

Grace Notes

April 2025

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**
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



April Meetings

April 7 - 7:00 p - Outreach
April 8 - 6:00 p - SPRC
April 14 - 6:00 p - Worship
April 15 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
April 22 - 6:00 p - Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Grace Church Children Ministries**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

*Our 2025 Easter Offering will be split with half going to **UMCOR**, a quarter going to **Wesley Woods**, and a quarter going to **Olmsted Mannor**. Envelopes will be included with the Easter letter and in pew pockets on Easter Sunday.*



From the Pastor

Great Expectations

This is not about the Dickens' novel that I had to read in ninth grade (of which I was both fascinated by the characters and exhausted by Dicken's writing style), but about *our* expectations of God and our relationship with God.

Easter is coming! The day of resurrection is near! This is the event that changed everything for the followers of Jesus. There had been a number of other men before Jesus who had claimed to be the chosen one of God, the Messiah, but they all died and remained dead. The resurrection of Jesus is the defining moment for the early followers of the Way (as Christians first called themselves). In the resurrection, God confirmed everything that Jesus had taught and everything that Jesus had done.

Easter in our culture is yet another excuse to buy and eat chocolate (especially if we've given up chocolate for Lent!) and celebrate lots of images of spring. But Easter in the Church is so much more. Not only does the resurrection confirm what God said at Jesus' baptism, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased," (Luke 3:22) and at the Transfiguration, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him," (Luke 9:35) the resurrection confirms what Jesus said about the ultimate purpose of his mission and ministry: to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2); to die and on the third day rise again (Luke 9:22; 18:33).

And what's telling is that in that time between Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples really did not seem to have very great expectations of God. They didn't remember Jesus' words. They didn't actually *expect* him to rise from the dead. But when Jesus *did* rise from the dead, everything changed.

I wonder if we aren't in a similar kind of "in-between" time. Jesus died and rose and ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit fills and guides believers (stay tuned for Pentecost!) and then we wait... it's been a very, very long time since all of that happened. It's not fresh, it's not new, and so I think we can get caught up in the notion that tomorrow will be very much like today which was very much like yesterday.

But God interrupts routines. God challenges distracted hearts. God surprises the bored and the lifeless.

What do you expect from God? We've set the bar far too low. We don't expect God to do much of anything – maybe make us "feel good" during worship or something. But what if God showed up in your life? What would that look like? How would you respond? Would you even notice, or are you too distracted, too certain that tomorrow will look very much like today which was very much like yesterday?

Isaiah said to the people of Israel: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6) Jesus says, "Seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well," (Matthew 6:33) and "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7) Paul says, "God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." (Acts 17:27). James says, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." (James 4:8)

Those are some great expectations. What do you expect from God? And, maybe more importantly, how will you even know God is calling and moving and acting? Are you looking for God to do something, or do you expect tomorrow to be very much like today which was very much like yesterday?

What are your great expectations of God?

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Come, Now is the time to Worship!

We finally have the weather and illness deterrence of October, November, December, January, February, and March behind us, so *Now* is the time to worship with us at Grace.



A lot of people have been preparing for you to worship our Lord here at Grace.

Kathy Neal has been very faithful accompanying the 8:30 worship services; the Praise Team has consistently been leading the contemporary services; and the Children's Choir, Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Madrigals, and our organist Debbie Airgood have constantly been preparing to lead us in our traditional worship services. Add the communion stewards, ushers, technicians, acolytes, liturgists, bulletin preparers, and others, and we have quite a few people preparing to assist you to worship God here every week.

Why don't you prepare to worship with us this Sunday, too? Now is the "right time" and the "right place" to worship here at Grace.

P.S. I didn't overlook the pastor's weekly preparation of his sermons. *They're Grrreat!!!*

See you in church!
Floyd Moore
amfm123@verizon.net

Responsibility and Kindness

My senior class trip to Washington D.C. was during Holy Week 1973. At that time, I was in my 4th year as organist at Kane First UMC and had had no trouble juggling school work and playing the organ. I played two Palm Sunday services on Sunday and hopped on the bus on Monday. We returned home at 2 am on Thursday. I crashed for several hours, then headed to church to practice for the Maundy Thursday communion service that night.

