

Grace Notes

September 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:	<i>Rev. William Beatty</i>
Coordinator of Congregational Care:	<i>Cindy Price</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Floyd Moore</i>
Organist/Accompanist:	<i>Debbie Airgood</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Meghan Brooker</i>
Office Manager:	<i>Mary Quiggle-Pickering</i>
Director of Children & Family Ministries:	<i>Lori Beatty</i>
Director of Youth & Family Ministries:	<i>Nicki Egger</i>

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



September Meetings

September 1 - 6:00 p - SPRC
September 8 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
September 14 - 6:00 p - Worship
September 15 - 6:00 p - Finance
September 22 - 6:00 p - Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Wesley Woods Christian Camp.**

Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet or a blue pew envelope for your contribution.

From the Pastor

September

In 1959 the Tempos hit the charts with the song “See You In September” and the Happenings took it to number 3 seven years later. September appears in a lot of songs. Neil Diamond sang about September Morn, Frank Sinatra, Neil Young, Van Morrison all reference September in their songs. Billie Joe Armstrong of Green Day sang, “Wake me up when September ends.” Not long ago Taylor Swift covered the Earth, Wind and Fire’s 1978 chart topping song, “September.”

There’s nothing mystical about September for songwriters. For some it’s just the easy rhyme: remember, September (though November and December sometimes work just as easily). For Sinatra September was a metaphor for entering the autumn years of his life. For Billie Joe Armstrong it was about remembering his father who died of cancer on September 1st when the singer was just 10 years old.

September is kind of a cultural marker, too: the end of summer, school starting – for kids it’s a new grade and maybe a new school – end of year things start ramping up at some businesses, preparations are being made for cold weather - I know it’s 75 degrees and sunny the day I’m typing this, but September sometimes marks that wide shift in weather – super hot on Monday at noon, frost on Friday morning...

For us at Grace Church, September marks the return of a number of ministries: our choirs and handbells start back up. Messy Church, adult Sunday School, kids Sunday School, Bible Studies all resume or start up (we have a few new Bible studies this fall!).

So in a lot of ways around us, September is a month of transition from the busyness of summer to the routines of fall.

We often think of routines as being negative, restrictive, boring even. But in our spiritual lives, routines are important. Summer, for me, sometimes disrupts my regular routines of prayer and scripture reading. Regular, committed prayer, scripture reading, serving, worshipping, growing in Christ – all of this enables us to move and grow in Christ.

Psalms 90:12 says,

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

To number our days is to live intentionally – to pay attention to our choices, our words, our thoughts, our lives. Summer often means unusual experiences: vacations, family gatherings, day trips to do outside stuff. Fall allows us to get back to “ordinary” life. It’s in the ordinary, regular stuff of life that we grow and are transformed as followers of Jesus. The routine. The regular.

Our faith might be boosted by an amazing spiritual experience, but our faith grows steadily and truly in the everyday, regular moments of reading scripture, Bible study, prayer, serving and worship.

So we remember as we come to September (see how easy that rhyme is?) to return to the basics and routines of our relationship with God as we continue to grow in faith.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bill

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Our church calendar seems to start anew each September. We've enjoyed a break from some routines and we're ready to be refreshed with new schedules, new activities, and new music. It's with great anticipation that we look ahead to experience what's being planned for the weeks and months ahead here at Grace.



Along with your Adult Choir, the Grace Notes Kids Choir and our New Beginnings Handbell Choir will be starting soon. Now is a great time for new beginnings as we settle in to our Fall and Winter routines of service and participation. Get involved!

Our annual Grace Christmas Concert will be presented on the second Sunday of December, as always, on December 13 at 4pm. Many of us are already preparing for this community ministry. Mark your calendars now.

Take this opportunity to review our summer and give thanks for the music ministries of our wonderful organist Debbie Airgood, our Choir, Lori and Pastor Bill Beatty, Megan and me, Rebecca Miller, the McClellan family, our Praise Team, Nick Guadagnino, and the trio of Vickie Morrison, Carol Knowlton and Cindy Dziendziel, that provided our special summer music here at Grace. We've been blessed in many ways this summer!

