

Grace Notes

Phone - 814-723-9440

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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: *Karen Gray*
 Music Director: *Beverly Petersen*
 Office Administrator: *Meghan Brooker*
 Office Manager: *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*
 Director of
 Children's Ministries: *Libby Yaegle*

December 2019

"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

Sunday, December 1st



This month's Communion offering will benefit **HOPES Fund**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet or pew pocket envelope for your contribution.

Our Christmas Offering will be split between UMCOR International



Disaster Response (focusing on helping the Bahamas from Hurricane Dorian) and the Women's Care Center of Warren, PA. Christmas offering envelopes will be available in the pew pockets or the Christmas letter.

Ushers & Greeters



December Greeters

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 – Arden & Linda Knapp | <i>Parking Lot Door</i> |
| Bev Himes | <i>Prospect St. Door</i> |
| 8 – Dean & Melinda Johnson | <i>Parking Lot Door</i> |
| Harold & Janis Wall | <i>Prospect St. Door</i> |
| 15 – April & Mike Barr | <i>Parking Lot Door</i> |
| Dan & Steph Russo | <i>Prospect St. Door</i> |
| 22 – Dean & Melinda Johnson | <i>Parking Lot Door</i> |
| Keith & Cindy Price | <i>Prospect St. Door</i> |
| 29 – Keith & Cindy Price | <i>Parking Lot Door</i> |
| Dan & Steph Russo | <i>Prospect St. Door</i> |

December Ushers

Rick Gnage, Arden Knapp, Dick Risinger,
Tony Ross

From the Pastor

Waiting

Advent is a funny season in the church. We spend the four weeks before Christmas essentially saying, “Wait! Christmas is coming, but...wait for it!”

I’m terrible at waiting, especially for good things. Waiting is not really a part of our culture, either, is it? I’m not just talking about microwaves and smart phones – we can have our snack and a world of information at our fingertips (or play some Candy Crush...). I remember as a kid if I didn’t know something... I just didn’t know it. I had to find some knowledgeable person or look it up in a book – probably in the library. Now if I don’t know something – I Google it and in seconds I can have a library full of information at my disposal. No more waiting.

Amazon can ship things overnight, I have access to my own medical test reports sometimes before my own doctor gets them. We don’t have to wait for the 6:00 news anymore to find out what is going on in the world because the news will be on Twitter or Facebook or Instagram before CNN can even load and verify the footage...

But there is value in waiting. I had a friend who was incredibly gifted musically – he could pick up virtually any instrument and play it competently in days or even hours... Everything about playing music came easily to him. But if you know anything about the music industry, it’s all about waiting and working hard and still it’s often being in the right place at the right moment with the right talent. He couldn’t understand why getting a “big break” wasn’t as easy as picking up a guitar or mandolin or trumpet and just playing it...

Isaiah says, “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV)

So, this is a time of waiting. Never mind that our culture pushes the consumer end of Christmas from November 1st (and earlier!!) with lots of sales and doorbusters and Black Friday deals.

This is our season of waiting and anticipating.

Advent is not a time of pretending that Jesus has never been born; it is a time of preparing for what that birth might mean for us today. It is not a denial, but a darkroom: a chance to allow the fullness of God’s love to develop in our lives and to be revealed in glorious Technicolor. (Magrey R.deVega, *Awaiting the Already*)

So here are some questions to ask yourself this Advent Season as we wait (based on questions from Rachel Held Evans):

1. Why do I need a Savior? Which areas of darkness are in need of light?
2. Why does the world need a Savior? Which places of darkness are in need of light?
3. Where do I need patience, waiting and anticipation in my life? What can the waiting of Advent teach me about this waiting?
4. How can I prepare myself and my family and friends for the arrival of Jesus – not “baby Jesus in a manger,” but the return of King Jesus?
5. How can I create moments of peace and quiet during this busy season?

Waiting. Anticipating. Hoping. That’s what Advent teaches us. I pray that blessing on all this season.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bill

Oh, my – what a month this has been – and is. After

33 loving years at Grace, I have decided that all good things must end and am going to retire. More about that later... that will take many more pages and Mary is waiting for this article... now!



Shortly after this decision, my A-Fib had a bit of an episode and I was in CCU for 3 days and now we are right at the feet of the concert. Things are flying quickly. Thanks to Kris and the choir for all the hard work they did, to Beth and the bells for providing such a good prelude and to the choir for being their magnificent selves. Did you see the flyers/posters? Thanks to Meghan for designing and printing them, and to Renee and Floyd for directing, etc.

So, the concert is on. It's December 8 at 3:40 and will feature the great choir, bells, Dem Bones, children's choir, and many soloists.

There's a service each Sunday too! - - also Christmas Eve. Please come and fill your souls with the spirit and joy of this beautiful holiday. Merry Christmas!!

