

Grace Notes

September 2025

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:
Coordinator of
Congregational Care:
Choir Director:
Organist/Accompanist:
Office Administrator:
Office Manager:
Director of Children &
Family Ministries:
Director of Youth &
Family Ministries:

Rev. William Beatty
Cindy Price
Floyd Moore
Debbie Airgood
Meghan Brooker
Mary Quiggle-Pickering
Amanda Slattery
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



September Meetings

September 2 - 6:00 p - SPRC
September 8 - 7:00 p - Leadership & Nominations
September 9 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
September 15 - 7:00 p - Leadership & Nominations
September 16 - 6:00 p - Finance
September 22 - 7:00 p - Leadership & Nominations
September 23 - 6:00 p - Church Council



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

From the Pastor

Help My Unbelief

There's a powerful story in the Gospels. Jesus has just revealed to some of the disciples a glimpse of his divine nature when they took a retreat on a mountain. We call the moment the "transfiguration" because Jesus' nature changed, or was transfigured, before the very eyes of James, John and Peter.

When they came back down from that (literal and figurative) spiritual mountaintop experience, the other disciples have been engaged in some spiritual warfare... and were at a stalemate at best.

Mark 9:17-25

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

This is one of the rare passages where what Mark records is longer and more detailed than either Matthew or Luke. Only Mark tells us that Jesus has this interaction with the father where the father hedges his bets: "if you can do anything..." It's the next interaction that always echoes in my heart when I think about this moment in Jesus' ministry:

"Everything is possible for the one who believes." Greek word for believes is *pisteuo* and it does mean belief, but the fullness of the meaning is belief that trusts in God. In other words, "Everything is possible for the one who trusts God."

"I do believe [I do trust God]; help me overcome my unbelief [enable me to trust God more fully]!"

That is an important distinction for all of us, I think. Most of us believe in God. Many of us believe that God can do anything. But we rarely TRUST God to do the anything that is possible. There's a disconnect between belief and faith.

I read an article the other day that said, "Don't let belief squash faith." And I was taken aback. But it makes sense:

We often believe God FOR something. We believe in God. We might even believe that God CAN do anything. But do we have faith when that something we believed for doesn't happen? Do we trust God when circumstances are piling up against us? Do we believe God can do anything when we can't do anything?

I believe. God, help me more than believe: help me to trust you fully and completely.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Happy New Year!

Ever since I was half my height, I've considered September to be the beginning of a new year. Almost everyone has finished up their summer vacations and start a new season, often with school and work. "Back to school" shopping is publicized heavily and ingrained in many of us. It's with great anticipation that we look ahead to experience what's being planned for the weeks and months ahead. (You *know* that our music ministries are shifting in to high gear as well. You can start your new year with us now!)



We give thanks for the music ministries of our choir, Amanda Hetrick, the wonderful Don Smith, the McClellans, and Nick Guadagnino, that rounded out 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, Joel Raney, and David Angerman 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.

Our annual Grace Christmas Concert will be presented on the second Sunday of December, as always, on December 14 at 4pm. Many of us are preparing already for this community ministry.

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!

See you in church!
Floyd Moore
amfm123@verizon.net

If we want our children to move mountains, we first have to let them get out of their chairs."

-Nicollette Sowder

We are finishing up the additions to the Tree and Sky Classroom (the fenced in area on Prospect Street) We are so excited to be adding outdoor time for the preschoolers. We have had a picnic table donated by a Grace member and we were able to use a small amount of money from the SOC offering to purchase a mud kitchen for outdoor play. We hope to be able to spend at least a little time outside each school day (weather permitting of course). Our fingers are crossed for beautiful fall weather.



We have cleaned and organized the classroom to be ready for all the littles to learn as much as they can and have as much fun as they can. We have had a few generous donations of school supplies as well. We are well stocked with crayons, watercolor paint, playdoh and paper!

We are looking for a sensory table and a small casual child size chair. If you know of anyone that has either item, please send them our way!

We appreciate Grace's generosity to help us in our goal of outreach to serve the littlest and most precious of our community and their families.

