

Grace Notes

December 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



December Meetings
December 8 – 6:00 p – Worship



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

Our 2025 Christmas Offering will be split with half going to **Olmsted Manor** and half going to **Wesley Woods**. Christmas offering envelopes will be in the Christmas letter or use a blue pew pocket envelope and label it Christmas.



From the Pastor

The Meaning of Christmas

Here comes Christmas.”

How did you read that? For some, it's with joy and anticipation. For some, it's with a little bit of discomfort. For some, it's even dread. I'm writing in the middle of November, but when you read this we will be celebrating Advent, the beginning of the Christian year, the four Sundays before Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

We've been in pre-Christmas mode in the retail world since the end of October (or before!!) with holiday decorations and holiday wrapped candy and special sales already in the works before “black Friday.” The Hallmark Channel runs their Christmas movies that hint at various “real meaning of Christmas” themes like family and love and generosity and community while we trot out old and new Christmas specials like Santa Claus is Coming to Town. We decorate, we bake special cookies, we have extra gatherings. That's all good stuff for what it is.

I like decorations. I like the holiday foods. I like that we are a little more grace giving and a little more generous this time of year.

But what I love about Christmas is what it really means: that God is with us and God will save us.

...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

-Matthew 1:20b-23

A two-fold promise in Jesus: You will give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. And they will call him Immanuel, God with us.

Whether the coming of the Christmas season brings you happiness or dread or anticipation or unease, I pray that you will find the coming of Christ in your life to bring you love, hope, joy and peace.

Whatever happens, whatever the circumstances, whatever the trials, we have the assurance that God is with us always. That's the real power of Christmas.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT'S COMING! THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT'S COMING!
Will You be there? The excitement is building, not unlike the anticipation of the Christmas Eve child, waiting for the gifts of Christmas morning. Many of your musicians are preparing our gifts for you to enjoy on Sunday, December 14, at 4pm.



So, mark your calendars for the second Sunday in December, at 4 pm to receive your musical gifts from your Grace choir and friends. It will be wonderful if you mark your calendars and attend, but much more wonderful if you invite and bring your neighbors! Take up a whole pew! (We'll still be plenty warm.)

While you're inviting your friends and filling your pew, remember to celebrate each Sunday of Advent with us, either at 8:30, 9:30, or 11:00am. Don't forget our Christmas Eve services at 5 and 8pm. We have plenty of musical gifts to share!

THE CONCERT IS COMING! THE CONCERT IS COMING! Will You be there? Did I mention the punch and cookie reception following the concert? I can't wait!

See you in Church!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Isaiah 9:6—For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This text was used by Handel in "The Messiah." It's one of my favorite choruses from that work. So, when I ran across an organ solo arrangement early in 2025, I bought it.

I can pick up most church or classical music and play it passably on the first read-through. Not this piece. This one was and continues to be a challenge. If you're a piano player, you've probably had a difficult piece that you "took apart." That means to play the right hand alone, play the left hand alone, then put it all together. We do the same idea with difficult organ pieces, but we also have the pedal element. So, I played right hand alone, left hand alone, feet alone, right hand and feet, left hand and feet, then all together. I picked out fingering on my piano at home and worked out which foot was doing what. I worked out the kinks in four-measure increments. I played it painfully slowly to coordinate everything, then slowly increased the tempo.

Most of the week, I practice in Kane on the organ that I play for an early service each Sunday. On Thursdays, I come to Grace to practice and prepare for Sunday. I arrive about 7:30 am. Sometimes there are one or two other cars in the parking lot, but I seldom see anybody. Starting in February (so even before Easter), one of my first pieces to practice each week was "For Unto Us a Child Is Born"—full organ! It was rough for several weeks, plenty of mistakes, but little by little it has improved. I expect it to be ready soon.

I'm planning to play this piece for the postlude at the Grace Christmas concert on Dec 14. The effort I've put into it, which has given me great joy, is my Christmas gift to God and to you. I hope you enjoy it!

Debbie Airgood

Happy December!
November went by in a flash! We studied Nocturnal/Diurnal Animals, we dissected an owl pellet.

We also learned about our 5 Senses. We made orange juice and felted soap.

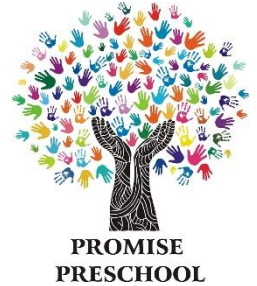
We learned about an acorn's life cycle and our November Book Fairy book was The Littlest Acorn.

We sent some cards to some church members that we thought could use a little sunshine.

We also had a little pizza party before our Thanksgiving break.

Looking forward to December, we are planning some fun with gingerbread and making ornaments. We plan on meeting with Pastor Bill so he can teach us about the Nativity.

Have a Merry Christmas!



Jen & Soojye



Flock Talk

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace to those on whom His favor rests."*

Luke 2:14

Let's imagine we live in a perfect world where Christmas brings peace and joy. Let's stop for a moment and think how serene it feels to see everyone through the lens of love. Let's fill our lungs with songs of praise and feel the words reverberate through our souls. Let's gather the people of God in a beautiful setting and worship unconditionally.

A perfect world awaits us. But first, we have work to do. We can enjoy all these emotions, but we also have a God to serve in order to make heaven on earth feel real. For many people Christmas is a time of loneliness or a time of lost opportunities. It's even a time where some want to just get to the other side without emotional upheaval.

That is where we work. We step in and we reassure and we bring light and warmth into the shadows. We look for the lost, we feed the hungry, we put mittens on cold little hands and we don't expect anything in return. We provide a safe place. We do our very best to make an imperfect world feel perfect, even for just a few minutes in the glow of candlelight and the twinkling of stars.

