

Tidings of Grace

December 1, 2025

Volume 28 Issue 12

Advent...a Season of Waiting

What are you waiting for? What are you hoping for in this season of your life? Have you ever said, "I just can't wait until..." Fill in the blank. "I just can't wait until I graduate." "I just can't wait until vacation." "I just can't wait for the test results to be normal."

Waiting can be a time of anxiety if we are afraid of bad news. Or waiting can be a time of excitement, if we anticipate "good news of a great joy." Advent is a season of waiting with hope. While the Israelites were in exile, waiting for deliverance and to return home, the prophet Isaiah encouraged them with these words of hope found in Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not heard?

*The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Let us wait for the coming of the Christ child into our lives, to renew our spirits and bring hope, peace, joy and love, which we remember as we light the Advent candles. Join us as we begin our celebration with our "Live, Return to Bethlehem." (Dates, time & video in sidebar.) Please join us and bring a friend for all of our Holiday Events listed in the below graphic.

Peace in Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us."

Cathy



Grace
United Methodist Church

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Surviving the Holidays
Dec. 4 @ 6:30PM (at The WAY, 417 Randall Rd.)

Lessons and Carols
Dec. 14 @ 11AM (Sanctuary)

Christmas at the Campfire
Dec. 18 @ 6:30PM (at The WAY, 417 Randall Rd.)

Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 24 @ 2PM (Wesley Center)
and 5PM (Sanctuary)

Single Worship Service
Dec. 28 @ 11AM (Sanctuary)

RETURN TO *Bethlehem*

DECEMBER 10 - 13
6PM ADA Drive-Thru
6:30PM Walk-Thru

Watch our RTB Video

[What is Return to Bethlehem?](#)
[Join the Cast!](#)

Help us make Christmas time in the CSRA a little more special by [joining the cast](#) of Return to Bethlehem.

Scan QR code.

Please come help us build the villages!

Contact Elisa Atkins:

elisa@gotgraceumc.org



North Augusta Christmas Parade
will be THIS Sunday, Dec. 7, 3PM
PLEASE NOTE Road Closures:

12:30PM - Georgia Ave. down to Buena Vista will be closed.

After the 11:00 service please exit out the back of the Sanctuary.

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CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.gotgraceumc.org

"To Know Christ and To Make His Love Known"

Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children & Family Ministry / Contact: yolada@gotgraceumc.org

Schedule of Events for 2025-26

Dec 2025

12/7 - Grace Kids Christmas Musical
After LifeSong Contemporary Service
12/10-13 - RTB (Return to Bethlehem)

12/22-1/2 - Winter Break

2026

Jan 2026

1/18 - Gingerbread Bash

Feb 2026

No event

Mar 2026

3/21 - Easter Egg Hunt

3/29 - Kids' Palm Procession

3/30 -4/1 - Spring Break

Apr 2026

4/5 - Easter Butterfly Release

May 2026

5/3 - Children's Sunday, TBD

5/27-28 - Kids Club school Half Days

Jun 2026

6/15-19 - VBS (Snowball Mountain Challenge)

"Cookies with Santa" Helpers!



From Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children and Family Ministries

"Cookies with Santa did not disappoint! Thankful for these friends (and some not pictured) who showed up and gave their time, talents and gifts to this event."

This event made the local news! News 12 26 Augusta! [Go here](#) or scan the QR code to check us out!



