Grace Notes May 2023

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



May 1 – 5:30 p – *Nurture*

May 2 - 6:00 p - SPRC

May 8 - 6:00 p - *Worship*

May 9 – 5:30 p – *Education*

May 9 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees

May 16 - 6:00 p - Finance

May 30 - 6:00 p - Church Council



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



Lighthouse

n the 9:30 service we sometimes sing a song called "My Lighthouse":

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse Shining in the darkness, I will follow You My Lighthouse, my lighthouse I will trust the promise, You will carry me safe to shore

The image here is that Jesus is like a lighthouse, a beacon in the darkness showing us where safety and security is. It's an ancient image for Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

The first lighthouse recorded in history was in Alexandria, Egypt, built in 280 BC. (Though there was ruined tower found on the coast of India that suggests such structures existed 1800 or so years before this!). So the lighthouse as an image of the Light of the World goes back to the earliest days of our faith.

Jesus said in Matthew chapter 5:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Mt 5:14-16)

We, too, are called to be the bearers of this light of God. The images of light and darkness are found throughout the scriptures. The first thing in the story of creation that God does is banish the darkness when God declares, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:3-4)

The paired images of light and darkness throughout the Bible are used symbolically to speak of the revelation of God (light) and the hiddenness of sin and shame (darkness). "Thy word," the psalmist says, "is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Light reveals. Light allows us to see. If we think something weird is happening outside our house at night, we turn on the light to reveal, to allow us to see. If we want to get a good look at something, we hold it up to the light so that we can see (especially important when matching blue or black socks!)

Light allows us to see. But light also allows us to be seen. We can hide in shadows, but when we step out into the light, we can be seen, we can be recognized, we can be known. That's the other side of us being the light of the world. We allow other people to be seen as who they are in the light of Christ.

I say all of this because we have been asked by our Annual Conference leadership to become a "Lighthouse Congregation." I don't have a lot of details on what that might mean for us yet, and as of the writing of this article, the Administrative Council has yet to vote on whether or not we want to enter into this ministry and how to implement it. What it seems to mean is that we are being asked to pay special attention to being welcoming and understanding as people from churches that have disaffiliated try to find their place. Some

may visit us for a brief time, some may only look on from the distance, some may join our congregation. And I realize that sometimes when you formalize and codify something that should be natural and organic like being friendly and welcoming (which Grace Church IS), that sometimes something gets lost in the translation.

Regardless of what becomes of this "Lighthouse Congregation" initiative through the conference, we are Lighthouses. We are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let the light shine. So we may see. So we may be seen.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Bill

pril showers bring May flowers." What do Mayflowers bring? Travelers.

The CREW news always has a better Joke of the day, so please forgive me with my most off-the-wall newsletter submission ever.



A lot of activities happen in May. The traveling weather finally turns nicer, and school wraps up another year with another graduation (regardless of grade level). We can easily be distracted with many, many reasons to skip church. So, I've compiled a few uninspired reasons to not attend worship services at Grace:

An "Act of God" – an old insurance term for "weather we don't cover." A phrase too often used by atheists.

No electricity, water, gas, wind, or sunshine.

Your pet just had puppies. Special exemption if it was a cat... or a pig.

Too hot. Too cold. Snowed in. Rained out.

Confused about DST (Daylight Saving Time, that hits worshippers at 2am on pre-set random Sundays)

The church is too full – reservations for the service are harder to get than a tee time in July.

The church is too empty – I can actually hear myself singing the worship music.

My neighbor is still sleeping. Or mowing.

Now I'm not saying "don't come," but you are still able to attend every Sunday throughout the Summer regardless where you are, what you're wearing, or if you're ill or well.

You can attend *virtually* any time. Your friends at Grace have worked very diligently to provide access to our worship services live, and recorded. You can access the services live at our website – www.graceumcwarrenpa.com, or on Facebook under the group *Embrace Grace!* If you just can't see it live (like you're on Mars or something!), you can watch it later when it's your turn to do the dishes, etc. There are other advantages to catching up online:

You can binge watch! Watch five episodes in a row. Many of the sermons are in a series anyway.

You can rewind – "Wait, what did the pastor just say?" or, "That music was awesome!"

You can pause – find the scripture reference in your Bible. Or stop and pray. Or sing that chorus again.