Beverly Petersen

From the Director of Congregational Care

"When I was a child I spoke as a child. I understood as a child. I thought as a child but when I became a man, I put away childish things" 1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, Christmas preparations didn't begin until well after thanksgiving. By the second week of December the house was smelling, not of pine, but cookies baking and candy making.

Shopping and gift wrapping were done in secret. The tree which was recently cut wasn't decorated until a week before the great and glorious day.

I wasn't aware of the sacrifices our mother made. She spent hours at the sewing machine making doll clothes, flannel night gowns, robes and clothes. I thought I got a new doll every year just because of the new outfits and a different colored wig. Remember, I was a child and hadn't figured that out yet.

I'm sure she counted pennies to purchase some "girlie" stuff to put in our stockings with the walnuts left over from baking and oranges.

When I was no longer a child, I thought little

about what I'd get but what I could give. Now I was the baker, the shopper, the wrapper, the gift hider and tree trimmer. I discovered the truth that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

As Christians we have received the greatest gift of all. He is the one everyone longs for whether they know it or not. Our Heavenly Father made preparation and planned to give the most precious, costly and perfect gift of all, Jesus Christ. Why? Because He loves us.

Love came down at Christmas and was wrapped in swaddling clothes. His presence filled the stinky stable with the fresh fragrance of a newborn. The "Christmas" tree awaited Him for thirty-three years but the stars, especially one, decorated all of Heaven over Bethlehem.

This Emmanuel offers us the gift of salvation. Have you received Him? When we do He teaches us to trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly & love extravagantly.

Now, Christ receivers, the best gift you can give is to reach out to others with the extravagant love and sacrificial life of Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas & God bless us everyone!

*Grace, mercy and peace,
Karen D. Gray*

As November comes to a close,



taking with it the

beautiful fall weather, I can't help but get excited about everything the month of December holds. I dearly love this time of year. The carols, the boots and scarves, mugs of hot chocolate, the decorations, cookies, happy times with family, and all things warm and fuzzy find a home in December. And the snow. Whether snow brings you great joy or a pain in your back, a remnant of days spent shoveling, there is something truly magical about watching the first snowflakes of the year fall to the leaf strewn ground, quiet, unexpected, each flake perfect. Even more enchanting this year was seeing those first fluffy flakes through the eyes of my oldest son, who sat at the window in wonder, excited about everything he hoped to do outside once there was enough of the white stuff to romp around in. His anticipation of

what was to come made me think of the anticipation we should feel about the birth of our savior, though muted sometimes by the hustle and bustle that December also ushers in. Childlike, waiting in wonder, excitedly exclaiming, and full of hope for the one who came down like a winter snow from his heavenly throne as a small baby, quiet, unexpected, and perfect. May we seek him no matter what we're doing this season, be it sipping hot chocolate, watching Christmas movies, or dare I say it, shoveling snow.

Amidst your busy schedules, I hope you can find time to join us on December 6 for another Family Fun Night at Grace Church, from 5:30-7:30pm in Higgenbotham Hall. We'll have food, games, and a little something for everyone. There will be a prize for the best holiday spirit outfit. Please bring a nonperishable good to add to Grace's food pantry. Also, don't forget to share what brings you JOY on the sign in the parlor.

Libby Yaegle



After a month of learning about Thanksgiving and celebrating all the things we are thankful for, we are looking forward to returning from our Thanksgiving vacation to prepare our room for the Christmas season. We will be learning songs, decorating our room and creating gifts for our families. In the midst of our busyness we will share the birth of baby Jesus and use some puppets to act out the story. We also hope to visit Pastor Bill in the sanctuary and hear the Christmas story using the Nativity. Our last day of school before Christmas vacation will be celebrated with a Parent Day where we will make crafts, sing songs, decorate and eat cookies, and say our good-byes until we return in 2020! Registration for the 2020-2021 school year

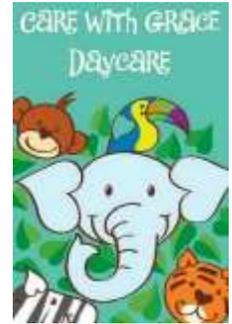
will begin in January with current preschool families, Grace Church members & Care With Grace Daycare children. If the classes are not full by the end of January, we will open registration to the public. Registration forms will be available in the church office or by calling 723-8011.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Trish Gentilman & Jessica Rex

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is on the way. We will be selling Cooke Tavern Soups until December 6th. Order forms are available at the daycare or in the church office. Make check payable to Megan Minich. Orders will be in in time for Christmas and make perfect presents. Care with Grace will be closed December 23-January 1 for cleaning and repair.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Irene Garris, Director Care with Grace Daycare



During Worship

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

~

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

December 1 – Becky Fuller

December 8 – Anna Peterson

December 15 – Becky Fuller

December 22 – Anna Peterson

December 29 – Becky Fuller



Our budget the month of October 2019:

Other income consists of funds from Sunday School, Room Rental,

Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.

