

# 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](mailto:office2@graceumcwarren.com)

Visit Our Website - [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://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*

# March 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*



## March Meetings

**March 3 – 6:00 p** – *SPRC*

**March 8 – 6:00 p** – *Finance*

**March 9 – 7:00 p** – *Property Trustees*

**March 16 – 6:00 p** – *Childcare*

**March 22 – 7:00 p** – *Outreach*

**March 23 – 6:00 p** – *Church Council*

## Ushers & Greeters



### March Greeters

Will resume soon.

### March Ushers

Will resume soon.



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

# *From the Pastor*

## In Preparation...

I have a number of (rather geeky) interests. I know that won't surprise many of you, since I've made more than a few Star Wars remarks from the pulpit... But I was thinking about hobbies and interests the other day and what intrigued me was how many things we do that actually require some preparation for beforehand.

Here's what I mean. Take golfing, for example. I know some people golf alone, but it's really a social sport. So you have to prepare: coordinating schedules with one or more people, maybe reserving a tee time, loading equipment in the car. At least. Oh – and make sure that you have the time open to play – and your spouse is okay with it, right? And, well, you *should* stretch a little on the first tee before whacking that little ball and chasing it for the next couple hours... And I'm certainly forgetting stuff because I haven't golfed in fifteen years...

We prepare.

We prepare for work, for church, for vacation, for dinner, whatever. For so many of the things we do, we actually do stuff before we do them. Okay, maybe that's not exactly groundbreaking news, but I guess I never really thought about it.

So what? Well, Lent, the current Church season we are in, is a time of preparation. It's about preparing ourselves to celebrate the resurrection, but also about preparing our hearts and our lives to be fully present with our Savior – to really examine ourselves, our habits, our hangups, our uncertainties, our sins, and turn be prepared to turn it all over to our Savior. That's where our true strength is.

I read this story:

Nat Wyeth, brother of Andrew Wyeth and son of N.C. Wyeth, artists. Nat was an inventor and chemist (he invented the modern plastic soda bottle among many other things) tells this story:

*Andy once did a picture. This is sort of an extension of what we've been talking about, but it's indicative of*

*the kind of training I'm talking about....Andy did a picture of Lafayette's headquarters which is down here on Route One near Chadds Ford [a town in Pennsylvania]. It's a beautiful, old building, built before the Revolutionary War, and in his picture was a huge sycamore tree coming up from behind the building with all its beautiful branches. You could see part of the trunk coming up over the roofline.*

*When I first saw the painting, he wasn't quite finished with it. He showed me a lot of drawings of the trunk and the gnarled roots going into the ground, and I said, "gee whiz, where's that in the picture?" "It's not in the picture," he said. And I looked at him.*

*"Nat," he said, "for me to get the feeling that I want in that tree, the part of the tree that's showing, I've got to understand and know very thoroughly how that tree is anchored to the ground in back of the house." It never showed in the picture. But he could draw the part of the tree above the house with a lot more authenticity because he knew exactly the way that thing was anchored in the ground. Isn't that remarkable?*

*To me, this was all very indicative of what my father [the illustrator N.C. Wyeth] trained into us in whatever we were doing: to understand what we were doing.*

--Kenneth A. Brown, **Inventors at Work: Interviews with 16 Notable American Inventors** (Redmond, Wash.: Tempus Books, 1988), pp. 374-375.

Preparation is that invisible element of any successful endeavor. It is absolutely essential in our faith that we prepare ourselves. That's why I believe times like Lent are so very important – our Church calendar reminds us that we should spend these six weeks preparing our hearts for Christ to come to us. And to prepare our hearts for Christ to return in glory.

And even as we live in this season of preparation, may we be anchored and grounded in Christ our Savior.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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## Looking back:

February marked my one-year anniversary as “Choir Director” here at



Grace. Last year I led the choir for five Sundays before being locked out. I don't take it personally.

But we've adjusted our worship services in remarkable ways, striving to maintain familiarity when normalcy is impossible. In the past year we have presented many worship services online, first by pre-recording in segments, then more recently live streaming the services during our normal worship times. Although we haven't been able to physically fit the entire choir in the choir loft, we have been able to assist in worship with smaller groups, mostly the Madrigals, Women of Grace, Men of Grace, and quartets, duets and solos.

We cancelled the annual Christmas Concert, but presented a very meaningful Christmas Eve service online, recorded over many days. I was very glad to get as many people involved as possible, all wearing masks and physically distancing as safely as possible.

## Looking Ahead:

Safety in meaningful worship is our new priority. We will continue to offer our worship services online world-wide, while enhancing our live worship experiences. We will continue to be *involved* in the music ministry at Grace Church to the best of our ability, by God's grace. Come, now is the time to worship!

