

# Grace Notes

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

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's Ministries: *Libby Yaegle*  
Director of Youth &  
Family Ministries: *Nicki Egger*

# September

# 2021

*"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*



## September Meetings

**September 1 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**September 13 - 6:00 p - Finance**  
**September 14 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**September 27 - 7:00 p - Outreach**  
**September 28 - 6:00 p - Church Council**



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

# From the Pastor

## Grace In Real Life

There's a line in one of my favorite songs by the band NeedtoBreathe:

"Grace she comes with a heavy load, memories they can't be erased,  
Like a pill I swallow that makes me well, but leaves a bitter taste."

I still, 40 years into being a Christ Follower and 25 years as a pastor, I still struggle sometimes with what grace really is – with what God's grace is for me, and how I can live that out. It can be easy for me to talk about the *concept* of grace but more and more my hard heart is being chipped away as I seek less to understand God's grace, and more to experience God's grace – the grace God pours into me, the ways I can pour God's grace into other people.

Years ago I read a book called *Bono In Conversation With Michka Assayas*. Bono, the lead singer (and general spokesperson) for the band U2, is undeniably a bit of an egomaniac, a bit of a loudmouth, and a bit of a spoiled rock-star – but he is also a man of deep faith in Jesus. Yes, he's a walking contradiction... so are we all.

Here's an excerpt from that book where Bono talks a bit about how he understands God's grace:

**Assayas: I think I am beginning to understand religion because I have started acting and thinking like a father. What do you make of that?**

Bono: Yes, I think that's normal. It's a mind-blowing concept that the God who created the universe might be looking for company, a real relationship with people, but the thing that keeps me on my knees is the difference between Grace and Karma.

**Assayas: I haven't heard you talk about that.**

Bono: I really believe we've moved out of the realm of Karma into one of Grace.

**Assayas: Well, that doesn't make it clearer for me.**

Bono: You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. It's clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I'm absolutely sure of it. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "as you reap, so you will sow" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff.

**Assayas: I'd be interested to hear that.**

Bono: That's between me and God. But I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. I'd be in deep \*\*\*\* [*ahem... trouble*]. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity.

**Assayas: The Son of God who takes away the sins of the world. I wish I could believe in that.**

Bono: But I love the idea of the Sacrificial Lamb. I love the idea that God says: *Look, you cretins, there are certain results to the way we are, to selfishness, and there's a mortality as part of your very sinful nature, and, let's face it, you're not living a very good life, are you? There are consequences to actions.* The point of the death of Christ is that Christ took on the sins of the world, so that what we put out did not come back to us, and that our sinful nature does not reap the obvious death. That's the point. It should keep us humbled... . It's not our own good works that get us through the gates of heaven.

**Assayas: That's a great idea, no denying it. Such great hope is wonderful, even though it's close to lunacy, in my view. Christ has his rank among the world's great thinkers. But Son of God, isn't that farfetched?**

Bono: No, it's not farfetched to me. Look, the secular response to the Christ story always goes like this: he was a great prophet, obviously a very interesting guy, had a lot to say along the lines of other great prophets, be they Elijah, Muhammad, Buddha, or Confucius. But actually Christ doesn't allow you that. He doesn't let you off that hook. Christ says: *No. I'm not saying I'm a teacher, don't call me teacher. I'm not saying I'm a prophet. I'm saying: "I'm the Messiah." I'm saying: "I am God incarnate."* And people say: *No, no, please, just be a prophet. A prophet, we can take. You're a bit eccentric. We've had John the Baptist eating locusts and wild honey, we can handle that. But don't mention the "M" word! Because, you know, we're gonna have to crucify you.* And he goes: *No, no. I know you're expecting me to come back with an army, and set you free from these creeps, but actually I am the Messiah.* At this point, everyone starts staring at their shoes, and says: *Oh, my God, he's gonna keep saying this.* So what you're left with is: either Christ was who He said He was—the Messiah—or a complete nutcase. I mean, we're talking nutcase on the level of Charles Manson. This man was like some of the people we've been talking about earlier. This man was strapping himself to a bomb, and had "King of the Jews" on his head, and, as they were putting him up on the Cross, was going: *OK, martyrdom, here we go. Bring on the pain! I can take it.* I'm not joking here. The idea that the entire course of civilization for over half of the globe could have its fate changed and turned upside-down by a nutcase, for me, that's farfetched ...

