

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*

April 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



April Meetings

There are no meetings at this time.



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

*Our Easter Offering will benefit
The Warren County Children's
Advocacy Center. Envelopes are
included with the Easter letter.*



Ushers & Greeters



April Greeters

Will resume when regular church services resume.

April Ushers

Will resume when regular church services resume.

From the Pastor

A Crack In the Door Filled With Light

I'm listening to a lot of music by one of my go-to bands Needtobreathe. Six years ago, they released an album called *Rivers in the Wasteland* (a reference to Isaiah 43:19, by the way). The lead track, called simply "Wasteland," says this:

There was a greatness I felt for a while
But somehow it changed,
Some kind of blindness I used to protect me
From all of my stains.
Yeah, I wish this was vertigo;
It just feels like I'm falling slow.

Oh, if God is on my side
Then who can be against me?

Yeah in this wasteland where I'm livin'
There is a crack in the door filled with light,
And it's all that I need to get by.
Yeah in this wasteland where I'm livin'
There is a crack in the door filled with light,
And it's all that I need to shine.

I know, not the happiest of lyrics. Except... it really is a song of hope. Who needs reassured when everything is going well? Who needs a reminder that they are loved when they FEEL loved? Who needs medicine when they aren't sick?

Psalm 94 is one of those lament psalms: the psalmist is feeling oppressed by "the wicked" who "crush your people, Lord" and kill and boast.

But, nevertheless, the psalmist trusts in God.

When I said, "My foot is slipping,"
your unfailing love, Lord, supported me.
When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy. (Psalm
94:18-19)

"When anxiety was great within me, your
consolation brought me joy."

"There's a crack in the door filled with light, and it's
all that I need to get by."

By the time this is published, we may all be under a stay at home order, or the restrictions may be relaxed. We may still be trying to find the elusive last pack of toilet paper (still working from our pre-corona stockpile at the Beatty house), we may be back to some sense of normalcy.

But here's one thing that is absolutely true.

God has not been idle.

We are in the season of Lent – actually, probably the most appropriate time in the Church year to spend in some isolation, in reflection, in self-care (if there ever COULD be an "appropriate time" for such...).

Easter has not been cancelled.

One of the most powerful lessons that the resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals to us is that even when it looks like everything has gone wrong, God is still working and doing, and God knows what tomorrow will bring. That God is working out redemption and salvation even when it looks like death has won, even when it looks like all is darkness, even when it feels like we're in a wasteland.

God has not abandoned us. "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy."

So, let me ask: How has God been working in your life over these past weeks? How does the resurrection give you hope for tomorrow?

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Essential Elements
We've thought a lot about food (and toilet paper) lately. The essentials. The basics that keep us alive and healthy. I recently drove past a local coffee supplier and the drive-thru line was all the way to the street! That's an interesting dependency on coffee! Withdrawal can be tough. Many people have established ways to keep our neighbors physically nourished in these uncertain



times. Community spiritual nourishment is a vastly different challenge. Withdrawal is tough. Do you have a favorite Bible? What about a favorite Hymnal? These hold our vitamins and minerals! There is enough fortification within these 2 books to keep us healthy in every circumstance.

If you face withdrawal from your favorite spiritual nourishment, please call the church (814) 723-9440, and I will be glad to lend one of our pew bibles and hymnals.

As we make many efforts to survive, let's strive to stay healthy. Spiritually healthy. Stay in the scriptures. Sing.

Choir Notes

Well, we've enjoyed some fun rehearsals and great worship services, and anxiously await our reunion when we can sing together again. We've made plans to worship and sing each Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, and Easter. When we get back together, we're all in for quite a treat. We have missed Kris and Renee while they've been vacationing throughout the South. We've enjoyed excellent replacements with Kathy Neal and Carmen Pearce on the piano and organ. Also travelling recently were Larry and Carol, and we continue to pray for the health and safety of all. We still have quite a few choir robes available in the robe room. Come try one on.

