

Grace Notes

January 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



January Meetings

January 2 - 6:00 p - *SPRC*
January 8 - 6:00 p - *Worship*
January 9 - 6:00 p - *Property Trustees*
January 16 - 6:00 p - *Finance*
January 23 - 6:00 p - *Church Council*



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

From the Pastor

We Need To Talk...

As we start the new year, our worship series, “We Need To Talk,” will be focusing on prayer.

I was reading about prayer and renewal and I read this story:

A committee of ministers in a certain city was discussing the possibility of having D. L. Moody to serve as the evangelist during a city-wide evangelistic campaign. Finally, one young minister who did not want to invite Moody stood up and said: “Why Moody? Does he have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit?” There was silence. Then an old, godly minister spoke up: “No, he does not have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit; but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly of D. L. Moody.”

Wouldn't it be wonderful if that could be said of all of us, all the time? “The Holy Spirit has a monopoly on him.” But what would that mean, exactly?

To be Spirit-filled people means to be led by God in all that we do and in all that we are. It means that we consider God's will first, and our own second. It means that we will look around to see where God is working and what God is doing in order to know where we should be working and what we should be doing.

Revival, it is said, begins within the individual. There was a man who asked a great Revival preacher how to begin a revival in his town. The preacher said, “Go home, kneel down on the floor and draw a chalk line around yourself. Then pray that God will begin the revival inside that chalk line. When God answers that prayer, revival will begin in that town.”

Now, I'm not advocating writing on your floors, but the point is true. Change begins within each of us, not in “all those other people.” I don't know anybody who doesn't need renewal and revival in their spiritual lives. It's a mistake to think that just because we already know Jesus, that we know all about Him, that somehow already the “Holy Spirit has got a monopoly on us.”

What does it take to be renewed? Prayer is the most important thing. Pray without ceasing, Paul admonishes us (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). The prayer of the righteous is powerfully effective, James tells us (James 5:13-16). Pray for God's Spirit to renew and revive you – and the church (Psalm 51:10-12; Psalm 80:17-19).

The disciples asked Jesus, “teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1) and every generation of Christ follower has to ask that same question. I've confessed before, I don't feel like I'm good at prayer – I'm inconsistent, I'm unfocused, sometimes I'm rushed. But I also believe to the very depth of my being that prayer is the single most important thing we will do on any given day because it is that personal connection with God which sustains us, directs us, corrects us and comforts us. To learn, I lean into those who I believe are “better” at praying than I am. I have a prayer app on my phone, I have conversations with pastors who are powerhouse prayers, and I've been reading Tim Keller's book simply called “Prayer” which has been helping me with my own prayer life. The next book in my queue is a collection of CS Lewis' writings called “How To Pray.” Finally, we were invited to join in an international 21 Days of Prayer event that will kick off our new weekly Evening Prayer Service (there's more details later in this Newsletter).

Prayer renews us, revives us and (honestly) sometimes rebukes us, but always prayer draws us deeper into a connection with God. Lord, teach us to pray indeed!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Choir Notes

If you missed the 34th annual choir Christmas concert, you may still find it online. Check out www.graceumcwarrenpa.com or our Facebook group Embrace Grace.



I want to thank the choir for all their donations of time and talent given toward the concert, to the glory of God. Here's a list of the people I'd like you to thank for me:

Accompanist: Debbie Airgood

Sopranos: Liz Anderson, Karen Conarro, Carol Hammer, Beth MacPherson, Cindy Price, Shirley Shafer

Altos: Lori Beatty, Suzette Berdine, Sandy Darr, Lyn Kell, Helena Moore, Jan Moore, Vickie Morrison, Alice Pedersen

Tenors: Pastor Bill Beatty, Carol Knowlton, Larry Knowlton, Donald Anderson

Basses: Tristan Johnson, Don Smith, Ray Toombs

Acolytes: Kylie Jurkowski, Katelyn Jurkowski

Readers: Becca Anderson, Eddie Anderson, Kylie Jurkowski

Audio/Video: Dave Moore, Walt Miller

Guest Cellist: Chad Betts

The wonderful reception committee and all who donated punch and cookies.

Now is a great time to join the choir as we start fresh into the New Year. We'll have some new music, some familiar music, and some surprises. You all are welcome. We'll start our January practices on the first Wednesday, January 3, at 6:30, coinciding with the C.R.E.W. meetings.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Many people have read through the Bible completely. I am not one of them! I attempted it long ago, but I got bogged down before I even got to Psalms. ☹️ As I think back, I realize that I was probably attempting that task with the attitude of being able to say that I had done it and less with the desire to really understand what I was reading.



Get the job done!! Focus on a goal!!

Oh my do you sense a bit of Type A personality there? Thankfully, through my position as Congregational Care Director, I am learning to "mellow out" a bit!