If you would like to know more about our children's ministry events and how you can participate or even volunteer to help, please feel free to reach out to Yolanda!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S NEWS

God is Love

*In an effort to support our ministry with youth, children, and their families,
we seek your support and prayer, as we seek to live out our mission,
"To Know Christ and Make His Love Known."*

Two new endeavors will help our church:

1. Youth Council - Dr Laura Lusk has agreed to chair the Youth Council as we rebuild youth ministry after the resignation of Rebekah Bryant. Laura has a long history of serving in our youth ministry and in our community as a school counselor at N.A. High School. I am grateful for her willingness to invest in our youth. Also, our staff will work with dedicated volunteers, to ensure programs continue for youth and college students.
2. Parent Council - A newly formed Parent Council initiated by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee will act as a forum for early communication to parents of any potential issues and a platform for parents of children and youth to bring forward any concerns. The first task of the Council will be to assist in revising our Safe Sanctuary Policy, to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of all children and youth. Members include: SPRC rep: Barbara Meeks; Staff: Senior Pastor Cathy and Dir. of Children's Ministry Yolanda McCabe; Advisory Member: Allan Coutts; Voting Members: Suzanne Fowley, Seth Harbin, Kaity Price, Ally Norman, Dr. Myles Potter

Ex-officio (non-voting members)

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Representative: Barbara Meeks

Staff: Rev. Cathy Jamieson, Senior Pastor; Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Advisory Member: Allan Coutts

Advisory Members:

Allan Coutts is a long-time Scout Leader in our church, teaches youth Sunday school, attends LifeSong worship, served for many years on our Evangelism Committee, and currently serves as the BSA representative on the Church Council. Allan and his wife Nancy also attend WINGS regularly.

Article continued on page 3

Voting Members:

- Suzanne Fowley – is currently the co-chair of the Children's Council, and a long-time member who has served as coordinator of acolytes/crucifers, director of children's choir, and volunteer for VBS. Her three children have been in our programs, and daughter Audrey is in 5th grade. Suzanne is a nursing professor at USC, Aiken. Suzanne and Mark are members of a new SS class, Experiencing God.
- Kaity Price – is a new member at Grace, has children in our children's ministry, and is a volunteer in youth ministry and serves on The Way Committee. Kaity is working on her degree in education. Kaity and John are members of the Journey SS Class.
- Seth Harbin – is a new member at Grace, with children involved at all levels of our programs, pre-school, elementary, and a high school student, Troxel, who sings with LifeSong Band. Seth is a teacher at Augusta Prep. Seth and Holly are members of the Journey SS Class.
- Dr. Myles Potter - is a long-term member of Grace and has pre-school children in our children's programs and in our Child Development Center. His wife Kathryn Anne serves on the CDC Board. Myles previously participated in the Bolivia Mission Trip. Myles is an ophthalmologist at Aiken Ophthalmology.
- Ally Norman – is the co-chair of our Children's Ministry Council. She has a son in elementary school and a daughter in middle school. Both of her children have been involved in our programs. Ally has been a volunteer at VBS managing the kitchen, a children's Sunday school teacher, and a participant in RTB. She previously led a WINGS small group and a mom's Sunday school class. She is a teacher, working with special needs children.

Youth Contacts: Rev. Patrick Taylor, Rev. Ashley Buchanan and Amber Forrest

Grace Music Departments



Season's Greetings from Sanctuary Music at Grace!

It is truly the most wonderful time of the year as music fills our hearts and our sanctuary. Please plan to attend our Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 14th, during 11 a.m. worship. This year's Lessons and Carols will utilize some lesser-known anthems, gems from the classical repertoire, and treasured carols. We will be joined by guest soloist and friend of Grace, Dr. Johnnie Felder; guest organist, Mr. Dan Hardin; and a professional string quartet.

Schedule of Events:

- Nov. 20, 7 p.m.** NA High School Choirs Concert in Sanctuary
Dec. 9, 7 p.m. NAHS Concert Choir performs Community Lessons & Carols at Sacred Heart, Augusta
Dec. 14, 11 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols with choir, strings, and guest organist, Dan Hardin
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. NAHS Orchestras Concert in Wesley Center
(See page 7 for accolades Chris received at NA High School.)