Let's be in the business of fixing people. Let's learn how to heal from the inside out and take our own, sometimes flawed ability to fully love to others. We can do this. It's what we do!

Love always,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

On November 16th during the 9:30am service
Harper Lee Dymond was baptized.
She is the daughter of David & Tyler Dymond.



On November 23rd during the 9:30am service
Riley Ann Gedz was baptized.
She is the daughter of Anthony & Kaitlin Gedz.





During Worship
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)
December 7 – Melissa Zaffino
December 14 – Anna Peterson
December 21 – Melissa Zaffino
December 28 – Anna Peterson



Items for the **January 2026**
 Newsletter need to be delivered
 to Mary in the office
mary@graceumcwarren.com by
Monday, December 15.
 Thank you.

Grace Church Finance Report

Grace Church ~



Below you will find our financials for the month of October. I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday! Let's show God how thankful we are for his generous gifts this year!

Thank you!

2025 Monthly and YTD Financials

| | October '25 | YTD |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| Total Income | \$31,477.42 | \$306,044.35 |
| | | |
| Office Expense | \$329.57 | \$5,211.23 |
| Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage) | \$6,027.40 | \$84,080.32 |
| Ministry Personnel | \$22,617.36 | \$210,816.56 |
| Church Council | \$0.00 | \$338.99 |
| Education Ministry | \$15.39 | \$3,476.39 |
| Nurture Ministry | \$65.48 | \$976.70 |
| Worship Ministry | \$283.60 | \$3,269.44 |
| Outreach Ministry | \$155.90 | \$1,419.33 |
| Connectional Apportionment | \$1,641.33 | \$16,413.30 |
| Witness Ministry | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Ministry & Expense | \$31,136.03 | \$326,002.26 |
| | | |
| Net Income | \$341.39 | (\$19,957.91) |

Shortfall

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Account Balance 10/31/2025 | \$48,617.71 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|

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 **powdered milk, jelly, and canned meat (chicken, SPAM)** 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 are up 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.



Come Join Our Messy Church

Messy Church? It's a time for family activities/crafts, worship, and dinner together. Monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Our next event is **Wednesday, December 17th**.

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on **Sunday, December 14th at 4:00PM**. The reception committee is asking for donations of cookies to be served following the concert. Signup sheets are in Higginbotham Hall and on the signup board outside the church office. You may also call the church office, 814-723-9440 or Linda Knapp, 814-726-1199, with further questions or to volunteer. Thank you for any help you may be able to offer.



Disciple I Class

Thursday, January 8th at 6pm

Our next Disciple class will begin on Thursday, January 8th at 6:00pm in the Eaton Parlor. This will be the first half of Disciple I and will be held weekly until the end of April. You will be amazed at the level of learning we achieve during these four months.

Disciple I is a complete overview of the Bible. If you have ever wanted to dive deeply into Scripture or have yearned for a closer relationship through His Word, this provides a thorough opportunity. The course is enlightening and interactive with all the beloved qualities of a small group study.

There are books available, but please contact Sue Toombs prior to class to set one aside for you. Sue will be your instructor and is happy to answer any questions. You don't have to be an attendee at Grace to join us.

Contact Sue at fourwindsranch@verizon.net or 814-730-9996.



December 1 – Bev Smith, Gene Burns, Pam Hahm, Rachel Beatty
December 2 – Larry Willis, Alexandria Jansens, Annabelle Rosenberg
December 3 – Henry Johnson
December 4 – Alec Conarro
December 5 – Erica Bailey, Letti Cameron
December 6 – Casey Retterer
December 7 – George Broadbent, Michael Waseleski
December 8 – Victoria Solberg
December 10 – Phyllis Broadbent
December 12 – Caitlin Barney
December 13 – Janette Brown
December 14 – Jim Armstrong, Kolby Sabat
December 15 – Logan Peterson
December 16 – Caleb Ei
December 17 – Karen Larson, Diane DeLarme, Larry Neal, David Anthony
December 18 – Nancy Callahan
December 19 – Steph Pearce, April Barr
December 20 – Vicki Anthony, Austin Jerman, Benjamin Hampson, Jace Yaegle, Wallace Yaegle
December 22 – Rayna Filek
December 24 – Harrison Johnson, Christopher Danielson
December 25 – Alexis Manelick
December 29 – Jayce Messinger, Madelyn Messinger
December 30 – Douglas Renwick, Betsy Miller, Theresa Barney
December 31 – Peggy Grosch, Beth MacPherson, Paige Johnson

DECEMBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | 1 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong | 2 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 | 3 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W. | 4 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group | 5 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga | 6 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Gym Reserved |
| 7 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 | 8 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Worship</i> 7:00 p Ping Pong | 9 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 Library Reserved | 10 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W. | 11 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved | 12 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga | 13 9:00 a Praise Team |
| 14 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 Choir Christmas Concert 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing | 15 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong | 16 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball | 17 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 5:00 p Messy Church 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W. | 18 8:00 a Pickleball 10:30 a Preschool - Gym Reserved 6:00 p Gym Reserved | 19 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels 11:15 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga | 20 9:00 a Praise Team |
| 21 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 | 22 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 7:00 p Ping Pong | 23 8:00 a Pickleball 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball | 24 Office Closed 5:00 p Christmas Eve Service 8:00 p Christmas Eve Service | 25 Office Closed | 26 8:30 a Pickleball 9:30 a Yarn Angels | 27 9:00 a Praise Team |
| 28 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing | 29 8:30 a Pickleball 10:30 a Touch Tennis 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 7:00 p Ping Pong | 30 8:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 1:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Pickleball | 31 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast | January 1, 2026 Office Closed | | |

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
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