

Grace Notes

April 2024

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
Visit Our Facebook Group - www.facebook.com/groups/embracegrace

To know Christ and to make Him known!

Senior Pastor: *Rev. William Beatty*
Director of
 Congregational Care: *Cindy Price*
Choir Director: *Floyd Moore*
Organist/Accompanist: *Debbie Airgood*
Office Administrator: *Meghan Brooker*
Office Manager: *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*
Director of Children &
 Family Ministries: *Amanda Slattery*
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



April Meetings

April 2 - 6:00 p - SPRC
April 9 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
April 23 - 6:00 p - Church Council



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

From the Pastor

Easter People

On the last day of March we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is crucial to our faith, a clear and powerful demonstration of God as creator, giver of life, with authority and dominion over every aspect of creation, including that (to us) inescapable reality of death. The resurrection is God's declaration that nothing is impossible for God, the resurrection is the validation of Jesus' mission and ministry, the resurrection is proof for the questioner and a clarion call for the believer.

Paul dedicates the entirety of chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians to speaking about Jesus' resurrection. He is, in part, seeking to counter the notion (that had already arisen some 30 or so years after Jesus' death and resurrection) that Jesus didn't *really, physically* rise from the dead, but that it was a metaphor for going to heaven or a spiritual resurrection somehow. Paul asserts right from the beginning that the resurrection is foundational to our faith in Christ:

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

"...passed on to you as of first importance..." The resurrection matters because it changes everything. We are not just physical creatures who live this brief life and that's the end: we are created for eternal community with God and one another. We are integrated beings: body, mind and spirit, all created by God, all in God's hands from before we began to long after we end.

I read a devotional this week about being "Easter People" – that is, being Christ followers on this side of his resurrection:

What does it mean to be Easter people, to live on this side of the resurrection? One thing, for sure. We are now God's hands and feet in the world – we are the ones entrusted with carrying out God's mission.

That sounds both exciting and terrifying doesn't it? After all, Jesus left us big shoes to fill and the needs around us are overwhelming.

But the good news is that throughout history, God has empowered and used imperfect people just like us to bring the good news to others.

<https://d365.org/devotions/easter-people-april-7-2015/>

The resurrection validated Jesus' mission and ministry and thus drives us forward in ministry. In the way God works and moves, we are created and commissioned to carry on Jesus' mission and ministry, confirmed by Jesus' resurrection which is a promise to us of God's presence and power. Paul says, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [died]." (1 Cor 15:20)

God empowers us to continue in the mission and ministry of Jesus so that the world might know that God loves them and Jesus died for them and that death is not the end, but God promises us life eternal. That is good news.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Here's a great song to carry in your heart and sing as a testimony and a challenge. It has taken me a long time to fully digest and appreciate this hymn written back in 1913 by a traveling evangelist ordained in the Methodist Episcopal church.

George Bennard was born in Youngstown Ohio shortly after the Civil War. His hymn took him a long time to write as he studied John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." You're allowed to take some time and contemplate the depth of Christ's love for us, too.



The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

(Chorus)

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

(Chorus)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.

(Chorus)

Thank you again for keeping your Grace Choir in your prayers. We enjoy being used as a part of one of many ministries here at Grace. Remember to cling to the old rugged cross.

See you in church!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

A Note from the Organist

There are several good reasons why I should not be able to play the pipe organ:

I have serious vision problems. For one, I was born severely cross-eyed and had 2 surgeries and glasses before I started kindergarten. When I was 7, my parents told the eye specialist that I wanted to play the piano. Right in front of me, he said, "Let her try if she wants to. She won't be able to do it."

I have little peripheral vision. This makes Grace's organ set-up particularly challenging for me, as I have to turn my head to make stop changes. I also have very little depth perception. The 3-D shows at Disney World are lost on me. I once was playing a piece in church when I noticed a note that I did not remember from when I practiced. Just as I was about to play it, it flew away. It was a small fly that had landed on the music. I do not see fine detail. Depending on the clarity of the music, sometimes I cannot tell sharps from naturals. Thankfully, I have a good memory.

