

# 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: *Tyler Dymond*  
Director of Youth &  
Family Ministries: *Nicki Egger*

## December

## 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*



*Our Christmas Offering this year will be split  
between the **Ruth M. Smith Center** and the  
**Blue Star Mothers of Kinzua PA203**.  
Christmas offering envelopes will be available  
in the pew pockets or the Christmas letter.*



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

# *From the Pastor*

## **Christmas Supply and Demand**

**T**he New York Times ran an article called, “How to Keep the Supply Chain From Ruining Your Christmas.” Acknowledging that inflation is at a 30 year high and the supply chain has been struggling since mid-2020, the authors of the article recommend that some items are best purchased early as there won’t be enough supply and won’t be deep discounts (things that didn’t surprise me like phones, computers and gaming consoles, but some things did surprise me like books, bicycles and stand-mixers) while some other things will probably be easier to obtain (like robot vacuums and air purifiers).

I wonder how much our Christmas celebrations will be affected by the combination of higher prices and limited availability of goods. It’s the way supply and demand is supposed to work, I suppose (Economics classes were a long time ago), and things will eventually level out to whatever the (I know we hate the phrase) “new normal” will be.

What really struck me about the headline was the idea that not getting the “stuff” we expect for the Christmas season would ruin Christmas. And I get it, but, of course, I also want to push against it.

The supply chain that I’m much more interested in seeing renewed this Christmas season doesn’t have anything to do with shipping containers floating across the ocean or empty shelves at the store.

Christmas is a sacred celebration, our remembering God stepping into creation in a way that revealed God’s grace and God’s love for us all.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*

*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
(John 1:1-14)

The only supply chain issue that could ruin Christmas is the supply of grace and peace and mercy that we Christ followers offer to one another, to our friends and families, to strangers and acquaintances alike. To respond in grace and love when the grocery store doesn’t have what you need, when the prices keep going up but our incomes don’t, when the conversations at our family gatherings turn to those things maybe we’d rather not talk about, stuff from the past or political stuff or whatever. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Jesus)

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Bill

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## Choir Notes



I still hope and pray you and your family are healthy and well. I also hope you continue to attend our worship services, either online or in person.

**I have GREAT news!** We are preparing our Christmas concert, to be presented LIVE and online on **December 12, at 4pm**. Come early for a good seat! Masks are still required at this time.

Also, we are making plans to worship together on Christmas Eve, live and online, at 7pm and 11pm. Stay tuned for more details. (Christmas Eve is December 24<sup>th</sup> this year.)

We are continuing to worship in the most meaningful ways while staying as safe as possible during these challenging times. We are also planning to present the wonderful Christmas concert as we have in the past on **December 12, at 4pm**, and we will be involved in our Christmas Eve service, along with our Sunday worship services. Stay tuned!

Our Christmas Concert is **December 12, at 4pm**. A wonderful cookie and punch reception will follow.

I still hope you'll be *involved* in our ministry as much as you're comfortable at this very strange time. Please continue to pray for your ministry and your congregation here at Grace. Enjoy something special on **December 12 at 4pm!**

Floyd Moore  
amfm123@verizon.net

## Here's an old English carol with a great history lesson:

### The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
This star drew nigh to the north-west, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee;  
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Along with other treats, the choir will be presenting a modern version of the carol called "The Seven Noels" by Pepper Choplin. (I've met him. He's real.) We've really enjoyed exploring the fresh text, rhythms, and harmonies that we'll share on **December 12 at 4pm**.

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### **ANTICIPATION**

**W**e are in that time period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This should be a joyous time as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Carols are playing on the radio and in stores. The Grace Christmas Concert is December 12th. There are greeting cards to be sent and parties to go to. Families will be gathering. There are presents to buy, cookies to bake and big meals to plan. GOOD GRIEF! I'm exhausted already! Too often this 4 weeks of Holy anticipation becomes a beehive of frantic activity. I need some help in keeping it all in perspective.

I offer up to you one of those blessed Psalms that is helping me: Psalm 121.

***I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.***

***He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber;  
Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.***

***The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
The sun will not harm you by day nor the moon at night.***

***The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;  
The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.***

As anxiety levels increase at any time in our lives, we can be assured that the Lord is behind, beside and before us. And He is watching over us every day. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

Blessings to you this Christmas season!

Cindy Price

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**H**ello Grace Church!

Have you heard there is a pandemic? Sounds comical doesn't it. Our lives have been overtaken by COVID-19 and at times it can be difficult to think of anything else. We consistently hear about the physical effects of this virus and the vaccines currently available. But it has changed us in so many other ways. It has changed the way our children attend school, how we interact with each other and the resources we have. As the holidays approach, there may be concerns about whether the gifts you wish to purchase will be available or whether there are even enough funds to buy gifts.



Despite these concerns, it is healthy to remind ourselves that the spirit of Christmas lives and thrives even when resources are low. Wanna know how? It's this word that literally costs nothing to execute—connection. What our kids really want from us is to be a present parent. Quality time is the name of the game this year, folks. So, maybe that looks like:

- Creating brand-new holiday traditions.