(Bono in conversation with Michka Assayas  
pages 203-204)

May we all "hold out for grace." May we all lean into the love and justice and mercy of God.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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## Choir Notes

**A**t the end of July, I attended the 73<sup>rd</sup> Sacred Choral Reading Session



at Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. I enjoyed getting together with 150 other choir directors to read through a 4-inch stack of new music within 7 hours. I love to sight-read bass lines in brand new music! (I'm not really supposed to sing while I conduct our choir.) The renowned composer Pepper Choplin led the session and I got to meet him and get a selfie afterward. Being a bass singer, I mentioned that of all the new music, 31 pieces started with the women, and only 10 started with the men. I'm sure I left an impression. Now I need to sort through that stack to find the right new music for our Awesome Choir and our Awesome Congregation. Stay Tuned!

In August we worshipped with our awesome summer choir. We only rehearsed on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in preparation to worshipping in our 11 o'clock service. What a choir we have! You really need to see them in person to fully witness the ministry they bring to our services.

In August we also bid a sad farewell to our longtime member of the choir, madrigals, bells, and soloist, LuAnn Saeli. She's moving all the way to California... Pennsylvania. (Just "a three hour tour"...) We hope to see and hear her on occasion when she's in town.

August has come and gone, and now we're looking forward to a great season of celebration as we meet as a complete choir, and a complete church. We will start our Wednesday evening choir practices on September 8, at 7pm. Everyone is welcome! If you've ever wanted to sing with a really good choir, **now** is your time!

## From the Choir Director

### “O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”

That hymn is glibly referred to as the “Choir Director’s Hymn” but there’s much more than recruiting that Charles Wesley had in mind when he wrote the hymn.

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great  
Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs  
of his grace!  
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to  
proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the  
honors of Thy name.  
Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our  
sorrows cease;  
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life, and  
health, and peace.  
He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the  
prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood  
availed for me.  
He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the  
dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble  
poor believe.  
Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your  
loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye  
lame, for joy.*

The hymn was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley to commemorate his conversion on May 21, 1738 and was published in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1740) with the title “For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion”.

O for my living testimony to be as succinct,  
thorough, and complete as Wesley’s.

Floyd Moore

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## From the Director of Congregational Care

I had an English teacher who taught us not to begin a letter with the phrase. “I am sorry that I have not written sooner.” She felt that if we were really sorry, then we would have written sooner! *Sorry* is a word that is used often without much feeling behind it. If we unexpectedly brush against someone ... “*Sorry*”. If we take the last package of fresh *mushrooms* off the shelf ... “*Sorry*”. Not a whole lot of sympathy, pity or regret is being expressed in those circumstances.

At the other end of the spectrum, we do have sympathy for friends who have suffered a loss or when we regret saying something we should not have said. That “*Sorry*” often comes with more heartfelt words and actions. And when, as in the latter case, the “*Sorry*” is an apology for our own action or inaction, then we are most likely to be Repentant.

Last month, Pastor Bill taught that Repentance occurs the moment that we acknowledge our sin. And, it can happen over and over again. How many times do we have to go to our knees, admit our sin and ask for forgiveness? As many times as it takes!

**“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...” Acts 3:19**

See you in church!

Cindy Price

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The Grace Church Food Pantry is well stocked on everything and does not need anything at this time. Thank you for your generosity!

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**H**ello Grace Church!

The dreaded “S” word!  
No, I don’t mean snow. There is another word that perhaps elicits the same response...SCHOOL!

