

Grace Notes

February 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:	<i>Rev. William Beatty</i>
Director of	
Congregational Care:	<i>Cindy Price</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Floyd Moore</i>
Piano Accompanist:	<i>Lori Beatty</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Meghan Brooker</i>
Office Manager:	<i>Mary Quiggle-Pickering</i>
Director of Children &	
Family Ministries:	<i>Amanda Slattery</i>
Director of Youth &	
Family Ministries:	<i>Nicki Egger</i>

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



February Meetings

February 7 - 6:00 p - SPRC
February 14 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
February 20 - 5:30 p - Education



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

From the Pastor

Bridging Gaps

The Barna Group does lots of surveys seeking data on our culture and our faith and where the two intersect. In 2020 they reported that about 25% of Americans polled considered themselves a “practicing Christian” while about 43% of Americans polled consider themselves to be “non-practicing Christians” (that is, they believe, but do not attend church). Which leaves about 32% considering themselves “non-Christian.”

Those numbers feel about right to me, actually. I know a number of people who have drifted away from the Church – from any kind of regular engagement with what we might call the “activities” of faith (attending worship or Bible study, missional engagement, etc.).

But that got me thinking about what are the “practices” of a “practicing Christian.” It’s got to be more than attending worship services and Bible Study (which I think are important, of course). Practicing Christians pray regularly and read the Bible and are generous. Practicing Christians love and forgive and build others up. Practicing Christians are patient and kind, not boastful or proud, not dishonoring others, not self-seeking or easily angered; practicing Christians keep no record of wrong (1 Corinthians 13). Practicing Christians live lives of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

And it’s easy to look at all that and kind of spiritualize it and make it a Jesus “wish list” – you know, if I was perfect in my faith, I would look like this. But who can live up to that? We’ve all got gaps in this kind of “practicing Christian” faith walk. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t hold our lives up to this kind of scrutiny. WHY am I not joyful? WHY am I easily angered? WHY am I self-seeking? It’s in those gaps that we need to lean into Christ to make of us something more than what we are by (human/sinful) nature.

Because here’s the truth that we sometimes don’t like to face. Practicing Christians share their faith. I know all the excuses. I’ve USED all the excuses. But that’s all they are. Attempts by me to excuse my sinful, selfish behavior. Practicing Christians share their faith, even when there are gaps in how we live out our faith, even if we aren’t perfect. If we wait until we have it all together, we’ll never share our faith.

Barna did another poll, just recently, that suggests that Americans are much more open to having faith conversations than perhaps we give people credit for. 77% say they believe in God (or a higher power), 74% say they would like to grow spiritually. Those two numbers are significant, of course, but even more telling is that 44% of people polled are “more open to God today than I was before the pandemic.”

And that’s a gap that is really significant. 3/4ths of people believe in God and want to grow spiritually (many don’t really even know what any of that means!) and almost half are even more open to faith conversations than just a few years ago. If we can bridge that gap – between those who believe in “God or a higher power” and the truth of who Jesus is. If we can bridge the gap between our excuses and our fears and actually share our faith, think about what an impact that could have: on your family, on your neighborhood, on this community, and on the world.

Practicing Christians share their faith. How are you practicing your faith today?

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bill

As I write this, the world is getting ready for the Superbowl. Millions of people are preparing to celebrate an event in which we have no control of the outcome whatsoever. We'll plan our day around the event and get all excited and maybe even cheer and yell at the tv.



I'm reminded of a victory far greater than an event in which we have no influence on the outcome, it's found in our personal victory of meeting Jesus Christ. That event is delightfully celebrated in our hymnal #701, "When We All Get to Heaven":

When We All Get to Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; sing His mercy and His grace,
In the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place.

Chorus after each verse:

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open, we shall tread the streets of gold.

Think of it – when each of us get to heaven! Each of us, personally, will meet Jesus and sing and shout the victory. Please join me in our victory celebration!

This hymn was written in 1898. Words by Eliza E. Hewitt, (1851 – 1920) Music by Emily D. Wilson, (1865 – 1942). It's based on John 14, verses 1-3, where Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (NIV) I was taught the King James version, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me, In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Wow! We won!

See you in Church!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director

IMPLICATIONS OF DISUNITY

Church Unity Through Paul's Eyes – N.T. Wright

What does DISUNITY mean to you?

