

Grace Notes

February 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



February Meetings

February 3 – 6:00 p – SPRC
February 9 – 5:30 p – Nurture
February 9 – 6:00 p – Worship
February 10 – 6:00 p – Property Trustees
February 16 – 5:30 p – Education
February 24 – 6:00 p – Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Kane Regional Ramp Ministry**. "Increasing mobility one ramp at a time for Warren, Forest, northern Clarion, McKean, western Potter, Elk, and Cameron counties." Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

From the Pastor

Defining Moments

A couple years ago our sermon series was called “Defining Moments” where we looked at the beginning of the Gospel of Mark and some of those defining moments of Jesus’ ministry. I’m quite certain everyone can recall perfectly every detail of every sermon (no, seriously, you might not even remember we HAD a series called that... it’s okay).

The point is, we all have defining moments in our lives. Those formative things – sometimes wonderful, sometimes tragic, that shape who we become. I did a quick internet search for significant events in the life of John Wesley in the month of February, any year of his life and some of the highlights are:

- **February 9, 1709: The Rectory Fire**
At age five, John Wesley was rescued from a fire at the Epworth Rectory just moments before the roof collapsed. He was left stranded on an upper floor, but a neighbor stood on another's shoulders to lift him through a window. His mother, Susanna, deemed him "a brand plucked out of the burning" (quoting Zechariah 3:2), believing he was spared for a special purpose.
- **February 14, 1727: Master of Arts Degree**
Wesley graduated with his Master of Arts from Oxford University, furthering his academic foundation.
- **February 6, 1736: Arrival in Georgia**
After sailing from England in October 1735, John and his brother Charles arrived in Savannah, Georgia, to begin their missionary work. During the voyage, he was deeply impressed by the calm faith of Moravian settlers during a violent storm, which highlighted his own lack of peace.
- **February 1, 1738: Return from America**
Wesley landed in Deal, England, having left Georgia in December 1737 after his ministry was deemed a disappointment. Upon arrival, he reflected on his spiritual state, realizing that though he went to America to convert others, he was never truly converted himself.
- **February 22, 1791: Last Sermon**
In his final year, just weeks before his death, Wesley preached his last sermon at City Road Chapel in London.

There are other important February events in his life, of course, and hundreds of small, but meaningful to him, events that he recorded in his journals over the years.

At five years old he is dramatically and miraculously rescued from a fire, at 87 years old he preaches his last sermon shortly before his death. I felt like there was a certain symmetry to his landing in Georgia full of newfound faith and excited for possibilities of ministry and almost exactly two years later landing back in England feeling despondent and even unconverted to the faith, though just a few months later he will have a true awakening of his spirit at a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London where he will write that his “heart was strangely warmed” and that he knew, finally knew, that he truly had been saved.

I’m sure that if I had done this in December or June or whenever, there would be many similarly life-shaping moments that would have been highlighted – I just happened to think of this for February. Each of those moments listed above not only shaped the direction of Wesley’s life and ministry, but also shaped and molded his faith, impacted how he experienced and understood the nature of God, the grace and mercy of God, the interrelatedness of personally holiness and social holiness and so many other expressions of our life of faith.

What are your defining moments? I wasn’t rescued from a burning building and I didn’t travel across the ocean to spend years as a missionary, but February has defining moments for me as well. Over the years, I lost my father to cancer in February, Lori and I got engaged in February, I have received several “you are about to be reappointed” calls in February. I’m sure there have been others but just those three are huge defining moments in my life: my faith actually strengthened after my dad died, though I had a couple years of being extremely angry with, and rude to, God before God got hold of me again; among many other things, Lori has taught me what it means to choose to love someone (all that 1 Corinthians 13 tells us); being a pastor in the UM system

means that I am itinerant – that the bishop may call me to move at any time – which has also deepened my faith and trust in God because, let's face it, the unknown is scary. But God is there.