Yep, it’s that time again. This message is specifically for the kiddos. You may not know it, but whether you’re a freshman or senior, you’re going to need more than notebooks, pencils, and a strong book bag. You need Truth.

If we’re going to apply God’s word to the world, we need to know our world. Every chapter in a history book, every science experiment in the lab, every interaction between classmates is an opportunity to learn about the world God created — the place he especially put us to see Him, enjoy Him, and help others do the same.

Learn. Learn all you can kiddos and don’t forget to leave some time for your bible. Your time soaking in scripture may be the most fruitful and shaping time of your education. Nothing can replace the wealth you will find there, and nothing will prepare you better for life, family, vocation, or even your next class.

Every student who trusts in Christ has an advocate, the one with infinitely more power and authority than any teacher, dean, principal, or president (1 John 2:1). God loves you and promises to be with you and help you because his Son died for you, not because of how well you do in school or how many friends you have or how happy your parents are with your performance.

So whether you’re going to walk, drive or take the bus for the first day of classes, as you pack up, prepare your heart and mind for the work. By God’s merciful grace, this year could be a breakthrough in your personal passion for Him and others may see His light reflected in you. Enjoy all of the opportunities and challenges ahead. Wishing you the best this school year! God Bless!



**A**s I transition out of the role of Director of

Children’s Ministries, I have so many people to thank. A thank you to the families of Grace who participated in the Children’s Ministry events and the volunteers who gave their time. A thank you to those who supported this ministry from the sidelines through praise and through prayer. A thank you to Pastor Bill for his support, encouragement, and complete trust in my abilities. A thank you to Sue Toombs for being an incredible cheerleader. And last, but most definitely not least, a special thank you to Meghan Brooker and Mary Quiggle-Pickering for being the foundation of all things Children’s Ministry, specifically for their incredible ability to answer any question I had with abundant patience, their willingness to help with any task I brought to them (that was a lot of Easter eggs!) and their faith that everything was going to work out even when it didn’t seem to be going as planned. I truly couldn’t have accomplished much without them.

As my time as director closes, I look forward to supporting the next director and watching he or she take the little seed that I planted and make it burst into something absolutely wonderful for the children of Grace. I will treasure the friendships that I’ve made along the way and continue to be involved in Children’s Ministries by chairing the Family Ministries Committee.

Libby Yaegle



**Items for the October Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by Friday, September 17. Thank you.**

Nicki Egger



**T**his summer was a little better than last as far as COVID-19, but as cases begin to rise again and vaccination rates are lower than we are comfortable with, we will continue to use precautions to keep our little ones safe this fall. Grace Promise Preschool will begin September 7 & 8, with two Orientation Days. We will meet with each family at a designated time so we can keep with social distance practices and give them information for the coming school year. Our first full day of classes will be Thursday, September 9. It will be another challenging year but we know the kids will step up to the challenge. Our theme this year is dinosaurs and Mrs. Lynds has created a cool bulletin board to greet our “dino-mite” friends!

We appreciate all the support we receive from our Grace Church family and ask that you would join us in praying for good health and minimal disruptions to the school year.

THANK YOU!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds



**During Worship**  
**9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)**  
**11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)**  
**September 5 – Becky Fuller**  
**September 12 – Anna Peterson**  
**September 19 – Becky Fuller**  
**September 26 – Anna Peterson**

**S**eptember (or more accurately the end of August) means back to school. At Care with Grace, we finished our summer the right way, with ice cream!! We had a wonderful summer, but with school in session, we lose 18 of our kids during the day. Our recent struggles with short-staffing are no longer an issue with so many kids being gone throughout the day. Once again we are asking for a volunteer list. We are currently looking for volunteers that would be interested in reading to the children, taking the children outside to the play yard, and doing special crafts or activities with the children. We require the following clearances: FBI fingerprints, PA child abuse, PA State Police background check, and the National Sex Offender Registry background check. Psalms 127:3 says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward”. Keeping our children safe will always be our number one priority at the daycare. We hope to see a long list of volunteers to count on for special activities for our kids!



