

Grace Notes

November 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:
Coordinator of
Congregational Care:
Choir Director:
Organist/Accompanist:
Office Administrator:
Office Manager:
Director of Children &
Family Ministries:
Director of Youth &
Family Ministries:

Rev. William Beatty
Cindy Price
Floyd Moore
Debbie Airgood
Meghan Brooker
Mary Quiggle-Pickering
Amanda Slattery
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



November Meetings

November 4 - 6:00 p - SPRC
November 11 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees
November 17 - 5:30 p - Education
November 25 - 6:00 p - Church Council



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Grace Church Youth Group (CREW)**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

From the Pastor

Thankfulness Challenge

I was trying to come up with some super clever idea for the November newsletter article, but I keep circling back to Thanksgiving (of course).

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. -Psalm 118:1

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks
in all circumstances; for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I'm sure I've written and preached before about the benefits of living a life of gratitude. A quick Google search tells me that studies show that people who live lives of thankfulness report fewer physical complaints like headaches and digestive issues, sleep better, seem to have a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and, some studies even suggest, might even live longer. Other studies look at emotional health and how thankful people tend to have less stress and anxiety and seem to be better equipped to handle emotional setbacks and negative experiences. Thankful people tend to have more positive relationships and are often more generous and empathetic toward others.

I did a quick search of the New American Standard Bible and the phrase "give thanks" appears in the Bible 63 times, 2/3rds of those in the Psalms, like the beginning of Psalm 118 above, where time and again we are reminded to give thanks to God because of who God is and how God cares for us. Paul uses the phrase 6 times in his letters, several times saying that he gives thanks to God for the people of the churches he is writing to.

But in 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul says to "give thanks in all circumstances."

A lot comes at us. Life is unpredictable and difficult, terrible, sometimes tragic things happen to us and to those we love. Yet... there are always reasons to be thankful. Not FOR those circumstances, but in the midst of those circumstances.

When my dad was dying of cancer, I was thankful for the time that I got to spend with him, the conversations that we had. Even small and simple things like missing a turn when I'm driving following my GPS. I could get mad or frustrated, but what if I was thankful for the GPS rerouting and getting me back on track instead? What if we chose to be thankful people?

Here's a challenge for the month of November. Every day, find something to be thankful for and write it down. I know some people will take to Facebook or other social media and do this kind of thing and that's fine. That feels more like it's for attention than to truly be thankful to me, but that's really a comment on how I view social media as a whole.

Anyway, find something every day to be thankful for, write it down. Each day review the list as a prayer as you prepare to write that day's thanksgiving. Make a habit of thankfulness. Maybe you'll just do this for 30 days and then stop, but pay attention to how your thoughts change, how your life might be a little different because your perspective has shifted, even slightly, toward "give thanks in all circumstances."

So I encourage you to try this prayer experiment – to give thanks to the Lord for he is good every day for a month and see how things are different.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Thanksgiving Day?

Make November a complete month of thanksgiving. Not as a consumer, but as a Christ follower. Are you running out of thankfulness? Sing hymn #92 to get your ideas flowing.



For The Beauty of the Earth

Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint, music by Conrad Kocher, arranged by W.H. Monk

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church, that ever more lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

After singing all those verses, you can surely make your own hymn of grateful praise during this month of seasonal and social transitions.

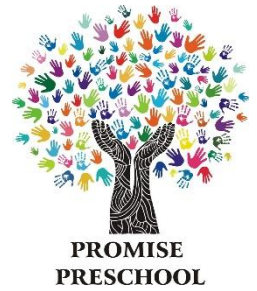
(By the way, we'll be singing a lot about the "best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven" throughout our advent season, and during our Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14 at 4 p.m.)

Raise *your* hymn of grateful praise this month!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

SOC – Support Our Children Grace Promise Preschool does a special offering collection on months that have 5 Sundays to help with their programming. The next collection will be **Sunday, November 30th**. Your support is greatly appreciated!

