

# Grace Notes

## July 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:                      *Rev. William Beatty*  
Coordinator 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:                *Lori Beatty*  
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*



***No July Meetings!***



This month's Communion offering will benefit **The Warren County Salvation Army**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet or a blue pew envelope for your contribution.

# *From the Pastor*

## **Oh, You're THAT Church**

Occasionally I get asked which church I'm the pastor of, and when I say, "Grace United Methodist" I usually get a blank stare. I follow it up with, "On Pennsylvania Avenue beside the Country Fair." Sometimes I see a little recognition and some people will say, "Oh, the church that looks like a courthouse...or a bank." Sigh. Kinda, yeah.

But sometimes I'll see the wheels turning and it's: "Oh, you're the church that hangs hats and mittens out all winter" or "You guys give hotdogs away, right?" Sometimes I'll get something like, "You guys really helped me out when..." or "My dad's funeral was there..." or "We go to your Thanksgiving dinner."

Just like people thrive when we live our lives for more than just our own wants and needs (Jesus had a LOT to say about that), churches thrive when they have an outward focus.

I read an article the other day called, "The Invisible Church: Why Your Community Does Not Know Your Church Exists" by Thom Rainer. He talks a bit about why we get that blank stare when we tell people what church we attend.

Pastor John Spahr told a story about when he was pastoring here: he went to Country Fair (next door) and asked the cashier if she could tell him where Grace United Methodist Church (next door!) was and she gave a couple possibilities but eventually gave up (it's next door!!). Sometimes the church really IS invisible.

Thom Rainer gives four reasons that we can be invisible:

1. Presence does not equal awareness
2. Churches tend to communicate inwardly, not outwardly
3. Familiarity breeds blindness
4. Visibility requires intentionality, not just activity

In the coming months I want to challenge all of us to think about how we can be more outwardly focused as a church in ways that make a meaningful impact on our community. Every time someone tells me that they know our church, it's because we've made some kind of important impression on their lives: funeral dinners for non-members, free books and hats and gloves, food for the hungry, gas or utility help for those struggling, dinners for those who don't have family (or means). We've got pickleball players and yoga... um... stretchers? and Bible study attenders who go to other churches or no church at all, yet we have impacted their lives. Even free hotdogs – because so few things in life really come with no strings attached...

William Temple, the Archbishop of Canterbury during the latter part of World War 2 famously said:

"The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members."

Reflecting the words of Jesus:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Or, more simply, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

We've got the pool party coming up in August – why not invite a neighbor or a friend to just come down, swim, hang out and eat pizza? Later that same week, Gary Kell is doing a "Learn to Fly Fish" time at Chapman Dam that's great for kids and adults. We have some other things in the hopper for the fall as well, opportunities to reach out, invite and share with our friends and neighbors.

But activity, as Thom Rainer points out, does not equal visibility. We have to be intentional about not only

what we are doing, but about inviting people to come and see and join us: to swim and eat pizza or learn how fly fish, inviting people to enjoy a hotdog or to stay warm in the winter or have a great Thanksgiving dinner. And to be fully present with those who come, to invite them into our lives and our stories.

We can be THAT church – the one that cares about other people, the one that reaches out into the community, the one that impacts lives with the love of Christ in a meaningful way.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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**Y**ou may have noticed that the choir is taking a few Sundays off in June, July, and August. Your choir is singing on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will add our contribution to our nation's 250th anniversary celebrations by singing "God Bless America". Here's a little background on the song that often wins the nominations for a new, more singable National Anthem.



**"God Bless America"** was written by Irving Berlin in 1918 during his service as a Seargent in the U.S. Army near the end of World War 1. He later revised the song in 1938 in the period leading up to World War 2. The revised version was recorded by Kate Smith, and presented on an Armistice Day radio broadcast in 1938. It's been sung by congressmen and presidents, hockey players and astronauts, and still sung in many sporting events daily.

*While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.*

*God bless America, land that I love, stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home. God bless America, my home sweet home.*

Irving Berlin was born May 11, 1888 in Russia, emigrated to the United States at the age of 5, and died in New York City on September 22, 1989, aged 101. He is quoted to have said "I came here as an immigrant from Russia in 1893, and whatever success I have had as a songwriter I owe to this country." When Irving Berlin was 80, in 1968, he chose to perform "God Bless America" himself at his own birthday party on the Ed Sullivan show. "I've tried," he said later, "to express my feelings on "God Bless America," a song which is not alone a song but an expression of my gratitude to the country that inspired it."

Just by the way, Irving Berlin won many awards and wrote many other hit songs including "White Christmas", "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and, also in 1918, "Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in The Morning!" (to the tune of the army's bugle call "reveille"). Please don't request that for our eleven o'clock service!