If you don't have internet access, we still can accommodate you. Each week the services are made available on DVDs. You can request a copy from the office (814-723-9440) and pick it up in a few days or even ask Cindy Price to deliver it to you. She's better than Amazon! You can still mail your offering and prayer concerns to GUMC... maybe even include a vegetarian recipe for Mary.

You can easily create your own uninspired reasons to not attend worship services at Grace. Please don't use any of them. Each of us *needs* to meet and worship together.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Hebrew church:

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

I can't say it better than that.

See you in Church!

Floyd Moore Choir Director

WORSHIPER FIRST, WORKER SECOND

he following is taken from a booklet by A.W. Tozer entitled, <u>Worship: The Missing Jewel</u>. I read it in the daily devotional, <u>Tozer on the Holy Spirit</u> compiled by Marilynne E. Foster.



We are here to be worshipers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of (them). God never meant it to be so. God meant that a convert should learn to be a worshiper, and after that (they) can learn to be a worker.

Jesus said, "Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). Peter wanted to go at once, but Christ said, "Don't go yet. Wait until you are endued with power." (See Luke 24:49)

Power for service? Yes, but that's only half or it; (or) maybe that's only one-tenth of it. The other nine-tenths are that the Holy Ghost may restore to us again the spirit of worship. Out of enraptured, admiring, adoring, worshiping souls, then, God does his work. The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it.

Worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism. We're organized; we work; we have our agendas. We have almost everything, but there's one thing that the churches ... do not have; that is the ability to worship.

How does Tozer describe worship?

Well, it's an attitude, a state of mind, a sustained act, subject to degrees of perfection and intensity. As soon as He sends the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, we say "Abba" and we're worshiping. That's one thing. But it's quite another thing to be worshipers in the full New Testament sense of the word and up to our possibilities.

Father, grant that we may delight in You, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Warmly, Cindy Price

ello Grace Church!

Confirmation Sunday is May 28, 2023. We have five fanastic youth who decided to take this spiritual journey: Kylie Jurkowski, AJ Slattery, Charlotte Keeports, Bella Egger and Brennah Ward, pictured below. These youth completed a two-day conformation course at Olmstead Manor this past March. The course was guided by Carolyn Slaughter's book, *Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith*.





The group explored what is means to rediscover Jesus, growing in the Spirit and living in faith and service. As part of this journey, each youth has decided to complete their own Church project. Kylie will be organizing a Church Family picnic, AJ will either be assisting the community with yard work or assisting the Children's Ministry with an event, Charlotte will be proposing upgrades to the Church library, Bella will be taking

over and enhancing the Little Church Library at the front of the Church and Brennah will be providing awareness and advocacy on environnmental issues. The youth will be presenting their projects in the Wesley Parlor the morning of Confirmation Sunday. Please be sure to check out their great work and encourage them along this spiritual journey.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe[d] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2: 42-47

Nicki Egger Director of Youth & Family Ministries



During Worship 9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.) 11:00 a.m. (0-5 yrs.) May 7 - Melissa Zaffino May 14 - Anna Peterson May 21 - Melissa Zaffino May 28 - Anna Peterson appy Spring! hank you to all that made the Easter Egg Hunt a huge success. There were several children from the church, as well as from the Preschool and Daycare. It was wonderful seeing so many children together, and on such a beautiful day. Everyone seemed to enjoy their time together at the farm.



There is currently an event being planned for May. Please keep an eye out for more specific details about the event in the upcoming weeks. AJ Slattery is assisting with the event planning as part of his Confirmation project.

SAVE THE DATE—Community Vacation Bible School will be taking place at First United Methodist Church from Sunday, July 16th – Wednesday, July 19th. There will be more information coming, as well as registration information, in the upcoming weeks.

God Bless, Amanda Slattery Director of Children & Family Ministries

ur school year is quickly coming to an end and we are looking forward to summer vacation! The year certainly has been a busy and exciting one.

As we spend our last few days together, we hope for warm weather so we can play outside and look for signs of spring. We have a field trip planned for Warren Library and are looking forward to hearing some stories and



exploring the library. Our school year will conclude with acting out some stories, discussing summer fun and safety and making our own pizzas on the last day of school. The afternoon class with have a brief gathering to sing some songs and say their goodbyes as we send them off to kindergarten!

