

Grace Notes

October 2025

Phone - 814-723-9440 GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAX - 814-723-6137
501 Pennsylvania Avenue East Warren, PA 16365
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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



October Meetings

October 7 - 6:00 p - SPRC
October 13 - 6:00 p - Worship
October 14 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
October 21 - 6:00 p - Finance
October 28 - 6:00 p - Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **World Communion Sunday**. This provides scholarships to U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

From the Pastor

What Standard?

I read an article this morning called “5 Things that Christians Do that Non-Christians Despise.” Here’s the list, I wonder how this list hits you:

1. Judge people
2. Be hypocritical
3. Stink at friendship
4. Use “Insider Speak” or Scripture too often
5. Constantly invite non-Christians to church

And I’m reading the article and the first two things that he says non-Christians hate, judge people and be hypocritical, well, *everybody* hates that, right? But the author has a point, we are followers of Jesus who very pointedly said:

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

Matthew 7:1-5

There’s the judging and the hypocrisy all in one teaching moment. So, yeah, everybody hates being judged or everybody hates hypocritical people, but as Jesus followers we are to hold ourselves to a different standard, a higher standard.

Do we stink at friendship? Well, that depends. Have you ever had someone who wants to engage in a relationship with you because they wanted something from you? If you haven’t, it stinks, and I’d like you to imagine how that feels because that’s what non-Christians often feel like when a Jesus follower befriends them just to get them to come to church or just to “get them saved” or whatever the language you use. I’ve said many times, no one wants to be a project, and we can all tell insincerity when we experience it.

Jesus said:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:12-14

Does Insider Speak frustrate you? I was at a financial seminar a while ago and the presenter kept using financial terms and acronyms that I don’t know, but she rattled them off like everyone in the room should be familiar with them. I squirmed a bit figuring I was the only idiot in the room who didn’t understand but I raised my hand and asked, “Could you explain what these terms mean? I really don’t understand.” And she did. And I wasn’t the only idiot in the room who didn’t understand all the Insider Speak.

That’s the kind of thing the article was talking about. We use some weird words in church, even simple things like “Bulletin” and “Benediction” are not commonly used outside of church. I’ll preach about sacrifice or atonement or prevenient grace and, again, not words commonly used outside of church or they are used very differently outside of church. That’s not to say we don’t use them, but we should pay attention how and when we use Insider Speak and we should probably explain it when we use it.

We use the word love in the church all the time – but without context or explanation (or, especially, demonstration) it can sound to non-Christians like this: I love my dog, I love my coffee, I love my neighbor.

What's the difference?

Perhaps the most eloquent (and well-known) expression of an explanation of insider language comes from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians where he explains what love means to a Jesus follower:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Do we constantly invite non-Christians to church? There's all kinds of numbers thrown around the internet about how many people invite non-Christians to church (it's *far* more common for a Christian to invite another Christian to "come to my church," what pastor Terry Teykl calls "sheep shifting"). Christians *do* invite their friends and neighbors to church. And the article points out that it is good and right to ask people to come to church, particularly non-Christians. But it comes back to the stinking at friendship question. Is that all you want from me? Get me to church and then move on, like I'm some kind of "get them to church" project?

I found this to be the most compelling bullet point (the reason I kept reading the article), and yet his least compelling explanation. But he does make at least one very important statement: "Remember, what people need most isn't an invitation to a building; it's an invitation to a relationship – with you and, ultimately, with Jesus."

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

John 1:40-42

There's a quote that gets misattributed to Gandhi. I don't know who first said it, but for someone, Christianity can have an identity problem. And whoever first said it, it's a phrase that gets used against the church time and time again: "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Regardless of the source of that quote, it has persisted because, well, sometimes we who follow Jesus don't look or act or talk all that much like Jesus. As Brennan Manning famously *did* say: "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

What standard should I hold myself to? None other than the standard of Christ. To love as he did. To have compassion as he did. To trust God as he did. To lay down my life, take up my cross every day and follow.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Here we are, rushing around in September, already preparing for Christmas.

