

# Grace Notes

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Visit Our Website - [www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://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*

# August 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*



## August Meetings

**August 5** - 6:45 p - *SPRC*  
**August 10** - 6:00 p - *Finance*  
**August 11** - 7:00 p - *Property Trustees*  
**August 17** - 7:00 p - *Worship*  
**August 25** - 7:00 p - *Church Council*



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



## August Greeters

Will resume soon.

## August Ushers

Will resume soon.

# From the Pastor

## Normal?

I was chatting with somebody about the craziness of life in the year 2020 and I said something about how things won't ever be normal again, that we'll have to get used to....

"Don't say 'New Normal!'" he said. "I'm sick and tired of hearing that phrase already. Enough with the new normal."

I get it. I feel that way too. But... what, then, is normal?

I wish I had an answer for that. I'm swimming in the same deep end of the pool as everybody else.

What I do know is this. Things always change. When I was a kid, I got the flu almost every year. I got really sick, ate chicken soup and whined a lot.

Now I am expected to get a flu inoculation (and I do) every year. And if I do start to get the flu, well there's medicines that can diminish the suffering, and it's socially acceptable, expected even, that if I have the flu I will kind "socially distance" myself from people. Oh, and I still eat a lot of chicken soup and whine a lot. Some things are ingrained.

Society changes. Things are different.

I read a book a few years ago by Erwin McManus called *Unstoppable Force* and he said, I'm paraphrasing from memory, that we embrace change of convenience. That is, we readily welcome the changes that make us *more* comfortable, while we resist those that make us less comfortable.

Ben Franklin famously said (quoting someone else, by the way), "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." He was making reference to the newly established Constitution of the United States and how permanent and unassailable such a document, and the government so established, appeared in the early days of our nation (1789). But Franklin was perfectly aware that death was the one thing guaranteed (taxes added by way of sarcasm) to every person.

Change is inevitable.

And I don't like it. But my not liking it, doesn't stop it.

Everything changes... except God.

Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I do not change."

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

In the tempest of change that is swirling around us, God really is the rock which secures us.

So I will trust God.

Not the news reports. Not the Facebook posts. Not the politicians. Not even my own feelings and emotions.

I will trust God. God, perfect, holy, just, loving, merciful, immovable.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Bill

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## Choir Notes

July brought a new normal for worship in our church. While we've been preparing for a better normal, we've been worshipping online since March 15, and finally again "live" since June 28. We still have plans for a better normal regarding group singing, stay tuned!

I want to thank the talented 11 o'clock musicians Kris Magnuson, Carmen Pearce, Megan Moore, Bill and Trish Gentilman, Renee Magnuson, and The Girls: Carmen Pearce, Maribeth Miller, and Megan Moore. Thank you all for assisting our worship in July. On Saturday July 11 we filled the choir loft with the Grace Madrigals as we sent home our long-time choir member Jim Gray. His family remains in our thoughts and prayers.

See ya in church!

## Vacation time

July and August are traditionally vacation times around here, especially with students out of school. When I was growing up, mom and dad would load us up in our second car, a motor home, and we'd travel. Sometimes we'd end up at LeTourneau Christian Camp on Canandaigua Lake,



sometimes we'd arrive at Church Camp or General Assembly north of Butler, Pa. Often we'd visit some of our seemingly endless aunts and uncles and cousins, wherever they were. More Christmases than not, however, we'd visit relatives who conveniently lived in Florida. Dad would call mom from work in the middle of a December Friday and say "load up the camper, we're going to Florida!" There were seven of us, one of us always younger than the other, crammed in our motor home not much bigger than a station wagon. I'm sure we were quite a sight when we piled out to line up at McDonalds or a rest stop on the way.

We also, always, found a church on our way. No cellphones, no "reservation for seven", we'd just find a friendly looking church out of the phone book or some other reference. Dad would choose a parking spot out of the way, and we'd roll out and make our way to the welcoming church, usually with one of us being carried, and at least one being guided forward by dad's strong grip. Dad, Mom, Floyd, Ben, Jonathan, Tina, and Joel. Four boys and poor Tina. We'd try to sit near the back just in case one of us needed to be escorted out.

The neat thing is that we sang. No, not in the front, but it always seemed we knew the songs and sang along with the congregation. Those songs and hymns tied us together with people we never met, nor will we meet again. We joined their congregation for that Sunday, and worshipped together.

This summer, vacation at home. Visit your own church, and worship with us.

Floyd Moore

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## *From the Director of Congregational Care*

*Love One Another*

Let me share with you a story told by Davi, a missionary to Togo in W. Africa. During this current CoVID crisis, she was returning to Togo and was delayed at an airport in Ethiopia. Seriously delayed ... no flights in or out.

She noticed a young man who was distraught. He was looking totally lost and hopeless. Shortly after being delayed at the airport, his cell phone and money had been stolen. He couldn't continue on to Ghana nor return to the USA. He was STUCK!