After practicing, I came home and started typing my Senior English term paper, which was due the following Tuesday. My assigned topic was "The Life and Works of Charles Dickens." I had done all the prep work. My paper had been meticulously written out by hand on 50 or 60 sheets of 8 ½ x 11 lined paper, which is what we did in the days before computers. Now it just needed to be typed. I don't remember if we had an electric typewriter at that point or if I was still using a manual. I had correction tape—little strips with a chalky substance on one side. When I made a mistake, I had to back up, slip the tape against the paper in the typewriter, type the wrong letter again, remove the tape, back up and type the correct letter. I was a decent typist and wasn't concerned, but I did type slower than usual for sake of accuracy. I typed until dinnertime, then went to church and played for the service. Afterwards, I crashed again.

First thing in the morning, I headed back to church to practice for the Good Friday service. In those days, all the businesses in Kane (including banks) closed down from noon to 3 pm on Good Friday for the three-hour community service at First UMC based on the seven last words of Christ. I played for it every year. Seven pastors from the Ministerium were each assigned one of the last words on which to prepare a 20-minute sermon. There was a hymn with each segment, and three of the local choirs each provided an anthem for special music. In between segments, I played traveling music while people came and went. If the pastor who was preaching on "I thirst" only talked for 7 minutes (which happened more than once!) it was my job to play for the other 13 minutes to keep the service on track. The time each segment started was in the newspaper and bulletin and we held strictly to it.

After the service, I did not type. I crashed again in exhaustion. On Saturday morning, I headed to church to practice for the two Easter services, one in the chapel, one in the sanctuary—double practice, two different organs. When I got home, my mother had typed a few pages, which I greatly appreciated. I typed all afternoon and into the early evening. I had a complication when I had to type a footnote at the bottom of the page and didn't leave enough room. The paper came out of the typewriter and I had to re-type an entire page. That was maddening!

On Sunday, I was at church from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. We had family over for Easter dinner, so it was late afternoon before I got back to my typing. When I started making multiple mistakes, I called it a day and went to bed.

Monday was still a day off from school. I typed all throughout the day, with my Mom doing some half-hour stints to relieve me. Finally, the body of the paper was done. I just had to do the pages with my resources and references. This turned out to be my undoing. I had trouble aligning things and had to start over many times. I was still fighting with it late at night. My parents finally insisted I get some sleep. I got up early and tackled it again, but it was not finished in time for school. I was distraught. Turning the paper in late would drop my grade by one whole letter. Looking back on it now, had I turned it in with those pages half-done, the teacher may not have noticed, or it may have been a minor deduction. But I was a perfectionist and never thought of such a thing.

There must have been others who didn't turn the paper in on time, but for some reason the teacher singled me out to keep after class. She didn't waste any time. She said, "I am VERY disappointed in you for not finishing your term paper in a timely manner. I thought you had a better sense of responsibility than that. You will NEVER make it in college!"

I was stunned. I managed a weak smile, said, "You have no idea," and left the room.

I didn't have another conversation with that teacher for four years. I ran into her in the grocery store after I had graduated from college with honors. She was glad to see me. I wondered if she remembered that incident, because it was foremost in my mind. Although I held no ill feelings toward her, I could not forget. Every time I saw her for the rest of her life, that was what was on my mind.

I guess the moral of the story is—You have no idea what others are going through. Be kind.

Debbie Airgood

April is looking to be busy time in Preschool to get ready for Easter and all the fun activities that Spring provides!

The morning class has been learning shapes, colors and practicing lots of fine motor activities. They continue to mature and grow during every class!

The afternoon class continues to get prepared for kindergarten. They are working hard on letters and numbers. Tying shoes, zipping coats and being more independent has been a big goal for this year and they are doing so well!

Hopefully Spring will allow us to get outside for a few walks to cure our cabin fever.

Preschool registration for 2025-2026 school year is open. You can find registration forms and handbooks on the church website or at the church office.

Happy Easter!



Jen Lynds



Flock Talk

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7

This is up close and personal. We use the phrase “church family” rather casually to describe the relationships we have built through worshipping together. Then, something happens. We find ourselves facing an emergency or even a tragedy and our church family takes on a much deeper meaning.

