

Grace Notes

September 2022

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

To know Christ and to make Him known!

Senior Pastor: *Rev. William Beatty*
Director of
Congregational Care: *Cindy Price*
Choir Director: *Floyd Moore*
Office Administrator: *Meghan Brooker*
Office Manager: *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*
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



September Meetings

September 6 - 6:00 p - SPRC
September 13 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
September 20 - 6:00 p - Finance
September 26 - 6:00 p - Worship
September 27 - 6:00 p - Church Council



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

From the Pastor

Breathe Deep

A long time ago, in a very different church, we started a “Contemporary Worship Service”™ in which we tried a lot different ways to express our worship of God – some were very “hands on” (we did a group painting one service), some were very contemplative (with lots of candles and quiet music), sometimes we were really loud (too loud??). Anyway, one of the songs we learned during this time was an older, kind of obscure song by the Christian band, “The Lost Dogs.” The song was meant to be a bit revolutionary, maybe even a little bit (for the time) scandalous.

Breathe Deep

(Terry Scott Taylor)

*Politicians, morticians, philistines, homophobes
Skinheads, dead heads, tax evaders, street kids
Alcoholics, workaholics, wise guys, dimwits
Blue collars, white collars, war mongers,
peaceniks*

*Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God*

*Suicidals, rock idols, shut-ins, dropouts
Friendless, homeless, penniless and depressed
Presidents, residents, foreigners and aliens
Dissidents, feminists, xenophobes and chauvinists
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God*

*Evolutionists, creationists, perverts, slum lords
Dead-beats, athletes, Protestants and Catholics
Housewives, neophytes, pro-choice, pro-life
Misogynists, monogamists,
philanthropists, blacks and whites
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God*

*Police, obese, lawyers, and government
Sex offenders, tax collectors, war vets, rejects
Atheists, scientists, racists, sadists
Biographers, photographers, artists,
pornographers
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God*

*Gays and lesbians, demagogues and thespians
The disabled, preachers, doctors and teachers
Meat eaters, wife beaters, judges and juries
Long hairs, no hairs, everybody everywhere
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God
Breathe deep, Breathe deep the breath of God*

The point of the song was not that what we do or who we are doesn't matter, it's that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ – that all of us are made in the image of God (“let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness” Genesis 1:26-27) and that God has breathed the breath of life into us (Genesis 2:7). The song is a call for all people, everywhere (“everybody, everywhere”) to breathe deeply of the breath of life that God has breathed into us. The words of the song are, for me, a reminder that we all come *from* something (often something seen as shameful or wrong by others) into the presence of God who love us unconditionally, as Paul reminds us in Romans 8:38-39 “For I am convinced that...[not] anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I know when I'm really honest with myself, there's somebody, some “group of people,” on that list that I sometimes would want to withhold God's grace from – skin heads, misogynists, sex-offenders, sadists... I

mean... that's some awful stuff there, right? But Jesus called to be among his Twelve disciples both a traitorous collaborator (Matthew the Tax Collector) and a violent revolutionary (Simon the Zealot), and he called them not to dwell on what WAS, but what could be, to breathe deep the breath of God, to follow He who is the "Way and the Truth and Life" to come from wherever we are into the very presence and fellowship of God the Father. (John 14:6)

We're in a difficult time in our culture, in our denomination, and even in our families, where the things that divide us, especially the things that someone else believes or does that we don't like or agree with, drive our relationships.

We who are Christ followers are supposed to be above that. "This is how they will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:9, "Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other." Peter says, "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8)

The way they will know we are true followers of Jesus is not that we say we love one another, but it is in HOW we demonstrate that we love one another. How we can all "Breathe deep the breath of God" together, being patient and kind, not envious, boastful or proud, not dishonoring of self-seeking, not easily angered, keeping no record of wrong, not delighting in evil, but rejoicing in the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)

So, Grace Church, breathe deep the breath of God.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

What a summer! Throughout June, July, and August, we asked for your input and requests for your favorite hymns. We enjoyed singing 34 of your favorite requested hymns in the months of June, July, and August.



These are the most requested hymns that we sang over the summer:

In the Garden – the most requested by far! It must have been a summer thing...
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Here I am, Lord
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Jesus is all the World to Me
This Is My Father's World
Victory in Jesus

Please don't stop your requests! You are *Always* able to request your hymns and provide input into our worship services.

Did you attend the Community Worship Service at the Library Theatre on August 7? Your Grace choir did! We joined our voices with other community singers in a great anthem of praise and led the whole congregation in the powerful hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". If you missed the service, you may find it online at warrencommunityworship.org



You're invited to *sing* with the Grace Choir!



We will start rehearsing again in the choir room on
Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30p.m.

We've been singing all summer, but now we'll start practicing again.
Choir practice starts at 6:30 – invite all your friends!