My most interesting vision problem is that I am totally non-binocular. I only look out of one eye at a time. I could easily lose my place on the music if I switched eyes. Similarly, I very rarely look away from my music to look at hands or feet while playing.

Interestingly, my best vision distance is arm's length, exactly where the music sits on the rack.

Besides vision problems, I am very uncoordinated. My brother was a stand-out athlete for Kane. He lettered in football, basketball and track. In the summer, he played Legion baseball. He and my Dad had hitting or batting practice every night during nice weather. I was called on to field balls in the outfield. In years of doing this, I never once caught or fielded a ball cleanly. I got tons of exercise chasing the balls down. My nickname was Rigor. My Dad said rigor mortis was going to set in if I didn't move faster.

My children never got yelled at for spilling their milk or juice. I was more apt to spill than they were. I regularly end up with silverware on the floor at restaurants. I trip over cracks in the sidewalk all the time.

Then, I have a herniated disc in my back. Sitting on an organ bench could be painful. Pedaling could be painful. But it's not. I'm more comfortable on an organ bench than in an easy chair.

You may have heard the quote, "God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called." I am living proof of this. It is only by a miracle of God that I can sit on an organ bench, read the music and coordinate 2 hands and 2 feet all at the same time. God has given me a passion for the pipe organ spanning over 50 years. And for this miracle and this passion, I am eternally grateful.

Debbie Airgood

A Caring Congregation

As many of you are aware, I had a complete knee replacement at the beginning of March. Oh my! What an experience this is! Consequently, I have gone from caregiver to being cared for.

While it is to be expected that my husband and mother would be right at the forefront of that (and they are!), I have also been blessed by all the prayers, texts, cards, flowers, phone calls and food that have come my way from Grace – a loving congregation. I am not exaggerating when I say that each thoughtful act of kindness has warmed my heart!



So, it is from my very grateful heart that I thank all of you, the members of my Grace Church family, for being who you are! People who are extravagantly generous, act with extraordinary grace and keep Christ as the center of all that you do.

God has blessed you so that you can be a blessing to others.

Warmly, Cindy Price

It's hard to believe our school year is quickly coming to an end. We are enjoying the spring weather and hope to go for some walks, play outside in the sunshine and breathe in that fresh air.

In April we will celebrate Earth Day, review our shapes, colors, numbers, and letters, and take a trip to Warren Library. Our afternoon class will continue to work hard at learning skills they will need for kindergarten.



We still have plenty of openings in both classes for the 2024-2025 preschool year. Please contact the church office if you know of someone in need of a registration form or if you have suggestions as to where we can display them in the community! THANK YOU!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds
promisepreschool@myyahoo.com



During Worship
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)
April 7 – Anna Peterson
April 14 – Melissa Zaffino
April 21 – Anna Peterson
April 28 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **May 2024** Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office
mary@graceumcwarren.com
by **Monday, April 15.**
Thank you.



Welcome new members:
Derek Knapp
Richard Gray



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **Ramen noodles, spaghetti, canned soup, Knorr sides, pancake mix, canned vegetables, applesauce** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Music Memorial
For: Beverly Petersen
By: Robert & Gloria Merenick

Food Pantry
For: Pete Smith
By: Lana Creal

HOPES Fund
For: Pete Smith
By: Robert & Gloria Merenick,
Laurie & Tim Faller, Kyle & Paula Smith

General Memorial
For: Donald & Margaret McCurdy
By: Donald McCurdy

Covered by Grace gave out **289 items** in February and **2214 items** this winter season! We continue to take donations all year long. Place donations in the gray tote across from Pastor Bill's office. Thank you for supporting this outreach ministry.