## Choir Notes

### Easter's coming! Stay tuned!

We've established a worship commitment schedule that has been a good compromise with the demands of the pandemic. Let's keep it going and enhance our *involvement* as we recover from our pandemic. We, as individuals, as a choir, as a congregation, as a nation, and as a world need to recover from our pandemic. Please renew your involvement and commitment to worshipping with us at Grace.

I want to thank all of you who reached out and expressed their Staff Appreciation during the month of February. I'm overwhelmed! I also want to again thank Beverly for taking over for me when I was unable to move without the pain of kidney

stones. While the world had its Super Bowl, we had our Super Bev! Thank you for your support!

Floyd Moore

## *From the Director of Congregational Care*

### Imprints in the Snow

The last month or so has been quite cold with a fairly constant snow cover. I like the snow because it enables me to see clearly “who” has been in our yard. It is usually deer, but if I look closely, I can spot other critters as well. I have seen cat paws and bird feet, bunny hops and the unidentifiable marks of a small mammal. Looking at a forest trail or in a field, I may find boot prints, ATV tracks or the indentations of X-C skis! Of course, some of these signs are there in the warmer months too, but not as easily seen.

These thoughts led me to think about how there are marks on our lives that have been imprinted by other people. Sometimes we are like a snowy field and the impact of others on us are obvious: “You are so much like your mother”. I wish!! Other imprints lurk within our souls. Often they have been pushed so deeply into ourselves that we don't even acknowledge them: the hurt of being bullied or teased; the fear of abuse; the shame of never being good enough. But there can also be good qualities that are woven into our being: positivity in the face of the negativity around us; a spirit that stands up to oppression; a godliness that allows mercy and grace to flow.

Therefore, each of us must take care that we don't trample over another's life. We need to think before we speak, lift others up and be a light for those in darkness.

If you don't think you are ready for all of that, let me share with you something I overheard recently. The proud father of a young teenage son mentioned that when the son was asked by a friend what he was doing on Sunday, he replied that he was going to church. “Every Sunday?” was the next question. “Yes”. “What Church?” When the

response was Grace United Methodist, the friend said that he has seen that church. He passes it almost every day in the car.

There are two things to take away from this exchange. First is that a seed has been planted by one young boy in the mind of another! Secondly, the imprint made on the church going boy was not obvious on the surface (not even to his dad!), but it was there! After years of attending church, in person and online, an example set by his parents was imprinted on him. PRAISE THE LORD! May we all SOW wisely so that many will REAP the blessings!

Cindy Price

**H**ello Grace Church!  
March ahead! CREW will be tackling a stand-alone series on coping called "I Have Questions" this March and I can't help but step back and acknowledge that I too have questions.



Teens and adults experience stress from so many areas of life: school, relationships, jobs and culture. We can get lost in this world of stress and feel like we are drowning.

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail,"  
Lamentations 3:22 NIV.

The writer of Lamentations, who a lot of people believe was the prophet Jeremiah, talks about his own situation this way... "The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning" (Lamentations 3:19-23 NLT).

I think that sometimes we will do anything to NOT feel all of our feelings because it hurts. So we avoid them altogether, but Jeremiah demonstrates a

willingness to feel them, however bad they are. The trick is to not stay there. This is important for us, too. In order to fully feel hope, we need to fully feel our other emotions, however painful they might be. Essentially you have to feel to move forward.

We may ask God why? Why the hurt and the pain? Remember His mercies begin afresh each morning and move forward. God Bless!

Nicki Egger

**T**he day to day of the Grace Children's Ministry



hasn't changed much between February and March. We are continuing to read The Jesus Storybook Bible on Mondays and sending lessons via email on Wednesdays for parents to enjoy at home with their kids.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday, March 28 at Hemview Farm. Melinda has graciously opened up her property for us to enjoy again. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the kids, a Bible story, and a craft to take home. A time has yet to be set. Please RSVP to the church office if you would like to attend. Anyone is welcome to come and watch the festivities. We hope to see many of you there.

The snow has been relentless this year, not even relinquishing enough to give a glimpse of spring with an out of place but wholly welcomed sixty-degree day. We start to think of buds and baby animals and balmy weather though each are a distant memory at this point. No matter how cold and dreary this time of year gets, spring is always right around the corner. A time of hope and renewal, all of which come from our Father in Heaven. Psalm 33:20-22 says "We wait in the hope of the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you." While we may be hunting for Easter eggs with mittens and snowsuits, we will wait in that hope.

