

# Grace Notes

## October 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*



### *October Meetings*

**October 3 - 6:00 p - SPRC**  
**October 5 - 7:00 p - Outreach**  
**October 10 - 6:00 p - Property Trustees**  
**October 17 - 6:00 p - Finance**



This month's Communion offering is **World Communion Sunday**. This provides scholarships to U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Please use the special Communion envelope in your monthly packet for your contribution.

# *From the Pastor*

## **To Be and to Do**

**“W**ho was the last person you have talked with about Jesus?”

That’s a tough question, isn’t it? I mean I get a little twisted up inside when someone asks me a question like that. Look, I talk about Jesus all the time, right? I’m constantly talking to people about Jesus – it’s my job, but more importantly, it’s my calling to ministry.

But...

The question, at least as I hear it, is “Who was the last person *who doesn’t know Jesus as Savior* you have talked with about Jesus?”

And that’s different, right? Leading a Bible study or preaching a sermon or even having a deep theological conversation with those already familiar with Jesus is easy. The conversations with those who are far from God are much harder.

I was thinking about Jesus’ last words in the Gospel of Matthew and then in the book of Acts. They are similar, but... different. That’s not to say that one is right and one is wrong, but rather that the focus of those two moments is different, and thus emphasize different words that Jesus said.

In Acts, Jesus says:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*(Acts 1:8)*

You will be my witnesses. You will represent me, my words, my teachings, empowered by the Spirit of God. The emphasis here is on how our lives – the words we say, the things we do (and don’t do) – will demonstrate a life lived in following Jesus. “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23) To BE a disciple is to set myself aside and to live a cross-bearing life that shows that I have been changed and made new by this relationship that I have with God through Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says,

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Go and make disciples. This is the call to action. This is the challenge for us to answer that opening question: “Who was the last person you have talked with about Jesus?”

The first, “you will be my witnesses,” is about being a disciple and the second, “go and make disciples,” is about the great call to ministry that all Christ followers share: to spread the Good News and share the truth of God’s love and mercy found in the person of Jesus Christ.

I find it most challenging to have a conversation with someone about Jesus if I have no relationship with them ahead of time. But if, even in my broken and incomplete way, my life can be a witness to the faith that I have

and I can actually care about what's going on in another person's life – their struggles and their triumphs, their trivia and their world-changing moments – then not only is it easier for me to talk about my faith, ground has been prepared in that relationship for the seeds of that faith to possibly grow.

Our task is two-fold: to Be a Disciple of Jesus so that we can go and Make Disciples of Jesus. And... it's not optional. This is the task we were called to.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

---

## Choir Notes

**W**e're baack! Your choir is back to their fall and winter and spring schedules with Wednesday night rehearsals starting at 6:30 and ending around 8 p.m. (you're all invited, you know...)



Looking ahead into October, we'll start the month with World Communion Sunday on October 1, then worship with us on Pastor Appreciation Day on October 8, and Laity Sunday is the following Sunday, October 15. By then you'll be in the habit of worshipping with us every Sunday!

Looking ahead – It's Christmas! Yes, put the date on your calendars – Our annual Christmas Concert is on Sunday, December 10 at 4p.m. In the meantime, worship with us each Sunday through October, November, and December, including our seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

Get outside and enjoy the Warren weather. Get inside on Sunday mornings and enjoy your church congregations and worship services. Keep on breathing, keep on praying, and keep on singing! Celebrate with us each Sunday morning at 8:30, 9:30, or 11:00, either comfortably in person or online anytime. Look for a blessing. Look for peace.

Floyd Moore  
Choir Director  
[amfm123@verizon.net](mailto:amfm123@verizon.net)



# If you like to sing – Join the Choir!



---

## SO, HOW DO I KNOW?

**T**he Agape Class studied Rob Renfroe's book The Trouble with the Truth several years ago. It was an excellent study of how to balance truth and grace in our lives. In learning about the Cultural worldview vs the Spiritual worldview, one concept really stood out to me. It is, ***"A lie unchallenged often becomes accepted as reality"***.



Think about that ..... If you don't know that a statement is a lie AND it is repeated enough, then you may begin to believe it. Given today's information super highways, opinions are stated and *spread* and *spread* and *spread*. Of course, we know that "if it's on the internet it must be true" ... right? NOT!! Is something true just because a majority of people think so? Or because a well-known person declares it as truth? Of course not.

As members of a moral society we all need to practice discernment. AS Christians within that society, how do we tell truth from opinion? We must do our own research. That includes searching out reliable sources. Also, enlisting the help of reference librarians and professionals in that area of study. However, when it comes to cultural “norms” vs moral, ethical and spiritual truths, discernment becomes more challenging.

God’s truth is the same today as it was yesterday and as it will be tomorrow! Our reliable source is the Bible. At any stage of our Christian life, it is advisable to also consult with other Christians who have proven themselves to be knowledgeable and trust worthy. From St. Paul to Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Billy Graham to our own small group leader and Pastor; we need to surround ourselves with Christian advisors. Then, with our heads and hearts brimming with information, we sit quietly before our God in prayer.

