

Grace Notes

March 2026

Phone - 814-723-9440 GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAX - 814-723-6137
501 Pennsylvania Avenue East Warren, PA 16365
Email - office@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*
Coordinator of
Congregational Care: *Cindy Price*
Choir Director: *Floyd Moore*
Organist/Accompanist: *Debbie Airgood*
Office Administrator: *Meghan Brooker*
Office Manager: *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*
Director of Children &
Family Ministries: *Lori Beatty*
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



March Meetings

March 3 - 6:00 p - SPRC
March 10 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
March 17 - 6:00 p - Finance
March 24 - 6:00 p - Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet or a blue pew envelope for your contribution. **UMCOR Sunday is March 22nd**. Use the Special Sunday envelopes in the bulletins that day to help cover the administrative costs of UMCOR. UMCOR Sunday is a separate offering from the March communion.

*Our 2026 Easter Offering will be split with half going to the **Grace Promise Preschool** and half going to the **CREW (youth group) 2027 Current Trip**. Envelopes will be included with the Easter letter or use a blue pew pocket envelope and label it Easter.*



From the Pastor

Remembering, the Kingdom of God, and Myspace?

Our oldest daughter asked Lori and I to write some memories down for her to read and keep, something I wish I had done with my parents and grandparents. As I was thinking about what to write down (she helpfully got me a book with prompts so there's that...), I remembered that for about a decade, when the girls were young, I wrote an online blog with lots of reflections on life as a relatively young dad and pastor (I was in my 30s and early 40s when I wrote the blog). So I was surfing through those memories when I happened on a note about the Kingdom of Heaven that I had written in August of 2006, almost 20 years ago now and, well, I thought it was still appropriate:

I still don't seem to really completely understand the Kingdom - but I'm actually encouraged by that since I still don't really, completely understand what love is - but I get to experience what it is day after day with my wife, my daughters, my friends, my God - and what it isn't day after day by some of my attitudes, some of the real down people I know... So, while I may not be able to DEFINE it, I experience it.

One night at Pittsburgh Project I was talking about punk rock, ska and general goofiness with the four youngest guys we took along. (Quote of the week was, "You're not going to sleep with that pizza in your pocket, are you?") So for like an hour we were just five guys talking about, well, nothing, really. But it was a kingdom moment, I think. I wasn't above them talking down at them saying do this and don't do that and they weren't above me saying how uncool, old, out of touch...so, um, pastorish... No, we were just five guys talking about breaking bass strings and duct taping drum heads and being real - if somewhat trivial - with each other. I respect them a little more, I understand them a little more. And maybe at 14 (and 38) we need to start with the trivial, the drum heads, the Punk-Reggae-Ska band from Warren (check out Near to Far on Myspace [yikes!! Myspace still exists, did you know that???? Can't find the band any longer though] - they've called it quits, but there's a couple of tunes there still) and the occasional moments of openness - like the guy who talked about his anger issues...

[A "parable":]

So, the Kingdom of Heaven is like five guys sitting on their bunks talking about nothing. When the lights go out, they will have shared in each other's lives...

Here's another "parable":

The Kingdom of Heaven is like children's laughter. You never know where or when it will appear (so be ready), but when it does, it is full, and joyous, and infectious.

You never know when the Kingdom will appear. Now, I know that Jesus' parables are TRUTH and mine are, at best, little similes of reality...but I'm trying to draw from Jesus' Truth, wrestle with it, understand it and embrace it...

So, Kingdom isn't something we build, it is something we experience. It is something we live. It is something we nurture. While I can intentionally make my daughters laugh, they also spontaneously laugh, because children have (or should have) a deep-rooted joy of life and new experiences and it bubbles out. Think about knock-knock jokes. My 3- and 5-year-olds LOVE them - and they don't make ANY sense. Knock-knock. Who's there? Hat. Hat who? Hat on a head...and they roll around in squealing giggles... Why does such simple enjoyment get ground out of us as we "grow up"? The best laughs from the girls are the unexpected ones. You know, I love it when I'm in a crowded room and I hear a little child laugh. I can't help it - I smile. And if it's a great big "I love life so much and this is too funny to keep in" belly laugh, I may even laugh too. It's contagious. It's spontaneous. It's random. But my heart is almost always open to it - to smile and laugh - not AT someone - but WITH someone.

The Kingdom is an experience that is way too good to keep to ourselves...

Maybe I'm just feeling nostalgic in my "now approaching old age" age...

The Kingdom of God is not something we build or make happen, the Kingdom of God is something we experience and nurture and embrace – when we live our lives of faith together with one another. Because the Kingdom of God is way too good to keep to ourselves.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

O God!

There are times in our lives that hurt so much, we don't know what to say, or even how to pray. Sometimes all that we can utter is "O God!"

We can instantly be encouraged if we rely on scripture or song. I found a hymn written by Isaac Watts in 1719 that is still relevant today. It's based on Psalm 90 and was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared and was later sung at the funeral service of Winston Churchill.*



Hymn # 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure,
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Thank you for your prayers and support of the worship ministries here at Grace!
Take courage, take (study) your vitamins, and we'll see you in church.

