

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*

September

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



September Meetings

September 2 – 6:00 p – *SPRC*

September 8 – 7:00 p – *Property Trustees*

September 14 – 6:00 p – *Finance*

September 15 – 7:00 p – *Endowment*



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Wesley Woods**. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

Ushers & Greeters



September Greeters

Will resume soon.

September Ushers

Will resume soon.

From the Pastor

September

You might be of the generation that remembers The Happenings singing, “See You In September,” or Neil Diamond wistfully singing, “September Morn.” Maybe it’s Green Day lamenting, “Wake Me Up When September Ends.”** And a hundred other artists have sung something about September, mostly because it rhymes so easily with “remember.”***

September is upon us. So much has changed. 2020 has been the year of great upheavals socially, politically, ideologically. In some ways this is a good thing because all this upheaval makes us take a look at everything. Why are things the way they are? Why are things moving in the direction they are moving?

The temptation is to “get back to the way things were.” I get it – there’s a comfort and an assurance in what used to be (though we usually look at yesterday through nostalgic eyes and the problem is nostalgia highlights the good and diminishes the bad...). It does give us an opportunity to not just be sentimental, but practical: WHY were things good back then (whenever your “back then” is – for me it was probably the 90s and early 2000s – for some it was six months ago...). Why were things good? What has changed in me since then? How have I adapted and learned to adjust?

But how about this. We have an opportunity now in ministry to kind of start with a blank slate, an opportunity to ask difficult and probing questions about why we have done the things we have done, and to dream about what we might be able to do.

The truth of who God is (God’s nature and character) and the message of salvation (the revelation from God) remains the same: God is holy, all-powerful, merciful, just, loving, all-knowing, eternal, grace-giving, life-giving. God is all of these (and more!!) *perfectly*. God never changes.

Salvation is by faith alone: faith in the love and mercy God showed to us by the sacrifice of Christ on our

behalf. Jesus said it plainly, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through me.” (John 14:6). That does not change.

How we communicate these truths changes constantly.

God walked with Adam and Eve. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. God spoke to Joseph in dreams. God spoke to Balaam through a talking donkey (yeah, I’m not making that up). God has used prophets, poets, and priests to speak. God has spoken in the wind and in the silence. God has used giant fish and rapidly growing weeds to get the message across. God has spoken through metaphor and symbolism – sometimes to the frustration and embarrassment of those tasked with these methods: Hosea was commanded to marry Gomer the prostitute, Isaiah was commanded to walk around naked and Jeremiah smashed a perfectly good clay pot and Ezekiel was told to build a diorama of Jerusalem and tiny siege works, and then put an iron pan between the prophet and the tiny city (took me back to all the hours of playing with my army men in the dirt!). Jesus revealed the nature and character of God through folksy stories, through proverbs, through symbolic actions, through pointed teachings.

Just a sample of the huge variety of methods of communication that God uses. It’s not just a hymn or worship song or a sermon or a prayer. It is all of those things... and so much more.

So, we are in a time when we can really lean into the many ways we can communicate the love and the grace and the mercy of God. As a church, we are trying to work out more and better ways to connect virtually as well as improving all the ministry we do in person. As individual Christ-followers, there has never been a better time to live deeply into your faith, in checkout lines, in phone calls, in stressful situations, in relaxing, with family, with friends, with strangers and even with rivals. The message remains the same, but how we say it will always evolve. Listen to what James says (2:26b): “...faith without deeds is dead.” Believing it without living it is meaningless.

September is here. We’re asking hard questions: will be able to have communion in person soon? What

will Christmas Eve look like? Could we have a Christmas concert this year? How can we have Bible study and Sunday School? Can we? How are we staying engaged with each other? How are we staying engaged with God? How do we do the new and different things we need to do effectively? How do we improve the things we already do?

We live in the promise of God's mercy:

Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

**Not to leave out Tchaikovsky or Strauss (and other composers!) who have composed pieces titled "September" but... you know, no words...

*** Now I have "Try to Remember" from *The Fantasticks* running through my head... funny to think of Detective Lenny Briscoe singing on Broadway...

Choir Notes

Wow! August flew by!
We started the month with music

ministry from the loyal Knowltons, Carol and Larry, joined by Megan and me. August 9 was a special Sunday for me, as this was Megan's last Sunday before she moved to Cleveland. We enjoyed singing together, joined by Mom. It's pretty special to have 3-part harmony involving 3 generations! (harmoniously!) The third Sunday we enjoyed the trio of Cindy Dziendziel, Vickie Morrison, and Carol Knowlton. I'm so thankful that our church has such talent *and uses it!* If you missed our fourth Sunday, August 23, you missed wonderful worship with Dem Bones, artfully led by our own Kris Magnuson. Our own singer-songwriter Alice Pedersen capped off our fifth Sunday of worship in August. Don't you wish every month had five Sundays of worship? I've grown during Pastor Bill's sermon series through the



book of James. Grace UMC is truly blessed!

