

# Grace Notes

## August 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*



### *August Meetings*

**August 5 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**August 11 - 6:00 p - Worship**  
**August 14 - 6:00 p - Preschool**  
**August 19 - 5:30 p - Education**



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

# *From the Pastor*

## **The Way (Which Way?)**

**Y**ears ago, when Eliana was still in a carseat, I was driving with her to Walmart. She was in the back seat looking out the window. “Why do we have to go this way? We’ve never gone this way before.”

“Elie, this is the way we go every time.”

“No. I’ve never seen this before.”

We drove for a minute or two in silence. Then her voice piped up from the back seat, “Oh! I know where we are now! We never go this way...”

Sometimes it’s easier not to argue.

I thought of that because I was reading the Gospel of Luke a little while ago and I came across this:

*No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, “The old is good.”* (Luke 5:36-39)

You know, I don’t know how many times I’ve read the Gospel of Luke, but I always forget about that last verse (...no one after drinking old wine desires new wine...). Just like Elie on our drive to Walmart, I hit that verse and said to myself, “I’ve never gone this way before.”

I love it when that happens when I’m reading the Bible. I can get to a place where I feel like I know every verse, every word backwards and forward (heh, I *don’t* know it all – and I know I don’t know it all – but sometimes I *think* I know it all...I think). And then I hit something I’d missed before and I have to stop and really pay attention.

New wine in new wineskins. Jesus is talking about this Way of Kingdom of God living that he has been teaching. This passage comes right after some people criticize Jesus because his disciples don’t fast like the disciples of the Pharisees and the disciples of John the Baptist do. And Jesus makes this statement to point out that he is bringing a new understanding of living a life that pleased God. It’s not about blind obedience to the “rules” anymore. Fasting is not a bad thing, but when Jesus is with the disciples it simply isn’t appropriate for the disciples to fast. The “old wine” is the way we’ve always done things... and that’s comfortable and predictable and safe. But Jesus brings something new.

This new wine changes the old rules. And we need a little of that new wine in the Church. A little less rigidity in the “old ways” and a little more flexibility. Did you know that more than half the people in any radius circle you want to draw around our church (1 mile, 5 miles, 20 miles) have no church affiliation? Can we find new ways of reaching them for Jesus? Can we find new ways, new wine if you will, to touch lives for the Kingdom of God?

One church has as a core value Evangelism, but they say it this way:

“To reach the people now one else is reaching, we have to do the things no one else is doing.”

New wine. Not comfortable or predictable or safe. This is new territory because we are meeting new people, tackling new problems, finding new opportunities.

Sure, we might come to a place where we look around and say, “We’ve never gone this way before.” But, really, the destination is the same, isn’t it? No, not Walmart. Jesus. The Way. The Truth. The Life.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Bill

---

## September’s a great time to join the Choir!

**Y**our choir will begin our weekly Sunday Worship participation starting on September 7, and I can’t wait! We’ve sung on the first Sundays in June, July, and August, with great special music interspersed throughout the summer months.



Thanks to the music ministries of the Madrigals, Karen Conarro and Beth MacPherson, Megan Moore and that guy, the Praise Team, Luke and Ben Gilmore, Carol Hammer, the Beattys, and that’s just June and July! August is full of good music as well. Stay tuned!

Remember to mark your calendars for the first Wednesday choir rehearsal on September 3, at 6:30. We’ll sing each Sunday starting with September 7 through Thanksgiving, Christmas, and well into 2026. Please prepare to join us in song and our hearts in worship. Y’all are welcome!

Our annual Grace Christmas Concert will be presented on the second Sunday of December, as always, on December 14 at 4pm. Don’t save your seat just yet, but make sure we’re on your calendar! (Some of the best seats are in the choir loft – you’re welcome to try them out!)

The Worship Committee will meet on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6pm in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend as we prepare for the next few months of Sunday morning worship services here at Grace United Methodist Church.

Check out your opportunities to worship with us this fall. You might be surprised what God has in store *for* you, *with* you, and even *through* you.

See you in church!  
Floyd Moore  
[amfm123@verizon.net](mailto:amfm123@verizon.net)

---

**H**appy August!  
We are excited and looking forward to September to start a new school year at Grace Promise Preschool!