This year is moving right along! October was busy with visits from Smokey Bear, Warren Firefighters and Warren City Police. Mrs. Price was back as a special reader, the children just love her, but who doesn't? Our Halloween festivities were fun! We made treat bags and decorated pumpkins. Pumpkin Jack is back so we can learn about decomposition and pumpkin life cycles. Looking forward to November! We are going to have a food drive to make "Thanksgiving Dinner in a Bag" using canned/shelf stable items. We will do all the normal messy things, playdoh, painting and the like. We will study nocturnal/diurnal animals, have a Friendsgiving and do some baking, cooking and of course playing! Have a great November!



Jen & Soojye



Flock Talk

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful."

Colossians 3:15

The crispness in the air tells us that the holidays are fast approaching. This month alone we use the word "thanksgiving" more than any other time. The Bible uses the actual word between 25-30 times, with all versions of thankfulness being used countless ways. Giving thanks is what we do and who we are.

Our church is especially good with thankfulness. We give of ourselves, of our resources and of our time. Seldom do we have to look far before we find an opportunity. Most recently we have the Christmas boxes, the blessing bags, the rummage sale, along with the HOPES food pantry and the animal food pantry. Next on the agenda will be the community Thanksgiving dinner.

There's power in giving. It changes our mindset and better yet, it changes our relationship with God. When we give, it softens our hearts and helps us have a deeper connection with each other. Our gratefulness comes from realizing how much we have and how God has been abundantly generous. Our thankfulness and praise for Him reminds us of who He is and how tenderly we are loved.

This season, be at peace. Remember how kind God is toward us and give back. It's contagious. Once we start giving, the whole church lights up with generosity and the floodgates are open. God is working mightily through us!

Cheerfully,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

During Worship

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

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

November 2 – Anna Peterson

November 9 – Melissa Zaffino

November 16 – Anna Peterson

November 23 – Melissa Zaffino

November 30 – Anna Peterson



Items for the **December 2025**
Newsletter need to be delivered
to Mary in the office
mary@graceumcwarren.com by
Friday, November 14.
Thank you.



Kitchen Memorial
For: Bill & Judy Bunce
By: Terri & Joe Calascibetta

Grace Church Finance Report

Grace Church ~



Below you will find our financials for the month of September. September was a slightly down month. We are still working to make up ground following a rough start for 2025. We remain just over \$20k in the red for 2025. As we head into the end of the year, let's continue to strive to make up ground so we may finish the year in the positive.

Thank you!

2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	September '25	YTD
Total Income	\$27,728.28	\$274,566.93
Office Expense	\$141.42	\$4,881.66
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$9,204.05	\$78,052.92
Ministry Personnel	\$19,138.58	\$188,199.20
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$32.93	\$3,461.00
Nurture Ministry	\$427.34	\$911.22
Worship Ministry	\$774.06	\$2,985.84
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,263.43
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$14,771.97
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$31,359.71	\$294,866.23
Net Income	(\$3,631.43)	(\$20,299.30)

Shortfall

Account Balance 9/30/2025	\$58,259.10
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **jelly, baked beans, cereal/oatmeal, boxed potatoes, speghetti, canned vegetables**, and **canned fruit** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Covered by Grace is a ministry that allows anyone needing winter items to simply take them from a clothesline on the front porch of the church. Donations can be placed in the bin across from Pastor Bill's office or visit our website for the link to our Amazon wishlist. The lines go up **November 1st** and stay up through February so please keep those items coming throughout the winter.



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.

"Full of Grace" Women's Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:30am and 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 be held on **November 24th**.



Come Join Our Messy Church

Messy Church? It's a time for family activities/crafts, worship, and dinner together. **New day and time!** Monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Our next event is **Wednesday, November 19th**.

The Outreach team will be holding a rummage sale on **Saturday, November 8th** from 8 am to 1 pm. Please drop off your items for the sale on Friday, November 7th from 4 to 6 pm. Kids' clothes are welcome but no adult clothing please. Please contact Chuck Keepports at 814-688-8534 if you have any questions. Donations will go toward mission projects.



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are due back by **Sunday, November 16th**. CREW will be packing shoeboxes too. If you 'd like to donate items for them to pack in their boxes, place the items in the labeled box in Wesley Parlor. **Please note:** soap is no longer allowed!

HAPPY NOVEMBER!!

Grace UMC will be serving a Thanksgiving Community Dinner on Turkey Day November 27 from 12-2pm in Higginbotham Hall. Take-outs will be available for pickup from 1-2pm.

