

Grace Notes

Phone - 814-723-9440

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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501 Pennsylvania Avenue East

Warren, PA 16365

Email - office2@graceumcwarren.com

Visit Our Website - 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*

May

2020

"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



May Meetings

There are no meetings at this time.



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



May Greeters

Will resume when regular church services resume.

May Ushers

Will resume when regular church services resume.

From the Pastor

40

I've been playing a lot of music lately. I'm often alone in the building at the church these days, so I can blare music as loud as I want and nobody has to wonder what kind of playlist includes the Imperial March from The Empire Strikes Back Soundtrack, Don't Stop Believing by Journey and Chlorine by twentyone pilots. Well... maybe you should worry about that kind of playlist 😊

So I'm listening to a huge variety of music right now and I remembered how a long time ago, a friend of mine said, "You have to hear this song from the band U2, it comes right out of the Bible." I was pretty self-righteously skeptical, but I listened... and learned. The song was called "40" and it really is the opening lines from Psalm 40 and (in my very biased opinion) it is very good.

Thirty-five or so years later, Psalm 40 is one of my go-to scriptures for comfort and peace:

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.

What does it mean to trust God, to really, fully, whole-heartedly trust God? For me, it begins by remembering what God has brought me out of – who I was and who God has made me into today. The love and grace and mercy that God has poured out for me, rescuing me from my own darkness and foolishness, and delivering me into the light and truth of life in Christ. "He lifted me out of the slimy pit...He put a new song in my mouth..."

At a previous church I served, our mission statement began, "Life in Christ is an adventure..." That really

has been my experience with being a Christ follower for this long (almost 40 years now). The adventure is as much internal as it is external – just as I never quite know where or to whom God is going to lead me to minister to and with them, I never quite know what parts of my heart and my life that God is going to lead me into transformation. But the trust begins, again, with remembering what God has already done. And the more I look back, the easier it is for me to look forward (if that makes sense?).

I love how the Psalmist (traditionally David) ends Psalm 40:

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
may the Lord think of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
you are my God, do not delay.

That is so often my prayer: God, I have so much need, there are so many things I can't do myself, so think of me, remember me, deliver me.

Where do you draw your comfort and peace? What scriptures move you and reassure you? I pray that God constantly reminds you of His love and grace and mercy for you.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Reasons to Sing

How many hymns can you sing by heart? Although our group singing is limited, don't neglect the opportunity to be inspired by our songs of encouragement! Even if you need to keep the windows closed so the neighbors (or oncoming traffic) don't hear, find your encouragement through the praise songs that you know by heart. Make a list. Repeat as necessary, but you may be surprised how many you have locked in your heart. Here's a few to get started:



There's Within My Heart a Melody

Luther B. Bridges, 1910

There's within my heart a melody Jesus whispers sweet and low:

Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still, in all of life's

ebb and flow.

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know,
Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.
Though sometimes he leads through waters deep,
trials fall across the way,
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
see his footprints all the way.*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know,
Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.*

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Civilia D. Martin, Charles H. Gabriel

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely And long for heav'n and home

When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free;

For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender words I hear;

And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubt and fear.

Though by the path He leadeth But one step I may see:

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free;

For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

Sing all these: This Is The Day, How Great Thou Art, Amazing Grace, It Is Well With My Soul, Blessed Assurance. Make your own list, but don't stop before 20! Take a song with you for a whole day. Where did the text come from? Do you believe it? Do you *live* it?

Be Encouraged! Sing!

Floyd Moore

From the Director of Congregational Care

New Normal

That seems to be "the" catch phrase these days. Everyone is wondering what it will be like in the post CoVID-19 days. The pundits are opining on how the economy, education, health care, government, worship, sports and social

gathering will be conducted. Perhaps, with enough time, all things will return to the same old, same old. Or will they? Or should they?

This isn't the first time that a "pandemic" event has turned much of the world upside down. Consider WWII, the Spanish Flu of 1918and Easter.

