

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

June
2020

*"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



June Meetings

There are no meetings at this time.



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



Ushers & Greeters

June Greeters

Will resume when regular church services resume.

June Ushers

Will resume when regular church services resume.

From the Pastor

For Days Such As These

I really miss being together in worship.

I know so many of you do, too.

Warren County moved from Yellow to Green the last weekend in May. Like Yellow, Green means different things to different people. For some it will be, “Go immediately back to the way things used to be.” No social distancing. No refraining from hugging and handshaking. For some it will be, “Move ahead cautiously.” Maintain social distancing, interact in a safe (hands-free) manner from a safe distance. For some it will be, “Wait and see what happens.” No change. Staying at home as much as possible, severely limiting interaction.

Which group are you in? I swing across the spectrum, to be honest.

Here’s the thing. Grace Church is a mosaic of all three groups... and a dozen more who are “somewhere in between.”

As I’ve been praying and contemplating in-person gatherings for worship, I’ve been drawn again and again to Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 10.

“‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up.” (10:23 NRSV)

That’s the translation I learned. The NIV puts it even clearer, I think.

“‘I have the right to do anything,’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but not everything is constructive.” (10:23 NIV)

I know we long to be together for worship – online is a limited substitute, and not accessible to everyone. But the last thing we want to do is put anyone in a position that compromises their well-being.

Paul makes it clear: just because I CAN do something,

doesn’t mean I SHOULD do something. We can take these words to ridiculous extremes, of course (just because I CAN step out of an airplane at 20,000 feet with no parachute, doesn’t mean I should - *reductio ad absurdum*), but Paul’s words of caution are grounded in the Great Commandment from Jesus Himself:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31 NIV)

Love God and love people. Just because I can do something, SHOULD I?

Here’s Paul’s answer:

“No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.” (1 Corinthians 10:24)

Love your neighbor as yourself. Seek the good of others. That’s the core of all of our interactions with one another. It’s not just “what’s in it for me” but “what’s best for all of us.”

Not just when we are talking about returning to in-person worship during a crisis, but all the time. It’s so fundamental to who we are as Christ followers:

- Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19, 23:39; Mark 12:31,33; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:8-9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8)
- Treat people the way you want to be treated (Matthew 7:12)
- Forgive the way you expect to be forgiven (Matthew 6:12, 14-15)
- Love even the unlovable (Luke 6:32-42)
- Live with one another in peace (Romans 12:16-18)
- Be compassionate and forgiving (Ephesians 4:32)
- Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger (James 1:19-20)

These are some of the marks of being a Christ follower. One of the most distinctive messages we bring to the world is that, in the face of a selfish and

materialistic society that is all about “me,” the Christ follower loves others, forgives others, is not selfish, is compassionate and patient.

Our Task Force is working hard on making ready our return to in-person worship. But we have never stopped “being the church” – living out our faith every day, honoring God and worshiping God by the very things we say and do, our compassion and concern for everyone, our willingness to put others first.

Stay safe and tell somebody you love them.

Praying for you and with you.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bill

Thank you for worshipping with us!

As you’ve worshipped at home, we’ve been working hard at the church preparing your worship, at a safe distance, of course. Thanks to musicians Kris Magnuson, Carmen Pearce, Megan Moore, Renee Magnuson, Bill and Trish Gentilman, Larry and Carol Knowlton, Alice Pederson, Don Smith, LuAnn Saeli, and Beth MacPherson, each with “one car load” per microphone. And then we filled the choir loft with THE MEN: Art Anderson, Bill Gentilman, Tristan Johnson, Larry Knowlton, Kris Magnuson, Rob Pearce, Roman Pearce, Don Smith, and Ray Toombs. I believe God has blessed our ministry. “Even in the valley God is good.” How many people does it take to sing 6 feet apart? Three... if you do the math...

We’ve just begun to tap the musical talent here at Grace. Just wait until we can sing closer harmony... Stay tuned!

Be Encouraged! Sing! (At a safe distance. All disclaimers apply)

Floyd Moore



From the Director of Congregational Care

Think First!

I recently met a rather “crusty” woman whose language was very spicy! Because I am not accustomed to using nor hearing those types of words, my stomach clenched every time one rolled off her tongue. And, it wasn’t just the words themselves, but the casual familiarity with which they peppered her speech. Yikes! She may not have realized that those verbal bombs were offending me!

I silently congratulated myself that I don’t speak that way. But God put this on my heart, **Ephesians 4:29: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come from you mouths, but only that which is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen”**. To be honest, while I rarely swear, I am not always “building others up ... that it may benefit those who listen”. That will require some more effort on my part.

I will need to think before I speak. And, not just to think about what I will say, but about why and how I am saying it. Looking at **Eph 4:31**, we are challenged to **“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice”**. So, if my “why” is any of those, I guess I had better reconsider what I was planning to say and/or how I need to say it. Without all this thoughtful consideration, I could come across as judgmental, over-bearing or self-righteous. OUCH! That is not how I want to be perceived. I must be **“speaking the truth in love” (Eph 4:15)**.