Libby Yaegle





This past February was quite different for us compared to past years. We were not able to have our annual Family Preschool Valentine Dinner, but still had a class party and exchanged Valentines and treats with our friends. We have three more months of school before summer break and pray we can all stay healthy and finish out the year without any COVID-19 related issues.

Our current afternoon class has registered for Kindergarten and are excited about working on all those skills they will need as they begin public school in the fall. The 3-year-old class is completing their color books and we will be celebrating “rainbow day” with songs, treats and games.

Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? Will the leprechaun visit our classroom and leave us some gold? As we celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday, keep our eyes open for “visitors” and keep track of the weather, we look forward to our crocuses coming up to tell us that SPRING is officially here!

We still have openings for the 2021-2022 schoolyear so if you know of anyone looking for preschool for their child, registration forms are available in the church office or by calling 723-8011. We feel fortunate every day to experience the joys of working with these children!

Check out our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool](https://www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool)

Trish Gentilman

Care with Grace has been up to a lot recently! We celebrated Valentine’s Day with class parties and lots of treats and fun. The school age kids were off from school on Monday February 15<sup>th</sup> and participated in the fun too. They will also be with us on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for no school days. We also began a penny war fundraiser that began in February and ends in March. Care with Grace also welcomed the three-year-old teacher, Harlee Johnson as our new assistant director. We are looking ahead to warmer months and lots more fun!



Irene Garriss

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### March Worship Assistants



Advisors:

*Linda Knapp 726-1199*

*Sheryl Richards 726-3876*

**Will resume soon.**



**During Worship**

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

~

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

**Will resume soon.**

If you wish to continue giving, please mail your envelopes to the church (501 PA Ave E) or use the electronic giving option posted on our webpage [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com). Online giving accepts checking/savings accounts as well as debit/credit cards.



**Our budget the month of January 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>2020</b>      | <b>2019</b>      |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Other Income:</b>          | 41.00            | 1,229.80         |
| <b>Offerings &amp; Tithes</b> | <u>32,116.58</u> | <u>25,216.35</u> |
| <b>Total Income</b>           | <b>32,157.58</b> | <b>26,446.15</b> |

|                           |          |          |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Number of Sundays:</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> |
| Borrowed                  | 0        | 0        |

| <b>Expense:</b>      |                  |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Staff Parish</b>  | 24,532.69        | 27,349.29        |
| <b>Trustees</b>      | 7,530.16         | 8,153.20         |
| <b>Ministry</b>      | <u>3,874.86</u>  | <u>5,137.14</u>  |
| <b>Total Expense</b> | <b>35,937.71</b> | <b>40,639.63</b> |

Attendance: 1,918\* 869

**Connectional Apportionments**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| <b>Obligation-</b>  | 3,334.83 |
| <b>Paid to date</b> | 3,334.83 |
| Ahead (Behind)      | 0        |

Percent of year to date paid 8%

**His income:** Was \$5,711.43 higher in January 2021 compared to January 2020

**Our expenses:** Were \$4,701.92 lower in January 2021 compared to January 2020

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

\*January 2021 attendance is estimated due to online worship services.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair



Covered by Grace gave out 361 items in January! We are currently in need of **gloves and mittens**. Items can be placed in the tote in the hall right outside of Pastor Bill's office.

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **canned vegetables and canned meat** at this time. We are well stocked on everything else at this time. Thank you for your generosity!



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 our 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.



***“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”***

**1 Corinthians 13:4**

Spring is inching up on us, no matter how it may not feel like it. Past experience tells us that more wintry blasts are in our future. We are getting really good at weathering the unknown. Here we are navigating through our year anniversary with the pandemic and actually becoming experts at it.

Out of simple need, we have learned to be better at many things. Some of us have realized we have a gift for being supportive. Some have found we have a skill for demonstrating resourcefulness. Others have discovered that they can be comfortable asking for help, accepting kindness from people they had never known before.

Whichever group we lean toward, what we have collectively found is that maybe we need to do things a little differently. Especially, when the time comes to celebrate the end of these turbulent waves. Perhaps, we will come out of this stronger than how we entered it. It's obvious that friendships hold more weight. Generosity heals the heart in both the giver and the receiver. Maybe most important, kindness is non-negotiable.

Jesus instructed us thoroughly on kindness. He taught us how to reach up to find strength in Him. Then to reach wide with our arms to embrace and fetch the needy by the armloads. And, He taught us how to stoop. How to lift someone, how to carry someone's burden when they are wearily struggling. How to walk alongside when we think it just isn't working for us. In some ways, He taught

us to love our neighbor when it inconveniences us and when we ourselves are running on empty. He said He would do it through us. With His strength, His almighty power and for His glory. So here we are "in a very good place after all"!