Jen & Soojye



Flock Talk

"And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common."

Acts 2:44

Everything all at once! That sums up summer. Our calendars are sometimes too full, our expectations occasionally too high and our energy levels do their best to keep up. Our church successfully escalates its "togetherness" with events like the Fourth of July celebration, a church picnic and a pool party. The children and youth also have wonderful opportunities to explore and experience new adventures.

It's unique to have such a diverse group of people link arms and do life together. We're multi-generational and we're from all different types of backgrounds. We're kind of like the believers in the book of Acts. There's a sense of generosity and selflessness that equates to loving one another.

These great events can't happen without our participation with spreading the news. We get the word out beyond the walls of our church and invite others and generally let the community know that we care. It puts us on the map!

If you've given out a colorful event card, you've opened up the door for someone to join in. Let's appreciate the source of that card. Meghan spends time, energy and creativity putting these together. She creates them to be eye-catching and to also have a very professional look. Keep a handful within your reach so when the opportunity comes along, you can say, "Join us, we would love to share your company!"

Cheerfully,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



During Worship

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

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

September 7 – Melissa Zaffino

September 14 – Anna Peterson

September 21 – Melissa Zaffino

September 28 – Anna Peterson



Items for the **October 2025**
Newsletter need to be
delivered to Mary in the office
mary@graceumcwarren.com
by **Monday, September 15.**
Thank you.

On August 10th during the 9:30am service
Henry Dean Johnson was baptized.
He is the son of Harrison & Beatriz Johnson,
grandson of Melinda Johnson.



Memorial

For: Hazel Finley
By: Donald McCurdy

For: Bill Bunce
**By: Tony Ross, Tom & Judy Cochran, Joy Wiedmaier,
Jack & Judith Bruce, David & Lea Ann Adams**

Food Pantry

For: George Wilson
**By: Dorothy Bence,
Dennis & Elizabeth Davis**

For: Scott Hetrick, Judy Ann Bogel, Ted Royer
By: Dorothy Bence

Grace Church Finance Report



2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	July '25	YTD
Total Income	\$29,583.64	\$215,982.45
Office Expense	\$422.02	\$4,471.91
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$11,167.05	\$62,382.21
Ministry Personnel	\$22,145.34	\$148,935.93
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,735.58
Nurture Ministry	\$119.32	\$414.44
Worship Ministry	\$124.92	\$2,027.59
Outreach Ministry	\$290.84	\$1,002.86
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$11,489.31
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$35,910.82	\$232,798.82
Net Income	(\$6,327.18)	(\$16,816.37)

Shortfall

Account Balance 7/31/2025	\$104,776.17
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **canned soup, mashed potatoes,**
and **jelly** 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 or text Karen Conarro 814-688-6445.

“Full of Grace” Women’s Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:30am and 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.
The next meeting will be held on **September 22nd**.



Attention Acolyte Families

It’s time to begin scheduling fall dates for acolytes to serve at the 11:00 am worship. Please sign up on the sheet on the robe closet, or you may call the church office (814- 723-9440) or Linda Knapp (814-726-1199) to schedule.
Thank you!

Rally Day Celebration Sunday, September 7th, 2025!



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

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 begin their fall study on **September 14th** in the Winger Parlor off the front foyer of the church. Class begins at 9:30 am each Sunday with coffee and tea available. *Daniel: a 12 Week Study* by Todd Wilson is the first topic for the group.

Quoting from the information on the study guide; “The book of Daniel has all the makings of a great story: memorable characters, cliff-Hanging moments, and incredible visions. Yet we miss the point if we pay more attention to Daniel’s story than to Daniel’s God.

In this helpful study, readers will see how this fascinating biblical book ultimately points to the sovereign Lord of history, who rules over all earthly kingdoms and whose plans cannot be thwarted.”

Study guides can be found in the classroom on the TV table. Stop in and pick one up before the first class. All are invited and welcome to join the group.

Come Join Our Messy Church

Messy Church? It’s a time for family activities/crafts, worship, and dinner together.