I once again took the opportunities to sing with a few choirs this summer. I enjoyed learning from composers Joseph Martin and Patti Drennan, and clinicians Stephen Roddy and Scot Cameron at the Music in the Mountains choir concert and reading sessions in August. I also enjoyed rehearsing and singing with the Chautauqua Choir during a few of their summer worship services. I even got to sing in a barbershop quartet and chorus at the annual Piano Technicians Guild conference in Arlington, VA., but that's a story for another time.

Make it a priority to worship with us this fall. You might be surprised what God has in store *for* you, *with* you, and even *through* you.

See you in church!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

Chosen Bible Study

Thursdays from 6-8pm beginning September 10 – The Chosen Series and Bible Study will be held in the Library. We plan to watch two episodes per night with Bible Study and discussion after each episode. No cost to participate – see Lori Beatty if you have any questions. We will not meet on Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving), Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) and will continue through May 28, 2027.

Nurture News

Saturday, October 24 @ noon – Soup and Pie Senior Luncheon in Higginbotham Hall. See Judy Templeton for details. Bring your appetite :)

The Nurture Committee and Crew are planning a day (a Saturday sometime after Thanksgiving and prior to Christmas) – for adults to have a day/evening out. We will provide crafts, movies, games and meal/snacks for children so that parents have time for holiday preparations or to just enjoy a night out! Gift wrapping will also be offered. More detailed information will follow soon!

Farmer's Inn

Saturday, September 12 @ 9:00am – We will meet in the church parking lot and caravan to Farmer's Inn in Sigel, PA. All are invited to attend!!! The Children's Ministry will cover the cost of all kids (aged 1 - 18) to enter the zoo. There are a lot of things to enjoy at the Inn, including several putt putt courses, a driving range, a bulk foods store, candy store, bakery, panning for gems, a playground, an ice cream stand, restaurant and zoo. If you would like more information, please visit the website: thefarmersinn.com or look them up on Facebook. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Beatty (412)735-5906 or lori@graceumcwarren.com

Grace Notes Choir

Grace Notes Choir is open to all students in grades 2-12 and we will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00-9:25. All kids in grades 9-12 are also welcome to join the Adult Choir which rehearses on Wednesday evenings. We will primarily be singing at the 9:30 service once a month. Some of the songs we will be working on this year include "You Say", "Awesome God", "Spoken For", "Light Up the Sky" as well as some traditional choral pieces for the Christmas Concert and the Easter season.

Messy Church

WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH???

Messy Church is held from 5-6:30 on the third Wednesday of each month. All ages are welcome! Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian so that they can join in the fun as well!! We meet upstairs on the second floor of Grace United Methodist Church. We share a Bible story, do lots of crafts and activities and share a meal together. Please use the elevator entrance for easy access.

September 16 - Theme: Teach Us to Pray

We hope to see you there!!!

Lori Beatty

Back to School!!
The summer seemed to fly by and time to get back to school!
We have 7 students enrolled this fall.

We are looking forward to setting up some routines, playing, having fun and making new friends!

Hopefully the weather is nice so that we can get outside a little.

See you in October!



Jen Lynds



Grace Promise Preschool registration is still 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



Flock Talk

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.'"

Mark 16:15

Sometimes you have a good idea and without putting a great deal of thought into it, you simply walk it forward. I did that with the hiking club four years ago. I've always hiked by myself and was a regular trooper in the woods. One day I thought, "Maybe my yoga people would want to join me". Lo and behold, within a few months we were hiking twice a week year-round.

That's not the greatest part. The unexpected "next thing" happened. It became an opportunity to talk about God. When you spend that much time in the woods with people from all walks of life, conversations become deep and sometimes personal. Climbing hills and braving cold temperatures brings out a real side to conversations. The side that answers questions and causes some of us to go home and find even **better** answers.