We have been prepping for the outside play area and getting things cleaned and tidied and ready for the kids!

The new teacher will be Soojye Gustafson. Soojye has two children, Nova and Levon. They both attended preschool with us. She comes to us with vast experience in childcare and most importantly Art experience! We are so excited for the art projects!

We have a few thank yous as well. First, we wanted to thank Vickie Morrison, our Board Treasurer. She served us on the board for many years and we wanted to thank her for her service. We also wanted to thank the congregation of Grace for their continued generosity and support of our program through the SOC



offering. We purchased an outdoor kitchen with some of those funds and a generous donor purchased our picnic table complete with umbrella! Keep an eye on the Prospect Street outdoor space for continued developments. We could use a donation of mulch to put under the mud kitchen and picnic table to aid in the ease of mowing around the toys.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement as we continue our service to the community through the Preschool. We appreciate you!

Here's to a great new school year!

Jen Lynds



### Flock Talk

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

*Thessalonians 5:11*

One of the best places to find out about a church is to look at their newsletter. I see several of my yoga members who don't attend our church pick up our newsletter every month in Higginbotham Hall. I'm delighted as I watch them open it and then *look more closely*. I can imagine they are surprised at how enthusiastic it is!

Pastor Bill's article always inspires us with love and life and the evidence of grace that surrounds us. Floyd's passion for music is uplifting and holds us in anticipation of the next beautiful sounds we'll hear. The messages about children and youth and how our church provides a safe environment are all so reassuring.

I write my articles as a way to stay connected to all of you. I love to write and you give me the opportunity to reflect on what matters and how to make it sound promising and motivational. Newsletters need more than meetings and calendars, they need real life impressions that give us a reason to develop spiritual stamina.

Mary does a beautiful job of putting everything together in a seamless and appealing way. Without someone having a professional strategy, it would not have the impact that it carries. And, that impact is what causes the occasional person in my class to look up after reading it and say, "tell me more".

Gratefully,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



**During Worship**  
**9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)**  
**11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)**  
**August 3 – Melissa Zaffino**  
**August 10 – Anna Peterson**  
**August 17 – Melissa Zaffino**  
**August 24 – Anna Peterson**  
**August 31 – Melissa Zaffino**



Items for the **September 2025**  
Newsletter need to be  
delivered to Mary in the office  
[mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com)  
by **Monday, August 18.**  
**Thank you.**



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **canned fruit, canned vegetables, mashed potatoes, pancake mix, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken, tuna, SPAM), cereal, and box jello & pudding** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!

## Grace Church Finance Report



### 2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

	June '25	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,378.07</b>	<b>\$186,398.81</b>
Office Expense	\$220.22	\$4,049.89
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$9,507.05	\$51,215.16
Ministry Personnel	\$20,027.55	\$126,790.59
Church Council	\$0.00	\$338.99
Education Ministry	\$842.97	\$1,735.58
Nurture Ministry	\$144.49	\$370.12
Worship Ministry	\$78.15	\$1,902.67
Outreach Ministry	\$55.00	\$712.02
Connectional Apportionment	\$1,641.33	\$9,847.98
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$32,516.76</b>	<b>\$196,963.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,861.31</b>	<b>(\$10,564.19)</b>

### Shortfall

<b>Account Balance 6/30/2025</b>	<b>\$98,523.99</b>
----------------------------------	--------------------

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee



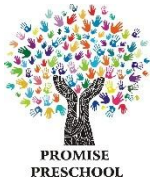
Do you like to knit or crochet? Yarn Angels meets weekly on Friday mornings from **9:30am-11am** in the **church library**. If you have any questions, call or text Karen Conarro 814-688-6445.

### Attention women!

"Full of Grace" Women's Ministry meets the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:30am 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 **August 25<sup>th</sup>**.





**Grace Promise Preschool registration is open!** A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable fee** is required to hold a spot for the 2025-2026 school year.

Registration forms can be found on the church website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com) or picked up at the church office. Questions? Email Jen at [Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com](mailto:Promisepreschool@myyahoo.com) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool](http://www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool)

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of August, we will be having another SOC – Support Our Children special offering to help with our programming. Save up your change and help us fill our socks!