Our inspirational and fun Wednesday night choir practices will resume on **Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30.** 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.

If you like to sing – Join the Choir!

Floyd Moore
amfm123@verizon.net
814-723-4694

Short and Sweet

Two years and 9 months ago, I began this new job as Congregational Care Director of Grace Church. I am very grateful for the potential that the SPRC (Staff, Parish Relations Committee) saw in me. I certainly didn't anticipate how being in this position would change me.



I have grown.

I am learning to ask questions and then listen.

I am more willing to approach people that I don't know both in the sanctuary and in their homes.

I have opportunities to deal with situations that are totally new to me but that prepare me for the future.

I am so thankful for all of you who have touched my life. Our interactions, and your prayers, lift me up on wings like eagles!

Most gratefully yours, Cindy Price

First, we would like to send a great big THANK YOU to everyone that donated school supplies or money to help start off the new school year! I know if we listed individual names, we'd forget someone, so please know how grateful we are to ALL those faithful supporters of Grace Promise Preschool! We appreciate Meghan including us in this school supply drive, with all the deserving and incredible teachers from Grace Church.



Our school year will begin September 1 & 7, with two Orientation Days. We will meet with each family at a designated time and give them information for the coming school year. Our first full day of classes will be Thursday, September 8.

We appreciate all the support we receive from our Grace Church family and ask that you would join us in praying for good health and minimal disruptions to the school year.

THANK YOU!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds
preschool@atlanticbnn.net

In August we were looking at occupations and ways that people help around the community. We were visited by Alstar, Audubon, and some of the parents came in to talk about what they do for work! A lot of our preschoolers are going to be headed to school in the fall, so we are looking forward to hearing about all their new adventures!



Cindy Kalkbrenner
Director



During Worship

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

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

September 4 – Anna Peterson

September 11 – Becky Fuller

September 18 – Anna Peterson

September 25 – Becky Fuller



Memorial

For: Donald & Margaret McCurdy

By: Donald McCurdy

General Fund

For: Gary Hoffman

By: Carol Ostergard



Flock Talk

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

So much has happened since we have re-gathered as the family of Grace Church. It seems like a long time ago that we were uncertain of the safety of community. And look what has happened! God's Word rings true. He has plans for powerful hope and a spiritually prosperous future for us.

Our programs are up and running and committees are going strong. We have ideas and aspirations of how we can be more welcoming and how to create space to share each other's company. Children and youth are being inspired to participate in the life of the church. Our Nurture Committee has great ideas that will begin to materialize on the calendar. Snack time on Sunday mornings will soon resume. Movie nights are coming back. Hopefully, a trip to Sight and Sound will be on the horizon.

As compelling as it is to plan these opportunities, the real value is in the relationships that happen along the way. God accomplishes so much goodness through the way He pours through us. Our plans feel right to us at the time we cement them, but they may only be the scaffolding of the greater plans He has in store. We build a foundation of love and trust in our church and He aims even higher. He brings Himself into our midst and with perfect aim He finds His mark in our hearts, in our love for Him and for one another. What a glorious life!

With enthusiasm,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

The Agape Class will begin a new study on September 18, 2022. This learning opportunity will take place at 9:30 am every Sunday morning in the Winger Parlor, which is located off the foyer of the church. Discover Your Spiritual Gifts by C. Peter Wagner helps you identify and understand your unique God-given spiritual gifts. God has a purpose for each of us and He has provided us the gifts we need to fulfill our purpose. "When you know and understand the gifts God has given you, you will discover a renewed sense of purpose and excitement..."

**DISCOVER
YOUR
SPIRITUAL
GIFTS**

Anyone interested is invited to join the study. Please call Lois Strycula (814-728-8675) and let her know you plan to attend, so that the correct number of study guides will be available.



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **everything, especially spaghetti sauce, cereal, and canned vegetables** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the October Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com by Friday, September 16.
Thank you.

Grace Church Finance Report



Reaching the End of Summer

Summer is nearly at an end ... the days are getting shorter, the evenings are getting cooler, and the final summer days will soon be giving way to crisp autumn ones. The fair is now finished and soon the last of summer vacations will end and school will begin.

As we head back into fall, let's come together as a church to finish our year strong and help to fund the ministries of the church. Through the summer, we have held fairly steady in our financials with only a small net loss each month. Let's head into the fall and winter seasons with a renewed sense of purpose and finish the year strong.