Lovingly,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

**Promise Preschool Registration is now open!** A completed registration form and \$20 non-refundable registration fee is required to hold a spot for your child for the 2021-2022 school year. If you or anyone you know needs a preschool for their child, sign up today! Forms can be picked up in the church office or by calling 723-8011 during school hours. Visit our Grace Promise Preschool Facebook page for more information.

Trish Gentilman- Director/Teacher  
[preschool@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:preschool@atlanticbbn.net)

### HOPES Fund

**For: Warren Carr**  
**By: David VanOrsdale,**  
**Pete & Marge Smith**



### Memorial

**For: Warren Carr**  
**By: Ardelle Johnson, Gary Culbertson**



Easter flower orders are now being accepted. There are 3 ways to sign up: order forms on the literature table or in the March newsletter, SignUpGenius link on the website and Facebook, or email Mary or Meghan or call the office Monday-Friday 10am-3pm. Order deadline is **March 8**.



**Items for the April Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office ([mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com)) by Friday, March 19. Thank you!**



- March 1 – Jessica Norris, Robert Jones
- March 2 – Amy Stimmell, Ashley Flagella
- March 3 – Cheryl Gupta, Emily Steves, Pete Smith, Vickie Morrison, Kurt Shafer
- March 4 – Alyssa Albaugh, Shana Grosch, Audrey Wurst, Korrine Sauers
- March 5 – Becky Hampson
- March 6 – Dean Knowlton, Evelyn Phillips, Roman Pearce
- March 7 – Alyssa Farr
- March 8 – June Reigard, Alyssa Steves
- March 9 – Kim Johnson, Dale Allmendinger II, Tyson Morrison
- March 10 – Hannah Nolan, Andrea Sedon
- March 11 – Betty Swanson
- March 12 – Pat Slattery, Gail Burns, Scott Frazier
- March 15 – Joy Wiedmaier, Karen Larsen
- March 17 – Larry Conrad
- March 18 – Quincy Nolan, Brady Grosch, Mike Card, MaKenna Wagner, Amber Buchanan
- March 19 – Alex Moore, Julia Green
- March 22 – Anthony Tatarski, Bob Silzle, Gwen Savych, Abigail Mack
- March 23 – Patricia Amon, Dave Moore
- March 24 – Randy Moore, Mary Gustafson, Brynn Norris
- March 27 – Cindy Price
- March 29 – Art Anderson, Joyce Yeagle
- March 30 – Lindsey Vavala, Elena Brocklehurst, Brenda Beers, Ella Solberg, Wendy Zimmer
- March 31 – Avery Wurst



# March



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                                     | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|  | 1  | 2                                    | 3<br>7:00 a Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>6:00 p <i>SPRC</i><br>6:30 p C.R.E.W. | 4<br>6:00 p Praise Team  | 5  | 6   |
| 7<br>8:30/9:30/11:00 a<br>Worship  | 8<br>6:00 p <i>Finance</i>                 | 9<br>7:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> | 10<br>7:00 a Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>6:30 p C.R.E.W.                      | 11<br>6:00 p Praise Team   | 12   | 13  |
| 14<br>8:30/9:30/11:00 a<br>Worship   | 15<br>12:00 p Caregivers'<br>Support Group | 16<br>6:00 p <i>Childcare</i>        | 17<br>7:00 a Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>6:30 p C.R.E.W.                      | 18<br>6:00 p Praise Team   | 19   | 20  |
| 21<br>8:30/9:30/11:00 a<br>Worship   | 22<br>7:00 p <i>Outreach</i>               | 23<br>6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>   | 24<br>7:00 a Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>6:30 p C.R.E.W.                      | 25<br>6:00 p Praise Team   | 26   | 27  |
| 28<br>8:30/9:30/11:00 a<br>Worship   | 29   | 30                                   | 31<br>7:00 a Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>6:30 p C.R.E.W.                      |  | 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. |




## Easter Flowers

Lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, azaleas, and bulb gardens will be available for Easter (April 4).  
Please complete the form below to order flowers in honor or memory of a loved one.  
Return the form to the office or put in the collection plate.

This year we will be accepting phone orders.  
Call the office (723-9440) Monday-Friday 10am-3pm.

**ORDER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 8**

|                          |   |                                   |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ Lilies (\$9.50)    |  | _____ Tulips (\$8.50)             |
| _____ Hyacinths (\$8.50) |   | _____ Daffodils (\$8.50)          |
| _____ Azaleas (\$30)     |   | _____ Assorted Bulb Garden (\$20) |

Total Order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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