I want to thank the talented 11 o'clock musicians Kris Magnuson, Carmen Pearce, Larry and Carol Knowlton, Megan Moore, (Thanks a lot!) Mom, Cindy Dziendziel, Vickie Morrison, and Carol Knowlton, Dem Bones, and Alice Pederson, Mary Bernard, Beth MacPherson, and Bev Petersen. Assisting behind the scenes, our unsung heroes are Walt Miller, Dave Moore and Doug Zaffino. Thank you all for assisting our worship in August.

If you've missed any of our services "live and in person", you can catch them again (with the power to rewind) on YouTube or Facebook. DVD's are still available upon request.

We have a lot safely planned for September! I won't spoil the surprises - you need to see it to believe it!

See you in church!

Floyd Moore

From the Director of Congregational Care

DISCRIMINATION

Amid the struggles with CoVid, our country is also in the midst of racial upheaval. Unjust treatment of blacks, protests that turn into riots and looting have filled the daily news. What are we to do?

We need to apply some of Pastor Bill's August messages: LOVE ONE ANOTHER ALL. THE. TIME. I, for one, need a push. And, living in Warren County, I need to think about Black Lives and beyond Black Lives. While I don't encounter many blacks here, I do need to have an anti-racist mindset when I am away from home.

Racism is only one part of Discrimination. People are often judged, or mis-judged, by how they look, when they live or work, their sex or a multitude of other factors that seem to make them different from us. But how different are we? Are we not all children of God? Are we not all created in His image? Does He not want each and every one of us

to be saved? Therefore, other than these external trappings, we are all the same! AMEN! So, we need to begin to see beyond these things and react with Mercy and Love to all.

I know!! Easier said than done! However, I have found a guide and daily prayer prompts to help us along our way. The Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church has a "NOW-ACTION" anti-racism pledge. By signing this, you commit to a year of monthly education and action tasks in UNITY with other United Methodists. I have signed my pledge. To show unity, I will post all of Grace Church's signed pledges on the bulletin board by the Parking Lot entry.

Let's do this together! Go to wpaumc.org/now-action-pledge. Everyone can print their signed pledge and tack it up on the bulletin board. If you aren't at church, scan and email it to me at kcprice1@atlanticbb.net or call 723-3953 and I will pick it up at your home.

We are UNITED Methodists!

Blessings, Cindy Price

As summer starts winding down, but this season of uncertainty is still upon us, I would ask that each of us takes some time to pray for the children in our homes, the children in our church, and the children in our community. Kids are so resilient and will ease back into school schedules, but some will be going to school for the first time and will be unsure of all the masked faces, while some will be learning from home and will miss friends and friendly interaction, and still others will be distracted by a fear of getting a virus they don't fully understand. We need to pray for the health of our kids and that they would feel God's peace upon them and know that our loving heavenly Father is watching over them. We need to teach them simple verses, like Isaiah 43:5 that says "Do not be afraid I am with you" and Psalm 56:4 that says "In God I trust; I will not be afraid" in order to equip them as we send them out into a world full of fear. I ask you to be intentional about the way you pray for the kids



around you and remind you that you have the power to instill in them the fact that our caring God is always with them. And after you've prayed for all the kids you know and all the kids you don't know, pray for the big kids too, the ones we like to call adults who need this comfort and peace just as much.

Libby Yaegle



This unusual summer has flown by, and we are as ready as we can be to jump into a new year! Our classes are much smaller this year to help keep with the state mandates, so we filled up quickly. Grace Promise Preschool will begin September 9 & 10, with two Orientation Days. We will meet with each family at a designated time so we can keep with social distance practices and give them information for the coming school year. Our first full day of classes will be Monday, September 14. It will be a challenging year getting to know our new friends and learning our "modified" class routine during a pandemic! We appreciate all the support we receive from our Grace Church family and ask that you would join us in praying for good health and minimal disruptions to the school year. THANK YOU!
Trish Gentilman

So summer is over, and school starts on September 1st. School will look different for our students. They will have some all virtual, some with in-class and virtual, then some with all in-class. We will be here to help in any way we can. If school happens to close, we will be open when needed. We will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day.



Irene Garriss



During Worship
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
 ~
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)

Will resume soon.

September Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199
Sheryl Richards 726-3876

Will resume soon.

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 July 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:	101.16	439.07
Offerings & Tithes	<u>27,310.79</u>	<u>27,123.81</u>
Total Income	27,411.95	27,562.88

Number of Sundays:	4	4
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:	12,960.94*	34,404.08
Attendance:	818**	764

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation-	3,252.42
Paid to date	22,767.52
Ahead (Behind)	0

Percent of year to date paid 58%

His income: Was \$150.93 higher in July 2019 compared to July 2020

Our expenses: Were \$21,443.14 lower in July 2020 compared to July 2019

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

*Expenses are reported low because of the PPP Loan. All funds from the loan have now been used.

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

Submitted by:

Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **fruit, jello, pudding, brownie mix and cake mix** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute.



*“Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one
of the least of these
brothers and sisters of
mine, you did for Me.”*

Matthew 25:40

Hospitality! What a glorious word! It is one of those areas the congregation has free rein to offer bounteously. Thank goodness it's easy. Here are the ABC's of how to implement it.

