

Grace Notes

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
Children's Ministries: *Libby Yaegle*
Director of Youth &
Family Ministries: *Nicki Egger*

February

2021

*"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*



February Meetings

February 3 - 6:00 p - *SPRC*

February 9 - 7:00 p - *Property Trustees*



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Habitat for Humanity in Warren County**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.



February Greeters

Will resume soon.

February Ushers

Will resume soon.

From the Pastor

Lament

I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.

I will remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed,

for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

(Lamentations 3:19-24)

Lamentations, the book of the Bible, is attributed to Jeremiah who is sometimes called "The Weeping Prophet." If you read Lamentations, be prepared for a lot of...well... lamenting. Jeremiah mourns and cries out for the first two and a half chapters. It's almost like reading Job distilled down to just his complaints, just his frustration and anger.

Jeremiah goes so far as to indicate that it is *good* to remember our afflictions and our troubles, to call to mind the times when "my soul is downcast within me."

And then there's a turning point. A bit of light. A moment of hope.

It doesn't just come out of the blue, though. "Yet this I call to mind." I *choose* to remember God's goodness, to call to mind God's mercy, I choose to recall that "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." (Psalm 108:8)

It's been a winter of lament for many of us: the fracturing effects of the Corona Virus and all the steps to mitigate the spread, the political climate, financial uncertainties, community unrest. We have lost friends and loved ones and haven't been able to mourn together, we have lost a sense of connectedness that sometimes wasn't as strong as

we thought, but its absence is significant.

We have reason to lament – to express our frustrations and pain and grief and lostness.

But we also have reason to hope. God understands lament. God hasn't been somewhere out there, distant and apart from all the things that you and I struggle with. God is right here with us. God walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4), "thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." While the promise isn't to simply remove all hurt from our lives, God is present when it gets overwhelming, when that one last thing that you just can't take any more happens and you break. "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope." God's compassions – God's mercies – God's unconditional love for us – never fail. They are **new every morning**. God never abandons us. Every morning – every moment – is an opportunity for us to recall God's goodness, God's love, God's compassions that never fail and to choose to hope.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5).

There is a time to lament – a time we might find ourselves in darkness – but God is always with us, always stronger than our struggles, always more good and gracious than our circumstances. There's always darkness, but it cannot overcome the light.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

From the Director of Congregational Care

BUILD EACH OTHER UP!

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouth, but only that which is helpful for building others up in accordance to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

This is a verse that has guided me and become a favorite over the years. However, my children may not feel the same way! You see, I used this verse as a tool to teach them to

think before they spoke. Because, if I heard any of them using “unwholesome talk” or speaking with an “unwholesome attitude”, they had to write that verse a number of times. And, the number varied depending on the degree of “unwholesomeness”!

Our kids are now 28, 30 and 32 years old. And, truthfully, I had forgotten about that verse writing. However, I found out that they had not! Awhile back, when we were all together, some subject came up and Tim brought up the “verse writing punishment” AND recited it, albeit, in paraphrase! Praise the Lord! Something stuck! The girls also had strong memories of “verse writing”. So, for all you young parents out there, REPETITION is key! In the years to come, you too may be surprised at what your children remember!

I am especially mindful of this verse now as our country is in a time of such division. Not only should we beware of the “unwholesomeness” of our talk, but take it to the next level so that what we say is “helpful for building others up ... that is may benefit those who listen”.

Verses that compliment that are Matthew 5:44-45a: “I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the *energies of prayer*, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves.” (The Message). We are called upon to energetically pray for those who are in opposition to us. While we may never “see” the change in them, we will often “feel” the change in us. I pray that we will reach out to others as individuals who exemplify who God intends us to be.

