

# Grace Notes

## March 2025

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*



### *March Meetings*

**March 4 – 6:00 p – SPRC**  
**March 11 – 6:00 p – Property Trustees**  
**March 18 – 6:00 p – Finance**  
**March 25 – 6:00 p – Church Council**



This month's Communion offering will benefit **UMCOR** with **UMCOR Sunday being March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution and the special UMCOR Sunday envelope on that day.

# *From the Pastor*

## **On Being Saintly**

**M**arch 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day. Like many early Christian holy days, how we celebrate and observe these days has little to do with their origins or their importance in Church history. We'll wear green and pretend to be Irish and decorate with four-leaf clovers (sigh) or shamrocks (better) and, maybe, have some green tinted beverages (or eat a bowl of Lucky Charms!).

Tradition tells us that St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the 400s into a Christian family, though as a young man he was not very devout. *The Confession of Saint Patrick* states that at sixteen he was captured by Irish pirates and enslaved in Ireland as a shepherd for six years. During the six years of enslavement, he began to believe in and trust God more and more and he fully converted to Christianity. After six years, he heard a voice telling him that his ship was ready and he escaped his enslavement, walked 200 miles to a ship that took him home to Britain where he studied the faith and was ordained a priest in his twenties.

Sometime later, he had another vision calling him to go back to Ireland to bring the Good News of Jesus to the people of Ireland where he endured much: beaten, robbed, put in chains and imprisoned. Yet he demonstrated again and again the love and grace and mercy of God and in the end he "baptized thousands of people" and ordained Priests to lead new Christian communities. He wrote, "Never before did they know of God except to serve idols and unclean things. But now, they have become the people of the Lord, and are called children of God."

There are other stories about Patrick: that he used the shamrock (three-leaf clover) to teach about the Holy Trinity, that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland and a host of encounters with pagan powers and demonic forces.

I'm less interested in the legends and stories right now than I am in the fact that Patrick, after escaping enslavement, *willingly* went back to the people who had abused him in order to show them the love and grace of God. Who does that? Who puts themselves in harm's way to demonstrate patience and kindness to those who have hurt them, to not repay evil with evil, but with good (as Paul says in Romans 12:17 and 21), to love their enemies and pray for those who mistreat them (Jesus' words, Matthew 5:44).

That's what it takes to be a saint – not in the sense of formal sainthood in the Church – but we are all saints as followers of Jesus. That's what the word is supposed to mean. Paul writes in Romans 1, "To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Followers of Jesus are called to be saints, the Greek word from that we translate as saint means "to be set apart." It means that we don't respond the way the world responds. We respond the way Jesus responded.

It's a challenge.

It's easier on St. Patrick's Day (or any other day) to wear a green shirt and eat a bowl of Lucky Charms and call it a day. And that's fine, if that's what you want to do.

But followers of Jesus don't take the easy road. We go where Jesus went and do what Jesus did. Love your enemies and pray for those who mistreat you.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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## **T**ake Your Vitamins!

One of my many memorable family trips was to tour the Kellogg's breakfast cereal plant in Battle Creek, Michigan. There they demonstrated the process of adding vitamins and minerals to the flakes. I was young and fascinated with the process, although the great reward was at the end of the tour as each of us received a sample box of cereal, a great gift for our family of seven.



We know an essential part of our daily diet is adequate vitamins and minerals. We are advised to supplement our diets with many such nutrients to maintain good health and avoid illness.

Similarly, to stay spiritually healthy and avoid illness we need constant supplements of equivalent vitamins and minerals: scripture and song. Each day we must enhance our spiritual health by digesting God's word and the encouraging messages found in spiritual songs.

Today digest God's word. Here's a good "vitamin B - happy" to get through the day as we spend some time of reflection and praise during the current season of Lent, in anticipation of Resurrection Sunday on April 20.

### **I Will Sing of My Redeemer**

by Philip P. Bliss and James McGranahan

I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered from the curse to set me free.

Chorus:

Sing, O sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me;  
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free.

I will tell the wondrous story, how my lost estate to save;  
In His boundless love and mercy, He the ransom freely gave.

