

# Grace Notes

## August 2022

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:                      *Tyler Dymond*  
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*



### **August Meetings**

**August 2 - 5:30 p - Nurture**  
    6:00 p - *SPRC*  
**August 9 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**August 15 - 5:30 p - Education**  
**August 23 - 6:00 p - Childcare**  
    6:45 p - *Preschool*  
**August 29 - 7:00 p - Outreach**



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

# *From the Pastor*

## Holy Conversations

In the coming months we will have several church-wide meetings to talk about the future of Grace Church regarding our denomination and our place in it. These will be opportunities for us to engage in conversation about who we are and who God has called us to be. These will be opportunities for us to agree and disagree, to wrestle with a variety of topics and opportunities to be Grace Church in action. These will be opportunities for Holy Conversations – more than just information, not simply rhetoric and side choosing, these will be – these MUST BE – true, honest, God-honoring conversations about Grace Church. In light of this, I want to take an opportunity to speak briefly about what it means to be Grace Church, and then what Holy Conversations look like.

What I mean by that is simply this: we are called Grace. That’s not supposed to be an honorific or sobriquet (yeah, I had to look that one up – it means “nickname”), but a part of the very fabric of our identity. And I say that because it speaks powerfully about who we believe God is and what we believe we are about as a church.

*Grace, grace, God’s grace  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within  
Grace, grace, God’s grace  
Grace that is greater than all our sin*

We are literally named after the powerful and salvific work of God!!

So what?

Well... I keep that truth in mind whenever we have any conversations about difficult topics or whenever we disagree about something. We are people of an inexhaustible, uncompromising grace that is greater than all our sin.

James tells us:

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.*  
(James 1:19-20)

I am quick to point out that James does not tell us “do not get angry” but to be slow to get angry. Anger is a natural human emotion, and we’ll experience it – just like we experience hurt, joy, excitement, disappointment, regret, longing, love... Jesus got angry (there was that whole table-flipping, whip chasing scene in the temple) but his anger was perfect. His anger was always directed at the very religious people who should know better – but choose to act in self-righteous, ungodly ways. There are times Jesus should direct his perfect anger at me, if I’m honest, and most “church people” if we are really candid about the sometimes ugly states of our hearts.

Paul says in Ephesians (4:26-27)

*“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

Get angry – that’s okay. Don’t sin in your anger. That’s... much harder, isn’t it? When we’re angry (and let’s be real here – also when we are frustrated, disappointed, hurt and all those other negative emotions that we tend to lump into “anger”) we tend to say things we regret and do things in ways that are very conspicuously

**not** Christ-like. Even when we're "just speaking the truth" – true, honest Christ followers will find a way to speak that truth not in anger and frustration (in anger's natural dialect of sarcasm, for example) but by "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), speaking the truth that builds up and doesn't tear down.

Jesus met with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42) and had a Holy Conversation. The Jews and the Samaritans didn't agree on much (except that the other people group were a bunch of low-lives). Yet... Jesus carries on a conversation with this woman that never once veers into anger, judgment, name-calling... Jesus patiently listens to her clearly wrong-thinking, and offers her (gently – the truth in love) a new perspective, a new way of looking at the issues (and heavy issues they are – right worship, honoring God...). But there is no demand that she parrot back what he has said – the truth is spoken, the seed sown, and her heart has to be changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I can't think of two more diametrically opposed people in Jesus' day: a woman and a man (unrelated, they were not to speak to one another), a Jew and a Samaritan (both considered the other ungodly, heretical, apostate), a rabbi and a woman sleeping with someone who is not her husband (a holy teacher and a woman whose morals were, at least, questionable) – yet they can actually talk to one another, share their differences and maybe even learn from each other.

Maybe it's not fair to use Jesus as the model (since he's God and, by default, he's always right and we... aren't either of those things), but read through the book of Acts and you'll see Paul and Peter have many holy conversations where they don't just speak arguments AT people (rhetoric) but engage WITH people – even people who very much disagree with them and all they believe.

Holy Conversations aren't easy conversations – but they are worth the effort because when we speak with each other instead of AT each other, when we engage in understanding instead of engaging in battling, when we are quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger – and when we speak, we speak the truth in love – then we are being the ambassadors of Christ engaging in a ministry of reconciliation (as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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### You're invited to sing!

**O**n Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, Grace Church will be participating in the Community Worship Service at the Library Theatre. For this service, there will be a Community Worship Service Choir and you are invited to sing with us! We will be rehearsing at Grace Church on Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm. Feel free to invite another singer to enjoy the fellowship and worship.