We would like to thank all of you for the incredible support for our preschool program. We continue to work with our 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! Our Sarris Candies Fundraiser went well with \$273 profit which we will be splitting with the daycare. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We still have a couple openings in both classes 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 \$85 a MONTH! Registration forms can be picked up in the church office during the week, mailed, or downloaded by going to graceumcwarrenpa.com, click on "Our Ministries" at the top of the page and find Grace Promise Preschool.

Have a great summer!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds preschool@atlanticbbn.net or find us on Facebook!



General Memorial For: Hazel Finley By: Donald McCurdy



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of canned meats (tuna, chicken, SPAM) and canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, Chef Boyardee) at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the June 2023 Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com by Monday, May 15.

Thank you.



Flock Talk "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

ere comes May in all its glory! The world comes to life as God's creation blossoms with colors and birdsong. Let the warmth and ease of summer begin!

May brings that very special celebration of mothers. No matter what that feels like in your life, it has a place of reassurance and memory and heartfelt reflections. God speaks softly and lovingly about mothers. Jesus' mother, Mary, was His concern in his last moments on the cross. He provided that she would be cared for by John. This is one of the many loving and emotional moments where a mother is looked upon as a treasure to be guarded.

There is a warm and gentle tenderness that mothers have that guide us and protect us. Her compassion and wisdom continue to grow as her children flourish. Where would we be without the swift intervention of a mother who rescues her child from the littlest scrape to the life rendering moments that make us yearn for a mother's touch.

From the first tiny seedling that sprouts in fertile soil, there arises so many opportunities to praise God. With proper watering and tender tilling of the soil, the seedling develops to a maturity that calls for a strong and supportive environment. As the sun shines warm, in no time at all the wee sprout a young tree who is learning to provide for others. In just a breath, the tree becomes immovably rooted and provides shade and rest for others. One day an acorn drops and there is a brand new little tree inside it!

I have a mother who has all of the qualities that the love of Christ intended for mothers to have. I treasure her dearly and every day is Mother's Day in my world. Let's love as profoundly and as simple as this!

Lovingly, Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Grace Church Finance Report

Spring is Upon Us!

Below are the financials for March 2023. As we start out the year, please continue to pay close attention to the finances of our church and pray for Grace to make it through our recent changes so that we may focus on the ministries of the church.

2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	March '23	YTD	
Total Income	\$26,864.82	\$78,528.31	
Office Expense	\$672.89	\$3,184.74	
Buildings & Ground Expense	\$9,332.79	\$26,271.72	
(Church & Parsonage)			
Ministry Personnel	\$21,374.73	\$69,601.77	
Church Council	\$0.00	\$25.00	
Education Ministry	\$279.08	\$279.08	
Nurture Ministry	\$82.50	\$171.78	
Worship Ministry	\$790.81	\$1012.15	
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$401.96	
Connectional Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Ministry & Expense	\$32,532.80	\$100,948.20	
Net Income	(\$5,667.98)	(\$22,419.89)	

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 3/31/2023	(\$116,878.91)

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Dear Friends,

What an amazing surprise it was to open the mail and see your sweet Christmas offering gift to our ministry! I can't say thank you enough for the faithful support you all give to help keep our doors open to those in need of our services in this community. You are a blessing to so many! Thank you!



~Mary Brown, Director of Women's Care Center of Warren

Dear Grace UMC,

We thank God for your faithfulness & your generosity. Your long-term record of giving encourages us that

Thank You

the Kingdom of God still matters, & so we continue to share the life-giving message & offer salvation. Even through the pandemic you have been faithful in supporting the work that God is doing. Again, thank you for your part in the ministry of Christian camping at Wesley Woods.

Gratefully, Wesley Woods Christian Camp

^{*}Because of your Christmas donations, UMCOR and the Women's Care Center each received \$3,305.25!

We want to thank those who remembered us with flowers, cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers. It has been a long slow process with still a long way to go. With all the love and support from people like you and the grace of God, we are making it. Thank you all again!



~Stan & Shirley Pearson

Grace Promise Preschool Registration is now open! A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable registration fee** is required to hold a spot for your child for the 2023-2024 school year. Be sure to reserve a place for your child today! Additional forms can be picked up in the church office or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours.