2022 Monthly and YTD Financials

	July '22	YTD
Total Income	\$31,573.57	\$224,432.73
Office Expense	\$188.92	\$3,635.98
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$7,614.91	\$46,931.78
Ministry Personnel	\$23,182.90	\$172,273.04
Church Council	\$0.00	\$443.79
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,943.84
Nurture Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,778.67
Worship Ministry	\$0.00	\$710.88
Outreach Ministry	\$135.00	\$209.89
Connectional Apportionment	\$2,939.00	\$20,573.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$468.92
Total Ministry & Expense	\$34,060.73	\$248,969.79
Net Income	(\$2,487.16)	(\$24,537.06)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 7/31/2022	(\$70,079.59)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

On Tuesday, September 20th, the Ruth M. Smith Center Circle will travel to Olmsted Manor in Ludlow for a fall luncheon meeting. We will carpool from the church parking lot and plan to leave at 11:30 sharp! Those wishing to drive themselves may meet us at the Manor. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Cost and menu will be determined soon. Janice Lyle will present a program, speaking about her work with the UMW and the Ruth M. Smith Center. For information and reservations (before Sept. 15th) please call Suzette at 814-723-3964 or Linda at 814-726-1199.

What's Going On With The UMC? (A Personal Note and an Invitation to Conversation)

I (Pastor Bill) thought everyone knew that there were conflicts within our denomination, differences in approaches to theology (how we understand and interpret the Bible and the revealed nature of God) and polity (the rules by which the denomination runs). These differences within the big household that we call the United Methodist Church have been growing wider. That is, those in the United Methodist Church who identify as “conservative” and those who identify as “liberal” (or traditional and progressive, or right and left, or however we want to “divvy up” the Body of Christ) – the two approaches to theology and polity are becoming increasingly balkanized (a term I just learned about a year ago – “balkanization” is “to divide into smaller mutually hostile states or groups.”) What that means is that there seems to be very little desire for common ground anymore among the loudest voices in these two opposing camps.

There are those who feel that the United Methodist Church has changed so much in the past 50 years that it is time to look at leaving the denomination and are looking into a process called **disaffiliation** (a process by which the local church can leave the denomination and either become independent or align with another denomination) and there are others within the United Methodist Church who want to remain in the **Continuing United Methodist Church**. And there are a lot of people who don't know much about any of this and don't know even why there are problems in the denomination.

The Administrative Council met in July and agreed that Grace Church should move ahead and explore what disaffiliation means for us and if it is a process that we want to enter into or not. Please understand, this is just the Administrative Council saying, in essence, we want to ***gather all the information about all of our options*** so that we, as a Church Body, can be fully informed. The “disaffiliation” option is largely to move toward a more conservative or traditionalist direction. The “continuing UMC” is largely to move toward a more liberal or progressive direction.

The Personal Note:

I have always been a “centrist” – that is, I've always tried to be one who focused more on Jesus, who we all share as Lord and Savior, than on the differences that we experience in theology or polity. When the Church becomes balkanized, however, we who will not (because of our own theology) simply side with one or the other of the “sides” taken up tend to be labeled as “wishy-washy” or “not willing to take a stand” or a variety of other, less kind, labels. You know, if you're not with us, you're against us (yes, Jesus said, “whoever is not with me is against me” in Matthew 12:30 – but look at the context. He also said, “Whoever is not against us is for us,” in Mark 9:40, and again, look at the context).

The Invitation:

We at Grace Church are going to have some congregation-wide conversations about the future of Grace Church wherein we will talk about all the options: disaffiliation, our Bishop's proposal for “three households,” and the “wait and see” approach. We will try to express what has been going on in the denomination and what has seemed to cause the current crisis (as well as the timelines involved). We have set up three meeting times, the information given out will be the same at each of them, unless something gets updated between meetings.

Congregational Conversations about the Future of Grace Church

Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 in our Sanctuary

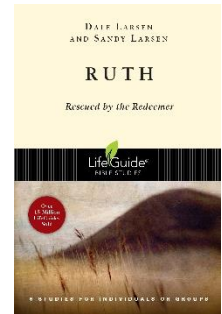
Sunday, October 2nd at 6:00 in our Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 in our Sanctuary

LADIES, LOOK!!!

FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CLASSES begin Tuesday, October 25th from 6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m. and Wednesday, October 26th from 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. The study will last 6 weeks through the last Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning of November. Things you need to know include:

1. Women's Bible study classes are open to all women, whether they attend Grace Church or not. If you've been a class member in one of our studies before, think of someone to invite this time. If you've never participated, please come; you'll be warmly welcomed.
2. For this Bible study, we will be using the study guide, **Ruth – Rescued by the Redeemer**, by Dale and Sandy Larsen. This is a straightforward study with little to no homework. (Of course, the more time and effort you put into it, the more you will learn.) Until you receive your study guide, read through the book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
3. We'll meet in Eaton Parlor at the front of the church. A ramp leads to the front doors. Once inside, please go into the room immediately on your left. (Grace Church is a busy place, so you might want to come early to find parking.)
4. You will need your Bible.
5. Study guides cost \$8.00. **If you cannot afford the book, please do not let that stop you from coming.** Just tell Liz, Lois, or Renee privately. Forty (40) study guide copies are available at this time. You may pay with cash or write your check to **"Grace United Methodist Church"**, with **"women's Bible study"** on the memo line. You may receive your study guide one of two ways:
 - a. Pay Mary or Meghan in the church office. (Please respect that they have a lunch break mid-day.)
 - b. Pay at your first class. If you choose to do this, please come a few minutes early.
6. Please sign up for the study by Sunday, October 16th. To sign up, either email Liz Anderson at gumcwomensbiblestudy@outlook.com or call Lois Strycula at 814-728-8675. Renee Magnuson will receive your email at radmagnuson@gmail.com or your phone call to 814-726-7890, but **ONLY** through Saturday, September 10th. She will be unavailable 9/11/22 through 10/11/22. During that time, either email Liz, or call Lois.