Don't forget to keep requesting your favorite hymns in August.

Floyd Moore  
[amfm123@verizon.net](mailto:amfm123@verizon.net)  
814-723-4694

## They say, “Timing is Everything...”



**M**y wife Cindy came home late one afternoon, apologizing that dinner would be late. (And, believe me, I did NOT say, “Again?”! She is a wonderful cook and, unless I want to fix it myself, I just better keep my mouth shut!) She explained that she spent more time than she initially anticipated with a friend who really needed a listening ear and loving support at that moment.

So, what was my day like? I had gone to my meetings, weeded and planted in the garden, answered emails, etc. It had been relatively busy.

Every Sunday, I make a weekly list of “Things to Do” – putting in work schedules, appointments, times to visit the “Y” for exercise, pickleball games (of course!), endless lists of things to do in the house, yard, garden, etc. I must confess... I LOVE crossing things off that list once they are done! After all, I’m a Type “A” personality and thrive on accomplishing tasks.

Cindy is like that too. She does her congregational care stuff, pre-authorization requests for Family Medicine, caring for her horse, keeping in shape with pickleball and running, keeping tabs on her mom Blanche, etc.... not to mention cooking, shopping, cleaning, mowing, bookkeeping, etc.

So... what does this have to do with “Timing is Everything”?

The very day that this happened, that morning I had read in Patrick Morley’s Devotions for the Man in the Mirror about “busyness...” and how our “busyness” gives us a feeling of significance or importance. Morley states, “Often, however, we become busy but don’t actually do anything very significant. We can become busy and feel good about ourselves, but our busyness may not contribute very much to forever.”

So, when Cindy made that apology, it immediately struck me that she had done what was profoundly important. Of what long-term or eternal value is fewer weeds in the garden, less clutter in the basement, cleaning the algae out of the landscaping pool... compared to loving and listening and comforting a friend who needs it?

Thankfully, in this situation, in my often very dense head, I was able to recognize what was more deeply significant. After all, “What would Jesus do?” in a situation like this? I don’t think crossing tasks off lists was his primary goal.

Praise God for his **grace** (getting what we don’t deserve) and his **mercy** (not getting what we do deserve)!

Keith Price  
Husband of Congregational Care Coordinator Cindy Price

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Community Worship Service Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Struthers Library Theatre. Communion service at Grace at 8:30am in the Sanctuary with a brief message. 9:30 and 11:00am services will be participating in the Community Service.

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**H**ello Grace Church!

It is good to be back in my role as Director of Youth and Family Ministries. To be honest, I wasn't sure I could do it. My relationship with God has been strained the last 7 months, to put it lightly. I have questioned God, I have begged God and have repeatedly asked for God's peace. Despite this perpetual valley, I know God has never left me. Even when I cannot feel Him or understand Him, He has not left me. He has not abandoned me. And neither did you, my Church family. Your support, your prayers and your Grace have given me hope to



**BRACE YOURSELVES**



keep going. I spent much time in prayer, considering my return to Grace Church. And God's voice repeatedly rang through. At times whispered and at other times as a thunderous wave of emotion. I need you, I need these kids, I need God.

As I prepared for my first week back, I consulted the curriculum and, perhaps uncoincidentally, the first lesson of the summer is Never Give Up! It is a four-week series on resilience. Never giving up, on yourself or on God. Ok God, I am listening!

As we continue, as a Church Family, to go through troubled times, may we always remember to never give up. Never give up on God. God is good, even in the valley of life. Take care and God Bless.

Nicki Egger  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

**A**ll the children at Care with Grace (except for the infants) have been enjoying water play over the summer. The school-age children have also had the advantage of having a visitor from 4H come and teach them more about plants. Last month, we put up some decals on the glass doors so that our children could be more aware of the glass there. Hopefully the smaller members of the church have been able to appreciate the butterflies and flowers as well.



Cindy Kalkbrenner  
Director

Grace Church,  
Thank you for the well wishes & the monetary gift. It was very appreciated and will help with college.  
With love,  
Emily Ickert



Grace Church Family,  
Thank you for the Amazon gift card in recognition of my college graduation this spring! Thank you for giving me great church mice over the last 4 years!  
Thanks again,  
Maribeth Miller



We all appreciate the beautiful piano music provided by Helen Heckman before Sunday worship service.