Yes, Easter! Those dazed disciples had to figure out their new normal as they witnessed Jesus' crucifixion. Gone was their leader, teacher and friend. Gone was the healer and the miracle worker. Who would have all the answers now?

During the years that those men were Jesus' disciples, He had been preparing them for that moment. He had been showing them *who* (and *whose*) He was. He was a living example of who they should be. And, finally, He commanded them to be "**a light to the Gentiles, that (they would) bring salvation to the ends of the earth.**" **Acts 13:47.** This commandment was *their* New Normal and it CHANGED THE WORLD.

As today's Christians, we are an extension of those disciples. Please consider answering some of these questions for me. How has your faith enabled you to manage during the CoVID pandemic? How did the "stay home" order affect you? How did you meet those challenges? Were you able to help others? Were you helped by others?

You can email those answers to cindy@graceumcwarren.com. All info will be anonymous if I use it in future articles! I feel that our adjustment to the New Normal will be ongoing. I look forward to learning more as we move forward in this together.

BE SAFE!

Cindy Price

CREW is on the move and our Youth and Family Ministries program is getting the virtual swing of things. This lively CREW is embarking on the final week of a five-week series on Galatians and the goals of their faith.



	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Bottom Line</u>
Week ONE	Galatians 5:1 and 5:4 NLT	The goal is freedom
Week TWO	Galatians 1:10 NIV	The goal is to live from approval, not for approval
Week THREE	Galatians 6:7b-10 NLT	The goal is to live with the end in mind
Week FOUR	Galatians 5:13-15 NLT	The goal is to love people, not judge people
Week FIVE	Galatians 5:22-23 and 5:25 ESV	The goal is to grow

Good stuff! Now what? As Christian parents, we often have an added sense of weight on our shoulders in the upbringing of our children. Not only do we have to worry about our kids' mental, physical, and emotional development, we also have the added challenge of nurturing the growth of our children's faith. Overwhelming, right? But Louie Giglio, author and pastor of Passion City Church in Atlanta, GA, challenges us to think about this responsibility from a new angle: Instead of focusing on educating your children on the vastness of God, why not show them instead? Kids rarely remember what their parents teach them (insert grown and shake of the head here), but they hardly forget what they see their parents do. It's the tiny moments kids observe in the lives of their parents, Louie says, that will matter most to them as they grow older. Your challenge now is to show them your awe of the bigness of God right where you are — whether you're in the carpool line or in your home office.

Living out our faith as parents, the good and the bad parts, will reinforce in our children that perfect parents on Earth don't exist, but we have a perfect Father Who sees them, Who knows them, and Who desires to have a personal relationship with them.

So, as parents and as a congregation, let's show this CREW just how bright the light of God is and steer them in the right direction!

Nicki Egger

CREW – Christians Ready Equipped and Willing

In the space between laying the twins down for the night and his own bedtime, Emmet likes to be near Keith and I, chatting or reading together or playing with matchbox cars. He likes having our attention all to himself. The other night, Emmet was making funny faces while taking pictures on my phone and after looking at a particularly funny face we captured, he turned to me and very seriously asked if he kept making this silly face, would his eyes fall out. "No," I told him with a smile, "your eyes won't fall out." "Well, what's keeping them in?" he countered, looking at me in the sweet way that kids do when they still believe their parents have all the answers. "Muscles all around your eyes keep them in." I responded. I could see he was processing this, so I gave him time to think. "You mean like little guys with muscles holding them in?" He asked, brow furrowed. I usually try not to laugh when Emmet asks me a question, but at this point I couldn't help it. "No," I responded gently with a chuckle. "Not little guys, but muscles like you have in your arms and the rest of your body. In your legs and your back and your feet," I said, pointing to each. Satisfied with this answer, he moved on to the next topic, never resting anywhere for long.