All of what is written here is succinctly stated in Romans 12:2: **“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve (ie: discern) what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will (ie: the TRUTH).”**

Cindy Price

---

**A**nother preschool year is well underway. Our orientation days went smoothly and we are all adjusting to our daily routine. The children are quickly getting to know their new friends and teachers. You should see their excitement as they hang up their backpacks and find their name tags! The three-year old class is settling in by learning our class rules and the names of all their classmates. The afternoon kids have a folder they take home each day with information for their families and fun things to do for school.



We are preparing for the fall season by learning about apples, Johnny Appleseed, and studying a unit on community helpers. We will plant crocus bulbs, make applesauce, and enjoy a visit from the Warren Fire and Police Departments. We love to see that big shiny fire truck and learn how to keep ourselves safe and meet the people that will protect and help us in an emergency. Fun fall decorations will begin to fill our room as we prepare for Halloween, and October will conclude with a class Halloween party and a parade for our families in the parking lot if the weather cooperates.

Our enrollment is currently low due to the loss of our daycare. It is difficult for families to transport kids to and from school when they both work. Please pray for a solution that enables us to keep our preschool program alive and well.

Promise Preschool wishes everyone a fun and festive fall season!

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds



Yarn Angels is **on hold** for now while they decide on a better day/time to meet. We will let you know when they start up again.

---



## During Worship

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

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

October 1 – Melissa Zaffino

October 8 – Anna Peterson

October 15 – Melissa Zaffino

October 22 – Anna Peterson

October 29 – Melissa Zaffino



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **everything, ESPECIALLY jelly, canned fruit, applesauce, canned meat, canned pasta (Chef Boyardee), canned soup, box jello/pudding** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute!



Items for the **November 2023** Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the office by [mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com) by **Tuesday, October 17.**



### Flock Talk

*"Give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

*1st Thessalonians 5:18*

**M**ost of us chose a profession that felt right, one that after great thought we decided, "This will be the best decision." But, what if we didn't get to choose? What if our profession chose us? Specifically, what if our calling singled us out and wouldn't take no for an answer?

I'm speaking of pastors. I may be speculating a little because I have no real experience other than observational skills. When a pastor is called, he can certainly think no and say no, but how does life happen when the answer was meant to be yes? It's a serious decision to turn away from what God has planned for us.

This month is Pastor Appreciation Month and we celebrate with receptions and voice our appreciation, but maybe there is meant to be a deeper gratitude. We are truly appreciative for Pastor Bill's calling. In the same breath, we are deeply grateful that he answered the call. As he has told us, he was young. He knew. He could have made a different choice, but he didn't turn away. He stepped forward.

A pastor is tested by life. His life must meet the requirements of that calling. He is tested by ability. To feed and shepherd the Lord's sheep. He is tested by fruit. There will be success, evidence that God is blessing him for his service.

Thank you, Pastor Bill, for answering that calling. Thank you for being the person we need in order to better understand who Jesus is. Thank you for teaching us to live by faith and to show mercy. Thank you for giving your life to God in order to light our path. You are a heartfelt blessing.

Gratefully,  
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

# Grace Church Finance Report



Fall is nearly upon us. School is back in session ... vacations are mostly coming to an end. As we head into the fall and prepare for the holidays, please review the church financials. See below for the financials for August.

## 2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	August '23	YTD
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,853.21</b>	<b>\$218,116.33</b>
Office Expense	\$60.11	\$4,366.67
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$7,558.22	\$60,343.19
Ministry Personnel	\$22,248.72	\$178,999.97
Church Council	\$0.00	\$317.79
Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$1,870.22
Nurture Ministry	\$96.95	\$941.40
Worship Ministry	\$39.90	\$1,774.12
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>\$30,003.90</b>	<b>\$249,015.32</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$6,150.69)</b>	<b>(\$30,898.99)</b>

## Borrowed Funds

<b>Account Balance 8/31/2023</b>	<b>(\$125,358.01)</b>
----------------------------------	-----------------------

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings.

Submitted by:

Brian A. Jurkowski, Finance Chair & the Finance Committee

## 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)



Thank you to everyone that donated and helped with the Rummage Sale. It was a great success! We raised **\$1,178.74** that will go to CREW's trip to SPARK.

Acolytes are needed to sign up to serve in **October**. Check the signup sheet on the robe closet for the dates open. Thank you.



---

## Grace Hiking and Walking Clubs

Fall is upon us! This is the best time to be in the woods and to actually feel the seasons change. If you think this sounds fun, you're right! Yes, we love our challenges and yes, we keep a healthy pace - but that doesn't mean we can't figure out how to accommodate other needs.

If you have a favorite place you like to go and want to invite others, I can get the word out. These adventures are an opportunity for creative planning! Keep an eye on the bulletin for dates and destinations.

