

# Grace Notes

## January 2026

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*



### *January Meetings*

**January 6 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**January 13 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**January 20 - 6:00 p - Finance**  
**January 22 - 6:00 p - Preschool**  
**January 27 - 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*

## Ordinary Time

**J**anuary 6<sup>th</sup> is the traditional date to celebrate Epiphany which is the “official” end of the Christmas season (at least as far as the church calendar is concerned – if you want to leave your tree up until June, that’s okay with me). Epiphany is when we remember and recount the coming of the Magi or Wise Men who followed the star and brought gifts to Jesus and his family.

So Christmas officially ends January 6<sup>th</sup> and Lent, the next significant Church season, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. In between Epiphany and Lent (and between Pentecost and Advent) the weeks are simply called “Ordinary Time” and comes from the Latin word “ordinal” which means that the weeks are numbered, not that they are commonplace or routine. And yet, that’s kind of how we treat those weeks – to be mundane or, well, ordinary.

One thing the Bible shows me pretty clearly is that God shows up in the mundane and ordinary time and that God calls us to be faithful in between the big events. In fact, God seems to often interrupt the ordinary time to do something extraordinary.

For Peter, Andrew, James and John it was just another day fishing, throw the nets out, haul them back in, gather up the catch (if any), lie about the big one that got away (that can’t be a new thing, right?):

*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Mark 1:16-18

For Jesus and the disciples, it was probably an ordinary day of traveling around, teaching and bringing evidence of the Kingdom of God to everyone who would listen. For a man named Bartimaeus, it was probably another day begging, another day of self-humiliation and uncertainty, just like every other day had been:

*Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

...

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.*

*The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”*

*“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

Mark 10:46-47, 51-52

God is constantly at work in the most ordinary of moments. Jesus’ parables are full of those ordinary moments: a sower casting seeds, a woman mixing yeast into dough, a wedding party, a farmer plowing his field, a vineyard owner evaluating a fruitless fig tree and more.

God shows up in the ordinary time, in the everyday moments, as we are faithful in those ordinary, mundane days.

So watch for what God is doing. Practice gratitude in the small things. Stay faithful in prayer, in scripture, in generosity, and in simply being present with one another. And like a tree that slowly, day by day, stretches its roots toward life-giving water, our lives grow deeper and more rooted in the Living Water, Jesus, and we grow more deeply connected to one another. This is the quiet, holy work of Ordinary Time.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Bill

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**G**lory to God!

Our 36<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Concert was presented on December 14, here in our sanctuary. If you missed it, you may still find it online, and I'd encourage you to catch up. Many people contributed many hours of talent and effort to share "Glory to God" with our Warren community. If you witnessed the concert this year, you witnessed the direct answers to many prayers!



The concert wouldn't be the same without the help and support of both **Mary and Meghan** in the office. They can't make *me* look good, but the posters and bulletins and flowers look great!

I'd like to thank **Debbie Airgood** for her wonderfully talented accompaniment and organ solos throughout the year, but especially during the concert. The Prelude, Solo, and Postlude were magical! I'm so glad she is blessed and blesses us with her talent!

Enhancing our concert this year was our Grace Notes Children's Choir, directed by musically talented (and refreshingly retired) **Lori Beatty**. Participating in the concert were **Audrey, Avery, Evelyn, Lucy, Nova, Reagan, Reese, and Thatcher**.

The New Beginnings Handbells have joyfully taken off under the able direction and coordination of **Beth MacPherson**. Each bell ringer works together in rhythm to provide a cohesive sound. Thanks to all! **Becca Anderson, Donald Anderson, Liz Anderson, Karen Conarro, Lyn Kell, Beth MacPherson, Vickie Morrison, Cindy Price**

We enjoyed the music ministry of both **Alice Pedersen** and the **McClellan family** in this year's concert. What wonderful talent!

I always enjoy singing with **Don Smith**. I like to think I'm half his age but can barely keep up!

Thanks to **Dave Moore and Walt Miller** for giving us their audio/visual skills. Their time and talent are invaluable to our offerings of giving Glory to God.

Our Acolytes **Hemi and Warn Miller** had plenty of candles to light in front of all the eyes of the congregation and did a great job under that pressure.