(Chorus)

I will praise my dear Redeemer, His triumphant pow'r I'll tell,  
How the victory He giveth over sin and death and hell.

(Chorus)

I will sing of my Redeemer, and His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with Him to be.

(Chorus)

Stay hydrated, keep breathing, and *Take Your Vitamins!*

See you in church!  
Floyd Moore  
Choir Director  
[amfm123@verizon.net](mailto:amfm123@verizon.net)



## Flock Talk

*“Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He that made us and we are His; the sheep of His pasture.”*

*Psalm 100:3*

**W**e become accustomed to calling a congregation “a flock”. It’s comforting because we think of a peaceful and pastoral scene of sheep grazing contentedly. We envision green pastures and still waters, even paths of righteousness. It’s reassuring because we picture the sheep moving as one gentle wave of pure white while looking out for each other. Safety in numbers, as we say.

I grew up on a sheep farm and it is all of those things. And, much more. Sometimes it’s noisy and things don’t seem to go as planned. Other times, the end of the day has brought a relief from being out in the cold and making sure every chore was finished. Food, water, bedding and all the essentials taken care of in detail.

The cycle of life was magnificently tender and yet sometimes heartbreaking. The momentum of each season brought its own challenges along with moments of awe inspiring beauty. And, sometimes even a miracle or two.

Yes, our church is very much like a flock of sheep. We have schedules to keep, needs to attend, the miracle of new life and the hours spent in long and painful goodbyes. The flock weathers each season and looks forward to spring with its fresh new beginning. We anticipate Easter and the days leading up to it because it’s our new beginning as we proclaim “Christ is Risen!”

These days now begin to head toward Easter so let’s rejoice as a flock filled with the glory of Christ’s love. Make every day count, make every effort to be at peace with everyone. Be as joyful as a beloved lamb!

Warmly,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

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**Grace Promise Preschool registration is now open!** A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable fee** is required to hold a spot for the 2025-2026 school year.

Changes are coming to Grace Promise Preschool next year. New handbooks, along with registration forms, can be found on the church website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com), picked up at the church office, or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours. Questions? Email [Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com](mailto:Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com)



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The dates for a Grace Church Red Bird Mission Trip to Beverly, Kentucky have been set: **June 15-20, 2025**. Teens and families young and old are encouraged to consider this outreach opportunity! There are a variety of projects for people of any skill level, and the fellowship can't be beat! Contact Keith Price (814-688-2983 or [rkeithprice@hotmail.com](mailto:rkeithprice@hotmail.com)) for more information.

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The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, March 15** 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-you can even come up with a fun name for your team. The topic will be “Spring and Spring holidays. If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Vavala cell# 814-730-1064 or [vavala5@atlanticbb.net](mailto:vavala5@atlanticbb.net) We hope to see you there!



# Grace Church Finance Report

Grace Church ~



Below you will find our financials for the month of January. Despite a strong finish to 2024, we've started out with a bit of a struggle in January, showing a net loss of \$7,618.39.

This does increase our overall shortfall, which is now \$95,578.19. The start of the year can sometimes be a struggle with the recovery from the holidays. We will look to God to guide us financially as we head into spring. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

## 2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	January '25	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$28,662.23</b>	<b>\$28,662.23</b>
Office Expense	\$306.09	\$306.09
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$11,461.46	\$11,461.46
Ministry Personnel	\$22,009.57	\$22,009.57
Church Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
Education Ministry	\$421.40	\$421.40
Nurture Ministry	\$16.00	\$16.00
Worship Ministry	\$424.77	\$424.77
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$1,641.33
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$36,280.62</b>	<b>\$36,280.62</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$7,618.39)</b>	<b>(\$7,618.39)</b>

## Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 1/31/2025	<b>(\$95,578.19)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee



**Promise Preschool**  
**For: Dorothy Culbertson**  
**By: Tony Ross,**  
**Bonnie & John Riggle,**  
**Joy Wiedmaier**



The Grace Church Food Pantry is not in need of anything specific 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.)  
 March 2 – Melissa Zaffino  
 March 9 – Anna Peterson  
 March 16 – Melissa Zaffino  
 March 23 – Anna Peterson  
 March 30 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **April 2025**  
 Newsletter need to be  
 delivered to Mary in the office  
[mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com)  
 by **Monday, March 17.**  
 Thank you.