To All Prospective Acolytes,

We are pleased to announce the next session of acolyte training classes will be held soon. We will try to accommodate the schedules of those interested. Classes will be held for 3-4 weeks, on an after-school day or possibly on a Wed. evening. We will begin with a snack and a short video, "Chuck Knows Church." Instruction will include learning about church symbols, the acolyte's code of conduct, church history, and about the sacraments. We will practice lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, which are symbols of Christ's light, and the acolytes will be fitted with robes. At the last meeting a pizza party will be enjoyed, and all "veteran" acolytes will be invited to attend to get acquainted with the newest members. Installation of the new class will be after the sessions are completed. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte and are in grade 3 or above (or if you know someone who would like to be an acolyte in those grades), please register by calling the church office at 723-9440 or Linda Knapp at 726-1199. Typically, the new acolytes will serve with a "veteran" acolyte the first few times they serve. We try always to have 2 persons acolyting each Sunday. Most acolytes serve according to the dates they chose, usually one Sunday a month at the 11:00 a.m. service. We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity to serve during our worship at Grace Church.



Flock Talk

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Proverbs 16:3

Change is in the air! Spring is beginning to take a beautiful foothold as we breathe in the fresh air. Birds are filling the airwaves with their choruses and the forests are waking up. Each of us in our own way begins to feel the vibrancy of new adventures ahead!

Take a look at what's happening at Grace Church. Our children's events have escalated into a new and exciting realm. The confirmation classes have fortified the faith of our awesome youth. Adult ministries, including Bible studies, Disciple classes and Sunday School, are in full tilt. The music ministry has endless opportunities to be involved.

On a physical plane, the Fitness Ministry abounds with yoga and strength training classes. Nutritional counseling is a continual loop of how to pursue better health. Hiking galore begins its second year. Pickleball has a steady flow of attendees and who knows what else will be on the horizon.

Whether you're new to Grace Church or a longstanding member, there's something and somewhere to leave a footprint. If anything appeals to you, it's easy to tag one of us and say, "Where do I begin?" I am always happy to help assimilate if you are looking for new pursuit and have questions. Try a little bit of everything and see where God has plans for you! You don't have to feel equipped to serve on any of our ministries or missions, that's where our faith steps in. You are welcome to be as much of a part of this beautiful church family as you wish!

Enthused,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

SPRING SENIOR LUNCHEON Come to Higginbotham Hall on Saturday, April 27th at noon for a SOUP, SALAD, and PIE lunch. We'll enjoy a great meal, fellowship, and some fun along the way. Bring a friend, as anyone 55 and older is welcome. It will be a time to celebrate spring and the goodness of our wonderful God!! RSVP to the church office 814-723-9440 by **April 23rd**. We hope to see you all there!!



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 2024-2025 school year. Be sure to reserve a place for your child today! Additional forms can be found on the Grace Church website, picked up in the church office or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours and we can mail one to you. Questions? Send us an e-mail or find us on Facebook!

Mrs. Gentilman & Mrs. Lynds Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com

Grace Church Finance Report



2024 Monthly and YTD Financials

	February '24	YTD
Total Income	\$26,814.84	\$65,461.41
Office Expense	\$2,574.21	\$2,911.47
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$4,899.01	\$14,327.02
Ministry Personnel	\$23,301.90	\$44,274.91
Church Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
Education Ministry	\$12.29	\$272.25
Nurture Ministry	\$101.32	\$101.32
Worship Ministry	\$82.18	\$345.26
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connectional Apportionment	\$842.81	\$1685.62
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$31,813.72	\$63,917.85
Net Income	(\$4,998.88)	\$1,543.56

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 2/29/2024	(\$106,687.17)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Attention women!

“Full of Grace” Women’s Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month** now at **10:30am or 6:30pm** in the **Grace Church library** (take the elevator to floor 2). If you have any questions, contact Karen Conarro at 814-688-6445.



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.

Healing Yoga Saturday, April 6th 10:00-11:30am in Higginbotham Hall.

This class will address areas relating to balance in the body. Each individual experiences imbalance differently. The concerns may be about physical balance and bringing back muscle memory of how to feel centered. Or, it may mean balancing the pressures of life with times of peaceful contentment. There may even be a struggle with addictive natures. An addiction of any sort is the body trying to maintain an imbalance.