Floyd Moore

From the Director of Congregational Care

"A C T S"

You may know this as a mnemonic used to guide us in prayer.

Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication

It is simple to begin prayer with either A or S then move on to T. OOPS! I skipped over C. How easy that is to do. Who wants to face up to their own sins and then being them to the very feet of God? But, like it or not, we must include confession in our prayer lives.

Now, let's begin and not hold back!

Dear Lord: I haven't murdered anyone but did I pass on a rumor about someone? I haven't stolen from my neighbor but am I desirous of what they have? I love you, God but do I love my comfort/my time/my routine or habits more?

Let's all sit quietly now and confess

Our open hearted truthfulness will bring us closer to our heavenly Father.

This brings me now to Lent. As I reflect on my sins and shortcomings, I am humbled by God's never ending forgiveness and love. **"God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were (are) still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.**

As I move through this Lenten season, I have been reminded of a thought that Pastor Bill presented the Sunday before Ash Wednesday: If you give something up for Lent, what will you replace it with? I have taken this to mean that when I forgo something of questionable value to my body or spirit (chocolate or gossip), then what will fill that void? It had better be something nutritious and/or positive!

What have you substituted in that space? I hope that we can all continue on with a Lenten mindset long *after* we celebrate the glory of Easter!

Let me give you one of my favorite Bible verses: **"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8-9**

Cindy Price

Hello Grace Church! Our Youth and Family Ministries program is dedicated to providing our youth and their families with programming, fellowship, service, witness and worship opportunities which honor God and promote full integration into the life of Grace United Methodist Church.

The program is ramping up and we are ready to go live. Calling all 6th through 12th grade students looking to embrace the wonder of God, discover themselves and their relationship to God and develop a passion for sharing this relationship with others. Want to join our **CREW - Christians**



Ready Equipped and Willing? We will *virtually* meet each Wednesday from 6:30PM-7:30PM starting April 1, 2020 using www.FreeConferenceCall.com. All interested parents will want to visit the site, create a free account and potentially download the desktop app for ease when connecting. When it's time for our meeting to start, please log onto the site and utilize the information below:

Dial In: 978-990-5000

Access Code: 276208

No computer? No worries! Your child can always call in for the meeting using the same dial in information above. A full Youth and Family Ministries packet is available and will be emailed to all those whom we have contact information for. Please feel free to share this packet with others. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at nicki@graceumcwarren.com. I am looking forward to working with you and your child as we wonder, discover and generate passion for God.

Nicki Egger

I thought I would stick with a relevant topic this month



since of course relevancy is important in writing. So, let's talk about...soap. (Are you surprised it isn't toilet paper?) Soap is a popular item these days and not without good reason. I needed to replenish my stock, so I got out my soap molds and got to work. I've been home-making bar soap for a little over five years now and I don't miss the store-bought stuff one bit. A family member shared the recipe with me and taught me the tricks of the trade. Soap making isn't difficult, but you need to be careful. The ingredients in the recipe are simple, olive oil, coconut oil, castor oil, water, and lye. You can add essential oils, but it's not necessary. While the ingredients are simple, if the directions aren't followed properly, you could end up with something harmful. For instance, if you spilled the oils in the recipe, it would just make things, well, oily, but it's the lye that can cause damage. Lye is caustic, meaning it can burn or corrode organic matter, and in case you were unsure, humans are organic matter, along with dogs,

cats, hardwood floors, plants, the bowl full of fruit on the counter. You get the point.

The first step of the recipe is to add a carefully measured amount of lye to a glass container holding a carefully measured amount of water and stir until dissolved. As soon as the lye touches the water, it begins to react and will heat up to around 200 degrees and let off a vapor that is harmful to breath. When I'm mixing it, I'm careful to stay below the bowl by setting it on something sturdy and higher than my head and I always combine these substances outside or in the garage, far away from anyone or anything that can knock it over or be harmed by it. While the lye is reacting, I head back inside and carefully measure and mix the other ingredients. Once the lye has stopped giving off the vapor and has cooled to 110 degrees, I can bring it back inside and add it to the oils, mixing until a pudding like substance forms. From there, I pour the mixture into molds and let it harden for three to four weeks and voila! Soap.