What are your defining moments? How has God used circumstances to shape and mold your life and, even more importantly, your faith? It's not just a February question, but it is a question for THIS February.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Bless You!

Our choir sometimes concludes the worship service with a choral benediction that was given by God roughly 1,400 years before Christ.

In the Bible, Numbers 6:21 – 27 explains how it happened:

“The Lord said to Moses, Tell Aaron and his sons, “This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

That scripture has been set to music in many languages ever since then. But the version we sing (in English, of course) was written by Peter C. Lutkin. He was born in Wisconsin in 1858 and died in Chicago in 1931. Peter was an exceptional organist, helped begin the American Guild of Organists and founded the School of Music at Northwestern Illinois. His most famous choir anthem is “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” subtitled “Farewell Anthem with Sevenfold Amen”. His masterful arrangement has been enjoyed in ministry around the world for the past 125 years and is just as relevant today.

During this cold and flu, and imminent allergy season, may GOD richly bless you! Whether you sneeze or not.

Thank you for your support of the worship ministries here at Grace!

See you in church!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

January went by fast. We have started to work on Kindergarten prep to get the 4 year olds ready for next year! We learned a lot about arctic animals and were looking forward to February. We will have a fun day on February 12 to celebrate our friends on Valentine's Day. We will study dental/tooth health and have some fun planned for Groundhog's Day.

Looking forward to Spring!



Jen & Soojye

I am very excited to help out with the Children's Ministry of Grace Church! I plan to continue "Messy Church" once a month on the following dates:

Feb. 18
March 18
April 15
May 20



The meeting time and place will also remain the same, 5:00 - 6:30 upstairs on the second floor in the Children's Ministry area (you'll hear us - we will be loud :). Messy Church is for families - a time for children and parents/grandparents to participate in games, crafts, worship, Bible story and dinner.

Anyone interested in helping out with Messy Church or any of the special activities throughout the year, please let me know!! My cell phone number is 412-735-5906 and my email is lori@graceumcwarren.com.

I look forward to working with these awesome kids and adults to join together in service to our Lord.

Blessings,
Lori Beatty



Flock Talk

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the high country and go after it until he finds it?"
Luke 15:4

There is a ministry in Florida dedicated to disaster relief, restoration and helping the homeless. They have a memorable name: "Operation Lost Sheep". They search for the lost, the lonely and forgotten and bring relief both physically and spiritually.

Our ministries at Grace Church are very good at this. We go to great lengths to feed, clothe and minister to those in need. We have a good grasp on the "lost sheep" theory by searching for "the one" while the rest stay in a safe environment.

What if we got even better at it this year? What if we had some type of communication that could help notify us if there's a lost sheep? Not another committee, but another "commitment" to scanning the horizon more thoroughly.

We often hear someone say they haven't seen an individual for a while. That should cause us to sit a little taller, look a little farther and re-evaluate what we do when someone nibbles themselves lost, like a sheep. I do believe we would find lost coins and a prodigal son here and there.

All these types of lostness require a slightly different discipling approach. One may benefit from exhortation, the walking alongside and encouraging. Another may need a mild intervention. All will need love and most always giving someone the benefit of the doubt and no questions asked. Like the father in the parable who welcomed his son home with open arms.

I'm going to be looking for lost sheep. I grew up on a sheep farm and regularly bridled my horse to find "the one". It's something that should come naturally to us from the desires of our heart. God is planting this seed in our Disciple class this year and we're on a mission. Saddle up with us if you wish!

