

Grace Notes

July 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



No July Meetings



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

From the Pastor

What Do You Think God Will Do?

I read a story that went something like this:

Once there was a drought and all the people in town decided they would gather together on Sunday and pray for rain. Sunday morning came, nearly the entire town came to pray for God to send rain. Only one little boy brought an umbrella.

The “moral” of that story is: hope is praying for rain, faith is bringing an umbrella

Maybe we aren’t praying for rain these days (though, as I type this, it’s been pretty dry lately!), but we pray for God to do lots of things for us: we pray for forgiveness, we pray for blessing, we pray when we need help or when someone else needs help, we pray in our distress and in our joy. But how... expectantly... do we pray?

I’m reminded of the story in the Gospel of Mark:

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

(Mark 2:1-5; NIV)

I’m always struck by the fact that Mark tells us when Jesus saw *their* faith – the faith of the friends – he said to the paralyzed man, “Your sins are forgiven.” (Which causes a whole ‘nother dustup with the religious leaders...). Those friends came to Jesus EXPECTANTLY. They knew he could heal their friend. They convinced that Jesus could and would do something amazing for their friend.

Mark Batterson in his book *The Circle Maker* writes:

“God does not answer vague prayers.’ When I read that statement, I was immediately convicted by how vague my prayers were. Some of them were so vague that there was no way of knowing whether God had answered them or not.”

I, too, have been convicted by how vague my prayers can be. “Bless us, God,” is appropriate, and Biblical, but how do we quantify that, then? How do I know that God has, indeed, blessed us? But if I pray “God bless us with new faces this Sunday in worship.” I will know how God is responding – and if there’s no new faces, I have another prayer: “What can I or we do to reach new people, God?” or “Give us hearts that are truly welcoming, God, so that your Spirit will compel people to come!” Pretentious? I don’t think so. I think God wants us to connect our hearts with the very will of God in specific and practical ways. And so I need to pray expectantly: that God will do something amazing. The truth is, God often answers my prayers in surprising and wonderful ways – not always what I expect (sometimes not even what I *want*) but always something marvelous.

So here are some expectant prayers for Grace Church – some specific prayers that we can all raise up, expecting God to do something amazing for us and through us:

- Holy Spirit, give us wisdom and discernment that we might make decisions that honor you and bring about the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
- Generous God, give our church the resources and opportunities to continue to do the work you have called us to do to impact our neighborhood, our community and our world.
- God of Wisdom and Truth, give us hearts that seek to grow, to deepen our knowledge and experience of You, to more intently love You and love our neighbors.
- God of all, give us all generous hearts, so that we may be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us.

How are you praying expectantly today?

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Christmas in July?

Some whimsical people like to celebrate Christmas in July; six months off schedule. The idea of cooling off, decorating with red and green festivities seems to be a welcome distraction from the “dog days” of summer.



I, on the other hand, look forward to our Christmas season out of necessity. July is the beginning of planning for our Christmas Concert (December 10, 4 p.m.), our choir retreat (Sunday afternoon, November 19) and of course, Christmas Eve, which happens to be on December 24 (Sunday this year).

Here's one of the most popular Christmas songs, with an encouraging message that we can rely on even in July: (I challenge you to not sing it!)

Joy to the World

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719. Music by G. F. Handel, 1741, arranged by Lowell Mason, 1848. Quite a while ago!

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

With a happy message like that, you can sing it today, and every day! Even in your car, with the windows up, to keep the cool air conditioning blasting within. Merry Christmas in July!

We have more recent events to anticipate as well. We're all invited to sing with the Community Worship

Service Choir on August 6, with many members of our community churches joining us at the Struthers Library Theatre. We'll practice on Wednesday, August 2 at 7p.m.

Our inspirational and fun Wednesday night choir practices will resume in the latter part of August. Sunday morning choir practice in July and August will continue from 10:30 to 11, between the second and third services. You are always welcome to sing with your Grace choir.

Get outside and enjoy the Warren weather. Get inside on Sunday mornings and enjoy your church congregations and worship services. Keep on breathing, keep on praying, and keep on singing! Celebrate with us each Sunday morning at 8:30, 9:30, or 11:00, either comfortably in person or online anytime. Look for a blessing. Look for peace.

Floyd Moore
Choir Director

WORSHIP PROPELS OUR MISSION

The prophet, Isaiah, had a vision of worship in heaven. Seraphim called to one another, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' Isaiah was convicted of his sin. 'Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.' A seraph touched his lips with a coal, cleansing his sin and guilt.



Then Isaiah overhears a conversation in the heavenlies – the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' Isaiah replied, 'Here am I. Send me!'

When we come to the Lord in fervent worship and seeking prayer, we draw close to His heart. Like Isaiah, we are convicted of sin, purified, and set free. We experience healing and transformation. Our hearts are changed. We receive His burden for the lost and He commissions and empowers us to go.

(From the Summer 2023 Global Disciples newsletter)

Worship, as a verb, is defined as showing reverence or adoration for a deity and also to take part in a religious ceremony.

Our **Mission** in Grace United Methodist church is "To know Christ and to make Him known!"