BUDGET	2019	2018
Other Income:	1,478.75	709.23
Offerings & Tithes	<u>28,684.75</u>	<u>27,796.87</u>
Total Income	30,163.50	28,506.10
Number of Sundays:	4	4
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:	38,340.89	32,247.45
Attendance:	832	833

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation-	3,330.00
Paid to date	33,300.00
Ahead (Behind)	0

Percent of year to date paid 83%

His income: Was \$1,657.40 higher in October 2019 compared to October 2018

Our expenses: Were \$6,093.44 higher in October 2019 compared to October 2018

Submitted by:

Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair

Flock Talk



“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

There is an abundance of Bible study groups happening at Grace Church! Did you know, five days out of the week there is a study group who meets regularly? What a delightful opportunity to participate, to learn and to “spur each other on”! In a class setting, we focus on what God has done, what He is doing and what He will do. Together, we learn His story. Studying the Bible gives us a deeper appreciation of Christ’s salvation and of the character of God.

One of the truths about Bible study is that it isn’t easy. It takes sustained time and effort and sometimes it’s hard to grasp what a passage means. When we count the cost of our own personal

sacrifice of time, we realize that the exertion goes beyond what we expected. We begin to see how Scripture comforts and counsels us.

This month of December and the wintry months following may present some time in your schedule to “drop by” a study group. Anyone anytime is welcome. There will be a new wave of classes which are always listed in the bulletins and newsletters. New faces are such a treasure to the people already gathered!

Encouragingly,

Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



Our annual Christmas Concert, “Because of Love,” will be presented on Sunday, December 8 at **3:40 PM**.

The reception committee is asking for donations of cookies to serve following the concert and for volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. Signup sheets for cookies (2-3 dozen) and for volunteers to help will be in Higginbotham Hall and the Wesley Parlor beginning November 24. You may also call the church office, 723-9440 or Linda Knapp, 726-1199, with further questions or to volunteer. Thank you for any help you may be able to offer.

L.A.M.B. Thanks you! Our Christian yoga fundraiser was a great success! We received 190 pounds of pet food to restock the pantry for winter. Many animals are being helped through this ministry. Your gifts are appreciated, and your support is a blessing!

With enthusiasm,

Sue Toombs & Elie Beatty

Children’s Programs

For: Emilie B. Anderson

By: Keith Weilacher



General Fund

For: Hazel Finley

By: Donald McCurdy

December 29th is the 5th Sunday in December.

There will be only ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. on this Sunday.



Sunday, December 29th is our Fifth Sunday celebration, joining together to worship as a single congregation. This will be the last of the Fifth Sunday celebrations. While we will continue to occasionally join together as a single congregation for worship, it will probably be less frequently and for special occasions. It has been a wonderful experiment as people who normally attend different worship services have been able to fellowship together before and after the service and it is great to have the sanctuary full for worship. We remain united as one congregation under the banner "To know Christ and to make Him known."

SOC – Support Our Children

Grace Promise Preschool and Care with Grace Childcare will continue collecting money for our children’s ministry. This money will be divided equally between these programs. The children will be collecting (coins, bills, checks) on the 5th Sunday of those months with 5 Sundays.

December 29th will be the last collection. Your assistance with this program is greatly appreciated.

Along with the Ruth M. Smith Circle, Grace Church sent **115** shoeboxes total for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you to everyone for your support with this ministry and a special thanks to Bucky Knapp for hauling all the boxes to the distribution center!



On behalf of the Outreach/ Witness committee, we would like to thank those that donated items and helped with the Rummage Sale. Not only did a lot of items get a second use, but we raised \$725.85 for the Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching campaign. Keep in mind, we will have the next rummage sale in the Spring.



CONGRATULATIONS GRACE UMC

You were successful in raising funds beyond the goal for the “Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching” Capital Campaign for camping and retreat ministries. Our goal was \$60,000.00, and as of this writing, you raised \$69,785.25! We praise God for your generosity. Thank you for supporting the campaign.

Renee Magnuson, Judy Templeton, and Rev. William Beatty

COVERED BY GRACE

Soon, the clotheslines will appear outside the front of the church, and we, the congregation of Grace, will supply hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to be hung on those clotheslines as a ministry to the Warren community. Hats, mittens, and gloves are especially needed, but scarves are used also. Covered by Grace runs from November through February 2020. Please keep those clothing items coming throughout the winter.



A note to Thank You – Your kindness means the world to me. Thank you so much for the hats and mittens. We have six children and we really appreciate your

kindness. They are very excited about their new hats and mittens.