Marc Merchant – Director

Thank you for everyone’s kindness of food, flowers, lots of prayers, and lovely cards during my time of illness. Thank you very much and God Bless.  
 Bev Himes

*Thank You*

We are so thankful for the donations that are useful for those we serve. Now there’s an online way for you to help! By visiting out Amazon wishlist, you can buy items that we need for the food pantry and Covered by Grace and have them delivered directly to the church. Visit our website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com) and locate the Amazon wishlist buttons.



**Flock Talk**



*"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."*  
*Philippians 4:13*

This fall is bringing a long awaited breath of fresh air to many! The Fitness Ministry is opening wide its doors to invite everyone to participate. With the faith of a mustard seed, we are trusting God to move this mountain of social distancing far enough away for us to safely gather again. I have dearly missed everyone and our evangelical moments!

The classes will be held at different times to accommodate people's schedules and there will be a variety of offerings. Christian yoga remains the most popular and will be available three days a week. One of the weekly classes will be an easier class with an even greater intentionality toward healing. Whether you have been a staunch member in the past or you are new to exercise, please know you will find something that improves your fitness levels while offering warm camaraderie.

Strength training is always on the agenda and is considered non-negotiable for our bodies as they age. This class also provides the opportunity to explore more personalized nutritional counseling. We discuss a great amount of subjects concerning lifestyle choices and advice concerning supplements.

I would love to find someone who would like to lead a walking club associated with Grace Church. It could be as uncomplicated as staying local or as adventuresome as trekking at nearby destinations. I am willing to help orchestrate this and I would find it easy to establish members.

Please ask me more about all of this good news! I am a Certified Fitness Trainer through International Sports Science Assoc. and a Yoga Fit instructor. I look forward to seeing you!

Enthusiastically,  
 Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

**Our budget the month of July 2021:**



*Other income consists of funds from Sunday School, Room Rental, Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.*

<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Other Income:</b>	712.00	101.16
<b>Offerings &amp;</b>		
<b>Tithes</b>	<u>24,425.89</u>	<u>27,310.79</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25,137.89</b>	<b>27,411.95</b>
<b>Number of Sundays:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Borrowed	0	0
<b>Expense:</b>		
<b>Staff Parish**</b>	20,667.87	3,098.76
<b>Trustees</b>	8,735.70	6,332.20
<b>Ministry</b>	<u>3,483.98</u>	<u>3,529.98</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>32,887.55</b>	<b>12,960.94</b>

Attendance\*: 991 818

**Connectional Apportionments**

**Obligation-** 3,334.83  
**Paid to date** 23,343.81  
 Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 58%

**His income:** Was \$2,274.06 lower in July 2021 compared to July 2020

**Our expenses:** Were \$19,926.61 higher in July 2021 compared to July 2020

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

\*Attendance is calculated with both in person and online views.

\*\* July 2020 payroll (Staff Parish expense) was paid by PPP loan.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair

## Thank You to Libby Yaegle!

Grace Church would like to extend our gratitude to Libby Yaegle, our Director of Children's Ministries. We are saddened to see her leave this position, but we know she is going on to do great things in life. Libby put her heart into her work with children. She sincerely pursued their needs and happiness on their walk with Jesus. The little souls she reached are testimony to this. Our Staff Parish Relationship Committee will have a big task ahead of them trying to replace you, Libby. Count on us always as you continue your journey to serve our glorious God. Thank you, many times over!

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Church Family!

We are excited to announce that we will participate in the **National Back to Church Sunday, September 19, 2021.**

We've been able to worship together again for some time now and want to celebrate all of the progress achieved. We recognize the pandemic isn't over and will continue to respect the guidance of our conference, medical community and government leaders. We also recognize the gift of worship and fellowship, we praise God for his steadfast love and never changing promises.

We will celebrate with each service and honor those who served, those who we lost, and the blessing that we are here and able to continue our journey even if it shifted or isn't the same; it is.