Sincerely,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Grace Church Finance Report



2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	December '25	YTD
Total Income	\$30,274.54	\$374,109.67
Office Expense	\$516.12	\$6,167.01
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$11,243.45	\$99,795.51
Ministry Personnel	\$19,335.18	\$250,274.29
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$582.19	\$4,165.01
Nurture Ministry	\$199.74	\$1,234.65
Worship Ministry	\$342.42	\$4,640.54
Outreach Ministry	\$150.67	\$1,699.72
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$19,695.96
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$34,011.10	\$388,011.68
Net Income	(\$3,736.56)	(\$13,902.01)

Shortfall

Account Balance 12/31/2025	\$23,861.81
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

General Memorial

For: Pat Esterbrook

By: Neil & Darnella Johnson, Dennis & Nancy Lane, Craig & Kris Whitaker,
Linda & Jeff Young, Julie Myler, Lois Strycula, John & Sylvia Slaney



For: Ann Rossman

By: Richard & Patrice Lyle

For: Hazel Finley

By: Donald McCurdy

For: Marlene Avery

By: Avis L. Burns Nass

Music Memorial

For: Ann Rossman

By: Linda & Bucky Knapp

General Endowment

For: Bill & Judy Bunce

By: Bill & Trish Gentilman

Promise Preschool

For: Zeke & Nancy Stanton,
Carol Ostergard

By: Bill & Trish Gentilman



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **powdered milk, box pudding/Jello, pancake mix, and baked beans** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



During Worship

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

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

February 1 – Melissa Zaffino

February 8 – Anna Peterson

February 15 – Melissa Zaffino

February 22 – Anna Peterson



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

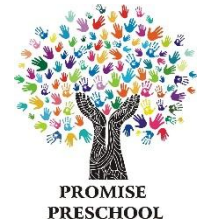


Come Join Our Messy Church

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

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

Questions? Email Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com



Special thanks to the people who furnished the beautiful and delicious cookies for the reception following our Christmas choir concert on December 14th. And to the workers plus the entire church staff as well, "thank you" for setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the reception. All donations of time and/or cookies were greatly appreciated.
The Committee

Big thank you to all those who helped with Hanging of the Greens on November 23rd and Unhanging of the Greens on January 4th. Your willingness to share your time and talents is sincerely appreciated.
Hanging of the Greens Committee



Covered by Grace is a ministry that allows anyone needing winter items to simply take them from a clothesline on the front porch of the church. Donations can be placed in the bin across from Pastor Bill's office or visit our website for the link to our Amazon wishlist. The lines are up and stay up through this month so please keep those items coming.

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



The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, February 21** at 6:00 in Higginbotham Hall. Join us for an evening of food, fun and prizes. Invite family, friends and neighbors to form a team. The theme will be American history. If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Vavala cell# 814-730-1064 or vavala5@atlanticbb.net
We hope to see you there!





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

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

Extreme Yoga

Saturday, February 7th 10 – 11:30am in Higginbotham Hall

For those who like their yoga on the strong side, let's have some fun! This will be an energetic class with surprising challenges along the way. The friendships at these classes are the best part as this health focused ministry keeps a robust pace! The class fee is \$8.00.

Contact Sue Toombs at fourwindsranch@verizon.net.



February 1 – Gary Culbertson

February 2 – Thomas Jones, Tim Price, Riley McCollough

February 3 – Rick Reiff, Tammy Kibbey, Sam Birgel

February 4 – Linda Shattuck

February 7 – Larry Knowlton, Linda Knapp, Jesse Lucks

February 9 – Jaclyn Rosenberg, Maria Carlson

February 10 – Otto Gnage

February 11 – Phyllis Marti, Dave Carter

February 12 – Tristan Danielson

February 14 – Kyle Grey

February 15 – Kurt Smith, Lilith Brown

February 16 – Lisa Shall

February 17 – Brett Ball

February 18 – Stacy Vavala, Linnea Wertz, Josie Bailey

February 20 – Jeff Benjamin, Lisa McDermott

February 23 – Karen Lucks, Marcy Jurkowski, Cheyenna Thompson

February 25 – Dave Johnson, Melissa Zaffino, Eric Moore, Braydn Wilson, Harper Vivian

February 26 – Randy Johnson, Barbara Kulinski

February 27 – Donna Risinger

February 28 – Terry Moldovan, Olivia English

February 29 – David Morrison

♥ FEBRUARY ♥

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

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!