Emmet's inquisitive nature reminds me of how God wants us to stay curious about him and his ways. Psalm 14:2 says, "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God." There is much more scripture to support this, including Jeremiah 29: 13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" and Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me." There is no doubt that God wants us to know him, an unfathomable accomplishment if not for the Holy Spirit in us. Through prayer, study of his Word, and fellowship with believers can our limited minds begin to grasp the Creator of the Universe, the Great I Am, the One who breathed life into each of us, the Almighty.

I hope that Emmet never loses his curious nature and that I am there to provide answers when I



can or join in the search for solutions when I'm unsure, journeying beside him. (And hopefully I can hold in my laughter when he says something bizarre, like having little guys with muscles keep his eyes from falling out). May you stay curious about God and seek him always. You never know what magnificent things you will learn when you seek the one and only Truth or when someone else asks you to seek alongside them. 1 Chronicles 16:11 "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

Libby Yaegle



Our school year came to an abrupt stop on March 12 and left us all confused and unsettled. There were so many things we were looking forward to in April! We are very sad that we won't be able to take part in those spring activities or our end of the year pizza party celebration. While our preschoolers may not remember this significant disruption to our world in a few years, right now it is hard for them to understand why they can't see their friends and teachers. We hope to be able to get some closure with the children heading to kindergarten and give them their certificates and projects and materials still at school as soon as it is safe to do so.

We would like to thank all of you for the incredible support for our preschool program, especially our wonderful Preschool Board that does so much for us. We will continue to work with the Care with Grace Daycare program to provide the best care and learning experience possible! We are always humbled at the on-going support we receive from our Grace Church Family. Please keep our children, families, teachers and the future of our program in your prayers!

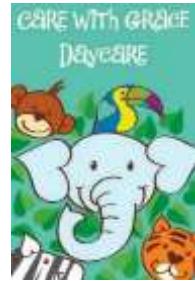
We still have some openings for next

school year. If you know of anyone that has not registered for preschool, please have them give us a call! Our tuition is only \$75 a MONTH! Registration forms can be mailed, so please call the church office 723-9440 and leave your name, address & phone number.

Stay safe and healthy!

Trish Gentilman & Jessica Rex
preschool@atlanticbbn.net or find us on Facebook!

Care with Grace will reopen in phase yellow. We are so excited to be opening again. We will take every precaution to keep the children, all church staff and the members of the church safe. We can't wait to be able to help our community. Our program impacts so many families. Thanks for helping us through this tough time.



Irene Garris



During Worship
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
~
11:00 a.m. (0-5 yrs.)

Will resume when regular church services resume.

May Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199
Sheryl Richards 726-3876

Will resume when regular church services resume.

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. Online giving accepts checking/savings accounts as well as debit/credit cards. You can download the mobile app "Give+" on iPhone and Android.



Flock Talk

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."

Romans 10:17

Fasting is not for the undisciplined, the uninspired, or . . . the diabetic. In other words, it's not for everyone, only if you feel the desire to research it, agree with the reasons why and to do it with the fortitude of seeing it through.

But, this is not really about fasting from food, or even other strings that tightly attach us to the world. This is about our accidental fasting. It's about our unintentional fast from reading the Bible. We might claim that we would be no good at fasting from food, but what happens when we take a long break from the Living Word? We get hungry!

God refers to His word as feeding us. Peter was told to feed the lambs and to feed the sheep. How hungry our spirit must be when we fast for weeks, maybe all summer. That wonderful time of the year is just around the corner. Summer with all its delights and temptation to even fast from church services for a few "meals".

The Bible studies have wrapped up due to the pandemic and it was time to close the books, but not all of them. Let's keep His Word on the table. We know when we've gone too long without His Word. We become a little spiritually fatigued, maybe even borderline exhausted. Heaven forbid our spirit would growl like an empty stomach. It's time to feast on His love and His promises!

With enthusiasm,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



Dear Grace Church,
Thank you, thank you for the recent donation. I was very overwhelmed with such gratitude when I opened the envelope. Dean and I miss everyone and appreciate the support and love, and above all, the prayers.