Golly, I can bring so many ideas together here!

God chose you!

Lighthouse Congregation

Our Core Values:

Extravagant Generosity / Authentic Engagement / Transformational Discipleship

Extraordinary Grace / Word-Centered Mission

Grace Church is in the midst of a transformational stage. The demographics of attendees is changing. The vitality of our Outreach is coming upward from our Youth and into our community. Nurture is happening at all levels: Daycare, Pre-school, Sunday School, Bible Study and Worship! Stewardship of our church home, church family and finances is on the up-swing.

We are Connecting, Growing and Serving. I am excited!

When we worship, we draw close to God. And remember this (Micah 6:8):

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Cindy Price

It's been over a month since preschool ended, and we are already getting the classroom ready for next fall. While the kids are enjoying their summer break, carpets are being cleaned and the room is getting tidied and organized in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. We still have a couple openings in each class, so if you know of anyone that has not enrolled their child in a preschool for the fall, registration forms can be picked up in the church office. You can also find us on Facebook or the Grace Church website.



We truly value the prayers and support from our Grace Church Family!

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and a safe and Happy 4th of July!

Trish Gentilman- Director/Co-Teacher
Jen Lynds- co-teacher
preschool@atlanticbbn.net



During Worship

9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)

July 2 – Melissa Zaffino
July 9 – Anna Peterson
July 16 – Melissa Zaffino
July 23 – Anna Peterson
July 30 – Melissa Zaffino



Confirmation was held May 28th during the 9:30 service. Welcome new members AJ Slattery, Brennah Ward, Charlotte Keeports, Kylie Jurkowski, and Bella Egger.



Kitchen Memorial

For: Martha Anderson
By: Chris & Karen Dutchess

General Memorial

For: Shirley Pearson
By: Gary & Georgianne Albaugh,
Bucky & Linda Knapp, Bobbi Hessley,
William Cobb & Celia Knapp



The Grace Church Food Pantry is not in need of anything at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the August 2023 Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com by Monday, July 17.

Pastoral Re-Appointment for 2023-2024

We give thanks for the ministry and leadership of Pastor Bill. We are especially grateful that he has been re-appointed to Grace Church for another appointment year. He has been a servant leader among us since 2017 and is a gift of grace to us.

Pastor Bill fills the role of our pastor, leader, friend and teacher. May God's grace be upon him and his family in the days ahead. We ask for your prayers to continue to give him abundant energy and wisdom to guide us in fulfilling the mission of becoming effective disciples.

On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee we give thanks to Pastor Bill for his strong and dependable leadership throughout these past years. He has navigated us through hard times with the pandemic and has steadied us through the denomination issues. We are sincerely appreciative of his calling.

Sue Toombs, Chair of SPRC

SPRC members: Terry Moldovan, Stacy Vavala, Larry Knowlton, Betsy Miller, Art Anderson



Flock Talk

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2

The word is out! Grace Church is a friendly and welcoming place! We always have been, but now people are talking about it. We're on the map, too. We're one of several Lighthouse Congregations in this area and it's giving us even more opportunities to show grace to others.

There are a few "well-known facts" about hospitality that might not be so well known. First, it requires unity in a church. It makes us elevate fellowship to a priority and delivers a vibrancy of the loving environment we have to share. It also nurtures the family of God. We can have small pockets of chronic loneliness within our walls and not see it. It doesn't take grand steps to fix it, just a simple checking in or a home visit. It may require us to take a small step out of our comfort zone, but . . .

Hospitality is good for the giver because it puts our hearts to work and we serve in ways we never expected. One of those is that showing friendliness and openness to others is a form of spiritual warfare against the enemy. It strongly binds us together, sometimes in the company of unsaved neighbors. It gives us a chance to glorify God through our warm and sincere actions.

Lastly, it's good for children. They catch on and when they see us embrace others it creates a template for them to use at school and at play. Kindness and gentleness are contagious. We've all caught it so let's spread it along with the Gospel!

Happily,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Our heart felt thanks to all who helped us through our time of need. The flowers, food, and many prayers were greatly appreciated. We wouldn't have gotten along without all your prayers, and still need them. Thanks to the kitchen crew for the wonderful lunch.

Special thanks to Pastor Bill, who guided us through our dark days.

Thank you all,

Stan Pearson & Family

*Thank
You*

Grace Church Finance Report



2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	May '23	YTD
Total Income	\$25,774.96	\$136,237.49
Office Expense	\$238.48	\$3,549.28
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$3,537.14	\$34,954.68
Ministry Personnel	\$21,219.57	\$112,167.06
Church Council	\$0.00	\$342.79
Education Ministry	\$400.61	\$791.94
Nurture Ministry	\$61.65	\$530.82
Worship Ministry	\$109.62	\$1,311.24
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$401.96
Connectional Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$25,567.07	\$154,049.77
Net Income	\$207.89	(\$17,812.28)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 5/31/2023	(\$112,271.30)
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ACOLYTE NEWS

Recently 3 new acolytes were installed to begin service at Grace Church. They were presented acolyte cross pendants and participation certificates during the 11:00 a.m. service on May 28th. These students completed a 3-week training class with Pastor Bill and helpers, where they learned about the worship service, symbols in the church, the sacraments, what it means to be an acolyte, and practiced lighting the worship candles. A “get-acquainted” pizza party included current acolytes and was held at the conclusion of the last class with 8 present. Those completing the classes are Lacey McNett, Hemi Miller, and Audrey Wurst. Each will work with a “veteran” acolyte as they begin the service of acolyting. We now have a total of 11 active members. Additionally, we have 2 new adult advisors—Donna Ochterski and Melinda Johnson. **Congratulations** to the new class and **thank you** to the new advisors for serving in this important part of worship.