Whether contacting one of us by email or by phone, you'll need to provide three bits of information: (1) your name, (2) your best contact telephone number, and (3) which class, Tuesday evening's or Wednesday morning's, you wish to attend. (It's OK to switch back and forth, but please let Liz, Lois, or Renee know the class you'll be attending most often, so we can plan for the right number of chairs.)

7. **VERY IMPORTANT!!!** Please do not wait until a few days before classes start to decide that you'd like to attend. We can't guarantee a study guide will be available for you.
8. You are still always more than welcome to join a class, but if no more books remain, you will need to order your own from **Christianbook.com, item #831098**. Then, you'll be paying shipping and sales tax on your study guide which will cost you more.
9. Renee **will not** be mailing reminder letters to all the women she has listed from past studies. She and/or Liz will mail letters to those who may not see Grace Church's newsletters, bulletins, or website, especially ladies who don't attend Grace U.M.C.
10. Finally, the goal of each women's Bible study at Grace Church is to bring each class member into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through reading, discussing, and applying God's word. You are invited. We look forward to hearing from you.

SHARING PLACE UPDATE!

Sharing Place still serves hot meals every Thursday on a take-out basis. With no sit -down meals being served at the present time, we have missed the shared time of fellowship and community and we've missed working with the volunteers from the congregations!

So, we're going to take a small step towards where we were in the "before days". We're going to ask each of the participating churches to provide desserts for our take-out meals. To be honest, cookies really work best for us. Cookies are easy to portion, easy to freeze, easy to store.

If you'd like to help provide desserts for Sharing Place **let me know as soon as you can**. They are hoping to have a schedule for all seven of the churches in place by mid-September and start serving desserts made by congregation members by the beginning of October. Please email Cheryle Stellato at tcstellato@atlanticbb.net or call 730-0824. Thanks for your time!



September 1 – Peg Andersen

September 2 – LuAnn Saeli

September 3 – Ronda Morrison, Scott Lynds, Emma Kridler

September 4 – Erin Napolitan

September 5 – Helen Woods, Ron Amon, Collin Lord, Colby Barr

September 6 – George Wentworth, Meghan Brooker

September 8 – Emily Shepherd

September 10 – Timothy Tannler, Tanner Phillips, Lydia Card

September 12 – Joe Saeli

September 13 – Dorothy Flemming, Cassandra Waseleski, Tristan Johnson, Emily Ickert

September 14 – Pat Esterbrook, Solomiya Savych

September 15 – Lillaine Price

September 16 – Michael Farr, Renee Magnuson

September 17 – Harold Wall, Ross Bryan

September 18 – Lanea Brooker, Susan Ball

September 19 – Marsha Larson, Breanna Wilson

September 20 – Kathy Keller, Patrick Berdine

September 22 – Nancy Trisket, Lori Beatty

September 23 – Nancy Gheres, Carson Farr

September 24 – Mary Hellman

September 25 – Cindy Dziendziel, Susan Speicher, Scott Stewart

September 26 – James Marshall, Joyce Carnahan, Judith Renwick, Savannah Sykes

September 27 – Carmen Pearce

September 28 – Melanie Braughler, Andrea Stapleford

September 30 – Ronna Tipton, Gwen Jones



September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	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.		1 6:00 p Praise Team 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	2 10:30 a Yarn Angels	3
4 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	5 Office Closed	6 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	7 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.	8 6:00 p Praise Team	9 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	10
11 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	12 5:15 p Christian Yoga	13 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	14 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.	15 6:00 p Praise Team	16 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	17
18 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 P Watson Home 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	19 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	20 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	21 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.	22 6:00 p Praise Team	23 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	24
25 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 2:00 p Conversation About the Future of Grace Church 6:00 p Praise & Worship @ The Crossing	26 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Worship</i>	27 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	28 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.	29 6:00 p Praise Team	30 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
Warren, PA 16365

Published monthly;
September 2022

- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Walter Miller, Dave Moore, Jan Moore,
Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns,
Chris Ei, John Lewis, Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!