

# Grace Notes

## January 2023

Phone - 814-723-9440      GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH      FAX - 814-723-6137  
501 Pennsylvania Avenue East      Warren, PA 16365  
Email - office2@graceumcwarren.com      Visit Our Website - www.graceumcwarrenpa.com  
Visit Our Facebook Group - www.facebook.com/groups/embracegrace

*To know Christ and to make Him known!*

Senior Pastor:                      *Rev. William Beatty*  
Director of  
    Congregational Care:      *Cindy Price*  
Choir Director:                  *Floyd Moore*  
Office Administrator:          *Meghan Brooker*  
Office Manager:                  *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*  
Director of Children &  
    Family Ministries:          *Amanda Slattery*  
Director of Youth &  
    Family Ministries:          *Nicki Egger*

### **Our Core Values**

#### **Extravagant Generosity**

We give joyfully of our time, talent, and treasure.

#### **Authentic Engagement**

We want to shine the light of God's love in our whole community.

#### **Transformational Discipleship**

We seek God's will and God's way for our lives.

#### **Extraordinary Grace**

We are all sinners seeking God's grace together.

#### **Word-Centered Mission**

We believe the Word of God provides the foundation for all that we do.

*"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

*II Corinthians 9:8*



### *January Meetings*

**January 3 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**January 9 - 6:00 p - Worship**  
**January 10 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**January 17 - 6:00 p - Finance**  
**January 24 - 6:00 p - Church Council**  
**January 31 - 6:00 p - Childcare**



This month's Communion offering will benefit **The Crossing**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

# *From the Pastor*

## **Connect. Grow. Serve**

Last January the Administrative Council met for a day at Olmsted Manor and did some of the hard work of discerning Grace Church's Core Values, our Purpose, Mission and Vision and Strategy for the near future.

### **OUR PURPOSE**

To Know Christ And To Make Him Known

### **OUR CORE VALUES**

- Extravagant Generosity  
"We give joyfully of our time, talent and treasure"
- Authentic Engagement  
"We want to shine the light of God's love in our whole community"
- Transformational Discipleship  
"We seek God's will and God's way for our lives"
- Extraordinary Grace  
"We are all sinners seeking God's grace together"
- Word-Centered Mission  
"We believe the Word of God provides the foundation for all that we do"

### **OUR MISSION**

To engage the community outside the walls of the church

### **OUR STRATEGY FOR 2022-2023**

"Love Them Where They Are"

So how do we DO that? How do we "Love them where they are"? Jesus said that all of the Law and the Prophets are summed up in what we call the Great Commandment:

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Every strategy needs tactics, right? (Okay, I'm spitballing here with the terminology, please bear with me). Love them where they live is a fantastic strategy, and we've done some things toward living out that truth like events for the community (our Thanksgiving Dinner, for example, or the Free Little Library out front) and about 15 people worked through the book "The Art of Neighboring" this past fall. Individually, lots of people have reached out with grace and love to neighbors, friends, family, strangers. It's what Jesus told us to do.

This year, we want to fine-tune that strategy a little more with the tactic (see what I did there?) of:

**Connect. Grow. Serve.**

This isn't anything new in the world of being the Church. If you look around, you'll see many churches using

this very same three-word tactic for living out the Great Commandment (Love God and love people) as well as the Great Commission (go and make disciples). It's not complete (what three-word notion could be a complete disciple making system?) but it is a framework on which we can move forward together in ministry at Grace Church.

**Connect** with our neighbors, with the people at work and at school; connect with one another here at Grace Church; connect with other churches and Christian organizations. Making real, lasting, kingdom impacting connections.

**Grow** in our relationship with God; grow in living lives of faith that trust God in every way. Small groups and Bible studies, growing in our giving, our leading, our worship and our devotion.

**Serve** one another and serve the community. When we have made true connections with people, when we are growing our faith, opportunities to serve abound. Helping neighbors, friends, family and strangers, going on mission trips; volunteering for community events and church events (whatever church the event might be taking place at); serving on community boards and agencies; helping with food pantries, community dinners and breakfasts, offering a helping hand for ramp building and... well, the list is only as limited as your and my willingness to listen, watch and serve.

Connect. Grow. Serve. This is how we become Disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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I'd like to look back to December 11, when our friends and family shared "The Greatest Gift" with our community. We presented our gifts of time and talents in the 33rd annual Christmas Concert to an appreciative crowd.