With you in Christ, Cindy Price

Hello Grace Church!
CREW has been tackling a difficult series on injustice, Do Something. Whether it’s the kid being bullied at school, the children in other countries without enough to eat, or someone in their neighborhood being judged by the color of their skin, chances are your students



have all seen or experienced injustice in the world around them. And it’s probably caused them to stop and think, “Someone should do something about that!” All the questions they’re asking about why it’s happening, what they should do, and where God is in the midst of it? In this series, we were challenged to answer these questions as we discover how much Jesus cares about injustice and how we can see something, say something, and do something in response.

What a fantastic series, thought-provoking for our Church as well! The Apostle Paul, whose life was changed by Jesus, wrote letters to the early church and taught them what it looks like to be a Christian. He used this word picture to describe the Church: “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it,” 1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT.

Paul uses the illustration of one body made up of all its individual parts. Even though it may seem like the ear is independent from the toe, the whole body relies on each part in order to function as God designed it to.

In the same way, God designed the body of

Christ, or the Church, to work together to help each other out. So, when we’re talking about injustice, it’s not that God isn’t there or doesn’t care. Instead, God is calling the Church, His people, to be His hands and feet here on earth. In other words, DO SOMETHING!

Take care and God bless!

Nicki Egger

Do Something: A Series on Injustice

Week One

Matthew 25:41-46 NIV

Before you do something about injustice, you have to see it.

Week Two

Daniel 3:24-27 NLT

When you experience injustice, you don’t have to face it alone.

Week Three

Matthew 9:35-37 NLT, Isaiah 61:8a NLT, & 1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT

God is doing something about injustice.

Week Four

James 2:15-17 NIV

When it comes to injustice, never stop doing something.

I am happy to report that the once-a-week video readings have resumed with Emmet as my cohost and number one supporter. I am reading *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, which is an excellent book to read along with the new series that I started in January. The new series is called “The Secrets of the Ancient Scrolls” and it is meant to help kids learn the basics of the Bible – where it came from, who wrote it, how it is structured, and how to read it. The “Ancient Scroll” lessons are sent out to parents weekly on Wednesdays and can be done at home as a family. The lessons are packed full of excellent information for all ages, so if you would like to receive these lessons or the video recordings or know someone else who would, just let me know so I can add them to my email list.



In an unstable world, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and the “Ancient Scroll” lessons prove one thing, that God never changes. From one of the first stories in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* we’re reminded that “no matter what, in spite of everything, God would love his children with a Never-Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.” Isaiah 54:10 says that “‘though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,’ says the Lord, who has compassion on you.” May we be reminded that even when the world around us is shaken, the mountains fall, and the hills return to dust, God’s love still abounds “as a shelter for all, who will call on his name.”

Libby Yaegle

Now that we are a into the New Year, we are thankful for decent weather so far, but we will see what Punxsutawney Phil predicts on the 2nd and will hope for an early spring! The children have settled back into the routine after our Christmas break and are well into our winter activities. Our three-year-old class is starting their color unit and doing “homework”. The four-year-old class is working on their “Passports to Kindergarten” and proudly adding stars for each skill they master. We look forward to Valentine’s Day and our class Valentine’s party. Our party day is always great fun as we share treats and cards from our friends.

Registration for the 2021-2022 schoolyear is well under way for current preschool, Grace Church & daycare families. We will open to the public on February 1, 2021, so if you or someone you know would like to register a child for next school year, please pick up a registration form from the office, call 723-9440 and we can mail you a packet, or call the preschool room at 723-8011 during school hours. We usually fill up quickly, so reserve your spot now!

Again, we would like to thank our Grace Church family & friends for helping with our Sarris Candies fund raiser. We made \$391 to split with the daycare. We are so grateful for all the support we receive!

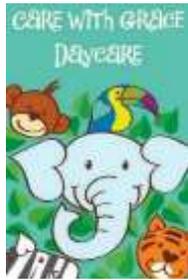
Happy Valentine’s Day from all of us at Grace Promise Preschool!