SAVE THE DATE! The Outreach committee will be conducting their annual Rummage Sale **Saturday, September 16**. Childrens clothes will be accepted, but please no adult clothing. Drop-off will be on Friday, September 15. This has been a great fundraiser in the past! More information will be coming later along with the charity we will be donating the proceeds to. Start collecting your donations now!

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

Grace Hiking and Walking Clubs

We are making plans for more time on the trails this month and will post the dates in the bulletin as the schedule unfolds. There will be several hikes that will present nice challenges, most likely the second and third weeks of July. There are plans in the making for walks and will be determined by popular demand!

The adventures we have had so far are giving us even more enthusiasm to pursue this type of endeavor. Friendships are being deepened and new faces are becoming a regular occurrence. If you would like to lead a walk, please let me know. There are so many areas to explore and it will be fun to have new creativity! Also, it would be especially nice if we could orchestrate a walk for groups who would like a more suitable pace. Let me know! Sue Toombs at fourwindsranch.net or 814-730-9996.



Yarn Angels will meet on the second Friday of July and every month after from 10:00-11:30am. Anyone interested in knitting is welcome to come.

The Nurture Committee is sponsoring a Church Picnic on Sunday, July 23rd at 2pm. It will be held at Chapman Dam, Pavilion 1. Hot dogs, bottled water, and tableware will be provided. Bring a dish to share if you are able. All are welcome!



Community VBS Stellar Shine Jesus' Light Sunday, July 16-Wednesday, July 19 from 6-8:15pm at First United Methodist Church (200 Market Street). Kids 5 through entering 6th grade. Register now on the Grace UMC website.

We are looking for volunteers to provide and deliver lunches for the Ramps workers!

You pick the menu, something quick and easy like Pizza/sandwiches, chips, dessert, etc. There are usually 10-12 workers, they like to eat at 12:00, and you are literally

done and gone by 12:30! For more information, please text or call Cheryle Stellato, 730-0824 or email

tcstellato@atlanticbb.net. Thanks!



ACTIVITY BAGS ARE HERE! If you have a youngster with you during the 9:30 or 11:00 services, we have something for them! These bags have coloring pages, pencils, markers or crayons, books and a few other small games. They are located on a new rack in front of the Audio/Visual console. Please return them after the service; but the budding artist may take home their colored pages! Thanks to Jan and Kurt Lyle for spearheading this project!



July 1 - Karl Grosch, Jason Tucher

July 3 - Chuck McManigle

July 4 - Steve Norris, Ann Rossman, Maribeth Miller, Gabrielle Hahn, Elie Beatty

July 5 - Steph Russo, Shari Jerman, Shawn Zaffino

July 6 - Margaret Sleeman, Sharaya Vivian, Tyler Dymond, Kaitlin Sedon, Aliza Shelby

July 8 - Seth Conarro

July 9 - Mackenzie Tucher

July 10 - Barb Stevenson

July 13 - Tressa Knowlton, Bridget Trisket

July 14 - Patti McMeans, Bonnie Glotz

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 21 - Tom Sleeman

July 22 - Veronica Andersen, Davi Dymond

July 23 - Alex Weiland

July 24 - Michaelle Carroll, Zachary Ickert

July 25 - Brian Jurkowski

July 26 - David Larsen, Brooke Barney

July 27 - Ryan Barker

July 29 - Kay McNaughton, Jordan Arthur

July 30 - Janis Wall, Susan Bednez, Hunter Danielson, Haley Stimmell, Maya Alex




July 31 - William Lord





July



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>3 5:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>4 Office Closed 8:00 a 4th of July Parade Hot Dog Giveaway</p>	<p>5 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.</p>	<p>6 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group</p>	<p>7 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>1 9:00 a Praise Team</p> <hr/> <p>8 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>9 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>10 5:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>11 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball</p>	<p>12 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:00 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>15 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>16 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 5:30 p VBS @ First UMC 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>17 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p VBS @ First UMC</p>	<p>18 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p VBS @ First UMC</p>	<p>19 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p VBS @ First UMC 6:30 p C.R.E.W.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>22 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>23 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 2:00 p Church Picnic @ Chapman Dam 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>24 6:30 p Full of Grace Women's Ministry</p>	<p>25 6:00 p Pickleball</p>	<p>26 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>30 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>31 5:15 p Christian Yoga</p>			<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	

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*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!