

# Grace Notes

## April 2023

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  
Visit Our Facebook Group - www.facebook.com/groups/embracegrace

*To know Christ and to make Him known!*

Senior Pastor:      *Rev. William Beatty*  
Director of  
Congregational Care:      *Cindy Price*  
Choir Director:      *Floyd Moore*  
Organist/Accompanist:      *Debbie Airgood*  
Office Administrator:      *Meghan Brooker*  
Office Manager:      *Mary Quiggle-Pickering*  
Director of Children &  
Family Ministries:      *Amanda Slattery*  
Director of Youth &  
Family Ministries:      *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*



### *April Meetings*

**April 4 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**April 11 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**April 17 - 5:30 p - Education**  
**April 18 - 6:00 p - Childcare**



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

*Our Easter Offering will benefit the **Ruth M. Smith Center**. Envelopes were included with the Easter letter and will be available at the Easter Day Services.*



# From the Pastor

## 10,000 Minutes

**S**ince, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

(Colossians 3:1-4)

A friend told me about a podcast called 10,000 Minutes. The gist of it is that there are about 10,000 minutes in a week, and it matters how we use those minutes.

We are inundated every day with messages about the stuff of this world, the “earthly things” that Paul mentions in Colossians. A lot of it is fairly innocuous: advertisements for more comfortable mattresses, tastier beverages, better smelling laundry detergent; videos of cats and dogs being adorable, funny tweets about raising kids; and on. Some of it is important: news of a disaster like an earthquake or a train derailment, weather alerts, schedule changes. All of it, the good, the bad and the otherwise, all of it is noise. Noise we have to filter, to choose what to give our attention to and what to push aside. Paul’s challenge for us is to use godly wisdom in this kind of discernment. He is *not* suggesting that we ignore these “earthly things” but to not “set our minds” on them. To not let them become so consuming that we are distracted from our relationship with God in Christ.

So how do we use those minutes when we are immersed in the “earthly things”? It really comes down to setting our hearts toward God.

From C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*:

*“People often think of Christian morality as a kind of bargain in which God says, ‘If you keep a lot of rules, I’ll reward you, and if you don’t I’ll do the other thing.’ I do not think that this is the best way of looking at it. I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a Heaven creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures, and with itself. To be the one of creature is Heaven: that is, it is joy, and peace, and knowledge, and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.”*

Lewis might be a bit heavy-handed with the metaphor, but I think he is very accurate about the process. What he describes – a daily choosing to be in harmony with God or fighting against God – is what **Sanctification** is all about.

While salvation comes to us in a moment – that moment when we turn our lives over to Christ. Though many of us don’t have a single defining “June 13<sup>th</sup> 1972 at 3:14 in the afternoon, it was rainy” kind of moment of conversion, I think we can look back and say with some certainty that there was this turning point in our lives when we took following after Jesus more seriously, when we actively and intentionally sought to shed

ourselves of the weight of sin and the hurts of the past and really received the forgiveness and new life that Jesus offers.

Salvation comes in a moment. There was before, and there is after.

Sanctification – which is just a long word for “becoming more holy” or “becoming more godly” – usually happens not in big moments, but in those small and quiet decisions we make every day.

How will I respond to:

- My neighbor’s angry rant about how noisy and messy my kids are...
- That person in church who always criticizes me...
- That fast-food drive through that never gets my order right...
- My spouse who doesn’t seem to appreciate me...
- My kids who never listen...
- My parents who never listen...
- That post on Facebook about that political thing that I can’t stand...
- ... and a million more decisions every day.

Lewis is right in this. These decisions, these little moments, move us closer to God or away from God – a person who is “...in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures, and with itself.”

How are you using those 10,000 minutes? “[S]et your hearts on things above, where Christ is...”

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Bill

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**A** quarter of 2023 is finished already, and I’d like to highlight 2 people that made a very big difference in our worship services this year. But before I acknowledge just two individuals, I want you to know how very much I appreciate all our wonderful, faithful choir members! They bring their talent and mix it up with each other to make beautiful worship music for our Lord, Sunday after Sunday. Please thank them with me.