A church family is not just a loosely bound group of people who simply engage in worship once a week. We are a community of believers who serve together and look out for one another. When someone is suffering, we surround them with prayer, we encourage them and we provide steadiness. God has called us to bear one another’s burdens. When we need that level of love in our own lives it equips us to seek out others in need of our help.

This Easter season, we will have people walking through our doors who struggled over the decision to attend, most always because they are entering a room of strangers. Be like family. Start a conversation and extend the fellowship that Jesus taught so thoroughly. When we make an effort to show genuine hospitality we are glorifying God by opening our hearts to others.

There is a good chance you will be in the presence of someone who is hurting, or someone who is lost. Welcome them into your circle, ask a few questions, plant the seed that God will then water. Grace Church has fertile soil to be tilled and we are the workers.

Warmly,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



Promise Preschool
For: Dorothy Culbertson
By: Harold & Janis Wall

HOPES Fund
For: Peter Smith
By: Kyle & Paula Smith

Memorial
For: Hazel Finley
By: Donald McCurdy

IN HONOR of

Music Fund
For: Vickie Morrison’s birthday
By: Marge Smith, Bucky & Linda Knapp

Handbells
For: Beth MacPherson’s retirement
By: Jan Moore

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 or text Karen Conarro 814-688-6445.



Attention women!

“Full of Grace” Women’s Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:30am or 6:30pm** in the **Grace Church library** (take the elevator to floor 2). If you have any questions, contact Karen Conarro at 814-688-6445. The next meeting will take place on **Monday, April 28th**.

Grace Church Finance Report



2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	February '25	YTD
Total Income	\$28,217.96	\$56,880.19
Office Expense	\$2,675.26	\$2,981.35
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$5,140.76	\$16,602.22
Ministry Personnel	\$21,488.77	\$43,498.34
Church Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
Education Ministry	\$20.97	\$442.37
Nurture Ministry	\$86.10	\$102.10
Worship Ministry	\$510.03	\$934.80
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$3,282.66
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$31,563.22	\$67,843.84
Net Income	(\$3,345.26)	(\$10,963.65)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 2/28/2025	(\$98,923.45)
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee



During Worship

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

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

April 6 – Anna Peterson

April 13 – Melissa Zaffino

April 20 – Anna Peterson

April 27 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **May 2025** Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office mary@graceumcwarren.com by **Tuesday, April 15.**
Thank you.

Children's Sunday School Class on **April 6th** will be **Stamped with Love!** With help from a special guest, we will create cards for Mother's Day. Join us in stamping loving messages that bring joy and share God's love with others!

New Acolyte Class to Begin in April! We are happy to announce the classes for those interested in becoming acolytes at Grace United Methodist Church will begin on **Wednesday, April 2** at 4:00 pm in Wesley Parlor. There is still time to sign up by calling the church at 814-723-9440 to register.

Come Join Our Messy Church

Messy Church? It's a time for family activities/crafts, worship, and dinner together. Monthly on the last Saturday of the month from 3:30-5:45. Our next event is Messy Easter on **Saturday, April 26th** and will focus on the theme of Jesus' Resurrection.





Covered by Grace gave out **2,994 items** this winter season! Donations can be placed all year long in the gray tote in the hall across from Pastor Bill's office.



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **cereal, canned meats, canned fruits & vegetables, spaghetti, boxed pasta, peanut butter, and jelly** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!

Grace Promise Preschool registration is now open! A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable fee** is required to hold a spot for the 2025-2026 school year. Changes are coming to Grace Promise Preschool next year. New handbooks, along with registration forms, can be found on the church website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com, picked up at the church office, or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours. Questions? Email Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com



The dates for a Grace Church Red Bird Mission Trip to Beverly, Kentucky have been set: **June 15-20, 2025**. Teens and families young and old are encouraged to consider this outreach opportunity! There are a variety of projects for people of any skill level, and the fellowship can't be beat! Contact Keith Price (814-688-2983 or rkeithprice@hotmail.com) for more information.

Grace Outreach will be hosting a rummage sale on April 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please drop off your donations on Friday April 25th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Children clothes and shoes are welcome, but please no adult clothes. If you have any questions, contact Chuck Keeports 814-688-8534.