Fall is upon us, school has started again, and we are in "full production mode" at work, school, and play. Schedules have been set and met, medical and personal issues intrude, already we search for any opportunity to catch our breath. Many of us revel in the busyness of our lives, others of us can get overwhelmed in the flurry of activity rounding out the last quarter of 2025. You'll be reminded often, Christmas is coming...



I found a hymn in our hymnal that has a good message to me that I'd like to contemplate and share with you.

William Longstaff, a church treasurer, is only known to have written this one hymn, in England in 1882.
Meditate on this message for a moment:

Take Time To Be Holy Hymn 395

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing, his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
And run not before him, whatever betide
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shall be fitted for service above.

Words by William D. Longstaff, ca. 1882 (I Peter 1:16)
Music by George C. Stebbins, 1890 Tune: Holiness 65.65 D

If I could only write one hymn, I'd be glad to give these ideas to my children as my legacy.
(Of course I can't rhyme, but I wouldn't need a modern English translator.)

Remember, once again, 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.

Take time to be holy!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

We have settled in with our routines and have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather! The kids are having such fun being able to play outside almost every day!

We have been having fun cooking as week! Soup, muffins and homemade butter!

October brings some extra fun activities: the fire department, the police, Halloween and all things pumpkin!



Jen & Soojye



Flock Talk

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15

October is a month of celebration! Not only do we have a designated Sunday for Pastor Appreciation Day, but we spend the entire month reflecting on our gratitude for our leader. We may never know the full extent of what goes into being a pastor and if we did, we would likely be astonished at the amount of time and effort involved.

This past spring we waited, almost holding our breath, in hopes that the conference didn't decide to reappoint Pastor Bill elsewhere. There was a relieved exhale when the dates came and went and we were safe to say "we kept him".

Often, we don't realize what we have until it is no longer there and we experience the sharp contrast of the life we had versus the new road ahead. It's why we need to fully appreciate how fortunate we are today. Pastor Bill knows us. He's lived life with us since July 2017 and in those handful of years he has walked us through several life altering situations. He has prayed with us, grieved with us, rejoiced with us and laughed with us. He has served beside us on committees and he has tutored us in how to run a church.

We have grown, we have tilled the fertile soil of our church and we have planted seeds. As we water them and wait expectantly for the harvest of new believers, let's never forget how much of himself Pastor Bill has invested in us. May his day of appreciation be ever so joyful!

Gratefully,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



During Worship

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

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

October 5 – Melissa Zaffino

October 12 – Anna Peterson

October 19 – Melissa Zaffino

October 26 – Anna Peterson



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



Memorial

For: Bill Bunce

By: Stan Pearson, Bucky & Linda Knapp, Marge Smith

Promise Preschool

For: Bill Bunce

By: Harold & Janis Wall

Kitchen Memorial

For: Zeke Stanton

By: Harold & Janis Wall

Music Memorial

For: Bill Bunce

By: Audrey Cable

Grace Church Finance Report

Grace Church ~



Below you will find our financials for the month of August. The church has been holding its own over the past several months, however; we have not made up any ground following a rough start for 2025. We remain just over \$16k in the red for 2025. As we head into the end of the year, let's continue to strive to make up ground so we may finish the year in the positive.

The overall church shortfall is just over \$104k.

Thank you!

2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	August '25	YTD
Total Income	\$30,856.20	\$246,838.65
Office Expense	\$268.33	\$4,740.24
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$6,466.66	\$68,848.87
Ministry Personnel	\$20,124.69	\$169,060.62
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$1,692.49	\$3,428.07
Nurture Ministry	\$69.44	\$483.88
Worship Ministry	\$184.19	\$2,211.78
Outreach Ministry	\$260.57	\$1,263.43
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$13,130.64
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$30,707.70	\$263,506.52
Net Income	\$148.50	(\$16,667.87)

Shortfall

Account Balance 8/31/2025	\$104,627.67
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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 **pancake syrup, canned meat (tuna, chicken, SPAM), and powdered milk** 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 **October 27th**.