The first person I wish to highlight is Lori Beatty. When we heard we immediately needed a choir and worship service accompanist she stepped up and said “don’t worry, I can do that.” Her encouragement and talent filled a void in a great time of transition. Please thank her with me.

Then came Debbie Airgood, whom I had never met but she just happened to be good friends with the Beattys. (Ask each of them about the other... and report back to me.) She is a very accomplished organist and enjoys accompanying our talented choir as well. Please welcome Debbie with a smile with me.

I hope you know that you are always welcome to become a member of your Grace choir. Go ahead and ask any member why they sing. They don’t bite, and we don’t often bark!

See you in Church!

Floyd Moore  
Choir Director

## The Present Situation

Church Unity Through Paul's Eyes Based on lectures by N.T. Wright

**"G**iven how concerned Paul was for the early church, he may well be dismayed at our situation now. The whole idea of this new community was to live in a way that was so attractive as to influence the culture around itself for the better. .... The world doesn't see much clarity on cultural issue from the church, mostly because we can't agree within ourselves. .... How then, can we expect to influence culture towards the *epieikes* Paul desired?"



**Epieikes** is Greek and means to blaspheme no one; to be gracious, to show complete gentleness to all.

N.T. Wright continues by stating that "we have to think and teach freshly and wisely about the key cultural issues of our day. .... This only happens when we generate communities that are living by what they say; that are neither compromising nor standoffish, communities that are wise and cheerful and helpful; the sort of people other people like to have as neighbours."

The Grace Church building is in a neighborhood that most of its members and attendees aren't within walking distance of. So, how does that neighborhood see Grace as a neighbor? Is it strictly a building that offers a place to park overnight? Has "Covered by Grace" kept some of them warm during the cold of winter? And, if some have entered our doors, were we neighborly? According to N.T. Wright, "the public witness is first and foremost *local*." That goes right along with the study that Pastor Bill led on The Art of Neighboring and our five Core Values:

**Extravagant Generosity      Authentic Engagement**  
**Transformational Discipleship      Extraordinary Grace      Word-Centered Mission**

These Core Values aren't just for use when you are in or acting on behalf of Grace Church. They are to be used daily as you interact with all people. N.T. Wright ends his booklet with this: "It's not easy, but this is the challenge that Paul was holding up before the Philippians and the other churches of the time. And it's the challenge his letters still hold up before us. We need to pray for that witness to shine through."

### Philippians 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

With you in Christ,  
Cindy Price



### General Memorial

**For: Doug Smith Jr**  
**By: Harold & Janis Wall**

**For: Donald & Margaret McCurdy**  
**By: Donald McCurdy**

It's hard to believe our school year is quickly coming to an end! It felt like winter decided to show up in March, so we are very much looking forward to some spring weather. We hope to go for some walks, play outside in the sunshine and breathe in that fresh air.



In April we will prepare for and celebrate Easter and Earth Day, review our shapes, colors, numbers, and letters. Our afternoon class will continue to work hard at learning skills they will need for kindergarten.

We still have a few openings in both classes for the 2023-2024 preschool year. Please contact the church office if you know of someone in need of a registration form!

We want to thank our Grace Church family and friends for supporting our Sarris Candies Fundraiser! April 2 is the last day to order!

Happy Easter! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds

March was a fun month with the children enjoying Dr. Seuss's birthday, the start of spring, and preparing for Easter! We are already getting ready for the summer. If you would like to come and read to the children or do a fun activity with them, let me know. Clearances will be needed for any volunteers, so keep that in mind as you think about it!



Cindy Kalkbrenner  
Director



**During Worship**  
*9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)*  
*11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)*  
**April 2 – Anna Peterson**  
**April 9 – Melissa Zaffino**  
**April 16 – Anna Peterson**  
**April 23 – Melissa Zaffino**  
**April 30 – Anna Peterson**

Covered by Grace gave out **2059 items** this winter season! This outreach ministry runs November – March but we continue to take donations all year long. Donations can be placed in the gray tote in the hall across from Pastor Bill's office. Thank you for your support.



## Attention women!

\*Are you looking to strengthen your relationship with Christ?

\*Are you looking to bond with other women?