Some of our hikers are from Grace Church, many are from other churches, and we have a few who don't have a church. There are even a few who don't want a church. Christ instructed us to go into all creation, not just our own comfort zones. Go where there are hard questions. Go where there is sometimes a little friendly push back. Go where He sends us, and that is almost always where we didn't expect to go.

The hiking club keeps us strong, healthy and fit. The conversations keep us spiritually ambitious by keeping us on our toes, listening for the sound of a window opening. The window of opportunity that gives the Holy spirit free rein. The words always come and seed is scattered on fertile soil. Fruit will ripen. What a glorious creation we have!

Enthused,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



During Worship

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

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

September 6 – Anna Peterson

September 13 – Melissa Zaffino

September 20 – Anna Peterson

September 27 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **October 2026**
Newsletter need to be delivered
to Mary in the office

mary@graceumcwarren.com by

Friday, September 18.

Thank you.



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

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 Vickie Morrison at 814-726-0170.



Grace Church Finance Report

Grace Church ~



Below you will find our financials for the month of July and Year to Date position. This marks just over halfway through the year and 2026 has been somewhat challenging in terms of church finances. Let us look to God for guidance in our giving. I hope everyone is finding great ways to enjoy the final weeks of summer!

Thank you!

2026 Monthly and YTD Financials

	July '26	YTD
Total Income	\$25,636.19	\$200,396.93
Office Expense	\$468.11	\$5,635.58
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$6,881.77	\$54,086.19
Ministry Personnel	\$22,258.11	\$149,344.92
Church Council	\$0.00	\$360.19
Education Ministry	\$13.50	\$649.87
Nurture Ministry	\$102.08	\$2,012.29
Worship Ministry	\$307.62	\$2,606.24
Outreach Ministry	\$35.31	\$1,219.29
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,649.88	\$18,549.16
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$32,716.38	\$234,463.73
Net Income	(\$7,080.19)	(\$34,066.80)

Shortfall

Account Balance 07/31/2026	(\$57,928.61)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee



Grace Church Choir practice will begin on **Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30pm**
You're all invited!

Grace Notes Children's Choir is starting back up on **Sunday, September 13th**.
Children's choir is open to all kids in grades 2 and up. We practice Sunday mornings from 9-9:25.

Rally Day Celebration Sunday, September 6th, 2026!

CREW invites you to attend a **pancake breakfast** from 7:30am-12:30pm in Higginbotham Hall.

Donations appreciated to help pay for 2027 Current Youth Retreat!

Join us at the 9:30am worship service! Meet your Sunday School teachers, find your new classrooms, and 3rd graders will receive their bibles! (Children's Sunday School classes are available for preschool through grade 12.)



The Agape Class will return to class on **September 13** at 9:30 am in the Agape room in the front foyer. We'll be discussing the book of Ezekiel. The study is Ezekiel: Visions of God's Glory by Douglas Connelly. "Ezekiel was a fascinating man who wrote a wonderful book filled with strange and powerful visions. At first glance, Ezekiel seems a little eccentric, but getting to know him is worth the effort. Ezekiel, perhaps more than any other biblical prophet, wanted to know God—and God revealed himself to this prophet in mysterious and mighty ways. You will catch something of the awesome character of God and his transcendent glory like in no other part of the Bible"

Everyone is encouraged to join this study. If you plan to come, please contact Lois Strycula at 814-728-8675 or lois.strycula@gmail.com. You may also let the church office know. See you on September 13.

Experiencing God Bible Study

How can we become more aware of where God is working and learn to join him in what he is doing? This fall, we'll explore those questions together through

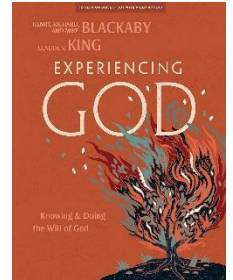
Experiencing God, a Bible study by Henry Blackaby and Claude King.