**During Worship**  
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)  
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)  
August 7 – Becky Fuller  
August 14 – Anna Peterson  
August 21 – Becky Fuller  
August 28 – Anna Peterson



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **soup, Ramen noodles, canned chicken, mac & cheese** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the September Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by **Monday, August 15.** Thank you.



### Flock Talk

*"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."*

*Psalms 23:1*

The classes I teach are filled with movement that makes us strong and healthy. There is also balance. When we think of balance, we envision standing on one leg and successfully not weaving back and forth. The balance I am talking about is the relationship between mental activity and a sense of peacefulness.

Our minds are continually planning, analyzing and circulating thoughts. When God placed the brain inside humankind, it must have been the pinnacle of creation. This physical structure that science cannot duplicate and we cannot fully understand. How do we care for it?

The last fifteen minutes of my class involve the quiet and calm steps of complete relaxation. Allowing ourselves to restore and refresh this beautiful mind by focusing on God's love and protection. A room full of people lying quietly on the floor of a dimly lit room with soft music is extremely healing. We meet not only for the benefits of exercise, but most importantly, for the care of the soul.

Spending time alone with God in our thoughts is extremely healing. The power of prayer takes on a subtle calm when we fix our thoughts on His amazing goodness. We allow ourselves the freedom from daily living by moving our focus to the gifts He has given us. The symphony of birds, the majesty of His artistic sky, the beautiful detail of nature - all within our reach.

Let your mind relax. Find little Sabbath rests all day long. Be still and know that He is God. Refresh your heart.

With enthusiasm,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Warren County's Day of Christian Prayer, "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE", Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00a.m. to 8:00p.m., Betts Pavilion in Betts Park. Silent prayer only.

Handicapped accessible. **Help needed:**

1. 2 volunteers for each of 14 hours from 5:30a.m. to 7:30p.m. to welcome people, offer handouts, and direct attendees. You may certainly sign up for more than one hour :) Youth and children are encouraged to participate, but there must be at least one adult present each hour.
2. 2-4 strong people with pick-ups or SUVs who'll meet at the church 8:30p.m. Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, to transport folding chairs to Betts Park pavilion and move out heavy picnic tables there; again, strong folks with vehicles who'll meet at pavilion 8:00p.m., Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, to move picnic tables back into pavilion and transport chairs back to the church.
3. Please be in prayer that many from across Warren County will come to pray. **"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)**



**PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEET IN WESLEY PARLOR.** Questions? Contact Renee Magnuson at 814-726-7890 or [radmagnuson@gmail.com](mailto:radmagnuson@gmail.com).

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### Show Some Love, Grace Church!

#### WE'RE HAVING A SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE!

Let's bless the educators of our church family and their students with the supplies they need to have a successful start to a new school year! We can't forget to help our own Grace Promise Preschool too! Collection dates are **July 24<sup>th</sup> – August 28<sup>th</sup>**. Drop- Off Boxes will be in Wesley Parlor, or you can ship directly to Grace Church through the Amazon Wishlist or Walmart Registry. Links for these are on the church website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com) . Contact Meghan at the church office with any questions. (814)723-9440 or

[Meghan@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:Meghan@graceumcwarren.com)



#### Teacher Wish List

Crayons	Folders
Markers	Sharpies
Colored Pencils	Clorox Wipes
#2 Pencils	Pencil Boxes
Hand Sanitizer	Post-It Notes
Hand Soap	Teacher's Scissors
Paper Towel Rolls	Reusable Water Bottles
Tissues	Composition Notebooks
Glue Sticks	Electric Pencil Sharpener
Ziplock Bags	Children's Socks
Dry Erase Markers	Command Hooks
Tape	White Board Erasers

#### Promise Preschool Wish List

Hand Sanitizer
Yellow Tissue Paper
Girls' Small Barrettes or Hair Clips
Paper Clips
Play-Doh
Black Dry-Eraser Markers
Colored Cardstock
Plastic Pocket Folders

## Red Bird Mission Trip

It's a date! From August 20-26, a team of at least 13 Grace Church members will be headed to Beverly, KY for a week's work camp. Some will be working on a community improvement project (like ramps, flooring, bathroom remodeling, etc) and some will help in the Community Thrift Store or Craft Store....and probably a number of other small jobs! The cost for each participant is \$425, part for "room and board" and the other portion for funding the projects they will be working on. To be part of this trip, please **pray** for the preparations and team's work and witness. Another way to participate is to **donate** toward the trip costs; checks or money can be put in offering envelopes earmarked "Red Bird Trip" and placed in the offering plate. And, yet another way is to **join the team**; there is still room! Contact Keith Price at [rkeithprice@hotmail.com](mailto:rkeithprice@hotmail.com).