Spotlight

Contemporary Worship Spotlight

Songs of Advent: A Song of HOPE

"Hope Has a Name" by River Valley Worship centers on the person of Jesus as the ultimate source of hope in every season of life. The song emphasizes that true hope isn't found in circumstances but in the unchanging character and saving work of Christ. Through its lyrics, it invites listeners to anchor their faith in Jesus, who brings light, redemption, and assurance to a broken world.

Lyrics:

*Hope has a name, His name is Jesus
 My Savior's cross has set this sinner free
 Hope has a name, His name is Jesus
 Oh, Christ be praised, I have victory*

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezowVsEa9ac>
 or click on the QR above.



If you would like to volunteer or become a team member of our Contemporary LifeSong Service,
 Contact Michael Keltz at Michael@gotgraceumc.org

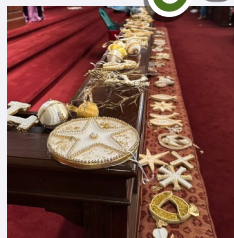
We would **LOVE** to have you serve on our team!

Wednesday Inspiration Nights at Grace (WINGS)

Pictures from our Veterans Thanksgiving night honoring the VA veterans with spinal cord injuries and Grace Veterans who were joined by the "Canines for Christ" Therapy group led by Lynn Ealey.



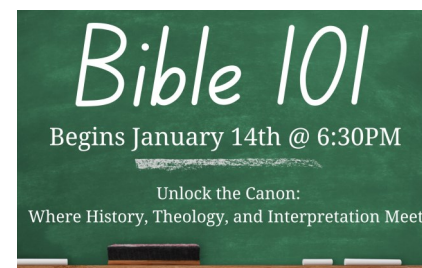
Hanging of the Greens



A HUGE "thank you" to everyone who came out to assist with our "Hanging of the Greens" event! Our Sanctuary is now beautifully prepared to await the arrival of our infant Messiah. Here are just a few of the many helpers throughout the day!



WINGS Meal Schedules (WINGS RESUMES ON JANUARY 14)



Register for Class by scanning the QR code, filling out a Green Meal Card (in Pew Racks/Attendance Pads), or signing into Realm.



The UMM Meal
& Program
6:30PM
in the Wesley Center

Get Involved with Grace United Methodist Men

Please provide us with your email if you would like to be included on our email list to receive our UMM information. Contacts below.

Meal & Programs resume on Jan. 20, 2026

CONTACTS for UMM:

Richard Thomas (rich.thomas757@gmail.com)
OR 706-691-6059) or Rusty Coble at 706-373-8402)
or RustyCoble3@gmail.com

WOMEN of GRACE

North Augusta, SC



Circles and their
Leaders

Susanna Wesley Circle

1st Sunday @ 6PM...Contact Michele (michele.chiswell@gmail.com)

Florrie Derrick Circle

3rd Monday @ 10AM...Contact Mary Jane (mjwisebaker@aol.com)

Knox-Wilhelm Circle

3rd Monday @ 1:30PM...Contact Linda (lidon0794@gmail.com)

Sunshine Circle

3rd Tuesday @ 10AM...Contact Sheran (proctor351@aol.com)

Christmas Cheer with our Adult Sunday school classes

Weekly Groups

**College Crew: Winter Break Meet-Ups!**

Calling all college students home for the holidays! Come reconnect, laugh a lot, and enjoy time with friends old and new. Ms. Amber and Ms. Yolanda have TWO fun events planned just for you!

Cavalier Coffee Catch-Up — Wednesday, December 17

Swing by **Cavalier's Coffeehouse** for a warm drink and a warm welcome! Coffee or tea is **on us**, and you'll have the chance to **win a gift card** in our holiday giveaway. (Time announced soon — stay tuned!)

Mall Madness Scavenger Hunt — Monday, December 29

Join us during that wonderfully weird week between Christmas and New Year's for a **silly, joy-filled scavenger hunt** at the Augusta Mall! More details will be shared at the Coffee Catch-Up — trust us, you'll want to be there to get the inside scoop.