As I continue with my reading of the devotional Tozer: On The Holy Spirit, I am gaining a greater and more intimate understanding of who HE (the Holy Spirit) is and how I need to dampen the aforementioned Type A tendencies. Prayerfully, that will assist me to be aware of His omnipresence.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have to become better acquainted with many of you at Grace; whether it is through the fellowship and prayer at the 8:30 service, the meaningful praise and worship at 9:30 or the

more reverent traditionalism at 11:00. I so appreciate being welcomed into your homes, at your bedside in the hospitals and into your families at times of grieving. Through all of you, I am richly blessed!

Sincerely, Cindy Price

December was a busy month full of excitement as we prepared for the Christmas season. We decorated the room and tree, learned many new songs, and listened to wonderful stories. Pastor Bill shared the Christmas Story and showed us the Nativity in the sanctuary. Mrs. Morrison brought her guitar and sang Christmas songs with us. We also enjoyed our Christmas Fun Day with games, songs, extra craft projects, decorating and of course eating our own special cookies!



January will be focused on winter fun. The morning class will begin a color unit with projects and nursery rhymes. The afternoon class will be working on their skills in preparation for kindergarten. Gym time will also be a part of their Monday routine. The kids are very excited about learning to play soccer, kick ball and other fun physical activities.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin in January for our current Grace Promise Preschool families and any Grace Church members. Be sure to pick up a registration form in the office or contact us at preschool@atlanticbbn.net so we can mail you a form. Registration will open to the public in February, so it is first come, first served!

We appreciate the support of our church, friends, and families! We'd also like to thank our secret Santa who purchased a CD player for our classroom! We pray that everyone will stay safe and healthy this holiday season!

Happy New Year!

Trish Gentilman & Jennifer Lynds



During Worship

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

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

January 7 – Anna Peterson

January 14 – Melissa Zaffino

January 21 – Anna Peterson

January 28 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **February 2024**

Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com

by **Monday, January 15.**

Thank you.



Welcome new members:

Matt Himes

Joe & Beth Peterson & family



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **syrup, cereal, and canned meat** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Flock Talk

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here.”

2nd Corinthians 5:17

Our new year is upon us! Let’s rise and awaken the spirit of love and grace that abounds in our hearts. There are so many opportunities right now that spring from our relationships with others and our service at church. Now is the time for new beginnings and fresh starts with our choices and habits. How about we pull together and explore what our church has to offer!

New Bible studies continue to pop up! If you like the in-depth study provided by the Disciple courses, then consider Disciple IV that is beginning in early January. We will step into the books that enlighten us about the end of times and Christ’s return. Pastor Bill will be offering studies along the way where you can immerse yourself in his wonderful method of teaching.

There are so many opportunities to be involved with children and youth. Our upstairs is being renovated into a Family Ministry area and will give us room to stretch out and be especially creative. Our young people are thriving and flourishing within these walls!

The Fitness Ministry is all about how God is working in our lives and bringing us together. We are growing healthier by leaps and bounds and supporting each other through encouragement and new friendships. The great outdoors has become our playground, and we are creating a safe place in our community to worship in action.

So many other areas are ripe for involvement. Our Music Ministry beckons with the beautiful invitation to sing praises! Community events and programs ministering to those in need are always thankful for volunteers. Step inside these doors and ask a few questions and you will find yourself in a welcoming family who cares deeply and loves with fervent genuineness. And it’s only January. Think of how great this year will be!

Enthusiastically,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Attention women!

- *Are you looking to strengthen your relationship with Christ?
- *Are you looking to bond with other women?
- *Are you looking for an evening of sharing and caring with one another?



Grace church is offering a new women’s ministry! “Full of Grace” will meet the Fourth Monday of each month in the Eaton Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will start with an intro, video lesson, devotional and pray time. No need to sign-up, just show-up! Hope to see you there! Questions, please contact Karen Conarro at: fullofgraceumcwarren@gmail.com



The 2024 altar flowers list is up. Go to the church website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com, click the sign-up button, and follow the directions. You can also call the office 723-9440 to reserve your spot.

Grace Church Finance Report

See below for the financials for November.



2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	November '23	YTD
Total Income	\$32,334.90	\$310,355.24
Office Expense	\$422.90	\$5,798.41
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$5,221.11	\$77,418.16
Ministry Personnel	\$21,351.32	\$241,009.66
Church Council	\$0.00	\$429.09
Education Ministry	\$24.29	\$3,560.02
Nurture Ministry	\$125.47	\$1,724.79
Worship Ministry	\$523.79	\$2,774.47
Outreach Ministry	\$118.08	\$557.96
Connectional Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$27,786.96	\$333,272.56
Net Income	\$4,547.94	(\$22,917.32)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 11/30/2023	(\$117,376.34)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Covered by Grace is in need of **adult gloves**. 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 November through February so please keep those items coming throughout the winter.



21 Days of Prayer Global Event/New Weekly Prayer Service



Dave Early, author, speaker and Lead Pastor at First Baptist Church, Grove City Ohio, has put forth a challenge for churches and individual believers to start the New Year off with a season focused on prayer. (21daysprayer.org) Currently, 580 Churches from 35 countries are registered to participate in this event.