For me, I imagine strongly held, conflicting opinions within in a group; such as a family or close friends. In fact, opinions so strongly held that no one is prepared to compromise or even concede a little to regain harmony.



N.T. Wright begins this section with; "One of the great powers in the Western world is media influence, and many media organizations are attracted to stories highlighting church disunity. Human nature laps up stories of scandal, split or division and even more so when it occurs within the church as an apparent example of incongruity. Partly because that then discredits the Christian witness. ... The church does need to recover the public voice, (especially) ... if it does so out of a lifestyle that is living the Jesus-way. The point of unity, in Paul's letters isn't (about) unity for its own sake the point is about witness."

The Cores Values of Grace Church provide an outline for how we can witness.

- **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

As we build these Core Values into our own lives, they then become incorporated into the life and witness of Grace Church. It will take a *unified community of faith* for that to take place.

Wright continues: "Paul envisages the church – within its context of threats and dark patterns of behavior – living as a community in such a way that people look at the whole life of God's people and say to themselves, "I didn't know it was possible to live like this. To live as distinct individuals, but as a unified family, full of **grace** and **concern** for one another. It's very attractive'."

With you in unity, Cindy Price

Music Memorial

For: William Long & Dawn Johnson
By: Kris & Renee Magnuson

UMW/Ruth M Smith Circle

For: Virginia Dunn
By: Charlene Hoffman & friends

General Memorial

For: Hazel Finley
By: Donald McCurdy



For: Doug Smith Jr.
By: Barb & Jack Carlson, Carol Ostergard

Hello Grace Church!

It's hard to believe that February is upon us. The buzz of the holidays is over. Perhaps we even experienced a bit of a let down from the holidays these past few weeks. It is interesting how impactful a date on a calendar can be. From anniversaries, birthdays, holidays to angelversaries, they all spark a particular memory, an experience, an emotion. So it is no surprise that Valentine's Day has a similar effect. For some, the thought of flowers, chocolates, perhaps an intimate date or, if you are a busy couple, perhaps just the thought of an intimate date is lovely. Others may find such a time difficult as it conjures thoughts of heartbreak, loneliness or loss.

Regardless of what this cute little cherub's day conjures for you, one theme prevails and that is love. Even if we don't like heart-shaped arrows being thrown about, piercing backsides or thrown askew by fickle winds, we can still choose love.



Love. A quick google search tells me love is an intense feeling of deep affection or a great interest and pleasure in something. Not that I needed to look it up! Every day I am reminded of how much love is around me. The love I receive and share with my husband has saved me. My beautiful daughter, her silly noises, creative spirit and bright soul encourage me. My dear, sweet boy. His love perseveres, held tightly in my heart. My family, friends, Church family, coworkers. There is so much love to see, feel and experience. Choose love.

"Let all that you do be done in love," 1 Corinthians 16:14. "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love," 1 Corinthians 13:13. Corinthians has a lot to say about love! But I'll end with John 4:16, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

God is our greatest relationship, our greatest love. No matter how this particular date hits you, the love God has for us and us in Him will sustain us. Take care and God bless.

Nicki Egger
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Happy New Year! On December 31st, the Children's Ministry held our "New's Years Around the World" event. During the event children rang in the New Year each hour we were together. Children also learned how several countries ring in the new year each year. Crafts were made, and pizza was eaten. We had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to all that attended the event. I have loved spending time with each family, and building a better relationship with each of you.



A February event is currently being planned. Please stay tuned for information about the event.

Amanda Slattery

We are thankful for a mild start to the winter and have our fingers crossed that the trend continues. We will begin February by making predictions on whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and hope for an early spring! The children have settled back into the routine after our Christmas break and are well into our winter activities. Our three-year-old class is starting their color unit and doing "homework". The four-year-old class is working on their "Passports to Kindergarten" and proudly adding stars for each skill they master. We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with a class Valentine's party. Our party day is always great fun as we share treats and cards from our friends.



Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is well under way for current preschool, Grace Church & daycare families. We will open to the public on February 1, 2023, so if you or someone you know would like to register a child for next school year, please pick up a registration form from the office, call 723-9440 and we can mail you a packet, or call the preschool room at 723-8011 during school hours. We are filling up quickly, so reserve your spot now!