Stay in the Loop

Want reminders and updates? **Text "COLLEGE" to 833-235-9706** to get connected!

Come for the fun, stay for the fellowship — we can't wait to see you this Christmas break!

Reading the whole Bible in a single year is a HUGE commitment, but it gets easier when we do it together!

Starting in January, Grace UMC will embark on The Bible Year journey in worship, WINGS classes and small groups. Prayerfully consider participating with the daily reading plan at home and in weekly discussions with your Sunday School class!

THE BIBLE YEAR

MAGREY R. DEVEGA

A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days

Join our "The Bible Year at Grace" Facebook Group!



Order your copy of The Bible Year today!

Check out a sample of a weekly discussion guide for SS classes/ small groups!



Adult Sunday School Classes

Cokesbury...LWC
Experiencing God...LWC
Family Foundations...LWC
Journey...AB
Seekers...LWC
Stillwell...LWC
Women of Faith...LWC
Young Adults...UWC

Upper Wesley Center (UWC)
Lower Wesley Center (LWC)
Asbury Building (AB)

For Leader contact info, visit www.gotgraceumc.org/adults.

Want to start a new Sunday School Class or Small Group? Let us help you share the news!

amber@gotgraceumc.org

Small Groups

Mondays

Wisdom of the Ages (11AM)
Happy Ukes (7PM)

Tuesdays

Ladies' Bible Study (9:30AM)
Shuffle & Deal Card Group (1PM)

Wednesdays

Wednesday Morning Breakfast Crew (8:30AM)
Men's Upper Room (9:45AM)
Upper Room Encouragers (10AM)
Bridge Group (12:30PM)
Seasonal Bible Study (6:15 PM)
Disciple FastTrack (6:15PM)
GIFTS Craft Group (6:15PM)
GriefShare (6:15PM)
Misfits (6:15PM)

Thursdays

Bridge Group (9:30AM)
Ladies' Book Club (1st Thur. @ 1:30PM)
Caring & Sharing (6PM)
The Way Small Group (6:30PM)



Rev. Ashley Buchanan, Associate Pastor of Nurture & Missions (abuchanan@gotgraceumc.org)

Missions

"Many Hands Make Light Work!"

This "Pie Making Project," is sponsored by the Family Foundations Sunday school along with the North Augusta High School Beta Club.

Did you know for 32 years the Family Foundations SS class has sponsored pie making for the *Masters Table Soup Kitchen* in Augusta. This year, with the help of North Augusta High School's Beta Club (15 this year and up to 25 over the years), 60 pumpkin pies were provided to feed 300 people!



Thank you to Anne Comer and to all who have helped keep this tradition going!

Luke 10:2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Rev. Patrick Taylor, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Discipleship (ptaylor@gotgraceumc.org)

The WAY, a holy place to be on the frontier of where God is calling us to be!



Last year at our Christmas at the Campfire event, we held an internal "ribbon-cutting" to commemorate the beginning of current activity at The Way. By the time last week's Friendsgiving meal at The Way came around, we had much to be thankful for! Meaningful times of growth, impactful leaders, and faithful worship have made The Way a holy place to be on the frontier of where God is calling us to be!



This coming month will be a joyful participation in the Christmas season with two opportunities to engage:

Dec. 4th we will hold a "Surviving the Holidays" service for those carrying grief or complicated feelings into the season.



On Thursday Dec. 18th, we will have this year's "Christmas at the Campfire", with a special visit from Santa Murphy, a wonderful Santa generously bringing some joy! That night will include worship in song, smores, and a "holy night" drawing near to the meaning of Christmas.



Come out for the celebratory atmosphere. Our building will be heated and open! Both events at 6:30pm!

We promise to uphold Grace with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness

OUR PRAYERS: as of December 3, 2025

MUSC: Damon Haley (12/10 surgery)

Sympathy to: Peggy Lewis in the death of her sister, Debbie Reece Mills, who passed to eternal life, Nov. 26.