In Chapter 3 of the Book of James, we are reminded of small things that can affect large consequences: the bit that controls a horse; the rudder that steers a ship or the spark that starts a fire. So too our small tongue has the power to comfort, empower, delight or hurt those who are listening.

As members of the body of Christ and of Grace Church, all of our words and actions taken together will affect how Christians as a whole are perceived. As we struggle through these uncertain

days of CoVID-19, prayerfully consider the impact that you have daily on people.
This will be a 21 day "Grace Challenge" for me.
Remember, Intentional Repetition yields GOOD HABITS and UNintentional Repetition yields BAD HABITS.
BE SAFE and BE INTENTIONAL!

Cindy Price

Hello Grace Church! I probably don't have to tell you that life can be a doozy sometimes. It's unpredictable! One minute, things are going exactly as planned, and the next, something completely unexpected and out of your control happens that changes everything. In those moments, we just don't know what to do! Hello COVID-19!

Well, it's exactly those moments CREW are talking about this month. And one of the best things we can do when we don't know what to do is worship. As leaders, parents, loved ones and parishioners, we have the chance to set our kiddos up to recognize how significant worship can be in those unpredictable times in our lives. It helps us be still and focus on the God who does see the bigger picture in our circumstances.



For middle schoolers, we may have to coach them in that. Remind them that this worship time could be a great way to help them stop their brains for a moment, be quiet, and connect with the God who never leaves them alone in the chaos.
Our current CREW series, Big Picture, is a five-week series focusing on significant events in the life of Joseph. Like most of us, Joseph's life was filled with ups and downs, many of which made it difficult for him to see beyond what was happening in the very moment he was in. The inability to see past their current circumstances—to focus on the bigger picture—is definitely something middle schoolers struggle with. The hope is that, as they see how God was working on the big picture in Joseph's life, they'll begin to see that He is doing the same in their own.
God, thank You for always being with us, always helping us get through hard times, and always loving us no matter what. When life feels crazy or things happen that we don't understand, we're so grateful that what we know will never change is who You are and how You love us.

Nicki Egger

CREW – Christians Ready Equipped and Willing

A few weeks ago we were blessed with a treasure at our house: a robin found the bush in our front yard to be the perfect place to build her nest and hunker down until her tiny chicks hatched. Keith was the first one to see her as he was heading out the door to work one morning and as soon as the boys were up, I took them outside to spy on her. We found her towards the top of the bush, only her eyes, beak and tail visible, the rest of her body down in the nest, snuggled against her four eggs.

The mama robin provides exactly what her tiny eggs need to develop and thrive. She builds the perfect home for her clutch, sturdy on the outside, soft on the inside. She rests the brood patch on her belly, upwards of 104 degrees, on her eggs to share her warmth, stepping on the edge of her nest to rotate them multiple times a day, and only leaving them for a few minutes at a time to find worms or



bugs to eat and then quickly returning. When she does leave her nest, she doesn't go far and is on high alert for anything that would harm her eggs, ready to call out to the male robin if there is a threat. The tiny babies inside the eggs have never seen their caretaker before, are completely separated from her, but the creation calls to the creator and after two weeks, they make the difficult journey of cracking through their teal domes to see the one who has kept them all this time. Before hatching, the babies can't see or feel her, but they know she must exist because they are perfectly cared for and only through her attentiveness will they have life.

Isaiah 54:10, Nehemiah 9:6

Libby Yaegle



We were able to see some of our preschoolers in May (with social distancing!) and get them the projects and pictures that were left at school in March. It was so hard not being able to give them a GREAT BIG HUG!

☹️ Thankfully, we will get to see some of our students this fall as they move up to the afternoon class. There are still so many unknowns, so please pray for guidance as we try to prepare for what may be a "different" kind of school year.

We still have openings in the preschool program for the 2020-2021 school year, so please continue to let others know that registration forms can be mailed if you leave your name and address on the church's voicemail- 723-9440. We would like to thank our Grace Church family for its continued support. Because of your generosity, our outreach to children & families in the community will continue, and we are so incredibly grateful!

Trish Gentilman
preschool@atlanticbbn.net

Well we made it through the yellow phase. Now we are going into the green phase, playgrounds will be open so that will be fun. We get to start water play and do more activities outside (weather permitting). Please contact Irene if you would be willing to come share your talents, read a book or just play games with the children. Thank you for all your support.



Irene Garris

carewithgrace@gmail.com

723-9440 ext 14

<https://www.facebook.com/Carewithgrace>



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

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

Will resume when regular church services resume.

June Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199

Sheryl Richards 726-3876

Will resume when regular church services resume.

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.





Our budget the month of April 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:	3,801.14	482.75
Offerings & Tithes	<u>24,442.97</u>	<u>27,839.00</u>
Total Income	28,244.11	28,321.75

Number of Sundays:	4	4
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:	29,826.53	37,107.70
Attendance:	958*	1,055

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation- 3,253.00

Paid to date 13,009.67

Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 33%

His income: Was \$77.64 higher in April 2019 compared to April 2020

Our expenses: Were \$7,281.17 lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019

The Easter offering was \$2,055.01

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

*April 2020 attendance is estimated due to online worship.