I'd like to acknowledge and thank all who contributed to the wonderful event here at Grace.

Thank you to Kris Magnuson for his unfailing, faithful accompaniment. Also thanks are due for his leadership of the DemBones trombone ensemble.

Thanks for the support and guidance of Pastor Bill.

Thank you goes to our audio and video support guys Dave Moore and Walt Miller.

Thanks to our Acolytes Kylie and Katelyn Jurkowski, and their coordinator Linda Knapp.

Thanks to the Choir, I'd look very foolish without them!

**Sopranos** – Karen Conarro, Karen Gray, Nancy Johnson, Catherine Lyon, Beth MacPherson, Renee Magnuson, LuAnn Munksgard, Cindy Price, LuAnn Saeli

**Altos** – Liz Anderson, Lori Beatty, Suzette Berdine, Mary Bernard, Sandy Darr, Helena Moore, Jan Moore, Vickie Morrison, Alice Pedersen, Shirley Shafer

**Tenors** – Pastor Bill Beatty, Carol Knowlton, Larry Knowlton

**Basses** – Art Anderson, Tristan Johnson, Kris Magnuson, Don Smith, Ray Toombs

**Our Wonderful Guest Soloist** – Donald Anderson

**DemBones** – Art Anderson, Bob Lewis, Todd McLean, Paul Near, Pete Weinreich, John Zawadski.  
Directed by Kris Magnuson

Thanks for our Madrigals: Karen Conarro, Beth MacPherson, Lori Beatty, Vickie Morrison  
Carol Knowlton, Larry Knowlton, and Tristan Johnson.

Thanks to our special soloists Alice Pedersen, Beth MacPherson, Catherine Lyon, Don Smith, Karen  
Conarro, Larry Knowlton, Lori Beatty, and Tristan Johnson.

Special thanks to Linda Knapp, Suzette Berdine and their committee for the wonderful reception  
following the concert.

We continue to thank God for the many people involved in this special celebration of “The Greatest Gift”,  
God’s Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

See you in Church!

Floyd Moore

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## Unity Requires Discernment

I am returning to Church Unity: Through Paul’s Eyes, a booklet based on lectures  
by N. T. Wright.

In this section, Paul discusses the importance of discernment in Philippians 1:9-10

(NIV): **And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in  
knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and  
blameless until the day of Christ”.**



N.T. Wright opines, *“Rarely do we have specific yet eternal answers to every circumstance that might crop up.”*  
And this *“is why Paul hammers home the importance of having the same mind, because he knew how  
necessary that would be for resolving complex issues....and as a keystone for maintaining unity through any  
disagreements.”*

After our congregational vote to not disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, this concept of  
maintaining unity within Grace Church is especially important. We will begin to see a shift of attendees on  
Sundays. Some familiar faces will no longer be here, but new ones will appear. This will be a good time for  
everyone to be welcoming. Step up and introduce yourself to someone you don’t recognize. I challenge all of  
us to step out of our comfort zones. New people will be pleased to feel the warmth of Christian acceptance in  
our midst. In this, we must be unified!

Moving forward, *“We need a mature wisdom. Not to back off from all the issues, because they do need to be  
addressed, but to pray for wisdom in knowing how to address the issues. That’s tough on its own, but it’s  
especially tough without a unified community of faith to share in discernment, resolution and  
implementation.”* The Grace Church family is that *unified community of faith*. The representatives of this  
family that comprise the Grace Church Administrative Council often spearhead the direction that the church  
takes. One example of this are the five Core Values that Pastor Bill used as a theme for his messages a year  
ago. If you don’t remember what they are, check out the first page of the Grace related bulletin insert!

Now, back to discernment. In a Christian context, the definition of discernment is: **perception in the absence  
of judgement with a view to obtaining guidance and understanding.**

Wright states, *“Discernment is important precisely because unity doesn’t mean that everyone must hold exactly the same opinions or practice in the exact same fashion. .... Neither, though, does unity mean that we ignore important discussions in the name of ‘keeping the peace’. Each church family has to settle for themselves where the line of importance rests. ... When churches say (some) issues are off limits, they really mean, ‘We’ve made up our mind about that.’ The danger in making up your mind in this way is that all too often Scripture is bubbling away in the background saying, ‘Hang on, Hang on, you’re missing something here!’”*

As 2023 has just begun, so has the future of Grace Church. No one of us can set a direction for Grace on our own. But as a **united community of faith**, we can do it together. Be discerning in all that you do.