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool

Trish Gentilman
preschool@atlanticbbn.net

January was a cold month, and the children are back in school. We are having a Penny War between the classes. Koalas and Pandas (infants and 1-year-olds) will be one class, the Otters (2-year-olds), the Turtles (3-year-olds), Hippos (4-year-olds), and the Elephants (school age). Donations can be in any amount you choose. We will be running the contest until the end of February. Whichever class has the most donations collected will win a pizza and ice cream party!



There are two no school days in February, Friday the 12th and Monday the 15th. We will be doing our Valentine's parties Friday, February 12th.

Thank you all for the Sarris candies orders; we made a little over \$400 for Promise Preschool and Care with Grace Childcare.

Irene Garris

January Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199
Sheryl Richards 726-3876

Will resume soon.



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

~
11:00 a.m. (0-5 yrs.)
Will resume soon.

Our budget the month of December 2020:



Other income consists of funds from Sunday School, Room Rental, Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.

BUDGET	2020	2019
Other Income:	24.00	738.75
Offerings & Tithes	<u>26,918.32</u>	<u>34,710.50</u>
Total Income	26,942.32	35,449.25
Number of Sundays:	4	5
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:		
Staff Parish	23,798.74	20,959.87
Trustees	8,083.18	9,003.52
Ministry	<u>4,759.90</u>	<u>6,252.45</u>
Total Expense	36,641.82	36,215.84
Attendance:	1,279*	1,031

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation- 3,251.80
Paid to date 39,029.00
Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 100%

His income: Was \$8,506.93 lower in December 2020 compared to December 2019

Our expenses: Were \$425.98 higher in December 2020 compared to December 2019

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

*December 2020 attendance is estimated due to online worship services.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair

If you wish to continue giving, please mail your envelopes to the church (501 PA Ave E) or use the electronic giving option posted on our webpage www.graceumcwarrenpa.com. Online giving accepts checking/savings accounts as well as debit/credit cards.



Staff Appreciation Day!

We are celebrating Staff Appreciation Day on February 14th! Our treasured staff will each receive a gift card this year as a gesture of our appreciation. Hopefully, we will be able to have our celebration in person next year. When you see one of our staff today, or anytime this month, please take the opportunity to acknowledge these incredible people!

We thank you, Grace Church staff, for the way you navigate the challenges of each and every day. Most especially, your willingness to be a strong foundation during this past year. We thank you for your dedication to keep learning as the environment changes around you. Thank you for communicating God's truths to us in your own unique manners. Thank you caring about us when we are not there to see it. We are most grateful that you steady us in areas that we sometimes assume are effortless.

We extend a warm hearted "thank you" to the following people:

Meghan Brooker, Office Administrator
Mary Quiggle-Pickering, Office Manager
Cindy Price, Director of Congregational Care
Elizabeth Yaegle, Director of Children's Ministries
Nicki Egger, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Floyd Moore, Director of Grace Choir
Kris Magnuson, Accompanist/Pianist
Carmen Pearce, Accompanist/Organist
Trish Gentilman, Director of Promise Preschool
Jessica Rex, Co-Teacher of Promise Preschool
Irene Garris, Director of Care with Grace Daycare
Mike Roney, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Tristan Johnson, Security/Set-up Custodian
Shirley Shafer, Evening Housekeeping Custodian

Covered by Grace gave out 605 items in December!



We are currently in need of **gloves and mittens**. Heads are warm but fingers are chilly. Items can be placed in the tote in the hall right outside of Pastor

Bill's office.

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **applesauce** at this time. No boxes – we have no room to store them. We will let you know when we need more. Thank you to all who contribute.



We are so thankful for the donations that are useful for those we serve. Now there's an online way for you to help! By visiting our Amazon wishlist, you can buy items that we need for the food pantry and Covered by Grace and have them delivered directly to the church. Visit our website www.graceumcwarrenpa.com and locate the Amazon wishlist buttons.



"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."

Psalm 133:1

Here is a thought . . . when God chose to compare us to sheep, it meant that we gather into a flock rather naturally. That's what sheep do. And, of course, He is our shepherd.