Your choir will sing again on the first Sunday in August and will return regularly in September. You shouldn't skip out on all the other special music we have scheduled throughout the summer though; we have some great music lined up that you won't want to miss!

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

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

# Save the Date!!!

**Monday, July 13** - Care4Creation Community Bible Camp Online Registration is due!

**July 19-23** - 6:00-8:00pm @ First Presbyterian Church - Care4Creation Community Bible Camp (VBS) for kids aged 5 - those entering grade 6. We have several churches participating this year!

Episcopal Mission of Warren County  
First Lutheran  
Grace United Methodist  
North Warren Presbyterian  
Saint John's Lutheran  
Saint Paul's Lutheran  
First Presbyterian

Donations of magazines, yarn, empty containers for drum making, and store bought cookies are being collected in a tote in Wesley Parlor. Questions? - ask Lori Beatty.

**Wednesday, July 29** - Pirates Game vs. Diamondbacks. LET'S GO BUCS! The bus will leave the church at 8:30 am.

**Friday, August 7** @ 6pm - Chapman Dam - Intro to Fly Fishing or just come and Fish! Led by Gary Kel and he will supply all of the fly-fishing gear. A day license would be needed by anyone over the age of 16. Come out and learn about fly fishing as Gary gives a brief presentation and reveals one of the mysteries and wonders of our Creator - the aquatic insect! Everyone will get a chance to practice casting with a yarn fly (so nobody gets hurt) and then progress to actual fishing! Nurture will provide a pavilion, and you can bring your own snacks, drinks and chairs.

**Friday, August 14** @ 7:00pm - Meet us at the church property across from the parsonage (behind Country Fair) for a campfire! Supplies for Smores will be provided. Please bring your own drink. Come and enjoy some fellowship and some praise songs!

**Thursdays** from 6 - 8pm beginning **September 10** - The Chosen Series and Bible Study will be held in the library. We plan to watch two episodes per night with Bible Study and discussion after each episode. No cost to participate - see Lori Beatty if you have any questions. We will not meet on Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving), Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) and will continue through May 28, 2027.

**Saturday, October 10** @ 6:00pm - Join us in Higginbotham Hall for a night of fun and fellowship as we have a Karaoke Night! All ages are welcome - snacks will be provided.

**Saturday, October 24** @ noon - Soup and Pie Senior Luncheon in Higginbotham Hall. Bring your appetite :)

Upcoming Events - Dates and times to be determined soon!

Calligraphy with Kathy! Several of you have expressed an interest in learning this art form. Please see Kathy Long and she will organize a time that works for everyone.

The Nurture Committee and CREW are planning a day (a Saturday sometime after Thanksgiving and prior to Christmas) - for adults to have a day/evening out. We will provide crafts, movies, games and meals/snacks for children so that parents have time for holiday preparations. Gift wrapping will also be offered. More information will follow in the fall!

Lori Beatty



## Flock Talk

*“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

*John 8:36*

Independence Day! We have that date marked on our calendars as well as in our memories. Aside from parades and festivities, we have the sentimental remembrance of this being the day the world changed for America.

Our own personal independence came with a cost. The cost was beyond measure for Christ. Freedom from enslavement to the world and to pursuits that are eventually futile. Freedom from fear, and most of all freedom from eternal death.

When we first enter a church, whether it was just last week or whether you were carried in as a baby, we encounter the One who loves us enough to say, “You are free!” Sometimes we don’t realize that immediately and other times we are swept up in great emotion by that thought.

Listening to Pastor Bill’s messages both reminds us and emphasizes that we are free from worry, we’re free from anxiety and we’re free from hopelessness. It may not always feel that way when circumstances are not in our favor. But, when we follow through with Scripture readings and are simply staying present with the Word, we begin to notice that those difficult emotions lose their power over us.

Nothing speaks of freedom like God’s overwhelming love that says, “Come to Me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”. He gathers the lost lambs, He collects the lost coins and He welcomes the prodigal child. Claim that freedom. It’s yours!

With enthusiasm,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

On June 21<sup>st</sup> during the 9:30am service  
Julian Leon Carlson was baptized.  
He is the son of Maria & Durrant Carlson.



Confirmation was held June 7<sup>th</sup>  
during the 9:30 service. We welcome  
new member Katelyn Jurkowski.



**During Worship**  
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)  
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)  
July 5 – Melissa Zaffino  
July 12 – Anna Peterson  
July 19 – Melissa Zaffino  
July 26 – Anna Peterson



Items for the **August 2026**  
Newsletter need to be delivered  
to Mary in the office  
[mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by  
**Wednesday, July 15.**  
Thank you.