\*Are you looking for an evening of sharing and caring with one another?

Grace church is offering a new women's ministry! "Full of Grace" will meet the Fourth Monday of each month in the Eaton Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will

start with an intro, video lesson, devotional and pray time. No need to sign-up, just show-up!

Hope to see you there! Questions, please contact Karen Conarro at: [fullofgraceumcwarren@gmail.com](mailto:fullofgraceumcwarren@gmail.com)



### Flock Talk

*"Like a shepherd He tends His flock." Isaiah 40:11*

**E**aster is often celebrated with lovely pictures of lambs. Some of my best friends were lambs as I was growing up on a sheep farm. They truly depict an innocence and a love of life. Lambs go through a "popcorn" stage where they find their legs underneath them and with jubilant energy they pop several feet in the air. A barn full of lambs expressing joy in this way is breathtakingly delightful!

Is it any wonder that we are called His lambs in Scripture? We are vulnerable, we wander, we thrive in an environment of orderliness, and we maintain a zest for life through it all. He gathers His lambs, He gathers us, so that none are lost, binding the broken and healing the sick, and watching over us day and night. It makes us wonder why we would ever tumble away.

Step by step He leads us to greener pastures and to the sanctuary of His living water. He protects us from our enemies and shelters us from harm caused by our own temptations. We know His voice and we follow Him, proving ourselves as His flock. He has sacrificed His life for beloved flock, and that act of love is so overwhelmingly powerful that we fall to our knees.

This Easter season let's love more fully, forgive more freely and follow with deeper faith. Let's speak of Him more boldly and obey His commands more willingly. We are a flock who moves together and scans the horizon for lost lambs. The Holy Spirit within us will provide opportunities to witness to others this season. Tend a beloved lamb.

With abundant joy,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **large box mashed potatoes, pancake mix, and syrup** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the May 2023 Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by **Monday, April 17.**  
Thank you.

# Grace Church Finance Report

## Starting the New Year



Below are the financials for February 2023. As we start out the year please continue to pay close attention to the finances of our church and pray for Grace to make it through our recent changes so that we may focus on the ministries of the church.

### 2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	February '23	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,157.67</b>	<b>\$51,663.49</b>
Office Expense	\$2,225.56	\$2,511.85
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$6,288.02	\$17,021.29
Ministry Personnel	\$27,094.37	\$48,227.04
Church Council	\$25.00	\$25.00
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nurture Ministry	\$39.63	\$89.28
Worship Ministry	\$81.94	\$221.34
Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$401.96
Connectional Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Expense</b>	<b>\$35,754.52</b>	<b>\$68,497.76</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$11,596.85)</b>	<b>(\$16,834.27)</b>

### Borrowed Funds

<b>Account Balance 2/28/2023</b>	<b>(\$111,293.29)</b>
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We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

Grace Promise Preschool and Care with Grace Daycare are having a Sarris Candies fundraiser! Orders will be accepted through **April 2!** To order go to **sarriscandiesfundraising.com** and click on fundraising then online ordering. Put in **Group ID 10-3656**. Orders will ship directly to your door for only a \$5 processing fee.



**Grace Promise Preschool Registration is now open!** A completed registration form and **\$20 non-refundable registration fee** is required to hold a spot for your child for the 2023-2024 school year. Be sure to reserve a place for your child today! Additional forms can be picked up in the church office or by calling (814) 723-8011 during school hours.

Mrs. Gentilman & Mrs. Lynds [preschool@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:preschool@atlanticbbn.net)



Welcome Debbie Airgood! Grace Church's new organist/accompanist.

Debbie first heard a pipe organ when she joined her parents in worship on Palm Sunday at the age of 4 or 5. She was spellbound from the first note of the prelude, thrilled with the hymns and stood straining at the door to hear the last notes of the postlude while the other children ran up and down the sidewalk waving palms. She knew that day what she was going to do with her life.

Piano lessons started at age 7, organ lessons at 12. She played her first service on an electronic organ at 12, then was hired at 14 to play pipe organ at First UMC, Kane for 2 services every Sunday and 3 choir rehearsals each week—children, youth and adults. Over fifty years later, playing the organ is still her joy and passion.