*“It is crucial to be able to discern between the differences that really make a difference and those that don’t.”*

**Philippians 1:27: ‘Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ’.**

Warmly, Cindy Price

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**D**ecember was a busy month full of excitement as we prepared for the Christmas season. We decorated the room and tree, learned many new songs, and listened to wonderful stories. Pastor Bill shared the Christmas Story and showed us the Nativity in the sanctuary. Mrs. Morrison brought her guitar and sang Christmas songs with us. We also enjoyed our Christmas Fun Day with games, songs, extra craft projects, decorating and of course eating our own special cookies!



January will be focused on winter fun. The morning class will begin a color unit with projects and nursery rhymes. The afternoon class will be working on their skills in preparation for kindergarten.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin in January for our current Grace Promise Preschool families, Care with Grace children and any Grace Church members. Be sure to pick up a registration form in the office or contact us at [preschool@atlancticbbn.net](mailto:preschool@atlancticbbn.net) so we can mail you a form. Registration will open to the public in February, so it is first come, first served!

We appreciate the support of our church, friends, and families! We pray that everyone will stay safe and healthy this holiday season!

Happy New Year!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds

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**T**hank you to everyone who voted in our door decorating contest in December! The Otter Room won with their tree decorated with ornaments made by the 2s. Many of our staff are taking the leap to continue their education whether through enrolling in college or getting their CDA which will help the daycare by having more qualified staff.



Cindy Kalkbrenner  
Director



**During Worship**

9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)

11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)

January 1 – Melissa Zaffino

January 8 – Anna Peterson

January 15 – Melissa Zaffino

January 22 – Anna Peterson

January 29 – Melissa Zaffino



The 2022 altar flower list is up. Go to the church website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com), click the sign-up button, and follow the directions. You can also call the office 723-9440 or email [meghan@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:meghan@graceumcwarren.com) to reserve your spot.



**Flock Talk**

*"His mercies are new every morning."*

*Lamentations 3:23*

**A** new beginning! The fresh start of a new year marks the resiliency of how the human spirit seeks a better understanding of who we are. As followers of Christ, we long for a deeper sense of who we belong to and how to reignite that relationship. We're off to a good start, especially when we do it together!

What if we shifted our focus a little and decided to see things from a different perspective? Focus is one of those things that is often described as sharp or precise. What if we softened our focus. We have come through an event in the church recently and we have weathered it with grace and love. One of the reasons this is working is because we truly care about one another. We have a shared enthusiasm toward each other's salvation. As unique as each of us is proving to be, our common denominator is the love toward one another that shows the world the love of Christ.

As this new year unfolds, maybe we can combine all these wonderful traits into something that produces a harvest of fruit. The consideration of each other's feelings and the kindness we display can soften the edges and make the ground more tillable. The words we use that build one another up are the watering can that brings life. The result is that our garden sprouts in early January and is taking hold at such a momentous rate that we are amazed at God's goodness at Grace Church!

Happily,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



The clotheslines are up! Covered by Grace is in need of **gloves** and **mittens**! Donations can be placed in the gray tote across from Pastor Bill's office or visit [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com) for the link to our Amazon wishlist.



The Grace Church Food Pantry is not in need of anything at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



**Items for the February 2023 Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by Tuesday, January 17.**

# Grace Church Finance Report

## Happy New Year

Happy New Year Everyone!



Welcome to 2023! We've all done our share of New Year's resolutions, some successful, some not so successful. As we head into the new year for Grace Church, I would ask that everyone make a resolution to pay closer attention to Grace's finances. Throughout the month, there are various ways you can see what's happening with the finances in our church. The monthly newsletter, the bulletin with weekly collection totals, or you can always find me or someone from Finance Committee to discuss.

So where do we need to be to have a healthy bottom line? We need to increase our offerings by approximately 17%. Let's break that down a little. On average, we need approximately \$4,800 more each month, or if we break it down further, \$1,150 more each week. The amount doesn't seem so insurmountable if you look at it in small increments.

As always, thank you to everyone for your generosity to our church - we are truly blessed! Please remember to keep Grace Church and your church family in your prayers for a happy and healthy 2023!