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

* From the book "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan, 2011

It's March!

This year is flying by! We thankfully got through frigid February.

We had lots of fun and completed lots of projects!

We mailed some valentines to some friends. We made homemade bread and butter.

We sowed some seeds in milk jugs to winter sow and see if we'll grow some flowers.

We're looking for a few baskets with handles for Easter.

We are looking forward to when we can get outside for some fresh air! We also hope we can catch that leprechaun!



PROMISE
PRESCHOOL

Jen & Soojye

SOC – Support Our Children Grace Promise Preschool does a special offering collection on months that have 5 Sundays to help with their programming. The next collection will be **Sunday, March 29th**. Your support is greatly appreciated!

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT! As I step into this new position of Director of Children's and Family Ministries, I am constantly being reminded of the blessings of being a part of Grace Church. Thank you to all who are praying for our children and for all of the donations – we are well stocked!! I am so appreciative of my team of volunteers: Kathy Long, Janice Moore, Tyler Dymond, Laura Phillips, Kylie Jurkowski, Christie Elicker and Pastor Bill.



I also want to highlight the Grace Notes Choir. These kids are so, so wonderful. It's like having a dream choir! Thank you to the parents for supporting our church music program! Special thanks to Becky Gnage, Elishia Wurst and Rachael McClellan for coming to each rehearsal to help out. We are currently looking at purchasing robes that the kids can wear for the 11:00 service and the Christmas Concert. More information will be forthcoming.

Activities for EVERYONE from the Nuture Committee:

We have a lot of activities coming up in the next few months – here is a sneak peek of what to look forward to and dates to save:

Friday, March 27 @ 6pm – Clean comedy night – videos to keep you laughing!!

Saturday, April 4 @ 10am – Easter Egg Hunt – donate candy in the box in Wesley Parlor

Saturday, April 11 – Paint Night – Kelly Hunt and Jan Moore will be leading an evening of painting and snacks – Ages 10 and up – \$25 per person – sign up list will be on the bulletin board

Sunday, June 14 – Church picnic at Lacy Park

Saturday, July 11 – Waldameer – includes a catered lunch! Nurture committee will be helping to offset the cost. Details are coming soon.

Thank you!
Lori Beatty



Flock Talk

“Proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

Acts 28:31

This winter has been hard to predict with its turning from a lion to a lamb and back again. However, it decides to enter and exit this month will be God's plan. How nice to think we have the spiritual agility to walk forward with faith and obedience in His plan. When we react swiftly and effectively to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are better able to face challenges and embrace change.

Spiritual agility is something we learn along the way. Every message we hear on a Sunday morning, every Disciple class, every Bible study and every Sunday School lesson deepens our awareness that nothing will remain the same. That is the joy we behold when we are actively learning about God.

Have you ever written a letter to God and silently tucked it away? Have you ever asked Him *“to do something with me”*? I did. Fifteen years ago. He did it in such a powerful way that I still am bewildered at the fact that I got an answer. Not an easy one, but a long drawn out, life changing, incredible answer that required more spiritual agility than I knew existed.

Step into the unknown. Move in and out of circles of people. Be in a room where people know things that you want to learn. Open His Word and camp there. Set yourself up for a journey that will sometimes make you feel like you're in the desert and sometimes cause you to bolt through the valley of the shadow of

death, but will take you to mountaintop experiences where you will never be the same again. Be bold. Be courageous. *Do something!*

Onward Christian soldiering,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Grace Church Finance Report



2026 Monthly and YTD Financials

	January '26	YTD
Total Income	\$29,393.43	\$29,393.43
Office Expense	\$443.08	\$443.08
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$7,270.59	\$7,270.59
Ministry Personnel	\$23,250.79	\$23,250.79
Church Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nurture Ministry	\$21.76	\$21.76
Worship Ministry	\$675.08	\$675.08
Outreach Ministry	\$174.32	\$174.32
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,649.88	\$2,649.88
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$34,485.50	\$34,485.50
Net Income	(\$5,092.07)	(\$5,092.07)

Shortfall

Account Balance 01/31/2026	\$28,953.88
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Music Memorial

For: Richard Pedersen

By: Richard & Karin Lewis, Richard & Patrice Lyle,
Stephanie Pedersen, Julie Myler, Angela Banes



General Memorial

For: Marlene Avery

By: Dawn & Barry Bush

Food Pantry

For: Aneta Johnson

By: Dorothy Bence



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **powdered milk, canned vegetables, and canned fruit** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



During Worship
 9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
 11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)
 March 1 – Melissa Zaffino
 March 8 – Anna Peterson
 March 15 – Melissa Zaffino
 March 22 – Anna Peterson
 March 29 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **April 2026** Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office to mary@graceumcwarren.com by **Monday, March 16.**
 Thank you.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball is holding a conference updates gathering at Grace UMC on **Thursday, March 19th** from 6-8pm. All are welcome to come. You can find the link for more information and to register on our website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com

Come Join Our Messy Church

Messy Church? It's a time for family games, crafts, worship, Bible story, and dinner together. Monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 – 6:30pm. Our next event is **Wednesday, March 18th.**



Grace Promise Preschool registration is now open! A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable fee** is required to hold a spot for the 2026-2027 school year. A handbook and registration form can be found on the church website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com, picked up at the church office, or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours (Tuesday-Thursday 9a-11:30a). Questions? Email Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com

Do you like to knit or crochet? Yarn Angels meets weekly on Friday mornings from **9:30am-11am** in the **church library**. If you have any questions, call or text Karen Conarro 814-688-6445.