A - Awareness of the multi-layered reasons that someone chose to walk through our doors. We would like to think it is simply from the desire and the joy of worship. But sometimes there are far deeper reasons. When a new person makes the monumental decision to show up, it may have been driven by sorrow or guilt or hopelessness. We may be their first choice or their last hope. We don't know. We simply extend sincere hospitality and meet them where they are in life.

B - Become their friend. Sometimes new people enter a room and suddenly wish there was an escape or a better plan. Showing up at a party of strangers can be overwhelming. When we approach someone with friendship and kindness, we become a reference point of "what to do next." It is as simple as handing someone a bulletin and engaging in easy conversation.

C - Care about what happens next. Next Sunday! Will they be looking for you? Will you remember their name or something about them? Be prepared to let them know about future events and classes and studies. It's a win/win situation to keep someone "under our wing." Christ taught us to treat people with the same radical hospitality that He showed us by calling us "His own."

Oh, and there is **D - Do it again.** And, again until it becomes something that feels like we are bursting at the seams to do each Sunday! And, yes, this can be accomplished through online invitations. It takes a little creativity, but when we have God providing the way, we can't lose. We invite them in, He invites them to know Christ.

With open arms,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED

After much prayer and a strong nudging by the Holy Spirit, I have decided to cancel Women's Bible Study for this fall. For many of you this will be a relief, I know; for some --- a disappointment. I am sorry for getting your hopes up that we could meet together in September. Please forgive me. My fervent desire is that we all stay safe and well. If you haven't read Colossians and Philemon, please take the time to do so. You might also utilize your study guide books. Paul's message is still applicable today. God bless you!

Renee Magnuson

BIBLE STUDY

Are we finally convinced that man cannot solve his own problems? Who is honest & trustworthy? Does the confusion and chaos all around us break your heart and make you yearn for days gone by?

If so, then please join us for The Truth Project. This very educational & practical 12-week course will be held Wednesday nights 7-8:30 pm, in Higginbotham Hall at GUMC.

It is a Biblical Worldview Tour that will allow you to see God more clearly, strengthen your faith, understand the times and increase your witnessing power to family, friends and culture. Jesus is the Way, The Truth and the Life. [John 14:6]

This class will be facilitated by Dr. Jerry Schoenborn who has 20 years of Worldview and Biblical Studies. He has presented numerous Christian programs and is eager to share this very relevant material that is necessary for the coming days. Remember - God is not a God of Confusion but of Peace!

We welcome all, but class size may be limited for Covid and participation.

HOPES Fund

For: Jim Gray

By: Ted Gray

General Memorial Fund

For: Jim Gray

By: Gladys Jones

For: Samuel B. Reed

By: Lori Toth

Music Memorial

For: Jim Gray

By: Arden & Linda Knapp



September 1 - Peg Andersen

September 2 - LuAnn Saeli

September 3 - Emma Kridler, Ronda Trisket,
Scott Lynds

September 4 - Erin Napolitan

September 5 - Colby Barr, Collin Lord, Helen Woods

September 6 - Meghan Brooker, George Wentworth

September 8 - Emily Shepherd

September 10 - Lydia Card, Tanner Phillips,
Timothy Tannler

September 12 - Joe Saeli

September 13 - Emily Ickert, Dot Fleming,
Cassie Waseleski, Tristan Johnson

September 14 - Solomiya Savych, Patricia Esterbrook

September 15 - Laine Price

September 16 - Mike Farr, Renee Magnuson

September 17 - Harold Wall, Ross Bryan

September 18 - Lanea Brooker, Ryan Egger, Sue Ball

September 19 - Breanna Wilson, Marsha Larson

September 20 - Pat Berdine, Jeremy Sensenig,
Kathy Keller

September 22 - Lori Beatty, Nancy Trisket

September 23 - Nancy Gheres, Carson Farr

September 24 - Mary Hellman

September 25 - Luella Chase, Cindy Dziendziel,
Scott Stewart, Susan Speicher

September 26 - Savannah Sykes, Joyce Carnahan,
Judi Renwick, Jim Marshall

September 27 - Carmen Pearce

September 28 - Andrea Stapleford,
Melanie Braughler

September 30 - Ronna Tipton, Gwen Jones



Items for the October
Newsletter need to be delivered
to Mary in the Church office
(mary@graceumcwarren.com)
by Friday, September 18.
Thank you!



September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<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>	1	<p>2 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i></p>	<p>3 6:00 p Praise Team</p>	4	5
<p>6 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	7 Office Closed	<p>8 7:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i></p>	<p>9 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p Truth Project Bible Study</p>	<p>10 6:00 p Praise Team</p>	11	12
<p>13 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	<p>14 6:00 p <i>Finance</i></p>	<p>15 7:00 p <i>Endowment</i></p>	<p>16 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p Truth Project Bible Study</p>	<p>17 6:00 p Praise Team</p>	18	19
<p>20 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	21	22	<p>23 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p Truth Project Bible Study</p>	<p>24 6:00 p Praise Team</p>	25	26
<p>27 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	28	29	<p>30 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p Truth Project Bible Study</p>			

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Published monthly;
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- Grace Praise Team -

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

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