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Grace Promise Preschool!

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool

Trish Gentilman
preschool@atlanticbnn.net

January was a little hectic due to some unforeseen health concerns for staff. So, we would appreciate your prayers as the healing continues to happen throughout February. The daycare is currently at the maximum capacity for children in regard to the staff that we have! As I said in the last newsletter, our staff is continuing their education so that hopefully our maximum capacity will be able to increase in the future.



Cindy Kalkbrenner
Director



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



The 2023 altar flower list is up. Go to the church website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com, click the sign-up button, and follow the directions. You can also call the office 723-9440 or email meghan@graceumcwarren.com to reserve your spot.



Flock Talk

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Matthew 4:19

We have entered into our second month of Disciple classes at Grace Church and we're journeying through the books of Luke and Acts. This year we have sixteen people linking arms and facing the glorious challenges of delving deep into the Word. These classes are truly transformational and cause us to stay razor focused on Jesus' call to follow Him.

One of the first questions we encountered is, "What would the Apostle Paul say if he walked into Grace Church?" He would likely tell us that without love we have nothing. Love is patient and love is kind. The three things that will last forever are faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. I believe that would be his starting point.

If Paul were to come to our Disciple class he would find people who are trying to gain insight into God's Word. He would find an inner circle who were sincerely looking for ways to lift each other up so that we would find the strength to be disciples. Not by our strength, but with a clearer understanding of how the Holy Spirit changes our character.

Maybe Paul would be painfully honest and say, "You have the Book, you know the ending, why aren't you doing more?" I would hope he would press us to take discipleship more seriously. It's an undeniable call to obedience and a true form of worship. It's love in action.

Our group is always happy to include more at any time. We don't have all the answers, but we have a fair share of questions. We are simply people encouraging each other to be bold and to face the world with the love Christ has planted in us. A love that, long ago, caused twelve men to turn the world upside down!

In His hands,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



The clotheslines are up! Covered by Grace is in need of **gloves** and **mittens**! Donations can be placed in the gray tote across from Pastor Bill's office or visit www.graceumcwarrenpa.com for the link to our Amazon wishlist.



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



Items for the March 2023 Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com by Wednesday, February 15.
Thank you.

Adult advisors needed:

Additional advisors are needed to assist with the acolyte program for the 11:00 worship service on Sunday mornings. If you could give one Sunday (or more) on a monthly or quarterly basis, it would be helpful and appreciated. Please call the church office, 723-9440, for more information if you are interested. This is a great way to get to know our young people and help them participate in and learn more about the worship service.

Grace Church Finance Report

Year End Review



Below is a year-end review of Grace Church's finances for 2022. As we go into the new 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.

2022 Monthly and YTD Financials

	December '22	YTD
Total Income	\$33,374.06	\$373,891.83
Office Expense	\$615.25	\$6,591.60
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$10,248.61	\$84,403.41
Ministry Personnel	\$21,246.52	\$285,751.15
Church Council	\$0.00	\$443.79
Education Ministry	\$146.36	\$2,483.68
Nurture Ministry	\$324.84	\$2,365.03
Worship Ministry	\$17.99	\$2,808.54
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,896.61
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,939.00	\$35,268.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$796.51
Total Ministry & Expense	\$35,538.57	\$422,808.32
Net Income	(\$2,164.51)	(\$48,916.49)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 12/31/2022	(\$94,384.05)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Welcome new members 2022:

Marian Aranyos
Tina Moore
Helena Moore
Lori Beatty
Kurt & Janice Lyle
Leon & Donna Ochterski



We wish to thank all those persons who stayed after the 11 o'clock service on January 8th to help take down the Christmas decorations. We had many willing helpers. Your willingness to share your time and talents is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Suzette Berdine & Linda Knapp

Movie Night at Grace Church



Movie Nights will be held in Higginbotham Hall of Grace Church beginning on Friday, Feb. 17 at 6:00 pm. We will be watching the first two episodes of The Chosen, Season 3. Anyone who hasn't seen the first two seasons can watch them on YouTube for free. It is an amazing series that you won't want to miss! Feel free to bring snacks to share and we hope to see you there!

One Service with a Potluck to follow!

On March 19, we will be having one combined service at ten o'clock with a Potluck Luncheon to follow. Feel free to bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship! Table service and drinks will be provided.