Contact Sue Toombs at [fourwindsranch@verizon.net](mailto:fourwindsranch@verizon.net) or 814-730-9996.

---



### Welcome new members:

Mary Thompson  
William & Kerry Thompson  
Brooke Thompson  
William & Debora Woodford  
Mandy Mitchell  
Kieran Thompson  
Steven & Jacqueline Durnell  
Jacob Durnell

Marjorie Salvamoser  
Jeanne Cicero  
Ashley Cicero  
Hannah Cicero  
David & Kerri Detsch  
Kaitlyn Detsch  
Kennedy Detsch  
Al & Carol Hammer

Amy Rudolph  
Craig Rudolph  
Jessica Buttell

---

The Ruth M. Smith Center in Sheffield is having a bake sale during the Johnny Appleseed Festival, October 13-15, to raise money for the Center's work. Donations of baked goods, sweet treats and bagged snack mixes are welcome. Please package, label and price your donations to be ready to sell. Items can be left in the church kitchen and will be picked up on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Contact Janice Lyle at 814-688-2535 by phone or text, or email at [pajazz72@gmail.com](mailto:pajazz72@gmail.com) with questions. Thank you for your help!

---

### Pastor Appreciation Month!

The entire month of October gives us the opportunity to thank our pastor for his ministry! There are countless unique and creative ways to surround him with love and respect. We are so very blessed to have Pastor Bill and his family as a part of our family.

One of the best ways we can honor our pastor is to be a blessing to him. Let's take his message every Sunday and do our best to reach lost souls. Let's always find joy in showing kindness and compassion to others.

This month may we find special times that we pray for him and for his family. We appreciate you, Pastor Bill, Lori, Rachel and Elie!

---

### Pastor Appreciation Day!

Grace Church is celebrating Pastor Bill on Sunday, October 8th! We are blessed with both his leadership and his friendship. We thank him for being true to God's Word and for being a reflection of Jesus' love. We ask for God's blessing on his family and the sacrifices they make to share him with us.

Please join us for a cupcake and punch reception between each service. Our celebration will be held in Wesley Parlor. This is a perfect opportunity to say hello and to show our gratitude. There will be a basket in Wesley Parlor for cards.

---

## Laity Sunday!

Grace Church is celebrating Laity Sunday this year on October 15th. This is the day we celebrate all Christians as their lives are empowered for ministry through the Holy Spirit. We pause and consider our own unique calling within the community of believers.

Laity Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to infuse fresh voices into worship. Our laity is welcome to participate in any part of the service. We look forward to a warm camaraderie of servants!



October 2 – Judy Johnson, Melissa Shene

October 5 – Jason Peterson

October 7 – Shania Brady, Amy Ei

October 8 – Annette Miller, Ray Toombs, Sara Tucher

October 10 – LaVoyce Dey, Kristy Engstrom

October 12 – Tom Flood, Brittany Fry, Amanda Gafner

October 13 – Barb Babcock, Michael Hahn, Keith Price, Dan Russo, Jameson Shepherd

October 14 – Blanche Shuman

October 15 – Kyle Graham, Mark Risinger

October 16 – John Lewis

October 20 – Sara Sienkiewicz

October 21 – Suzette Berdine, Terrie Nolan

October 22 – Darla Sabat

October 23 – Miken Beers

October 26 – Tymber Barr

October 28 – Shawn Barkley, Lily Brooker, Dylan Redfield

October 29 – Lucas Moore, Marylin Shene, Jackson Steves

October 30 – Mary Babcock, Jennifer Blum

October 31 – Sarah Stapleford









# October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</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 Galatians Bible Study	<b>2</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>3</b> 9:30 a Galatians Bible Study 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>4</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>5</b> 10:00 a Disciple 1 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 7:00 p <i>Outreach</i>	<b>6</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>7</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Higginbotham Hall Reserved
<b>8</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 Galatians Bible Study	<b>9</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>10</b> 9:30 a Galatians Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>11</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>12</b> 10:00 a Disciple 1	<b>13</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>14</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>15</b> 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing 7:00 p Galatians Bible Study	<b>16</b> 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>17</b> 9:30 a Galatians Bible Study 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Finance</i> 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>18</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>19</b> 10:00 a Disciple 1	<b>20</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>21</b> 9:00 a Praise Team 3:00 p Sanctuary Reserved
<b>22</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>23</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace Women's Ministry	<b>24</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	<b>25</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>26</b> 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> Church Conf. Meeting 6:30 p Church Conference	<b>27</b> 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>28</b> 9:00 a Praise Team
<b>29</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>30</b> 5:15 p Christian Yoga	<b>31</b> 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball		<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

Published monthly;  
October 2023

---

*- 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**

*501 Pennsylvania Avenue East      Warren, PA 16365*

*Phone - 814-723-9440      FAX - 814-723-6137*

*Email - [office2@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:office2@graceumcwarren.com)*

*On the Web - [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com)*

***Find us on Facebook under the group Embrace Grace!***