Discharged: Bob Young, Bobby Oliver, Mark Reagan, Dave Fauerby

Hospice: Billy Watson, Henry Cribb

Hammond Square: Ginny Stewart, Judy Cox

NHC NA: Don Smith, Jean Gambill, Billy Watson, James (Jim) Brooks, uncle of Chris Brooks

Claiborne, Martinez: Hope Williams

Oaks at Habersham, Savannah: Connie Sawyer

Sterling Estates, Marietta: CJ Bigger

Washington Commons: Cynthia Gordon

Prayer Needs: Philip Grabowskii, Damon Haley, Jim Benton, Shirley Lankford, Bill Anderson, Bev Whitney, Emily Mumford, Deb & Rob Persons, Bobby Oliver, Beth Ann Young, Diane Banta, Jane Murdock, Faye Jowers, Pam Windley, Marianna Simmons, Dave Varn, Barbara Graybill, Barbara Wallenzine, sister-in-law of Angie Walton, Wendy Ealey, daughter-in-law of Lynn Ealey, Angela Ramsey, sister of Fifi Rogers

OUR GIFTS: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

IN MEMORY OF:

Jean Bergstrom

(General Budget) Stillwell Class

Frank Berry

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

(Choir Fund) Gloria Berry

Garry Guest

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

Elizabeth "Beth" Harper

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

Dr. Ronald Jowers

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

William "Billy" Lotspeich

(Trustees) Ed and Arlene Vincent

Allan Nance

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

Mary Sexton and Michael Senn

(Worship - LifeSong Equipment) Kerry Adragna

Jim Travis

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

Joseph & Celestial Weil

(General Budget) Faye Jowers

IN HONOR OF:

Pastor Cathy, Pastor Ashley, Pastor Patrick

(General Budget) Rob & Deb Persons

Chris Leysath and the Choir

(Choir Fund) Gloria Berry

Dick Day

(Worship - LifeSong Equipment) Kerry Adragna

Help Us "Ketchup"



Help us 'ketchup' by the end of the year. Our year-to-date financials through the end of November are as follows:

Revenues: \$1,093,232.52

Expenses: \$1,193,224.48

Deficit: <\$99,991.96>

The Finance Committee thanks you for your generosity and support this year, but we still have a long way to go to end the year without a deficit. The budget committee is meeting to identify areas for cost reductions for 2026. Please consider a Christmas gift to Grace UMC, to help our church fulfill its mission, "To Know Christ and Make His Love Known."

Our stewardship campaign is wrapping up. We have 139 pledges for a total of \$868,452. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, you can do so here: (QR code for pledge card)



OUR SERVICE:

Sunday Greeters (11:00):

December 7: Horace Sweat, Cindy Fuller

December 14: Todd Holgate, Kay Bridges

December 21: Glenda & Scott Buchanan

December 24: (5PM Christmas Eve) Horace Sweat, Cindy Fuller

December 28: Kerry Adragna, Melody Bruder

OUR WITNESS: How will you be a witness in the world this week?

Welcome
New Members

Joined Grace on Nov. 23.
Below are Reflections:
"Why I/We Joined Grace UMC"

Tom & Kathryn , Mitchell, Felicity, Zachary and Preston



"Our search to find a church home has been difficult. One of the many things we love about Grace is the solid commitment to honor and uphold the core teachings of Jesus Christ. We want our children to have a solid foundation and know that God's love is meant for EVERYONE regardless of what they look like, what their past is, or what their current circumstance may be. These days many things seem so divisive. But when we come to Grace, we feel unified and at

peace. When we go home from Grace we feel ready to engage with the world in a positive and meaningful way. We have been blessed to meet and make friends with members of the church. The sermons are always well thought out and meaningful. We greatly appreciate all those who share their fantastic musical talents. The children's programs and activities are not only fun but are helping to guide our children in their own walks of faith. We look forward to getting more involved and to know more about each of you!"