---

Big THANK YOU to the 21 plus volunteers who helped with another successful Hot Dog Giveaway and to all who generously donated all the ketchup, mustard and relish that was needed! And another big shout out to all the dear, dear people who donated their canopies to shade all the wonderful workers! Two gentlemen from The Gideons International from Erie joined us for the event distributing 409 free copies of the New Testament! And one of our dear members brought down a canopy to shade them in their efforts!

This year we handed out 1,008 hot dogs & buns in hot dog carriers & provided Heinz ketchup, relish & French's mustard & napkins. That number is up from last year's 824. Will we need to cook more next year?

It was a beautiful day for the 77<sup>th</sup> year of the parade. Everyone who helped had a great time of fellowship with the other volunteers & the community. Many hands made light work! Our "customers" were happy as well!

Dave & I are very thankful to be able to work with such a great, great group of people. The volunteers & donations are truly gifts from God!

Till the next "hot dog roundup" ...

Jan & Dave Moore

---

### **Letchworth Field Trip Saturday, August 16th at 10:00am**

Grace Hiking Club is going strong and in its third year. We're looking forward to our annual field trip to the gorgeous Letchworth State Park for an invigorating hike. The hike can be any length of time or distance that you want to explore or it can be a seven-plus mile trek if you wish to do the entire trail.

We pack our own lunches and find a picnic table close by at the end of the day. Please feel free to join us, even if you have never been on one of our hikes before. We keep a healthy pace, but also stop to see the beautiful sites along the way.

I would be delighted to answer your questions. Contact me anytime at church or [fourwindsranch@verizon.net](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.net). Also, at 814-730-9996.



August 1 – Julie Hitchcock

August 2 – Guy Baughman

August 5 – Brendan Garrett

August 6 – Marlene Avery, Matt Stapleford, Nikolai Long

August 7 – Earl Duvall, Shirley Shafer, Mike Barr, Trevor Buchanan, Evie Alex

August 8 – Bev Himes, Tony Stellato, Tyler Retterer, Bailey Andersen, Payton Johnson

August 9 – Quay Strandburg, Bill Gentilman

August 10 – Judy Templeton, Jaxon Knapp, Caden Beers

August 11 – Craig Rodoski

August 12 – Roman Anzalone

August 13 – Patricia Dutchess, Gracie Page

August 14 – Debra Foreman, Sarah Parmeter, Collette Gnage

August 15 – Gladys Jones, Sue Shall

August 16 – Karen Conrad, Andrew Sprentz

August 17 – AJ Slattery

August 18 – Randy Grey, Kathy Neal

August 19 – Maggie Lawson, Lynnanne Hammersley

August 20 – Mark Shene

August 21 – Caleb Gnage

August 23 – Chloe Watson

August 24 – Aaren Keller, Adelaide Keepports, Vaeda Long

August 25 – Derek Knapp, Parker Shene

August 26 – Joyce Font, Lisa Brown, Elin Smith, Donald Anderson, Edward Anderson, Rebecca Anderson,  
Charles Sienkiewicz

August 27 – Charissa Barkley-Frary, Sarah Peterson

August 28 – Cathy Irwin, Charlotte Keepports

August 29 – Jordan Retterer, Ashley Barker

August 31 – Chris Zaffino



# AUGUST



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 6:00 p Pool Party	<b>4</b> 9:30 a Library Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>5</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i>	<b>6</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:40 p C.R.E.W.	<b>7</b> 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group	<b>1</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>2</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
					<b>8</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>9</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>10</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>11</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Worship</i>	<b>12</b> 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>13</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:40 p C.R.E.W.	<b>14</b> 6:00 p <i>Preschool</i>	<b>15</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>16</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>17</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>18</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved	<b>19</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>20</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>23</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>24</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>25</b> 10:30 a Full of Grace 6:30 p Full of Grace	<b>26</b> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>27</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 a Yarn Angels	<b>30</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>31</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>September 1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>					

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

Published monthly;  
August 2025

---

*- 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 Keeports,  
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Wyatt Stearns, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*501 Pennsylvania Avenue East      Warren, PA 16365*

*Phone - 814-723-9440      FAX - 814-723-6137*

*Email – office2@graceumcwarren.com*

*Website - www.graceumcwarrenpa.com*

***Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!***