Let's see what happens when we hand this to God in a very productive environment. The class will be easy and the after-effects will be real. All you need is a mat and \$8.00. Walk-ins are always welcome. Contact Sue Toombs for more information at fourwindsranch@verizon.net.

Mindful Eating Saturday, April 6th 11:45 -12:45

Following Healing Yoga there will be an hour of questions and answers for anyone who would like to stay after class. Please feel free to attend this without coming to yoga. This will be an informal talk that addresses some of the root causes of the difficulty of weight management. We will discuss how our metabolisms are affected by whole foods versus processed foods and how our activity level is the catalyst for calorie burning. There is no charge for this class. Bring something comfortable to sit on since most of us will still be on our mats! Contact Sue Toombs for more information at fourwindsranch@verizon.net



Outreach will hold a Rummage Sale at Grace on **May 4th** from 8am-1pm. Please drop off your household items on Friday May 3rd from 4-6pm in the front of the Church. Children clothes and shoes are welcome, but please no adult clothes. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Keeperts @ 814-688-8534.

Drum Circle

Kid's Sunday School is having a drum circle on **Sunday, April 14th** at 9:45am (during Sunday School). All kids are welcome to join in!





- April 1 – Anita Zimmer, Gillian Rapp, Robert Morrison, Chase Card
- April 2 – Adam Flagella
- April 3 – Alice Pedersen, Laurie Dickson
- April 4– Christa Yaegle
- April 5 – Freida Ecelberger, Jesse Lucks, Katelyn Jurkowski
- April 6 – Rob Pearce, Dave MacPherson, Zach Foster, Jack Lynds
- April 7 – Carolyn Fry
- April 8 – Zeke Stanton, Jackie Johnson
- April 9 – Melissa Culbertson
- April 11 – Hannah Fry, Michele Coffman
- April 13 – David VanOrsdale, Nancy Eaker, Chase Alex
- April 14 – Shallin Shelby
- April 15 – Richard Pedersen, Jaime Housler
- April 16 – Peter Jansens, Hunter Trisket
- April 17 – Kyle Jones
- April 18 – Bob Sedon, Chloe Meddaugh, Callie Hampson, Zachry Tucher
- April 19 – James Miller
- April 20 – Sandy Shene, Tina Moore
- April 21 – Jean Buerkle
- April 22 – Tom Lord
- April 23 – Cheryle Stellato, Morgan Danielson
- April 24 – Jody Benjamin
- April 26 – Kristen Lucks
- April 27 – Vicki Garrett
- April 28 – Jennifer Lynds, Degan Peterson
- April 29 – James Ostergard, Andrew Knowlton
- April 30 – Don Smith, Gordon Mathis, Michael Barrett, Jenafer McKown, Vance Anzalone





april



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	2 9:00 a Pickleball 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering 8:00 p Disciple Fast Track-Zoom	3 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	4 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple Fast Track 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	5 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	6 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Healing Yoga
7 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	8 5:15 p Christian Yoga	9 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering 8:00 p Disciple Fast Track-Zoom	10 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	11 10:00 a Disciple Fast Track 6:00 p Disciple IV	12 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	13 9:00 a Praise Team
14 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	15 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	16 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering 8:00 p Disciple Fast Track-Zoom	17 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	18 10:00 a Disciple Fast Track 6:00 p Disciple IV	19 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	20 9:00 a Praise Team
21 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	22 10:30 a Full of Grace 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace	23 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering 8:00 p Disciple Fast Track-Zoom	24 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	25 10:00 a Disciple Fast Track 6:00 p Disciple IV	26 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 3:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved	27 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 Spring Senior Luncheon
28 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	29 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	30 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering 8:00 p Disciple Fast Track-Zoom			PROMISE PRESCHOOL 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, Lori Beatty, Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Tristan Johnson,
Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Patrick Ward, Chuck Keepports,
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Wyatt Stearns, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!