Margie Lacer

"I chose to join this church because I feel spiritually at home here. The Bible based teaching, the friendly community and the worship helps me grow in my faith which draws me closer to God."

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DECEMBER 2025

- **Surviving the Holidays**, Dec. 4, 6:30PM, The WAY
- **RTB Costume Fitting**, Dec. 7, 2-4PM, Wesley Center
- **Community NA Christmas Parade** Dec. 7, 3-5PM, Downtown
- **Women of Grace Executive Mtg.**, 4PM, Journey SS class
- **Susanna Wesley Circle**, Dec. 7, 6PM, Journey SS class
- **Wisdom of the Ages**, Mondays, 11AM, Conference room
- **Men's Upper Room**, Weds., 10AM, Conference room
- **Women's Upper Room** Weds., , Journey SS class
- **Return to Bethlehem**, Dec. 10—13, See graphic below
- **Girl Scout Troop 5775 Mtg.**, Dec. 12, 4:30PM, Youth Wing
- **Lessons and Carols**, Dec. 14, 11AM, Sanctuary
- **Staff Mtg.**, Dec. 16, 9:30AM, Conference room
- **Christmas Eve Services**, See front cover

Please look in Newsletter for other events.

Church Calendar: <https://www.gotgraceumc.org/calendar>

Grace United Methodist Church

639 Georgia Avenue North Augusta, SC 29841

Main Office: 803-279-7525

Fax: 803-279-1434

Email: info@gotgraceumc.org

Website: www.gotgraceumc.org

Child Development Center: 803-279-7528

After Hours "on-call" # for Grace Pastors
803-376-9310

Hospital Visitation & Pastoral Care:

M/Th: Cathy, T/W: Ashley, F: Patrick

Weekend: Pastoral Rotation Schedule

GRACE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ashley Buchanan, Associate Pastor

Rev. Patrick Taylor, Associate Pastor

Dr. John M. Newell, III, Support Pastor

Dr. John M. Younginer, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Emily Mumford, Business Administrator

Karen Bach Mays, Administrative Assistant

Greer Rowland, Financial Secretary

Chris Leysath, Director of Music Ministries

Michael Keltz, Director of Contemporary Worship

Amber Forrest, Director of Adult Ministries & Communication

Rev. Patrick, Rev. Ashley, Amber Forrest, Youth Ministries

Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Dana Lykins, CDC Director; Linda Dollar, CDC Finance

Nancy Payne, Kitchen Manager

Chuck Faulkner, Grace Gym Administrator

Ray May, Audio Technician; Thomas Wall, Media Technician

Mary Chris Newell, Director of Kindermusik

Elisa Atkins, RTB (Return to Bethlehem) Coordinator



Top of label goes along the bottom of above



HIGHLIGHTS

Order Your Poinsettias NOW | \$13.50 each
In Memory or in Honor of a loved one



DEADLINE:
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Dec. 7: Last Sunday to order!

What we need to know:

- How many poinsettias
- In Honor of whom
- In Memory of whom
- Given by whom
- Displayed in which service:
LifeSong or Traditional

Scan to Order then pay
(Link in form for payments.)



RETURN TO BETHLEHEM
AN IMMERSIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE
DECEMBER 10-13, 2023
ADA DRIVE-THRU... 6-6:30 PM
GUIDED TOURS... 6:30-8:30 PM
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
639 GEORGIA AVENUE, NORTH AUGUSTA, SC
803-279-7525 | WWW.GOTGRACEUMC.ORG/BETHLEHEM

Happy Ukies At It Again!



At Aiken Senior Life Center

New Dock at Grace Lake Site

A huge thank you to Robert Buist who has graciously installed and financed the new dock. You will reap the benefits of this new endeavor from visits to the lake! Church members may enjoy this beautiful site as a "perk" as a Grace UMC member! See Karen in the office for more info!