Through God all things are possible. For those who can please come to worship. Let's share in celebrating.

Worship Committee

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## Pastor Appreciation Day!

Grace Church is celebrating Pastor Bill on Sunday, October 3rd! We are blessed with both his leadership and his friendship. We thank him for being true to God's Word and for being a reflection of Jesus' love. We thank him for bringing us through this difficult season in our lives.



Please join us for a cupcake and punch reception between each service. Our celebration will be held in the Wesley Parlor. This is a perfect opportunity to say hello and to show our gratitude. There will be a basket in Wesley Parlor for cards.

We ask God's blessings on Pastor Bill, Lori, Rachel and Elie.

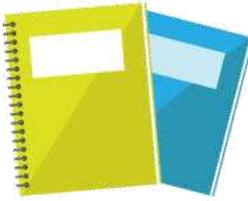
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**Disciple III Class!** If all goes as planned and we can safely re-gather, our Disciple III class will resume our studies on Thursday, October 7th at 6:00pm. We will plan on meeting in the Eaton Parlor. We have nine weeks left and will start with Chapter 24. We will complete our last class on December 9th, just in time for Christmas shopping! If you have never participated in this class and you like the idea of this, please let me know. We can arrange for you to have a book and jump on board! If you have questions, please contact me at church or at 814-730-9996. My email is [fourwindsranch@verizon.com](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.com). Thank you, Sue Toombs

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- September 1 – Peg Andersen  
September 2 – LuAnn Saeli  
September 3 – Ronda Trisket, Scott Lynds,  
Emma Kridler  
September 4 – Erin Napolitan  
September 5 – Helen Woods, Ron Amon, Collin Lord,  
Colby Barr  
September 6 – George Wentworth, Meghan Brooker  
September 8 – Emily Shepherd  
September 10 – Timothy Tannler, Tanner Phillips,  
Lydia Card  
September 12 – Joe Saeli  
September 13 – Dot Fleming, Cassandra Waseleski,  
Tristan Johnson, Emily Ickert  
September 14 – Pat Esterbrook, Solomiya Savych  
September 15 – Lillaine Price  
September 16 – Mike Farr, Renee Magnuson  
September 17 – Harold Wall, Ross Bryan  
September 18 – Lanea Brooker, Sue Ball, Ryan Egger  
September 19 – Marsha Larson, Breanna Wilson  
September 20 – Kathy Keller, Jeremy Sensenig,  
Pat Berdine  
September 22 – Nancy Trisket, Lori Beatty  
September 23 – Nancy Gheres, Carson Farr  
September 24 – Mary Hellman  
September 25 – Luella Chase, Cindy Dziendziel,  
Susan Speicher, Scott Stewart  
September 26 – Jim Marshall, Joyce Carnahan,  
Judi Renwick, Savannah Sykes  
September 27 – Carmen Pearce  
September 28 – Melanie Braugler,  
Andrea Stapleford  
September 30 – Ronna Tipton, Gwen Jones



# September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE</b> is open Mon-Fri from 6:30 am to 6:00 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.		<b>1</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>2</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>3</b> 12:00 p Yarn Angels	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School	<b>6 Office Closed</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>9</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>10</b> 12:00 p Yarn Angel7	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School	<b>13</b> 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:30 p Prayer Bible Study	<b>14</b> 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	<b>15</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>16</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>17</b> 12:00 p Yarn Angels	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home	<b>20</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:30 p Prayer Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>23</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>24</b> 12:00 p Yarn Angels	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 10:30 a Care with Grace Art Auction	<b>27</b> 6:30 p Prayer Bible Study 7:00 p <i>Outreach</i>	<b>28</b> 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	<b>29</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>30</b> 6:00 p Praise Team		

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

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*- Grace Praise Team -*

*Pastor Bill, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller, Dave Moore,  
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman,  
Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel*

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*Phone - 814-723-9440      FAX - 814-723-6137*

*Email - office2@graceumcwarren.com*

*On the Web - www.graceumcwarrenpa.com*

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