Thank you very much!
The Youngs

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at Olmsted Manor, 17 East Main St., Ludlow, PA, December 1 and December 8, 3:00p.m. -- 8:00p.m. Join the Olmsted staff and Board for a free evening of live music, homemade cookies, and tours of the retreat center and the manor house. This highly anticipated event for the whole family will be full of joyous fellowship as we kick off this Christmas season and celebrate the birth of Christ. Questions? Call (814) 945-6512.

The community Christmas dinner will be taking place in Higginbotham Hall on December 25 at noon. Take outs will be available starting at 1. Please RSVP with the office 723-9440 to save your spot. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in Wesley Parlor soon.



YOU ARE INVITED to a reception on Saturday, January 4, 2020 in Higginbotham Hall. We will be celebrating the retirement at the end of 2019 of Dr. Keith Price and Kris Magnuson. Please drop by any time between 1:00 and 3:00p.m. to wish them well. (No gifts, please.)

The Grace Church Food Pantry has no specific needs of at this time. Thank you to all who contribute to the Grace Church Food Pantry!



December Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199
Sheryl Richards 726-3876

December 1 – Becca Anderson & Kylie Jurkowski
December 8 – Karson Werner & Kaden Werner
December 8 – Choir Concert
3:40pm – Tymber Barr & Charlotte Keepports
December 15 – Alanna Byrd & Brandon Byrd
December 22 – OPEN & OPEN
December 24 – Christmas Eve
7pm – AJ Slattery & Kylie Jurkowski
11 pm – Becca Anderson & OPEN
December 29 – Kaden Werner & Karson Werner

***There are a few services that are still open. If anyone is available, please call Linda Knapp.**



Items for the January Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office (mary@graceumcwarren.com) by Monday, December 16. Thank you!



December 1 – Bev Smith, Gene Burns, Rachel Beatty, Pam Hahn
December 2 – Lexi Jansens, Larry Willis
December 3 – Vince Flagella
December 4 – Alec Conarro
December 5 – Erica Bailey
December 6 – Casey Retterer
December 7 – Wilson Boyd, Mike Waseleski, Buddy Birgel, George Broadbent
December 8 – Tori Solberg, LuAnn Munksgard
December 10 – Phyllis Broadbent
December 11 – Ashlynn Fry
December 12 – Caitlin Barney
December 13 – Jayden Fry, Janette Brown
December 14 – Joe Glotz, Jim Armstrong, Kolby Sabat
December 15 – Logan Peterson
December 16 – Caleb Ei
December 17 – Diane DeLarme, Karen Larson, David Anthony
December 18 – Nancy Callahan, Dave Engstrom
December 19 – April Barr, Stephanie Pearce
December 20 – Jace Yaegle, Wallace Yaegle, Vicki Anthony, Ben Hampson, Austin Jerman
December 21 – Ted Rosequist
December 22 – Rayna Tucher
December 24 – Harrison Johnson, Christopher Danielson, Carol Baughman
December 25 – Lexi Manelick
December 28 – Andrew Duda
December 29 – Jayce Messinger, Madelyn Messinger
December 30 – Doug Renwick, Betsy Miller, Ruth Zavinski, Nikki Barney
December 31 – Beth MacPherson, Paige Johnson, Peggy Grosch

December

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 Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School	2 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Gym Reserved 6:30 p Library Reserved 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	3 11:15 a Staff Meeting 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:30 p Pickleball	4 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 4:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Men's <i>Rewired</i> Study 6:00 p Handbells 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	5 9:00 a Kitchen Reserved 4:30 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 5:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p AseraCare 7:00 p Praise Team	6 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	7
8 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 3:40 p Choir Concert	9 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Gym Reserved 7:00 p Bible Study – A Year with Tozer 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	10 9:00 a Bible Study – A Year with Tozer 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:30 p Pickleball	11 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Library Reserved 6:00 p Handbells 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	12 6:00 p Disciple 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Praise Team	13 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	14
15 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 4:00 p Watson Home	16 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Gym Reserved 7:00 p Bible Study – A Year with Tozer 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	17 9:00 a Bible Study – A Year with Tozer 11:15 a Staff Meeting 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:30 p Pickleball	18 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Library Reserved 6:00 p Handbells 6:30 p Gym Reserved 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	19 6:00 p Disciple 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Praise Team	20 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	21 11:00 a Wesley Parlor Reserved
22 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts	23 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Gym Reserved 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	24 Office Closed 7:00/11:00 p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office Closed 12:00 p Christmas Community Dinner	26 6:00 p Disciple 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Praise Team	27 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	28 11:00 a Higginbotham Hall Reserved
29 10:00 a Worship	30 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Gym Reserved 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	31 Office Closed 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:30 p Pickleball		CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE is open daily from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor.	PROMISE PRESCHOOL is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 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;
December 2019

- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Lori Beatty, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller,
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman,
Aaron Stearns and John Lewis*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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