### **2022 Monthly and YTD Financials**

	<b>November '22</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$28,603.53</b>	<b>\$340,517.77</b>
Office Expense	\$1,163.93	\$5,976.35
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$3,721.85	\$74,154.80
Ministry Personnel	\$24,878.47	\$264,504.63
Church Council	\$0.00	\$443.79
Education Ministry	\$213.77	\$2,337.32
Nurture Ministry	\$111.37	\$2,040.19
Worship Ministry	\$1,333.91	\$2,790.55
Outreach Ministry	\$369.87	\$1,896.61
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,939.00	\$32,329.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$796.51
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$34,732.17</b>	<b>\$387,269.75</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$6,128.64)</b>	<b>(\$46,751.98)</b>

### **Borrowed Funds**

<b>Account Balance 11/30/2022</b>	<b>(\$92,219.54)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Thank you to all those who furnished the beautiful and delicious cookies for the reception following our Christmas choir concert on December 11.

Special thanks to Sheryl Richards who so willingly and capably filled in for me and to the many who worked so hard at setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the reception.

All donations of time and/or cookies were greatly appreciated.

Linda Knapp

## **Disciple Class Begins!**

Thursday, January 5th 6:00pm in the Eaton Parlor

Grace Church has offered Disciple classes for the past eight years and they are absolutely life changing. We continue to rotate through the four year curriculum by dividing the classes into sixteen week courses. This January, we are stepping into Disciple II and reigniting where we left off last spring. If you have wanted to experience these classes, you need nothing other than a desire to better understand Scripture. All are welcome in this unique small group dynamic. Our focus will be on the books of Luke and Acts. We will add many other pivotal stories to help us understand how to take the Word into the world.

The most beloved feature of these classes is that they teach you how to see your Bible with a new perspective. The commentaries, the explanations and the videos allow us to become wonderfully familiar with God's Word and His call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The classes will meet every Thursday until the first week of May. Plan on spending 90 minutes at each class. Please let me know ahead of time if you need a book. Contact me or find me at church if you have questions!

Sue Toombs 814-730-9996 [fourwindsranch@verizon.net](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.net)

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**January 3 - Alexis Vavala**

**January 4 - Alice Bonnell, Taylor Eggleston**

**January 6 - Carol Knowlton, Patty Wineriter, Bob Gustafson**

**January 7 - Denny Tuttle, Cole Brocklehurst**

**January 8 - Brenda Lord, Jordan Trislet**

**January 9 - Carrielle Hoffman, Agnes Reed, Kaden Werner, Karson Werner**

**January 12 - Chuck Pearson, Cole Abplanalp, Jonah Swartz**

**January 14 - Anne Miller**

**January 15 - Sue Toombs, Joe Sprentz, Abbie Buerkle**

**January 16 - Austin Linn**

**January 17 - Troy Burns, Macie Vivian**

**January 18 - Cindy Strandburg, Stacy Knapp, Colter Johnson**

**January 19 - Dick Risinger, Mark Danielson, Lucy Phillips**

**January 20 - Dick Hitchcock**

**January 21 - Dave Brocklehurst**

**January 22 - Chris Dutchess, Mike Card, Emilee Shafer**

**January 23 - Pastor Bill**

**January 24 - Liz Anderson, Elise Brown**

**January 25 - Elaine Olney, Warren Winters, Gunner Ceresa**

**January 26 - Barb Mintzer, Mike Stimmell**

**January 27 - Amanda Slattery, Peyton Morrison**

**January 28 - Ruth Sienkiewicz**

**January 30 - Jeff Brown**



# january



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>3</b> 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>4</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>5</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple	<b>6</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>7</b> 8:00 a Praise Team 9:00 a Higginbotham Hall Reserved
<b>8</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>9</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Worship</i> 6:30 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	<b>10</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property            Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>11</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>12</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>13</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>14</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 2:00 p Gym Reserved
<b>15</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>16</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>17</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>18</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>19</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>20</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>21</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>22</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>23</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>24</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church            Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>25</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>26</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>27</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>28</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>29</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>30</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>31</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Childcare</i> 6:00 p Pickleball			<b>CARE WITH GRACE            DAYCARE</b> is open Mon-Fri from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor.	<b>PROMISE            PRESCHOOL</b> is open Sept-May Mon, Wed, and Thurs from 9:00 – 11:30 am (3- year-olds) and 12:30 – 3:00 pm (4- year-olds) located on the ground floor.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
Warren, PA 16365

Published monthly;  
January 2023

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*- Grace Praise Team -*

*Pastor Bill, Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Tristan Johnson,  
Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Patrick Ward,  
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

***GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

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***Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!***