The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, March 21st** at 6:00 in Higginbotham Hall.



Join us for an evening of food, fun and prizes. Invite family, friends and neighbors to form a team. The theme will be the 1990s. If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Vavala cell# 814-730-1064 or vavala5@atlanticbb.net We hope to see you there!

The 2026 altar flowers list is on the website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com. You can also call or email the church office to reserve your spot. Write dedication and special flower requests in sign up. Centerpiece is \$45.

Please note: Flower contains must be returned to the church.



A Healthy Challenge!
Saturday, March 7th 12:15-1:30pm

Let's bring elements of everything we've done recently and create a worthy challenge. We'll combine balance, agility, endurance and stamina to enhance better body awareness. This will be a fun class with plenty of movement, some serious challenges and a great final relaxation that will leave you feeling empowered. God created us to be healthy, vibrant and hard to defeat by the aging process. No reservations, simply show up! Bring a mat and \$8.00.

Contact Sue Toombs for more information at fourwindsranch@verizon.net



Save the date! Grace Church Nurture Committee is sponsoring a day at Waldameer Park in Erie on **July 11th**. More information to come.

Staff Appreciation Month!

We are celebrating Staff Appreciation Month throughout March! When you see one of our staff anytime this month, please take the opportunity to acknowledge these incredible people. They are the heartbeat of the church!

We thank you, Grace Church staff, for your faithful service in the way you bless this church with your expertise. We're deeply grateful for your time, your energy and the way your efforts touch every part of our church life. You are a steady light and a source of encouragement for our congregation. You excel in areas that we sometimes assume are effortless.

We extend a warm hearted "thank you" to the following people:

Mary Quiggle-Pickering, Office Manager
Meghan Brooker, Office Administrator
Cindy Price, Director of Congregational Care
Floyd Moore, Director of Grace Choir
Debbie Airgood, Organist/Accompanist
Lori Beatty, Director of Children's Ministries
Nicki Egger, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Dave Moore, Audio and Visual Equipment Technician
Mike Roney, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Tristan Johnson, Security/Set-up
Jen Lynds, Director of Promise Preschool
Soojye Gustafson, Co-teacher of Promise Preschool
Anna Peterson, Nursery Worker
Melissa Zaffino, Nursery Worker

"The Basics of Yoga"

Saturday, March 21st 12:15-1:30pm in Higginbotham Hall

This instructional class will teach you a solid foundation for your yoga practice and enjoyment. Whether you are a beginner and would like to learn the poses step by step or if you have been attending for years and want to deepen your knowledge - this is your class. The format will be similar to a one on one personal training session in yoga. All you need is a mat and a desire to learn. The fee is \$8 or part of your package. Susan Toombs fourwindsranch@verizon.net



March 1 – Robert Jones, Jessica Norris

March 2 – Amy Stimmell, Ashley Flagella

March 3 – Vickie Morrison, Cheryl Gupta, Kurt Shafer

March 4 – Korrine Sauers, Alyssa Albaugh, Audrey Wurst

March 5 – Becky Hampson

March 6 – Roman Pearce, Dean Knowlton, Evelyn Phillips

March 7 – Alyssa Farr

March 9 – Dale Allmendinger II, Kim Johnson, Tyson Morrison

March 10 – Andrea Sedon

March 12 – Scott Frazier, Gail Burns

March 15 – Audrey Cable, Joy Wiedmaier, Karen Larsen

March 17 – Larry Conrad

March 18 – Quincy Nolan, Amber Buchanan

March 19 – Alex Moore, Julia Green

March 22 – Gwen Savych, Anthony Tatarski

March 23 – Patty Amon, Dave Moore

March 24 – Mary Gustafson, Brynn Norris

March 27 – Cindy Price

March 29 – Maryann Long, Art Anderson

March 30 – Brenda Beers, Wendy Zimmer, Lindsey Brown, Elena Brocklehurst, Ella Solberg

March 31 – Avery Wurst

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	2 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	3 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	4 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	5 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 7:00 p Gym Reserved	6 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	7 9:00 a Praise Team 10:15 a Pickleball 12:15 p A Healthy Challenge Yoga
8 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	9 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	10 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	11 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	12 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 7:00 p Gym Reserved	13 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	14 9:00 a Praise Team 10:15 a Pickleball
15 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	16 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	17 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	18 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	19 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Bishop's Regional Meeting 7:00 p Gym Reserved	20 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	21 9:00 a Praise Team 10:15 a Pickleball 6:00 p Outreach Trivia Night
22 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	23 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	24 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	25 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	26 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 7:00 p Gym Reserved	27 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Nurture Comedy Night	28 9:00 a Praise Team 10:15 a Pickleball
29 Palm Sunday 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	30 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	31 8:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball				

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!