Join Pastor Bill on **Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** in the church library, beginning September 13. This thirteen-week study will challenge and encourage us to recognize God's activity in our everyday lives, deepen our relationship with God, and respond faithfully when he invites us to be part of his work with daily readings and reflections.

Whether you've been a Christian for many years or are simply looking for a deeper understanding of how God is working in your life, we'd love to have you join us. Come and experience God in a new way!

Workbooks are \$19 and will be available in the office before the study begins or at the first session.

Contact Pastor Bill at pastorbill@graceumcwarren.com or 412-715-1642 for more information.



Come Join Our Messy Church



Invite your friends for a time of fun activities and crafts, celebration of praise and Bible story, and a meal to share together! This is a Worship time for everyone in the family! We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (Sept-May) from 5 – 6:30pm upstairs on the second floor. Our next event is **Wednesday, September 16th**.

The Western PA Conference Northern District is holding a **Special District Conference & Installation Service** on Saturday, September 12, 2026, starting at 2:30 PM, at Saegertown United Methodist Church. In addition to officially welcoming Scott Gallagher as Conference Superintendent, we will be electing district leadership and choosing a new district name.

2026 Fall Lay Servant Ministries School

The Northern District Lay Servant Ministries courses will be held on five consecutive Sundays (Oct 4th – Nov 1st) from 2-4pm at Edinboro UMC. Course offerings include Called to Preach, Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation, Sacraments: Means of Grace, and *While the World Watched*. Course information and registration can be found online at <https://wpa-reg.brapp.com/26FLSMND>. Registration closes Sunday, September 20.

Wesley Woods 2026 Men's Retreat "Made to Influence"

Different Stories. Same Savior. Eternal Impact.

November 6-8 \$150 for the weekend. Includes 2 nights lodging, dinner Friday, 3 meals Saturday, breakfast and worship Sunday. Commuter option is available. Register at www.wesleywoods.com by September 30 to save \$30.



September 1 – Peg Andersen
September 3 – Ronda Morrison, Scott Lynds
September 5 – Helen Woods, Collin Lord, Colby Barr
September 6 – Meghan Brooker
September 7 – Rachael McClellan
September 8 – Emily Shepherd
September 10 – Timothy Tannler, Tanner Phillips, Lydia Card
September 11 – Rory Trisket
September 13 – Cassandra Waseleski, Tristan Johnson, Reagan McClellan
September 14 – Solomiya Savych
September 15 – Lillaine Price
September 16 – Michael Farr
September 17 – Harold Wall, Ross Bryan
September 18 – Lanea Brooker, Susan Ball
September 19 – Marsha Larson, Breanna Wilson
September 20 – Kathy Keller, Patrick Berdine
September 22 – Nancy Trisket, Lori Beatty
September 23 – Nancy Gheres, Carson Farr
September 24 – Mary Hellman
September 25 – Cindy Dziendziel, Susan Speicher, Scott Stewart
September 26 – Joyce Carnahan, Judith Renwick, Savanah Sykes
September 27 – Carmen Pearce
September 28 – Melanie Braughler, Andrea Stapleford, Blake Peterson
September 30 – Ronna Tipton, Gwen Jones, Claire Peterson, Grace Peterson

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11:00 a Staff Meeting 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	2 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	3 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	4 9:30 a Yarn Angels	5 9:00 a Praise Team
6 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	7 Office Closed	8 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:00 p Preschool Meet the Teachers Night 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	9 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	10 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group 6:00 p Chosen Bible Study	11 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	12 9:00 a Praise Team 9:00 a Farmer's Inn Trip
13 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 6:00 p Experiencing God Bible Study	14 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 6:00 p <i>Worship</i>	15 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	16 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	17 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group 6:00 p Chosen Bible Study	18 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	19 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved
20 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 6:00 p Experiencing God Bible Study	21 10:30 a Touch Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	22 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	23 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	24 6:00 p Chosen Bible Study	25 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	26 9:00 a Praise Team
27 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 6:00 p Experiencing God Bible Study	28 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	29 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	30 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.			

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!