You may be thinking, if lye can burn your skin, why on earth would you make soap out of it? I'm not a chemist, but I do understand that when the lye is done throwing it's little temper tantrum with the water and mixed carefully with oil, it creates a chemical reaction and is turned into a glycerin soap, no longer the caustic substance it once was. Lye on its own is dangerous and damaging. However, lye mixed with the right amount of oil goes from harmful to cleansing, from hazardous to inhale to sweet smelling, from unsafe to useful.

(*****transition*****) What I'm really getting at is that God can make hurtful things beautiful. God can turn the pain caused by something terrible, even death on a cross, breath his life into it, and make it something magnificent. We often can't understand the purpose of the pain, especially when we are in the very middle of it, but when mixed with God's love, a permanent change happens and a new creation is made. I pray that you find strength and hope in this time in verses like Romans 8:28 that reads "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." (And if you're in need of soap, I know a great recipe.)

Libby Yaegle



It's hard to believe our school year is coming to an end! With the unprecedented close of schools due to the coronavirus, we are missing time with our friends and hoping to be back together soon.

It is great to see spring weather and we hope to go for some walks and play outside once school resumes. In April we celebrate "Month of the Young Child" and will have an art project on display in the Wetmore Gallery of the Warren Public Library. We won't know until the start of April if this event will still be held, but normally both classes take a trip to the library to hear stories read by Miss Susan before checking out the art gallery and all the projects made by the preschools, daycares and kindergarten classes of Warren County. In April we will prepare for and celebrate Easter and Earth Day, review our shapes, colors, numbers, and letters, and our afternoon class will continue to work hard at learning skills they will need for kindergarten. On April 25, the Jefferson Defrees Family Center will hold its Annual Children's Fair from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be plenty of hands on activities for the kids and community resources will be available. April promises to be a very busy month, but everything depends on the state of this virus.

We still have openings in both classes for the 2020-2021 preschool year. Please contact the church office if you know of someone in need of a registration form! We pray for the health and safety of our preschoolers & families, Grace Church and our community. Wash those hands!

Happy Easter!

Trish Gentilman

March was a hard month, but we are looking forward to summer.

The week of Aug. 3-7 I am looking for people to come in to show the children their talents. I would like the children to have items to enter the Warren County Fair the following week. I need your help to make this week great. So please contact me by email carewithgrace@gmail.com or 723-9440 ext 14.



Irene Garris



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

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

Will resume when regular church services resume.

April 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 options posted on our webpage www.graceumcwarrenpa.com.

Online giving accepts checking/savings accounts as well as debit/credit cards. You can download the mobile app "Give+" on iPhone and Android.





Our budget the month of February 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:	378.96	356.35
Offerings & Tithes	<u>26,387.00</u>	<u>27,477.35</u>
Total Income	26,765.96	27,833.35
Number of Sundays:	4	4
Borrowed	0	0
Expense:	30,084.75	30,716.17
Attendance:	852	869

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation- 3,253.00

Paid to date 6,505.42

Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 16%

His income: Was \$1,067.39 higher in February 2019 compared to February 2020

Our expenses: Were \$631.42 lower in February 2020 compared to February 2019

Submitted by:

Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair

POSTPONED – Volunteer Recognition Sunday

It is our honor to invite “every” volunteer at Grace Church to a reception on Sunday, April 19th.

Join us in the Wesley Parlor after each service for cake and refreshments. Come to all three if you like! We are celebrating anyone who volunteers in any manner, such as committees, music, worship, and every behind the scenes effort.

We thank you for your devoted time and effort in planning our church’s many activities. Your contribution has allowed Grace Church to continue to offer an exceptional worship experience.

