

A Celebration of Worship

December 7, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

P: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

L: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

ALL: All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

*OPENING HYMN

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

UMH #203

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER/PRAYER

HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

CHILDREN’S STORY—held in the Nursery

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-5, Matthew 3:1-10 (NRSV)

SERMON

“Signs and Stories”

Pastor Kevin Rea

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

COMMUNION

UMH #13

*HYMN

“Take My Life, and Let It Be ”

UMH #399

OFFERING PRAYER: Persistent God of new paths, we have been called to prepare the way—not with platitudes, but with changed hearts and lives. In this season of turning and anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we long to live by your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit worthy of repentance: fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of your kingdom and the urgency of your call. In the wilderness of fear and want, may this offering clear a path for hope to be seen, known, and shared. In the name of the one who is coming and is already among us—Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

*BENEDICTION/*POSTLUDE

Serving Today

Liturgist: Freda DeWitt

Fellowship: [Congregation Meeting](#)

Staff

Pastor: Kevin Rea

Office Assistant:

Organist: Jim O’Konski

Flute: Nancy Ott

Lay Leader: Valinda Hailey

Contact Information

Pastor’s email: krea@greatplainsumc.org

Office Phone: 785-232-3333

Office Email: graceumc27@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Website: graceumctopeka.com

*Please Stand

**Hearing Assist Units are available from an usher.

*** Children are always welcome to stay in worship. Activity bags are available for them to use. They are hanging on a rack outside the sanctuary.

Connection Card

Welcome to Topeka Grace UMC!

We are so glad you are here. Please take a moment to complete this card in its entirety and place it in the offering plate.

December 7, 2025

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email [@gmail.com](#) [@yahoo.com](#) [@cox.net](#)

Please update my contact info.

Add me to the church email list.

Attending with me today:

I am a: Out of town Guest

First time Guest Frequent Guest

Second time Guest Member

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 8

12:00 pm AA - #3

7:30 pm NA - #3

Tuesday, December 9

5:30 pm AA - #3

Wednesday, December 10

5:30 pm AA - Parlor

Thursday, December 11

9:30 am [Coffee with the Pastor @ Café Quetzal](#)

5:45 pm Women AA - #3

6:00 pm TOPS - Parlor

Friday, December 12

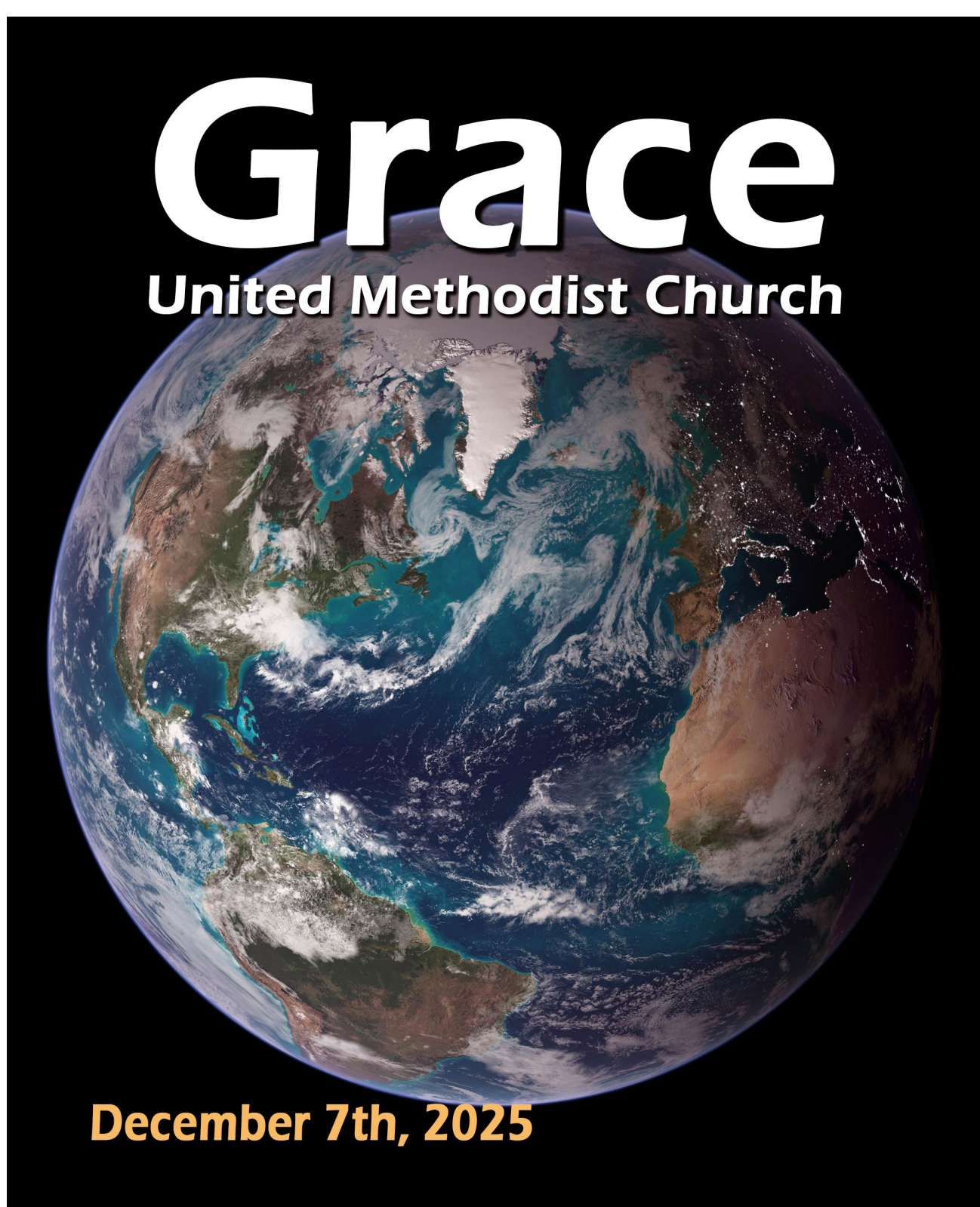
6:30 pm NA - #3

Sunday, December 14

10:45 am Worship

Mission Statement

Grace United Methodist Church is growing into an open, welcoming, and accepting Christ-centered community, committed to sharing the transforming love of Christ, and loving all people all the time!



Grace

United Methodist Church

December 7th, 2025

Please:

- Share with Prayer Team
- Keep confidential (Pastor only)

This person is:

- Family Friend Member
- Self Co-worker Other

My name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Info.: _____