Love, Melinda



Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.

BUDGET	2020	2019
Other Income:	1,113.50	853.65
Offerings &		
Tithes	<u>27,791.38</u>	<u>33,772.82</u>
Total Income	28,904.88	34,626.47

Number of Sundays:	5	5
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:	34,323.18	32,980.21
Attendance:	885*	1,099

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation- 3,253.00

Paid to date 9,757.84

Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 25%

His income: Was \$5,721.59 higher in March 2019 compared to March 2020

Our expenses: Were \$1,342.97 higher in March 2020 compared to March 2019

First quarter review

Income: January – March \$82,202.05

Expenses: January – March \$105,047.56

*March 2020 attendance is estimated due to online worship March 22 & 29.

Submitted by:
Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair

To my anonymous gift givers,
 Yours is a generous spirit.
 Mine is a thankful heart.
 You are a blessing and I am
 humbled and feel so very
 unworthy for your most
 generous gift. I truly pray
 that one day very soon I may be a blessing to
 others as you have been to me, so giving and
 caring. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!
 Blessings to you!!

With love and many thanks, Vickie



- May 1 – Dawn Werner**
- May 2 – James Black, Jacqueline Sadler, Jamie Watson**
- May 3 – Dudley Wineriter, Eric Zavinski, Barb Hulings**
- May 4 – Simon Smith, Floyd Moore**
- May 5 – Joe Sienkiewicz, Evelyn Eaton, Sally Moldovan**
- May 6 – Edwin Rickerson, Kim Tutaro, Conor Grey**
- May 7 – Richard Thoma, Emma Stimmell**
- May 8 – Melissa Larsen, Jan Garrett**
- May 10 – Erin Werner, Susan Puhl, Julie Danielson**
- May 11 – Karen Schwone**
- May 12 – Laura Rescorla, Stephanie Reagle, Violet Brooker, Helena Moore**
- May 13 – Brittany Saber, Beth Anne Nichols**
- May 14 – Linda Clover, Dan Farr**
- May 15 – Donna Miller, Gary Fleming**
- May 16 – Matt Jeffrey**
- May 17 – Shane Burns**
- May 19 – Caroline Curren, Mary Rose Farr**
- May 20 – Kylie Pearson, Mitchell Arnold, Kailee Morrison**
- May 21 – Beth Sprentz, Jennifer Morrison**
- May 22 – Jacob McCollough, Patricia McClement, Kristen Johnson, Sarah Tarpenning**
- May 23 – Bev Petersen**
- May 24 – Tyler Gustafson, Tom Mintzer**
- May 25 – Marci Barker, Beau Kibbey, Brandi Buchanan**
- May 26 – Michael Phillips**
- May 27 – Cory Burns, Adan Barker**
- May 28 – Julie Ross, Ryan Gustafson, Dave Berdine**
- May 29 – Taylor Napolitan, Linda Morrison**
- May 30 – Paul Johnson**
- May 31 – Marty Adams, Walt Miller, Julie Halteman, Anna Peterson, Amanda Green, Rhonda Narlee, Tony Ross**



Dear Parishioners,
 Thank you so much for the donation of beautifully crafted face masks. We appreciate your time, materials, and thoughtfulness. We can make use of every mask we are lucky enough to receive. It is community support like this that will help us power through the surge.

Many Thanks,
 Rick Allen, CEO Warren General Hospital

The Grace Church Food Pantry is not in need of anything at this time. Thank you to all who contribute to the Grace Church Food Pantry!



Items for the June Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office (mary@graceumcwarren.com) by Friday, May 22.
Thank you!



may

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	4	5	6	7	1	2
	For the safety of the staff, congregation, and community, Grace Church will remain closed until further notice.					8
10 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY			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.		

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501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
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- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller,
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman,
Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei and John Lewis*

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!