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.

**Attention women!**

“Full of Grace” Women’s Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month 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.

The next meeting will take place on **Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**.



**Come Join Our Messy Church**

Messy Church? It's a time for family activities/crafts, worship, and dinner together. Monthly on the last Saturday of the month from 3:30-5:45. Our next event is **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**.



On January 12<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30am service Pastor Bill baptized Rachael McClellan, Reagan McClellan, Thatcher McClellan, Colby Barr, Tymber Barr, and Christopher Ei.

**Celebrating Good Health!**

**NEW DATE!** Saturday, March 1st in Higginbotham Hall

**“Strong Bones for Life” 10:00-11:00am**

To keep our bones strong we need to understand how our lifestyle choices affect them. The foods we choose, the supplements we take and the exercises we participate in will have a significant impact on our skeletons. Let’s bring new insights and understanding to the steps we can take to prevent bone loss and to encourage stronger bone density. You will benefit from these proven approaches regardless of your age or gender.

**“Yoga for Those that Need to Bend” 11:15-12:30pm**

Yoga is an amazing tool for improving strength, flexibility and balance. These three areas of our lives will slip out of our reach if we do not set aside time for them.

The benefits of yoga go far beyond a greater ease of movement. Our posture, our energy levels, reduced levels of inflammation and quality sleep are the results. Come to this class as a new beginner or as a seasoned yoga attendee and leave refreshed. “Let’s give that passenger inside a little more space!”

There will be chairs provided, but bring a mat for the yoga class. \$5.00 donation.



March 1 – Robert Jones, Jessica Norris

March 2 – Amy Stimmell, Ashley Flagella

March 3 – Vickie Morrison, Cheryl Gupta, Kurt Shafer

March 4 – Korrine Sauers, Alyssa Albaugh, Audrey Wurst

March 5 – Becky Hampson

March 6 – Roman Pearce, Dean Knowlton, Evelyn Phillips

March 7 – Alyssa Farr

March 9 – Dale Allmendinger II, Kim Johnson, Tyson Morrison

March 10 – Andrea Sedon

March 12 – Scott Frazier, Gail Burns

March 15 – Audrey Cable , Joy Wiedmaier, Karen Larsen

March 17 – Larry Conrad

March 18 – Quincy Nolan, Amber Buchanan

March 19 – Alex Moore, Julia Green

March 22 – Gwen Savych, Anthony Tatarski

March 23 – Patty Amon, Dave Moore

March 24 –Mary Gustafson, Brynn Norris

March 27 – Cindy Price

March 29 – Maryann Long, Art Anderson

March 30 – Brenda Beers, Wendy Zimmer, Lindsey Brown, Elena Brocklehurst, Ella Solberg

March 31 – Avery Wurst

# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 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	<b>3</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>4</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>6</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 2A 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:30 p Handbells 8:00 p Disciple 2A	<b>7</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>1</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Strong Bones for Life 11:15 a Yoga for Those that Need to Bend 12:00 p Winger Parlor Reserved  <b>8</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved
<b>9</b> 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	<b>10</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>11</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>12</b> 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.	<b>13</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 2A 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:30 p Handbells 8:00 p Disciple 2A	<b>14</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>15</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved 6:00 p Outreach Trivia Night
<b>16</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>17</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>18</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>19</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30 a Library Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>20</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 2A 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:30 p Handbells 8:00 p Disciple 2A	<b>21</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>22</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved
<b>23</b> 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	<b>24</b> 10:30 a Full of Grace 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 6:30 p Full of Grace 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>25</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>26</b> 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.	<b>27</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 2A 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:30 p Handbells 8:00 p Disciple 2A	<b>28</b> 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>29</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved 2:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 3:30 p Messy Church
<b>30</b> UMCOR Sunday 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>31</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong			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, Cyril Jedor, 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*

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***Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!***