Debbie is a graduate of Grove City College. She was married for 36 years to Jim Airgood, who passed away in 2016. Together they operated Jim Airgood Busing, doing school transportation for over 20 years. Debbie continued to run the van portion of the business for 3 more years following his death, retiring in 2019. Jim and Debbie have two children, Rebecca Miller, who joins her at Grace along with her sons Hemi and Warn; and Michael, a United Methodist pastor in Clairton and Glassport, PA. Debbie's father, Virgil Gillotti, also joins her at Grace.

Debbie loves giving pipe organ lessons. If you currently play piano or organ and have an interest in pipe organ, let her know!



There is still plenty of time to register for acolyte training. Due to schedule conflicts, a change in dates for the new class of acolytes is necessary. New dates will be **Wed., April 19 and April 26 from 4-5:30**. If your child or grandchild (or anyone you know) is in grade 3 or above and may be interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact the church office at 814-723-9440 or Linda Knapp at 814-726-1199 for details or to register.

**"Restorative Yoga"** Saturday, April 1st 10:00am - 12:00pm Higginbotham Hall

Spring is a time for renewal and for making a fresh start with our energy. This class is for anyone who would like to reduce stress and address issues with our levels of stamina. The poses will be easy and will accommodate most types of physical limitations. The format of the class is based on techniques that the military uses for PTSD issues. A time of meditative prayer will focus on God's healing power to restore us. Usual prices apply. Please contact Sue Toombs at [fourwindsranch@verizon.com](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.com). or 814-730-9996.





- April 1 - Anita Zimmer, Gillian Rapp, Robert Morrison, Chase Card
- April 2 - Adam Flagella
- April 3 - Alice Pedersen, Laurie Dickson
- April 4- Christa Yaegle
- April 5 - Freida Ecelberger, Jesse Lucks, Katelyn Jurkowski
- April 6 - Rob Pearce, Dave MacPherson, Zach Foster, Jon Lynds
- April 7 - Carolyn Fry
- April 8 - Zeke Stanton, Jackie Johnson
- April 9 - Kristin Moore, Melissa Culbertson
- April 11 - Hannah Fry, Michele Coffman
- April 13 - David VanOrsdale, Nancy Eaker, Chase Alex
- April 14 - Shallin Shelby
- April 15 - Richard Pedersen, Jaime Housler
- April 16 - Peter Jansens, Hunter Trisket
- April 17 - Kyle Jones
- April 18 - Bob Sedon, Chloe Meddaugh, Callie Hampson, Zachry Tucher
- April 19 - James Miller, Peggy Twist, Emily Birgel
- April 20 - Sandy Shene, Don Anthony, Tina Moore
- April 21 - Jean Buerkle
- April 22 - Thomas Lord
- April 23 - Cheryle Stellato, Morgan Danielson
- April 24 - Jody Benjamin
- April 26 - Shirley Pearson, Scott Curren, Kristen Lucks
- April 27 - Vicki Garrett
- April 28 - Jennifer Lynds, Degan Peterson
- April 29 - James Ostergard, Andrew Knowlton, Emily Weiland
- April 30 - Don Smith, Gordon Mathis, Michael Barrett, Jenafer McKown, Vance Anzalone





# april



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Grace Church Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study	<b>3</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>4</b> 9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>5</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple 7:00 p Maundy Thursday Service	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>1</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Restorative Yoga  <b>8</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing	<b>10</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>11</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>12</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>13</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>14</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>15</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>16</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i>	<b>18</b> 9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Childcare</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>19</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>20</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>21</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>22</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>23</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace Women's Ministry	<b>25</b> 9:30 a Revelation Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>26</b> 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Madrigals 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.	<b>27</b> 5:30 p Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple	<b>28</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>29</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>30</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Revelation Bible Study			<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.		

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
Warren, PA 16365

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*- Grace Praise Team -*

*Pastor Bill, Lori Beatty, Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Tristan Johnson,  
Shirley Shafer, Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei, John Lewis, Patrick Ward,  
Alice Pedersen, Cindy Dziendziel, Walter Miller, Dave Moore*

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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