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. There is no Messy Church in October. Instead, WAEC is having their Fall Fest. Families are invited to attend.

Pastor Appreciation Month!

This year will mark Pastor Bill's 27th year in ministry and our church would like to show our genuine appreciation for his service. How very fortunate we are to have Pastor Bill leading us and to have his family be a part of our lives.

Throughout his time with us we have come to depend upon his humbleness in prayer and his selfless dedication to us. His messages are life changing and are evidence of God's grace working through him. We are grateful for the loving support of his wife, Lori, and of the delightful friendships of their children, Rachel and Elie. Let's all take time this month to thank him and his family for their care of Grace Church and for his commitment to ministry!

Pastor Appreciation Day!

Sunday, October 19th is Pastor Appreciation Day! We are celebrating Pastor Bill and his family Sunday morning with a heartwarming reception. Please join us as we show our appreciation of his ministry and genuine friendship.

Our church is so very blessed to have his leadership. His presence steadies us and challenges us to live for Christ. His 27 years in ministry have culminated in a pastor who sincerely cares.

Join us on our day of celebration as we look forward to gathering in the Wesley Parlor after each service. There will be a basket for cards of appreciation. Let's shower him and his family with love, encouragement and prayer!

The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, October 11** 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. We had a great turnout in March, and everyone had a wonderful time. We hope to see some of the previous teams return. The topic will be US geography. If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Vavala cell# 814-730-1064 or vavala5@atlanticbb.net We hope to see you there!



Covered by Grace is a ministry that allows anyone needing winter items to simply take them from a clothesline on the front porch of the church. 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 go up **November 1st** and stay up through February so please keep those items coming throughout the winter.

The Outreach team will be holding a rummage sale on **Saturday, November 8th** from 8 am to 1 pm. Please drop off your items for the sale on Friday, November 7th from 4 to 6 pm. Kids' clothes are welcome but no adult clothing please. Please contact Chuck Keepports at 814-688-8534 if you have any questions. Donations will go toward mission projects.



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will be available in Wesley Parlor soon. Boxes are due back by **Sunday, November 17th**. CREW will be packing shoeboxes too. If you 'd like to donate items for them to pack in their boxes, place the items in the labeled box in Wesley Parlor.

Please note: soap is no longer allowed!



October 2 – Judy Johnson, Missy Shene

October 4 – Joe Peterson

October 5 – Jason Peterson

October 7 – Shania Brady, Amy Ei

October 8 – Annette Miller, Ray Toombs, Sara Tucher

October 10 – LaVoyce Dey

October 12 – Tom Flood, Amanda Gafner

October 13 – Barb Babcock, Mike Hahn, Keith Price, Dan Russo, Jameson Shepherd

October 14 – Blanche Shuman

October 15 – Kyle Graham, Mark Risinger

October 16 – John Lewis

October 19 – Craig Esterbrook

October 20 – Sara Sienkiewicz

October 21 – Suzette Berdine, Terrie Nolan

October 22 – Darla Sabat

October 23 – Miken Beers

October 26 – Tymber Barr

October 28 – Shawn Barkley, Lily Brooker, Dylan Redfield

October 29 – Lucas Moore, Marilyn Shene

October 30 – Mary Babcock, Jennifer Blum

October 31 – Sarah Stapleford

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	2 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	3 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	4 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Stanton Visitation 11:00 a Stanton Funeral
5 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	6 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Library Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	7 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	8 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	9 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	10 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	11 9:00 a Praise Team 6:00 p Outreach Trivia Night
12 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	13 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 6:00 p <i>Worship</i> 7:00 p Ping Pong	14 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	15 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	16 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	17 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	18 9:00 a Praise Team
19 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 12:00 p Musical Practice 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	20 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	21 9:00 a Library Reserved 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	22 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	23 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	24 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	25 9:00 a Praise Team
26 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	27 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	28 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	29 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	30 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	31 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!