I hope you had a chance to enjoy the post-concert reception coordinated by the anonymous Acolyte Coordinator and Chairwoman of the cookie committee. She definitely coaches a winning team!

Also, please thank the Choir with me as they gave all they had with mind, body, and spirit to present the gospel in song. Singing with them is truly a blessing!

These are the Sopranos, usually singing the melody and the highest part:

**Becca Anderson, Karen Conarro, Tina Gage, Beth MacPherson, Cindy Price, Shirley Shafer**

The Altos get to sing the hard harmonies and deserve credit for their work and talent.

**Liz Anderson Suzette Berdine, Casey Ferry, Helena Moore, Jan Moore, Alice Pedersen**

Also, the Tenors sing difficult harmonies and wide ranges, often with both high and low notes in the same song. They are an integral part of each song, and I thank them for their dedication and talent.

**Pastor Bill Beatty, Lori Beatty, Vickie Morrison**

The Basses (not the fishes!) usually sing the lowest notes and add so much to the richness of the choir's sound. **Art Anderson, Donald Anderson, Ty Gage, Tristan Johnson, Keith Price, Don Smith, Ray Toombs**

Each of these individuals is a very important member of your Grace choir. They each deserve your thanks and

respect as they join their talent and commitment together to truly make the “whole greater than the sum of its parts.”

As we enter the year 2026, you are welcome to contribute your talent to these fine groups. Did I mention the blessings you receive when you participate in the ministries here at Grace? Ask any member how they’ve been blessed while participating in the ministries at Grace. Sometimes, their smile tells it all.

We have a lot to look forward to as we live our lives here at Grace in 2026. Remember to use your time and talent wisely.

Thank you for your support of the worship ministries here at Grace!

See you in church!

Floyd Moore  
Choir Director  
[amfm123@verizon.net](mailto:amfm123@verizon.net)

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**H**appy New Year!  
Here’s to 2026!  
We had a wonderful time preparing for Christmas and the busy season.

We are looking forward to January and learning about snow, polar animals, healthy eating and germs.

We will start our kindergarten prep work so some of us will be ready to go to kindergarten in the fall!

Stay warm!



Jen & Soojye



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### **Flock Talk**

***“Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things that you do not know.”***

***Jeremiah 33:3***

**A** newly minted year! We have a clean slate ahead of us and God’s Word as our roadmap. This is the time of year that everything opens its doors and windows in the life of the church. New Bible studies, familiar classes, meetings that are geared for productivity, and a myriad of family events.

Disciple I begins on January 8th and offers the unique opportunity to navigate scripture with clarity. This is an eye-opening class that brings people together from all walks of life. You don’t have to know anything about the Bible to jump right into this profound experience. I love teaching these classes for so many reasons, but especially to travel through each chapter and to witness the change it makes in our hearts and minds.

Pastor Bill always has something planned for us and we look forward to the direction he leads. The Sunday School classes teach all ages and welcome new attendees. If you feel inclined to teach and you would like to use your giftedness, please let one of us know and we’ll make it easy for you.

Those who are new to their committees this year have a surprise on the horizon. Committees at Grace work well together and we create a common bond within each one. There is such goodness in serving at this level and perhaps seeing a giftedness come to life that you weren’t aware of having.

We have such treasure within these walls. Treasure that is stored up in heaven and is pleasing to our great and faithful God!

Enthusied,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

## Grace Church Finance Report



### 2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	November '25	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$37,790.78</b>	<b>\$343,835.13</b>
Office Expense	\$439.66	\$5,650.89
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$4,471.74	\$88,552.06
Ministry Personnel	\$20,122.55	\$230,939.11
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$106.43	\$3,582.82
Nurture Ministry	\$58.21	\$1,034.91
Worship Ministry	\$1,028.68	\$4,298.12
Outreach Ministry	\$129.72	\$1,549.05
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$18,054.63
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$27,998.32</b>	<b>\$354,000.58</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$9,792.46</b>	<b>(\$10,165.45)</b>

### Shortfall

<b>Account Balance 11/30/2025</b>	<b>\$33,825.25</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

### IT TAKES A FAMILY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY!

The Grace Church family turned out a delicious Thanksgiving Day meal for about 115 people. As anticipated, that is the largest number we have served since before CoVID in 2019. Higginbotham Hall was festively decorated and filled with folks from Grace Church and the Warren community.