Mrs. Gentilman & Mrs. Lynds preschool@atlanticbbn.net

Is fear of falling keeping you from doing the things you used to enjoy?

<u>Grace United Methodist Church and Experience Inc.</u> are offering a program to prevent falls called **HEALTHY STEPS FOR OLDER ADULTS**

HEALTHY STEPS is a free program to prevent falls and promote health and wellness for adults ages 50 and up. This includes making our homes safer, managing medications, and learning how to improve strength and balance. Learn about your risk for falling and learn Healthy Steps that you can take to prevent falls. You also receive a free 64-page Guide to Preventing Falls. Join us at the Grace United Methodist Church for two, 2-hour workshops on Wednesday, May 10th and Wednesday, May 17th from 10am to Noon. We'll be meeting in the Eaton Parlor. For information or to pre-register call: Joy Wiedmaier at (814) 730-0666 or Sue Toombs at (814) 730-9996

Wednesday, May 10th is Warren Gives day! From 6am-10pm visit www.warrengives.org to donate to several organizations throughout Warren County. 100% of your donation to Grace UMC will go to the HOPES Fund. Find out more about how to donate on their website. To donate to Warren Gives by check, stop by the

church office for the form or print the form off the Warren Gives website under "donating". Checks must be received at the Foundation office (310 Second Ave, Warren) no later than Friday, May 5th.

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 new acolyte class has started with 3 new students. They are Hemi Miller, Lacey McNett, and Audrey Wurst. Installation will be on Sunday, May 21st at the 11 o'clock service. <u>All</u> acolytes (those currently serving and the newly trained class) and advisors, are invited to a get acquainted pizza party on May 10th. All acolytes should plan to arrive 3:45-4:00 for a brief joint practice. Pizza will be served at about 4:15, with dismissal close to 5:00.



May 1 - Dawn Werner

May 2 - Jamie Watson, Jacqueline Sadler, James Black

May 3 - Dudley Wineriter

May 4- Floyd Moore, Simon Smith

May 5 - Evelyn Eaton, Sally Moldovan, Joe Sienkiewicz

May 6 - Edwin Rickerson, Kimberly Tutaro, Connor Grey

May 7 - Richard Thoma, Emma Stimmell

May 8 - Jan Garrett, Melissa Larsen, Bobbi Gafner

May 10 - Susan Puhl, Erin Werner

May 11 - Karen Schwone

May 12 - Helena Moore, Stephanie Reagle, Violet Brooker

May 13 - Beth Anne Nichols, Brittany Saber

May 14 - Daniel Farr

May 15 - Donna Miller, Gary Fleming

May 16 – Matthew Jeffrey

May 17 - Shane Burns

May 19 - Mary Rose Farr, Caroline Curren

May 20 - Kylie Kennedy, Kailee Morrison, Mitchell Arnold

May 21 - Beth Sprentz, Jennifer Morrison

May 22 - Patricia McClement, Sarah Tarpenning, Jacob McCollough, Kristen Johnson

May 23 - Bev Petersen

May 24 - Tyler Gustafson

May 25 - Marci Barker, Brandi Buchanan, Beau Kibbey

May 26 - Michael Phillips

May 27 - Cory Burns, Adam Barker

May 28 - Dave Berdine, Julie Ross, Ryan Gustafson

May 29 - Linda Morrison

May 30 - Paul Johnson

May 31 - Tony Ross, Walt Miller, Rhonda Narlee, Anna Peterson, Amanda Green, Julie Halteman



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Nurture</i>	9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p SPRC 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 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple	5 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	6 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved
7 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study	8 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Worship	9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p Education 6:00 p Property Trustees 6:00 p Pickleball	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 a Healthy Steps for Older Adults 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	11	12 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	9:00 a Praise Team
8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study	15 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Finance 6:00 p Pickleball	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 a Healthy Steps for Older Adults 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	18	19 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved
21 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 4:0 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	22 6:30 p Full of Grace Women's Ministry	23 6:00 p Pickleball	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	25	26	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	Office Closed	30 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church</i> <i>Council</i> 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.		CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE is open Mon-Fri from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor.	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

Published monthly; May 2023

~ 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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