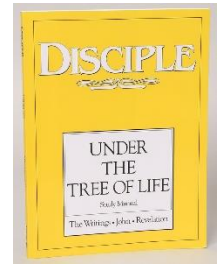
Several churches in our region are participating by having prayer services throughout the week. Grace Church is joining in this event which will kick off a new weekly worship opportunity for us. **Tuesday Evenings, 7:00** we will gather together for a time of **Evening Praise and Prayer** beginning **January 2nd**. The outline for the evening services is found in our hymnals (p 878). If you want more details about the service, please contact Pastor Bill (or, come and check it out!).

Disciple IV Class

Our next Disciple class will begin on Thursday, January 4th at 6:00pm in the Eaton Parlor. This will be the first half of Disciple IV and will be held weekly until the end of April. Anyone is welcome to attend and you will be amazed at the level of learning we achieve during these four months.

Disciple IV will focus on Revelation and all of the books of the Bible that help us comprehend the mystery of the end of times. We will discuss the importance of living in faithful community while setting our sights on God's victory in the future. This course will be enlightening and interactive with all the beloved qualities of a small group study.

There are books available, but please contact Sue Toombs prior to class to set one aside for you. Sue will be your instructor and is happy to answer any questions.



Grace Hiking and Walking Club

These winter months are providing beautiful scenery for us on the trails! The weather has been kind and we have kept a steady schedule. Most of our hikes are in the Allegheny National Forest with our favorites on the 47 miles of the Jake's Rocks Trail system. Our walks have been at Audubon and we have so enjoyed the changing seasons and the different species that inhabit the area. The views are absolutely wonderful on both the hikes and the walks!

If you are new to this type of adventure, the walks are a good starting point. If you like a challenge, the hikes never disappoint! As the weather becomes snowier, we will be snowshoeing and exploring the Heart's Content and Chapman Dam areas.

Please ask me anytime you would like to hear more. The friendships we are developing are such a treasure and the encouragement and support are a true blessing!

Contact Sue Toombs at fourwindsranch@verizon.net or 814-730-9996.

Healing Yoga on Saturday, January 6th 10:00-11:30am

This class is being offered to anyone who would like to experience the healing properties of deep stretching and gentle movement. Our bodies and our minds respond to the methods that are used to fortify a sense of peace and wellness. The military has utilized this style of yoga for years to alleviate PTSD type symptoms. This restorative type of movement has become very popular with the manner in which it releases stress and gives us greater mobility. The power of God's healing touch when we work together is so very evident. Please ask me more if you are interested. You will need a mat and the cost is \$8.00. Sue Toombs at fourwindsranch@verizon.net or 814-730-9996.

A special thank you to all those that helped in any way with the reception following our recent Christmas Choir Concert. So many beautiful and delicious cookies were provided as always by the great cookie makers of Grace Church and enjoyed by those guests attending. And many others are appreciated as well - the entire church staff; the youth and adults with setting up, serving and cleaning up; and to Craig, who stayed on kitchen duty during the concert. Of course, the stars of the day were our wonderful choir and their director. Thanks for sharing your beautiful music.

Approximately 20 women of Grace Church recently enjoyed a Christmas tureen luncheon and social time sponsored by the Ruth M. Smith Center Circle. Devotions, a poem, and memories were shared, all centered around a Christmas theme. Kathy Neal accompanied on the piano for a carol sing to close the day's event. Tentative future plans may include a spring outing.



- January 3 – Alexis Vavala
- January 4 – Alice Bonnell, Taylor Eggleston
- January 6 – Carol Knowlton, Patty Wineriter, Bob Gustafson
- January 7 – Denny Tuttle, Cole Brocklehurst
- January 8 – Brenda Lord, Jordan Trisket
- January 9 – Carrielle Hoffman, Agnes Reed, Kaden Werner, Karson Werner
- January 12 – Chuck Pearson, Jonah Swartz
- January 14 – Anne Miller
- January 15 – Sue Toombs, Joe Sprentz, Abbie Buerkle
- January 16 – Austin Linn
- January 17 – Troy Burns, Macie Vivian
- January 18 – Cindy Strandburg, Stacy Knapp, Colter Johnson
- January 19 – Dick Risinger, Lucy Phillips
- January 20 – Dick Hitchcock
- January 21 – Dave Brocklehurst
- January 22 – Chris Dutchess, Emilee Shafer
- January 23 – Pastor Bill
- January 24 – Liz Anderson, Elise Brown
- January 25 – Elaine Olney, Gunner Ceresa
- January 26 – Barb Mintzer, Mike Stimmell
- January 27 – Amanda Slattery, Peyton Morrison, Bryson Dymond
- January 28 – Ruth Sienkiewicz
- January 30 – Jeff Brown





january



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	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	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 1 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple IV	5 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 6:00 p <i>Worship</i>	9 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	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 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 1 1:30 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 6:00 p Disciple IV 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	12 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 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	15 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	16 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	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 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV	19 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 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace	23 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	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 9:00 a Pickleball 10:00 a Disciple 1 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved	26 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	37 9:00 a Praise Team
28 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	29 5:15 p Christian Yoga	30 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	31 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.		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,
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!