## Grace Church Finance Report

### Mid-Year Recap

**INCOME:** As outlined in prior recaps, February and March were challenging months for income for Grace. Since turning the corner in April, we've been working to make up that deficit. Our average monthly income is ~\$32,100, which is approximately \$3,300 under the monthly budget or ~\$20,000 under budget year to date

**EXPENSES:** Expenses have also been trending under budget and year to date we are ~\$8,700 under budget.

This results in a Net Income that is approximately ~\$11,300 under budget.

As we head into the second half of the year, we can continue to work at making up for the income deficit



### 2022 Monthly and YTD Financials

	June '22	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,118.67</b>	<b>\$192,859.16</b>
Office Expense	\$492.50	\$3,447.06
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$8,240.95	\$39,316.87
Ministry Personnel	\$24,188.46	\$149,090.14
Church Council	\$0.00	\$443.79
Education Ministry	\$1,357.86	\$1,943.84
Nurture Ministry	\$74.64	\$1,778.67
Worship Ministry	\$152.26	\$710.88
Outreach Ministry	\$44.90	\$74.89
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,939.00	\$17,634.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$468.92
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$37,490.57</b>	<b>\$214,909.06</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$4,371.90)</b>	<b>(\$22,049.90)</b>

### Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 5/31/2022	<b>(\$67,592.43)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

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*Thank  
you*

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts & prayers we received in the passing of my son,  
Gary. Also, thank you to all who helped with the luncheon.  
Sincerely,  
Carriebelle Hoffman

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**August 1 – Julie Hitchcock**

**August 2 – Guy Baughman, Gregg Danielson**

**August 3 – Sharon Silzle**

**August 5 – Brendan Garrett**

**August 6 – Marlene Avery, Matt Stapleford, Cadence McManigle, Nikolai Long**

**August 7 – Earl Duvall, Shirley Shafer, Mike Barr, Trevor Buchanan, Everleigh Alex**

**August 8 – Bev Himes, Tony Stellato, Tyler Retterer, Bailey Andersen**

**August 9 – Quay Strandburg, Bill Gentilman**

**August 10 – Judy Templeton, Jaxon Knapp, Caden Beers**

**August 11 – Craig Rodoski, Becky Ickert**

**August 13 – Patricia Dutchess**

**August 14 – Debra Foreman, Sarah Foster**

**August 15 – Gladys Jones, Sue Shall**

**August 16 – Karen Conrad, Andrew Sprentz, Gavin LaVan**

**August 17 – AJ Slattery**

**August 18 – Randy Grey, Kathy Neal**

**August 19 – Kris Magnuson, Maggie Birgel, Lynnanne Hammersley**

**August 20 – Mark Shene**

**August 21 – Randy Ickert, Caleb Gnage**

**August 23 – Chloe Watson**

**August 24 – Aaren Danielson, Adelaide Keepports**

**August 25 – Amy Yaegle, Derek Knapp, Parker Shene**

**August 26 – Joyce Font, Bonnie Lopez, Lisa Brown, Elin Smith, DJ Anderson, Eddie Anderson, Becca Anderson,  
Charlie Sienkiewicz**

**August 27 – Charissa Barkley, Sarah Peterson**

**August 28 – Cathy Irwin, Ryan Zavinski, Charlotte Keepports**

**August 29 – Midge Gilfillan, Dorothy Culbertson, Jordan Retterer, Ashley Barker**

**August 31 – Seth McClymonds, Chris Zaffino, Sheldon McMeans**



# august



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>2</b> 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Nurture</i> 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>3</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p YA Bible Study 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Community Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 6:00 p Praise Team 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	<b>5</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>6</b> 10:30 a Higginbotham Hall Reserved
<b>7</b> 8:30 a Worship 10:30 a Community Worship Service 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	<b>8</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>9</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>10</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p YA Bible Study 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>11</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>12</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>13</b> 3:00 p Family Ministry Picnic In the Park
<b>14</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	<b>15</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i>	<b>16</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>17</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p YA Bible Study 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>18</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>19</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 P Watson Home 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	<b>22</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>23</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Childcare</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 6:45 p <i>Preschool</i>	<b>24</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p YA Bible Study 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>25</b> 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>26</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	<b>29</b> 7:00 p <i>Outreach</i>	<b>30</b> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>31</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p YA Bible Study 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<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

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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, Aaron Stearns,  
Chris Ei, John Lewis, Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel*

***GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

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