The prayer concerns will still be emailed out on Monday as usual. If you have any prayer concerns you would like to add, please feel free to send them to prayers@graceumcwarren.com . If you wish for your prayer request to remain confidential, please email them to Pastor Bill at wrbeatty@gmail.com .



Flock Talk

“Greater love has no one but this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:13

If you are looking for a peaceful evening of God’s love, please join us for our Maundy Thursday service at church. It will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 7pm. There is an abundance of love and fellowship at this service. Like Ash Wednesday, we sometimes have the best intentions, but time can slip away from us and we miss these great opportunities.

The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for “command”. It serves as the command that Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper to love and serve one another. It is a powerful reminder of Christ’s humility as we remember how He washed their feet. This time of remembrance focuses our attention on the way He wants us to live our lives. What a glorious few days we have at Grace Church as we travel together toward Easter Sunday. The following evening, our Good Friday service honors Christ’s death on the cross and the eternal goodness that we have been given through His sacrifice. This service is a solemn and peaceful time to praise Him and to worship together. Let’s keep these times in our minds and on our calendars. Plus, the music is spectacular!

In Christ,

Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

***Note:** These services will still be held online only on our YouTube channel Grace_Live Warren

www.youtube.com/gracelivewarren



The Outreach team has decided to cancel the Rummage Sale for April due to COVID-19. We will be hosting one again in the fall.

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!





General Fund
For: Donald & Margaret
McCurdy
By: Donald McCurdy



Items for the May
Newsletter need to be delivered
to Mary in the Church office
(mary@graceumcwarren.com)
by Friday, April 17.
Thank you!



- April 1 - Gillian Rapp, Bobby Morrison,
Anita Zimmer, Chase Card
- April 2 - Adam Flagella
- April 3 - Alice Pedersen, Laurie Dickson
- April 4 - Christa Yaegle
- April 5 - Jesse Lucks, Freida Ecelberger,
Katelyn Jurkowski
- April 6 - Jack Lynds, Helen Clark, Rob Pearce,
David MacPherson, Mary Schorman
- April 7 - Gabrielle Cummings, Carolyn Fry
- April 8 - Zeke Stanton, Jackie Johnson
- April 9 - Kristin Moore, Melissa Culbertson
- April 11 - Hannah Fry, Michele Coffman
- April 13 - Chase Alex, Dottie Higgins,
Dave Van Orsdale, Nancy Eaker
- April 14 - Shallin Shelby
- April 15 - Richard Pedersen, Jaime Housler
- April 16 - Pete Jansens, Rylee Napolitan
- April 17 - Kyle Jones
- April 18 - Chloe Meddaugh, Bob Sedon,
Zachry Tucher, Callie Hampson
- April 19 - Peggy Twist, Emily Birgel, Jim Miller,
Conner Schultz
- April 20 - Don Anthony, Tina Moore, Sandy Shene,
Austin Eggleston
- April 21 - Jean Buerkle, Warren Carr
- April 22 - Tom Lord
- April 23 - Cheryle Stellato, Morgan Danielson,
Terry Wilson
- April 24 - Jody Benjamin
- April 26 - Shirley Pearson, Kristen Lucks,
Scott Curren
- April 27 - Vicki Garrett
- April 28 - Degan Peterson, Jen Lynds
- April 29 - Emily Weiland, Janey Swanson,
Jim Ostergard, Andrew Knowlton
- April 30 - Jenafer McKown, Don Smith,
Vance Anzalone, Gordon Mathis, Mike Barrett



april



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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.		1	2	3	4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>For the safety of the staff, congregation, and community, Grace Church is following guidelines and canceling all activities.</p> </div>						
5 Palm Sunday 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	6	7	8	9 7:00 p Maundy Thursday Service ONLINE ONLY	10 7:00 p Good Friday Service ONLINE ONLY	11
12 Easter Sunday 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30/11:00 a Worship ONLINE ONLY	27	28	29	30		

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

Published monthly;
April 2020

- Grace Praise Team -

*Pastor Bill, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keepports, 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!