- Taking the ordinary and putting a special spin on it (think regular dinner, but adding a little candlelight).
- Being intentional about spending more quality time together.

Interestingly, your children will most likely not remember what they receive for Christmas this year but they will remember you...how you interacted or didn't interact with them, how you communicated or didn't communicate and whether they felt loved. Will they know the true spirit of Christmas and feel God's love. That dear friends, it absolutely is in our control!

We will make it through this pandemic and this holiday season. And who knows? It might be the best one yet. Take care and God Bless.

Nicki Egger

**T**hank you everyone to helped with our first Trunk Or Treat! It went wonderfully! We have some events coming up in the next few months. On December 4th at 1pm we will be decorating cookies as well as ornaments for a tree at the church! We encourage all kids/families to come help us decorate the tree and cookies! We are planning a trip to State Collage March 4th for Winter Jam. Anyone is welcome, more information will me coming shortly!



Tyler Dymond



**A**fter a month of learning about Thanksgiving and celebrating all the things we are thankful for, we are looking forward to returning from our fall break to prepare for the Christmas season. We are grateful for each day, week, and month we have safely gathered at school and pray for continued good health for all! In December we will be learning new songs, decorating our room, and creating gifts for our families. In the midst of our busyness, we will share the birth of baby Jesus and use some puppets to act out the story. We also hope to visit Pastor Bill in the sanctuary and hear the Christmas story using the Nativity. Our last day of school before Christmas vacation will be celebrated with a Fun Day where we will make crafts, sing songs, decorate and eat cookies, then say our good-byes until we return in 2022! Sadly, we will not be able to share this day with our parents again this year because of the continued high level of COVID-19 cases, but we will make the best of our Christmas celebration with all our friends!

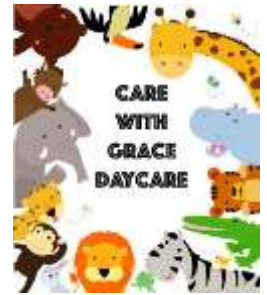
Registration for the 2022-2023 schoolyear will begin in January with current preschool families, Grace Church members & Care with Grace Daycare children. If the classes are not full by the end of January, we will open registration to the public. Registration forms will be available in the church office or by calling 723-8011 during school hours.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds

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It's the most wonderful time of the year (for those that enjoy the cold and snow)! The Christmas season is in full swing. As we move on from the season of thanks, we remain thankful for the reason for the season. As we move closer to Christmas, we will be making snowflakes out of paper, drinking hot chocolate, and decorating the daycare. We find it hard to believe that another year is almost over, but we look forward to each new one. Care with Grace would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season, and a very merry Christmas!



Marc Merchant – Director

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### **During Worship**

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

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

**December 5 – Anna Peterson**

**December 12 – Becky Fuller**

**December 19 – Anna Peterson**



The Grace Church Food Pantry needs restocked! We have given out our extra food supply. We are currently in need of instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, canned pasta (spaghetti O's, ravioli, beef-a-roni, etc.), peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, macaroni & cheese, canned meat (tuna, chicken, SPAM), pancake mix, syrup, and rice sides. Thank you to all who contribute.



### **Flock Talk**

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

***Luke 2:14***

**P**ace. One of the most beautiful places for our minds to rest. Peace. It is found in so many Christmas hymns. It is found in the Bible over 300 times. It was important to God and He makes it important to us every day of our lives.

We are called to be peacemakers. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." There's a big difference between being a peacekeeper and a peacemaker. Being a keeper of the peace means that peace already exists and you do your best to maintain the status quo.

Being a maker of the peace means you create peace in a troubled environment. You lean into it and you attempt to change the conflict or disruption into a more peaceful existence. A peacekeeper tends to be a passive role. A peacemaker is an intentional role as you bring reason and calm into a situation.

Most people avoid conflict at all costs. And, if it's an internal conflict it can be incredibly difficult. Whether it's fighting temptation or speaking truth into a situation, it's something that Jesus has called us to do. He modeled it perfectly as He moved from one extraordinary situation to another. He never left people with a sense of incompleteness. He met them where they were and He loved them.

Is it that simple? Sometimes. We will have chances over this Christmas season to make peace, to trust the Holy Spirit's guidance to give us the right words. And, to open our hearts like never before!

With good tidings,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



## What if...?

Grace Church did not exist?

Grace Church Ministries disappeared?



Like most other churches, Grace Church has faced challenges over the past several years; most recently, a shrinking membership and a world-wide pandemic. These challenges have placed further financial stress on an already stressed budget.

Grace's Finance Committee has revised the presentation of the church's income and expenses in order to be more transparent with our financial position. The major categories of the budget below include expenses for maintaining our church building and property, paying our church staff, funding the church's ministries and outreach, and other expenses.

In order to cover administrative expenses and church ministries over the past few years, the church has borrowed funds from other church accounts, shown below under "Borrowed Funds". The finance committee is exploring ways to reduce expenses and/or increase income to balance the budget and reduce the deficit below.