New day and time! Monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

Our next event is **Wednesday, September 17th**.



Giving to the Elevator Upgrade Fund

This month I would like to highlight one of our special purpose funds, the **Elevator Upgrade Fund**. This fund was established in 2023 for the Property Trustees to save and invest for the future upgrade and modernization of our elevator.

Our elevator was installed in 1997 as part of the major renovations to our building. In recent years we have been notified that the electronic control and interface components are obsolete and can no longer be repaired or replaced in the event of failure. The elevator company has designed replacements for the obsolete components, but due to the extent of the upgrade it is also necessary that other safety and efficiency modernizations be done at the same time. If we do not upgrade these particular portions of the elevator through a planned modernization, we will likely face an extended downtime (measured in months) and significantly higher costs for an expedited upgrade. Four years ago, the estimated modernization cost was \$52k. In May of 2025 we requested an updated estimate which came in at \$81k. Several years ago, our Property Trustees began setting aside a portion of the quarterly distributions from our General Endowment Fund (invested through the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania "UMF") to save for this upgrade. In 2023 the funds earmarked for this purpose were deposited into the new Elevator Upgrade Fund at the UMF. At the present time the Elevator Upgrade Fund balance has reached approximately 50% of the May estimated cost for this project. Unfortunately, while we are closing the gap on a percentage basis, inflation continues to push the cost higher.

Earlier this year the Property Trustees and the Endowment Committee had lengthy discussions about funding for the elevator upgrade and the other top priority project, rehabilitating the steel roof over the center portion of the church. After presenting the situations to Church Council, all agreed that the elevator upgrade should be pursued first, since a failure would put the elevator out of service for an extended time. The roof rehabilitation, while also important, can be reasonably delayed for a few years without undue risk by doing some remedial repairs now. Once the elevator upgrade is completed, it is believed that we could fund the roof rehabilitation within the next few years through a combination of General Endowment income and a modest level of giving toward that project.

You can contribute to the **Elevator Upgrade Fund** to help *raise* the funds to get this project *off the ground floor*! Gifts to the fund will be invested at the UMF until such time as the project is fully funded. You can send your tax-deductible gift to the fund, payable to Grace United Methodist Church with the designation " **Elevator Upgrade Fund**".

One final thought. Your contribution to the Elevator Upgrade Fund is vital to getting this project off the ground. However, please prayerfully consider your tithes and offerings to the general church budget as the first priority. They are absolutely essential to fund the many ministries, the staff and support of Grace Church.

If you have any questions about this or any other Endowment or Special Purpose fund invested for Grace Church at the United Methodist Foundation, please call the church office or contact me via e-mail or phone: gentilman@verizon.net or 814-726-9035.

Bill Gentilman, Chairperson - Endowment Committee



September 1 – Peg Andersen
September 3 – Ronda Morrison, Scott Lynds
September 5 – Helen Woods, Ron Amon, 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 – Carol Hammer, Rory Trisket
September 13 – Cassandra Waseleski, Tristan Johnson, Reagan McClellan
September 14 – Pat Esterbrook, 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 – James Marshall, Joyce Carnahan, Judith Renwick, Savannah 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 Office Closed	2 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:00 p Preschool Open House 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	3 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	4 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	5 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	6 9:00 a Praise Team
7 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	8 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p <i>Leadership & Nominations</i>	9 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	10 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.	11 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	12 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	13 9:00 a Praise Team
14 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 @ The Crossing	15 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p <i>Leadership & Nominations</i>	16 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	17 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	18 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	19 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	20 9:00 a Praise Team
21 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 @ The Crossing	22 10:30 a Full of Grace 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace 7:00 p <i>Leadership & Nominations</i>	23 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	24 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.	25 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	26 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	27 9:00 a Praise Team
28 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 @ The Crossing	29 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	30 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball				

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
Warren, PA 16365

Published monthly;
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- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Cyril Jedor, Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Tristan Johnson,
Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Patrick Ward, Chuck Keeperts,
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Wyatt Stearns, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

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