Giving to an existing Endowment: The Myra Price Memorial Endowment

This month I would like to highlight our second largest endowment fund, **The Myra Price Memorial Endowment**. This endowment was established in 2012 by the family of Myra Cox Price for the purpose of generating income to help fund local, national or international outreach projects of Grace United Methodist Church.

This endowment, as are each of our Endowment funds, is invested for Grace Church by the United Methodist Foundation in a separate account for this purpose. Distributions from the fund are managed by the Foundation so that the principle will continue to grow in perpetuity and only the income will be distributed for use.

You can give **The Myra Price Memorial Endowment** in memory of a person or in honor of an individual or an event, including an anniversary or milestone, which can be a meaningful way to provide an enduring tribute to someone or something significant in your life. Gifts to the fund will add to the principle which will help to increase the future income it generates to support outreach ministry projects here at Grace Church. You can send your tax deductible honorary or memorial gift to the fund, payable to Grace United Methodist Church with the designation "**Myra Price Endowment**".

If you have any questions about this or any other Endowment or Special Purpose fund invested for Grace Church at the United Methodist Foundation, please call the church office or contact me via e-mail or phone: gentilman@verizon.net or 814-726-9035.

Bill Gentilman, Chairperson - Endowment Committee.



Grace Children's Ministry is having a family ice skating event on **Saturday, April 19th** beginning at 1:30pm at Northwest Savings Bank Ice Arena in Jamestown, NY. If you're interested in attending, contact Amanda Slattery at amanda@graceumcwarren.com



April 1 – Gillian Rapp, Robert Morrison, Chase Card, Molly Grey

April 2 – Adam Flagella

April 3 – Alice Pedersen, Laurie Dickson

April 4 – Christa Yaegle

April 5 – Freida Ecelberger, Jesse Lucks, Katelyn Jurkowski

April 6 – Rob Pearce, Dave MacPherson, Zach Foster, Jack Lynds

April 7 – Carolyn Fry

April 8 – Zeke Stanton, Jackie Johnson, Brooke Johnson

April 9 – Melissa Culbertson

April 11 – Hannah Fry, Michele Coffman

April 13 – Dave VanOrsdale, Nancy Eaker, Chase Alex

April 14 – Shallin Shelby

April 15 – Richard Pedersen, Jaime Housler

April 16 – Hunter Trisket

April 17 – Kyle Jones

April 18 – Bob Sedon, Chloe Meddaugh, Callie Hampson, Zachry Tucher

April 19 – James Miller

April 20 – Sandy Shene, Tina Moore

April 21 – Jean Buerkle

April 22 – Tom Lord

April 23 – Cheryle Stellato, Morgan Danielson, Thatcher McClellan

April 24 – Jody Benjamin

April 26 – Kristen Lucks

April 27 – Vicki Garrett

April 28 – Jennifer Lynds, Degan Peterson

April 29 – James Ostergard, Andrew Knowlton

April 30 – Don Smith, Gordon Mathis, Michael Barrett, Jenafer McKown, Vance Anzalone

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball	2 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00 p Acolyte Training 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	3 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:30 p Handbells	4 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	5 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Extreme Yoga
6 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	7 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Outreach 7:00 p Ping Pong	8 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	9 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00 p Acolyte Training 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	10 9:00 a Pickleball 6:30 p Handbells	11 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	12 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved
13 Palm Sunday 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	14 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Worship</i> 7:00 p Ping Pong	15 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	16 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.	17 Maundy Thursday 9:00 a Pickleball 5:00 p Disciple IV 7:00 p Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	19 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved
20 Easter Sunday 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 Worship @ The Crossing	21 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	22 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	23 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00 p Acolyte Training 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	24 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:30 p Handbells	25 9:00 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 4:00 p Rummage Sale Drop Off	26 8:00 a Rummage Sale 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Gym Reserved 3:30 p Messy Church
27 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	28 10:30 a Full of Grace 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace 7:00 p Ping Pong	29 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball	30 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.		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;
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- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Cyril Jedor, Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Tristan Johnson,
Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Patrick Ward, Chuck Keepports,
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Wyatt Stearns, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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