**Grace Promise Preschool registration is now open!** A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable fee** is required to hold a spot for the 2026-2027 school year. A handbook and registration form 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 (Tuesday-Thursday 9a-11:30a). Questions? Email [Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com](mailto:Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com)

## Grace Church Finance Report



### 2026 Monthly and YTD Financials

	May '26	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,387.35</b>	<b>\$147,584.03</b>
Office Expense	\$367.56	\$4,724.65
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$4,084.91	\$37,914.25
Ministry Personnel	\$20,187.77	\$106,581.85
Church Council	\$0.00	\$360.19
Education Ministry	\$111.55	\$456.33
Nurture Ministry	\$98.45	\$558.58
Worship Ministry	\$221.72	\$1,947.88
Outreach Ministry	\$312.10	\$854.97
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,649.88	\$13,249.40
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$28,033.94</b>	<b>\$166,648.10</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$646.59)</b>	<b>(\$19,064.07)</b>

### Shortfall

<b>Account Balance 05/31/2026</b>	<b>(\$42,925.88)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

**With Joyful Appreciation!** Grace Church is blessed to have Pastor Bill reassigned to our church for another year. We extend our appreciation to him for leading and guiding us as a congregation. We thank him for his faithful presence in so many areas of our lives and we are especially grateful to his family for sharing him with us!

The Grace Church HOPES Fund received a check for **\$7,156.43** as a result of the generous donations and matching funds from Warren Gives day. Thank you to everyone who donated!





The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **peanut butter, jelly, syrup, and boxed potatoes** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!

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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 Vickie Morrison at 814-726-0170.



Grace Church is serving punch and cookies at the United Methodist House in Chautauqua, NY on **Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** from approximately 3-4:30pm. If interested in helping, contact Linda Knapp at 814-726-1199. Limited to 10 people. We will also need cookie bakers.

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Kingdom Bound 2026 Six Flags Darien Lake **Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**  
A Christian music festival at a full theme and water park! All youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and their families are invited to attend! Contact Nicki Egger to learn more!  
[nicki@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:nicki@graceumcwarren.com)



Save the date! **Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 6-8 p.m. for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship at the Warren C.A.R. Pool! This is a time for all of us who attend Grace Church to invite our families, friends, and neighbors to enjoy our fellowship, especially those who might not have a church connection. There will be pizza, chips, popsicles, pool time, and more. Not a swimmer? No problem! There will be plenty to enjoy! No RSVP needed!





July 1 – Karl Grosch, Jason Tucher

July 4 – Steve Norris, Maribeth Miller, Gabrielle Hahn, Elie Beatty

July 5 – Steph Russo, Shari Jerman, Shawn Zaffino

July 6 – Margaret Sleeman, Sharaya Vivian, Tyler Dymond, Kaitlin Gedz, Aliza Shelby

July 8 – Seth Conarro

July 9 – Mackenzie Tucher

July 10 – Barbara Stevenson

July 13 – Tressa Knowlton, Bridget Trisket

July 14 – Patti McMeans

July 15 – Barb Stanko, Karen Conarro

July 16 – Cale Trisket

July 17 – Kevin Farr, Keith Yaegle, Derek Hanlin

July 18 – Kerry Pangborn, Amy Smith, Kylie Jurkowski, Bella Egger, Eliza Hellman

July 22 – Veronica Andersen, Davi Dymond

July 24 – Michaelle Carroll

July 25 – Brian Jurkowski

July 26 – David Larsen, Kristine Peterson, Brooke Barney

July 27 – Ryan Barker

July 28 – Cyril Jedor

July 29 – Kay McNaughton, Jordan Arthur

July 30 – Janis Wall, Susan Bednez, Hunter Danielson, Haley Stimmell, Levi Peterson, Maya Alex

July 31 – William Lord



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	<b>3</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>4</b> 8:30 a Hot Dog Giveaway
<b>5</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	<b>6</b> 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>7</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>8</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>9</b> 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group	<b>10</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>11</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>12</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	<b>13</b> 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>14</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>15</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>16</b> 9:00 a Library Reserved 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group	<b>17</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>18</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>19</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing 6:00 p VBS @ First Presbyterian	<b>20</b> 10:30 a Touch Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p VBS @ First Presbyterian	<b>21</b> 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p VBS @ First Presbyterian	<b>22</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p VBS @ First Presbyterian 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>23</b> 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group 6:00 p VBS @ First Presbyterian	<b>24</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels	<b>25</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>26</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship at The Crossing	<b>27</b> 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>28</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>29</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a Pirates Bus Trip 9:00 a C.R.E.W. @ Kingdom Bound 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>30</b> 6:00 p Grief Share Support Group	<b>31</b> 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!***