Staff Appreciation Day!

We are celebrating Staff Appreciation Day on February 19th! When you see one of our staff today, or anytime this month, please take the opportunity to acknowledge these incredible people. They are the heartbeat of the church!

We thank you, Grace Church staff, for the way you navigate the challenges of each and every day. We appreciate that you are the strong foundation that creates a healthy environment for all ages. We see your dedication and your patience in so many wonderful ways. You have talents and skills that cause us to respect you and to be grateful at the way you care about us. You steady us in areas that we sometimes assume are effortless.

We extend a warm hearted "thank you" to the following people:

Mary Quiggle-Pickering, Office Manager
Meghan Brooker, Office Administrator
Cindy Price, Director of Congregational Care
Floyd Moore, Director of Grace Choir
Nicki Egger, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Amanda Slattery, Director of Children's Ministries
Dave Moore, Audio and Visual Equipment Technician
Trish Gentilman, Director of Promise Preschool
Jen Lynds, Co-Teacher of Promise Preschool
Mike Roney, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Tristan Johnson, Security/Set-up
Shirley Shafer, Housekeeping
Anna Peterson, Nursery Worker
Melissa Zaffino, Nursery Worker
Cindy Kalkbrenner, Director of Grace Daycare
Amber Canniff, Assistant Director of Grace Daycare

Promise Preschool Registration is now open for Grace Church members, Care With Grace Daycare, and current Promise Preschool families. A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable registration fee** is required to hold a spot for your child for the 2023-2024 schoolyear. Registration will be open to the public starting February 1, 2023, so be sure to reserve a place for your child today! Additional forms can be picked up in the church office or by calling 723-8011 during school hours. Mrs. Gentilman preschool@atlanticbbn.net

Are you curious about the **Holy Lands of Israel**? The places where Jesus was born & walked & ROSE? Would you like to WALK where he walked and see where he preached? If so, read on! If we can commit to a group of 15 or so, we can tour these areas in **January 2024** with a Biblical scholar, Professor Monte Luker, who has led multiple tours in this area. In general, the excursions have been around 2 weeks, both to have time to cover a number of specific areas and to give you your money's worth! The link to Dr. Luker is: <https://www.jcbs.org/tours/jc23010823110939/>. **PLEASE contact** Cindy or Keith Price at kcprice1@atlanticbb.net or rkeithprice@hotmail.com for questions.



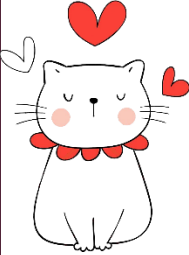


February 1 – Gary Culbertson
February 2 – Thomas Jones, Tim Price, Riley McCollough
February 3 – Rick Reiff, Tammy Kibbey, Sam Birgel
February 7 – Larry Knowlton, Linda Knapp, Jesse Lucks
February 9 – Jaclyn Barrett, Maria Miller
February 11 – Phyllis Marti, Norma Dey, Dave Carter
February 12 – Tristan Danielson
February 13 – Mona Rosequist
February 14 – Kyle Grey
February 15 – Kurt Smith
February 16 – Lisa Shall
February 17 – Bill Bunce, Brett Ball
February 18 – Stacy Vavala, Linnea Wertz, Josie Bailey
February 20 – Jeff Benjamin, Lisa McDermott
February 23 – Karen Lucks, Marcy Jurkowski, Cheyenna Thompson
February 25 – David Johnson, Melissa Zaffino, Eric Moore, Braydn Wilson, Harper Vivian
February 26 – Randy Johnson, Barb Kulinski
February 27 – Donna Risinger
February 28 – Terry Moldovan, Olivia English
February 29 – David Morrison



february



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 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.	2 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple	3 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	4 9:00 a Praise Team
5 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	6 5:15 p Christian Yoga	7 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	8 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.	9 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	10 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	11 9:00 a Praise Team
12 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	13 5:15 p Christian Yoga	14 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	15 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.	16 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	17 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Nurture Movie Night	18 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Higginborham Hall Reserved
19 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	20 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i>	21 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	23 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	24 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Nurture Movie Night	25 9:00 a Praise Team 1:00 p Higginborham Hall Reserved
26 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	27 5:15 p Christian Yoga	28 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball		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;
February 2023

- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, 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!