Submitted by:
Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair

The Grace Church Food Pantry is not in need of anything at this time. Thank you to all who contribute to the Grace Church Food Pantry!



Flock Talk

"Look to Me, and be saved."

Isaiah 45:22

We would like to say our worries about tomorrow all vanish when we look to God. Our troubles almost always make us look to God, but we become distracted somewhere along the way. Sometimes our difficulty is in concentrating on Him when we continue to read about the condition of the world. That is exactly why He gave us to one another. We all have something unique about us that is capable of filling the need of another person. God, in His goodness, gave us a beautiful array of spiritual gifts. We may have a clear understanding of giftedness, or we may not. What is important is that we stay aware of the sensitivity of God's Spirit within us when He is instructing us down to the smallest detail.

Does that mean calling someone to see how they are? It sure does. Does that mean developing new inroads into a world that needs reassurance? You bet. It also means taking reconciliation seriously. It means having a state of mind that is glad, unhindered and simple with its quickness to forgive. Our church is demonstrating all these good works. Calls are going out, errands are being run, and reassurance is overflowing. We work together through this time. Placing no blame, allowing everyone their individual comfort zones and doing what Grace Church does best . . . loving one another! Here for you,
Susan Toombs, Lay Leader

Dear Church family, words cannot express my deepest gratitude and love for all of you and your support shown to Dean, myself and our family during Dean's battle with cancer, his passing and the days following our loss.
Love, Melinda, Harrison, Marshall, Colter and Paige.

HOPES Fund

For: Dean Johnson
By: Kathleen Sears,
Will & Carol Mead,
Deborah Olson,
Gary & Becky Culbertson, Nancy Gheres,
Gary & Penny Lester, Judy Confer,
Kurt & Shirley Shafer, Kathleen McLaughlin,
Neal & Peggy Twist, Mary Putnam,
Carol Ostergard, Mary Donaldson, Cari Wolfe,
Julie Myler, Kathy Albaugh & family,
Bev Himes, Kathy Neal, Lanea Brooker,
Dick & Donna Risinger, Sandy Crowell,
Alice Bonnell, Pam & Greg Lyle, Donna Ball,
Ruth Higginbotham, John Anderson, Rick Reiff,
Ann Rossman, Barbara & Clinton Couse,
Pete & Marge Smith, Harold & Janis Wall,
Donna Ball, David Van Orsdale

For: Ray Morrison
By: Ruth Higginbotham

For: Cindi Rashid
By: David Van Orsdale

Promise Preschool

For: Nancy Stanton
By: Ruth Higginbotham

Music Fund

For: Dean Johnson
By: Audrey Cable

Flowers Fund

For: Robert Ekey
By: Pete & Marge Smith

General Fund

For: Robert Ekey
By: John & Kathy Henry, Donald & Linda Ekey



June 1 – Shaun Gupta, Kevin Babcock
June 3 – Schuyler Campbell
June 5 – Todd Anderson, Doug Zaffino
June 6 – Allison Sedon, Carol Ostergard,
Katie Keeports
June 7 – Stan Pearson, Kendra Hadden,
Sydney Brown
June 8 – Jacob Carroll, Matt Brooker, Bill Thompson
June 9 – Skip Morrison, Zane Anderson
June 10 – Derek Hahn, Olivia Brocklehurst
June 11 – Diane Risher, Katie Card
June 12 – Barb Hallock, Dan Jeffrey
June 13 – William McCollough
June 14 – Julie McManigle, Megan Moore
June 15 – Don Johnson, Jackie Saber
June 16 – Hailey Peterson
June 17 – John Larson, Jamie Irwin, Scott Bonnell,
Jeff Zavinski
June 18 – Laken Carroll, Koletina Zaffino,
Judi Danielson
June 19 – Sandy Darr, Jeremy Steves
June 20 – Jamie Houghtalen, MaryLou Sleeman,
Tristan Shepherd
June 21 – Chris Berdine, Lindsey Culbertson
June 22 – Justin Conarro, Summer Lucks, Peg Willis,
Mike Wilson
June 23 – Rachel Lynds, John Huber
June 24 – Preston McMeans, Adele Armstrong,
Skylar Zimmer, Mark Lynds
June 25 – Steve Knapp, Zak Buerkle, Hollie Johnson,
Chad Burns
June 26 – Jill McCollough, Jacob Fry
June 27 – Serena Haight, Amy Black, Alex Danielson,
Audrey Mader
June 29 – Laura Phillips
June 30 – Leslie Stewart



Items for the July
Newsletter need to be delivered
to Mary in the Church office
(mary@graceumcwarren.com)
by Friday, June 19.
Thank you!



June



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Please be patient with us as we work our way toward having a safe reopening. Know that we are working on plans and contingency plans and that we will let everyone know our intentions as soon as possible.</p>						
7 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	29	30		<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	

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

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- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeperts, Walter Miller,
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Keith Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman,
Aaron Stearns, Chris Ei and John Lewis*

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Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!