We are asking all members of the congregation to pray about your stewardship for the church and consider your contributions to help Grace in these challenging times.

### 2021 Actual to Budget

	October '21 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$32,557.03</b>	<b>\$287,019.07</b>	<b>\$295,208.31</b>
Office Expense	\$600.81	\$5,148.94	\$8,083.31
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$5,309.08	\$68,544.25	\$72,749.90
Ministry Personnel	\$22,882.09	\$224,602.18	\$229,370.81
Church Council	\$0.00	\$317.79	\$416.66
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,500.62	\$2,333.32
Nurture Ministry	\$40.25	\$455.16	\$3,458.33
Worship Ministry	\$186.60	\$1,915.76	\$3,354.15
Outreach Ministry	\$3,334.83	\$33,961.16	\$33,764.99
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,666.66
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$32,353.66</b>	<b>\$336,445.86</b>	<b>\$355,198.13</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$203.37</b>	<b>(\$49,426.79)</b>	<b>(\$59,989.82)</b>

### Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 10/31/21	<b>(\$118,599.44)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

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## **Memorial**

**For: Donald &**

**Margaret Mccurdy**

**By: Donald McCurdy**



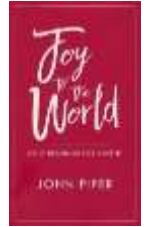
Items for the January Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com)

by Friday, December 17.

Thank you.

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Advent devotional books are on a table at the back of the sanctuary. This year's booklet is **Joy to the World** by John Piper. This devotional is a bit different in that it starts on December 1<sup>st</sup>, rather on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please take one for yourself, or for you and your family, and if you know of others who might like to have one, please take one to them. If you are unable to come to Grace Church to pick up your copy in person, please let the church office staff know, so that they can get one to you.



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Our annual Christmas Choir Concert, "Songs to Light the World," will be presented on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 PM. The reception committee is asking for donations of cookies to serve following the concert and for volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. Signup sheets for cookies (2-3 dozen) and for volunteers to help will be in Wesley Parlor beginning November 28. You may also call the church office, 723-9440 or Linda Knapp, 726-1199, with further questions or to volunteer. Thank you for any help you may be able to offer.



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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. The lines are up now and will stay up through February. Donations can be placed in the bin across from Pastor Bill's office. You can also visit our Amazon wishlist to purchase donations. The link can be found on our website [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com)







December 1 – Beverly Smith, Gene Burns,  
Pam Hahn, Rachel Beatty  
December 2 – Larry Willis, Lexi Jansens  
December 4 – Alec Conarro  
December 5– Erica Bailey  
December 6 – Casey Retterer  
December 7 – Buddy Birgel, George Broadbent,  
Michael Waseleski  
December 8 – LuAnn Munksgard, Victoria Solberg  
December 10 – Phyllis Broadbent  
December 11 – Ashlynn Fry  
December 12 – Caitlin Barney  
December 13 – Janette Brown, Jayden Fry  
December 14 – Jim Armstrong, Joe Glotz, Kolby Sabat  
December 15 – Logan Peterson  
December 16 – Caleb Ei  
December 17 – Karen Larson, Diane DeLarme,  
Larry Neal, David Anthony  
December 18 – Nancy Callahan, David Engstrom  
December 19 – Stephanie Pearce, April Barr  
December 20 – Vicki Anthony, Austin Jerman,  
Ben Hampson, Jace Yaegle, Wallace Yaegle  
December 22 – Rayna Tucher  
December 24 – Carol Baughman, Harrison Johnson,  
Christopher Danielson  
December 25 – Alexis Manelick  
December 28 – Andrew Duda  
December 29 – Jayce Messinger, Madelyn Messinger  
December 30 – Doug Renwick, Betsy Miller,  
Ruth Zavinski, Nikki Barney, Erin Hennessy  
December 31 – Peggy Grosch, Beth MacPherson,  
Paige Johnson



# december



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE</b> is open Mon-Fri from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor	<b>PROMISE PRESCHOOL</b> 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.		<b>1</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>2</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple III 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>3</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry	<b>4</b> 1:00 p Children's Ministry Event
<b>5</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School	<b>6</b> 9:30 a Stuff Bible Study 12:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>7</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 8:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>8</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>9</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Disciple III 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>10</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Choir Concert	<b>13</b> 9:30 a Stuff Bible Study 12:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>14</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 8:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>15</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>16</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>17</b> 10:30 a Yarn Angels 11:00 a Fitness Ministry	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 3:00 p Agape Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:30 a Stuff Bible Study 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 12:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>21</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:30 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 8:30 p Stuff Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>23</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 p Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 a Worship	<b>27</b> 12:15 p Fitness Ministry	<b>28</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved	<b>29</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Fitness Ministry 6:30 p C.R.E.W. 7:00 p Choir	<b>30</b> 5:00 p Gym Reserved 6:00 p Praise Team	<b>31</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	

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

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*- Grace Praise Team -*

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

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