Let's look at our lives from a flock's point of view. We're herd-type people. We need relationships. We need connections. We're all connected to a bigger picture, a community. There is one thing a community does well and that is, it holds people together. It is as though being in a flock, a community, we have the unique experience of carrying each other's emotional weight.

This is where friendships come in to play. We have long standing friendships that are dependably satisfying and provide a sense of security. And, we also have "microfriendships" that are multiplying like crazy these days. These are ties to people we "kind of" know that strengthen the fabric of our lives without placing any burdens on us.

The pandemic is moving this trend forward. We find ourselves reaching out during the limited opportunities these days and embracing weak ties. Whether that means smiling more, engaging

deeper or finding the smallest act to make a difference in someone's day.

It is happening in our church through phone calls, through social media and simply by asking "Do you need anything?" What a loaded question! Loaded with love, loaded with generosity, with kindness, and with Christ-likeness.

Jesus had quite a few acquaintances on earth along with His rock-solid friends. He showed us how to use a flock for safety and for the sheer joy of each other. Now more than ever, we need to play a role in each other's well-being. Our shepherd will guide us through these days and we'll enjoy the greener pastures!

Diligently,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Promise Preschool Registration is now open for Grace Church members, Care with Grace Daycare, and current Promise Preschool families. A completed registration form and \$20 non-refundable registration fee is required to hold a spot for your child for the 2021-2022 school year. Registration will be open to the public starting February 1, 2021, so be sure to reserve a place for your child today! Additional forms can be picked up in the church office or by calling 723-8011 during school hours.
preschool@atlanticbbn.net



HOPES Fund
For: Dean Johnson
By: Mike & Jan McGilliard

Promise Preschool
For: Bill & Trish Gentilman
By: Rick & Elle Gentilman

In Honor of



Items for the March Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office (mary@graceumcwarren.com) by

Wednesday, February 17. Thank you!



- February 1 – Gary Culbertson, Mark Robinault
- February 2 – Riley McCollough, Thomas Jones, Tim Price
- February 3 – Sam Birgel, Rick Reiff, Tammy Kibbey
- February 4 – Maddie Kridler
- February 7 – Larry Knowlton, Jesse Lucks, Linda Knapp
- February 9 – Danny Grosch, Maria Miller
- February 11 – Dave Carter, Norma Dey, Phyllis Marti
- February 12 – Tristan Danielson
- February 13 – Mona Rosequist
- February 14 – Kyle Grey
- February 15 – Bud Price, Kurt Smith
- February 16 – Lisa Shall
- February 17 – Bill Bunce, Brett Ball
- February 18 – Stacy Vavala, Josie Bailey, Linnea Wertz
- February 19 – Heather Schultz
- February 20 – Jeff Benjamin, Lisa McDermott
- February 22 – Judy Conklin
- February 23 – Marcy Jurkowski, Karn Lucks, Cheyenna Thompson
- February 24 – Amy Haley
- February 25 – Braydn Wilson, Kaila Abplanalp, Eric Moore, Melissa Zaffino, David Johnson, Harper Vivian
- February 26 – Randy Johnson, Barb Kulinski
- February 27 – Donna Risinger
- February 28 – Judy Bunce, Olivia English, Terry Moldovan
- February 29 – David Morrison



February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:30 p C.R.E.W. - ONLINE ONLY	4 6:00 p Praise Team	5	6
7 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	8	9 7:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	10 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. - ONLINE ONLY	11 6:00 p Praise Team	12	13
14 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	15	16	17 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p C.R.E.W. - ONLINE ONLY	18 6:00 p Praise Team	19	20
21 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	22	23	24 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 p C.R.E.W. - ONLINE ONLY	25 6:00 p Praise Team	26	27
28 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship			CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE is open daily from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor.	PROMISE PRESCHOOL is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 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;
February 2021

- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller, Dave Moore,
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman,
Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel*

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Pennsylvania Avenue East Warren, PA 16365

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

Email - office2@graceumcwarren.com

On the Web - www.graceumcwarrenpa.com

Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!