Our thanks go out to: Judy, Jurkowski family, Bob and Kathy, Kai, Amy, Lois, Sally, Seither family, Bill and Wendy, Craig, Alice and Rick, Rob, Suzette and Richard, Laurie, Gary and Lyn, Anderson family, Alec, Amanda, Lindsay, Rhonda, Cindy D., Jan, Karen, Stacy, Bev, Janice, Tina, Laura, Trish, Lori, Jackie, Dawn, Vickie and Betsy.

YOU ALL ARE THE BEST!

Christy Elicker and Cindy Price



### During Worship

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

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

January 4 – Melissa Zaffino

January 11 – Anna Peterson

January 18 – Melissa Zaffino

January 25 – Anna Peterson



Items for the **February 2026** Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office by [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by **Friday, January 16.**  
Thank you.

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **powdered milk, syrup, spaghetti, and canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, Chef Boyardee)** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



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 are up and stay up through February so please keep those items coming throughout the winter.

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.



The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, November 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. The theme will be food. 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!

### Disciple I Class

**Thursday, January 8th at 6pm**

Our next Disciple class will begin on Thursday, January 8th at 6:00pm in the Eaton Parlor. This will be the first half of Disciple I and will be held weekly until the end of April. You will be amazed at the level of learning we achieve during these four months.

Disciple I is a complete overview of the Bible. If you have ever wanted to dive deeply into Scripture or have yearned for a closer relationship through His Word, this provides a thorough opportunity. The course is 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. You don't have to be an attendee at Grace to join us.

Contact Sue at [fourwindsranch@verizon.net](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.net) or 814-730-9996.

### Healing Yoga

**Saturday, January 3rd 10:00-11:30am in Higginbotham Hall**

I will be teaching a trauma sensitive yoga class that serves as a way of alleviating both acute and chronic stress. Any form of worry, anxiety or grief can cause the physical body to experience discomfort. Joint inflammation, back issues, insomnia and headaches are a few of the consequences. The military's approach to PTSD through yoga is the method I am applying and the results speak for themselves. Please feel free to ask me more. Bring a mat if you have one. The fee is \$8.00. Sue Toombs at

[fourwindsranch@verizon.net](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.net).



## **A Healthy Fresh Start!**

**Saturday, January 31st in Higginbotham Hall**

**10:00am - 10:45am** “How to Eat for Energy and Weight Management”

Join us for an informative talk on nutrition and its impact on our energy and overall well-being. This is an interactive talk that invites questions and will answer your concerns about healthy lifestyle choices.

**11:00am - 12:15pm** “Am I Doing it Right?” Yoga Class

Whether you are new to yoga or have been attending for years, this class will help you build and maintain a strong and confident foundation. You will benefit from understanding the point and purpose of each pose. Even if you don't feel flexible enough or fit enough, learning to modify and regain your health is within reach.

Both classes are taught by Sue Toombs, Certified Fitness Trainer and Yoga Instructor.

Please bring a mat for the yoga class (I have extras if you need one).

Chairs are available for the Nutrition class. The cost is \$5 for one class or \$8 for both.

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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 – Jordan Trisket

January 9 – 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 – Beth Peterson, Austin Linn, Joe McClellan

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
				<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>3</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Healing Yoga
<b>4</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 at The Crossing	<b>5</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>6</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	<b>7</b> 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.	<b>8</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 7:00 p Gym Reserved	<b>9</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>10</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>11</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 at The Crossing	<b>12</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>13</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	<b>14</b> 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.	<b>15</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 7:00 p Gym Reserved	<b>16</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>17</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 6:00 p Outreach Trivia Night
<b>18</b> 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 at The Crossing	<b>19</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Library Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>20</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	<b>21</b> 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.	<b>22</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 6:00 p <i>Preschool</i> 7:00 p Gym Reserved	<b>23</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>24</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>25</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 at The Crossing	<b>26</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	<b>27</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	<b>28</b> 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.	<b>29</b> 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple I 7:00 p Gym Reserved	<b>30</b> 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>31</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Eating for Energy & Weight Management 11:00 a Yoga – Am I Doing It Right?



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*Website - [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com)*

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