Reservations are required for both eat-in and take-out.

Call the church office no later than Friday 11/21/25 for reservations.

I encourage all of you to spread the word about this wonderful opportunity for fellowship with others and a nice hot meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and homemade desserts!

... so we are counting on the **HANDS OF GRACE** to make it happen!

Sign-up sheets will be available on the signup board outside the church office for:

1. Reservations (eat-in or take-out)
2. Table set up and setters Wednesday 7:00 pm
3. Food Prep Work Thursday 9:00 am
4. Serving, Takeout Prep and/or Cleanup Thursday 11:30 am
5. Green Bean Casserole makers
6. Jello or Fruit Salad makers
7. Dessert bakers (Pie or Cake only, please)



During the week, you can contact Meghan or Mary in the office to make reservations or to sign up to help. 814-723-9440.

In the past, some turkeys have been donated. We will gratefully accept these, but they must be in the 18-23 lb range. With the larger birds there is less waste. We appreciate anyone who is willing to cook a turkey at home and bring it whole or sliced Thursday morning. Please contact one of us about donating and/or cooking turkeys.

Christy Elicker 814-203-1494 ChristyElicker@gmail.com

Cindy Price 814-723-3953 kcprice1@atlanticbb.net



The annual Hanging of the Greens for this Advent season will be on **Sunday, November 23rd**. We will meet after 11 o'clock service to begin the task. Hopefully the bulk of the decorating will be done in a couple of hours. Sign-up sheets will be available on the signup board outside the church office soon. Help is needed in all areas, especially some tall, younger ladder-climbers. All decorations are provided, packed, and distributed according to the area in which they will be used. Any questions ask Suzette Berdine.

The Outreach committee is hosting a trivia night on **Saturday, November 15** at 6:00 in Higginbotham Hall. Join us for an evening of food, fun and prizes. Invite family, friends and neighbors to form a team. The topic will be Animal Kingdom. If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Vavala cell# 814-730-1064 or vavala5@atlanticbb.net
We hope to see you there!



November 1 – Becky Gnage
November 2 – Marge Smith
November 3 – Kevin Werner
November 4 – Lilly Berdine, Casey Eaker, Harper Dymond
November 5 – Nickie Webb
November 6 – Paige Conklin, Caleb Hellman, Lois Strycula, Gary Trisket
November 7 – Melinda Johnson, Kim Messinger, Jan Moore
November 9 – Nicki Egger
November 10 – Rick Gnage
November 11 – Dave Hunter
November 12 – Missy Tatarski
November 14 – Becky Culbertson, Madison Manelick
November 15 – Ken Brady, Lyn Grey
November 16 – Alli Jerman, Linda Tuttle
November 17 – Chris Ei, Charles Keller, Erick Shafer, Alicia Vavala
November 18 – Barbara Gelotte, Rob Gafner
November 19 – Chad Ball, Sarah Nolan, Kayla Randolph
November 20 – Jacob Moore, Emmet Yaegle
November 22 – Chuck Keeperts
November 24 – Trish Gentilman
November 25 – RuthAnn Dennis, Heather Morrison
November 27 – DJ Hahn, Bucky Knapp
November 28 – Jim Babcock, Melanie Barrett
November 29 – Pat Jerman, Marshall Johnson, Charmaine Pearson, Jakob Rodoski, Elishia Wurst
November 30 – Lucas Green, Dominic Zaffino

NOVEMBER.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 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	3 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Lite Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 6:30 p Library Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	4 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:30 p Church Conference	5 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	6 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	7 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 4:00 p Rummage Sale Drop Off	1 9:00 a Praise Team 8 8:00 a Rummage Sale 9:00 a Praise Team
9 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 12:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 1:00 p Choir Retreat 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	10 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Lite Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Ping Pong	11 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	12 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	13 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	14 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	15 9:00 a Praise Team 6:00 p Outreach Trivia Night
16 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	17 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Lite Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i> 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong	18 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball	19 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	20 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved	21 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	22 9:00 a Praise Team
23 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	24 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Lite Tennis 10:30 a Full of Grace 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace 7:00 p Ping Pong	25 8:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	26 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	27 Office Closed 12:00 p Community Thanksgiving Dinner	28 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels	29 9:00 a Praise Team
30 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						

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!