such a wonderful way to help the people in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin who are drowning in medical debt, that they decided to do their own.

The Presbytery is beginning to receive the monies contributed through local congregations to its **GIVINGTUESDAY** ministry. So far the total donated is just over \$11,000.00. That means the impact of our ministry has crested the **ONE MILLION DOLLAR** mark! More contributions are expected in the coming days. Our ministry to remove medical debt for those in greatest need will change the lives of many families. On behalf of John Knox Presbytery, thank you to all those who have contributed to this ministry. **Grace Church sent \$695 toward this ministry!**

We appreciate the efforts of financial secretaries and treasurers in sending these local contributions to the Presbytery as soon as possible. This will facilitate getting every dollar to RIP Medical Debt quickly. With God's help, we are making a difference through this ministry.
The Generosity Task Force

The Mission of the Mitten Tree

For the whole month of December, The Mitten Tree will be standing in the Fellowship Hall.

Please decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for toddlers, children, and adults.

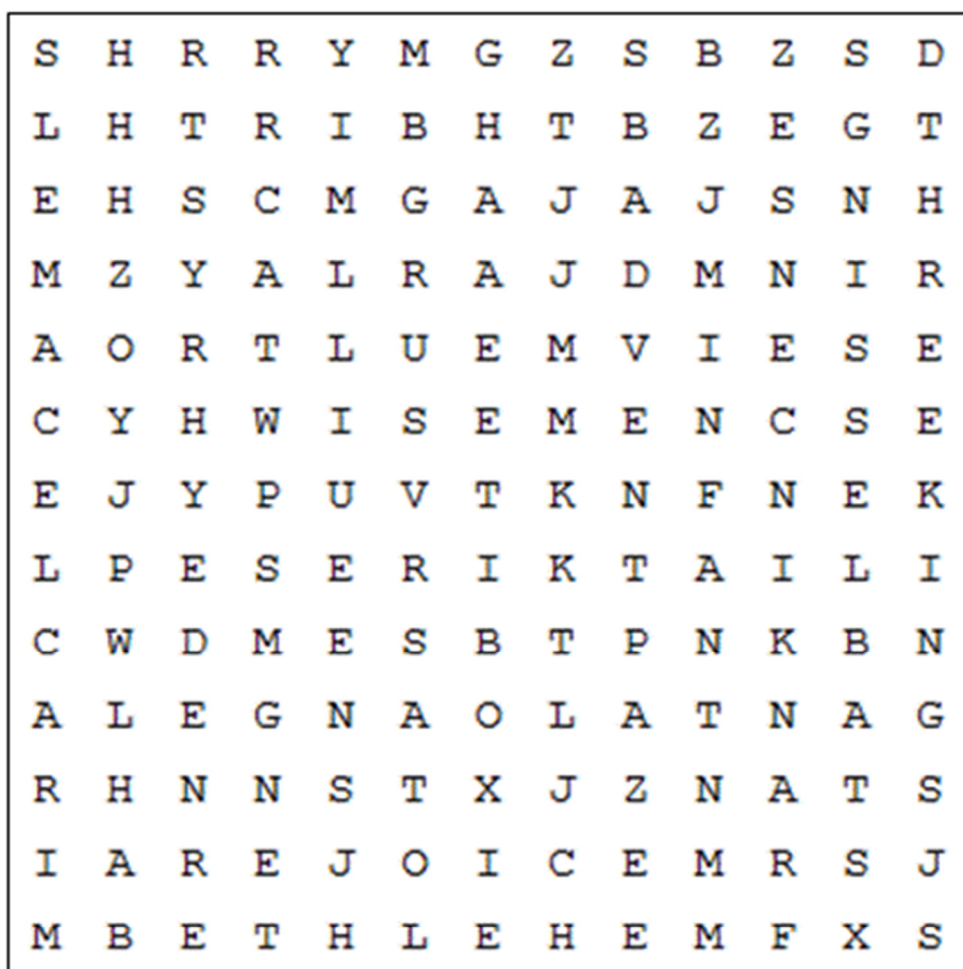
This year we plan to divide the items collected between two local places: **Grace Place** (for children and some adults), and for the **Warming Center** (for adults).

At the beginning of January the warm items will be delivered. Thank you for your help!





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



*Because we are
unconditionally loved by
God, we are called to do the
same in thought, word, and
deed with our family,
community, and world.*

Mission

Thank God!

GRACE
HAPPENS

Grace Presbyterian Church
222 E. Broadway
Winona, MN 55987

Grace Presbyterian Church
222 E. Broadway, Winona, MN 55987

Phone

507.452.4608

Fax

507.474.9108

E-Mail

gracechurchwinona@gmail.com

Web site

<http://gracepresbyterianwinona.com>

Office Hours

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday

**Sunday Morning
Sunday School**

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Fellowship Time

11:30 am

Minister

Rev. Rachel Rosendahl

Office Administrator

Cheri Looman

Accompanist

Guest Accompanists

Treasurer

Jennifer MacAskill

Church School Director

Kathy Rosendahl

Newsletter Editor

Lori Fort-Hoerig

lorigpcnewsletter@charter.net

Session Elders

Kjersti Anderson

Ron Dietrich

Rena Dornfeld

Nancy Dornfeld

Pam Lica

Jennifer MacAskill

Chris Schantzen

Board of Deacons

2021: Ann Lubinski, Kathy Rosendahl

2022: Candi Kohner, David Rosendahl

2023: O. J. Jacobson, Jeanette Karjala