Here is the *rest of the story*: "I befriended him. As we talked, I shared with him the fact that the fear caused by this pandemic is nothing compared to the judgment that awaits those who haven't put their trust in Jesus. He seemed surprised at my statement. I explained how God is righteous and cannot have fellowship with us humans who are sinful. But because He loves us so dearly, He sent His Son to die for us so that if we put our trust in him, we can spend eternity with Him, and be spared on that dreadful judgment day. **I shared with him John 3:16 and he accepted the Lord.**" \*

I often wonder how to share the Good News with others. Davi's simple, but powerful, explanation of John 3:16 is helpful for me. Responding to a person's fear or anxiety with the truth about God's love for us brings real HOPE, rather than the wan smile that the usual platitudes evoke.

The best ending for this story is, of course, that another person has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and is learning to live daily for and with Him. But the other ending is that Davi introduced this man to a group of Ghanaian missionaries in the airport. They were able to help him return to the USA!

What a beautiful way to Love One Another!  
Live your life like you mean it!

Cindy Price

\*From *crossworld* (mission organization) Summer 2020

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Hello Grace United Methodist Church! Let's talk about courage. When we hear the word courage, we often think of these grandiose moments of bravery. Experiences like leaping off a high-dive or trying out for an ultra-competitive team seem like the most appropriate ways for us to help our kids to understand courage. But what if courage is more



ordinary than that? What if courage is an idea that shows up in the everyday as we interact with friends and family, go to school, and navigate the world of extra-curricular activities?

Read anything on Generation Z, and you'll find that stress and anxiety are hallmarks of these kids and teenagers. On the surface, it might appear that preteens primarily eat (pizza, gum, and anything with the word sour in it), sleep (nightly campaigning to push their bedtime an hour later), and go to school (begrudgingly). So, if that's really all they do, why do they always look so tired and frazzled?

Days of rest really don't really exist anymore. The reality is that preteens are feeling caught in their schedule, their access to culture and the pressure to succeed. And the expectations placed on them are often too unrealistic for them to handle. As preteens figure out how to navigate these expectations, they face unprecedented anxiety.

In an article by Dan Scott on ParentCue.org, we discover a few ways our kids can embrace courage and come out stronger on the other side. We want to encourage our youth to have the courage to:

1. Say no and identify which activities are worth their time and do not stress them out
2. Try new things and meet challenges head on, while they still have us to fall back on
3. Ask for help, understanding they do not have to struggle alone
4. Fail and make mistakes knowing how we respond will determine what they believe about failure
5. Be themselves and confident in who they are as individuals created in the image of God

Our children will face all sorts of situations throughout their preteen years that will require him or her to summon an added dose of courage. But remember, your words and actions have power in their life. Speak life to them. Be their biggest cheerleaders. Be the one that offers the most grace. Your constant love and support could be the catalyst for how they show courage in the future.

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Nicki Egger

I want to take the time to say a giant thank you to all those



involved in the making of Vacation Bible School this year and for the parents and kids who participated and all the support and prayer lifting up this ministry. I began talking in the spring with other members in the community involved in children's ministry about what VBS might look like. Normally VBS is a five-day in-person event, but taking into consideration the current situation and realizing how difficult it would be to keep kids separated, we decided on a mini VBS, all virtual, and focused on trusting God. We worked through questions like how can we get kids to visualize the Bible stories we want to focus on? Can we still have a snack? Kids love music, can we incorporate music? What about a craft? At the end of every question was the lingering fact that this was all new to us. VBS wasn't new, but how to package it up and get it to the kids was new, and we felt it.

Day one of VBS rolled around before we knew it and oh boy. I'd like to say it went smoothly as we had thought we worked out all the issues, but no. It was the very opposite of smooth. So we huddled together, figuratively of course, and worked through what to do. Day two was much better and despite our fumble, the kids came back! We laughed, they laughed and we even managed to feel a sense of togetherness through the screen. Day three, the final day, had us learning all about stepping out in faith, feeling like Peter taking those first shaky steps while walking on water. We even got doused with some ice water, because of the faith and giving hearts of people in our community who managed to exceed our goal of donations to the Salvation Army.

I learned a lot through this process, some things about Zoom and some things about myself. I overcame my fear of recording videos and of cold water. I even managed to make a few friends. But most importantly, and certainly not for the first time or the last, God showed me that I can trust him. If there's one thing I can say for certain about VBS, it's that it was all about Trusting God.

Libby Yaegle



**A**fter an abrupt end to our school year in March due to COVID-19, there are still so many unknowns for the fall. Guidelines are changing weekly and we are trying our best to keep up and make decisions on how the new school year will begin. Our priority is the safety and well being of our preschool children and families. We will have smaller classes this year to make social distancing a bit easier. Unfortunately, that will put a financial strain on our program. We hope that the pandemic will be under control by next year and we will be able to get our budget back on track and return to the “normal” school year that we are used to. In the meantime, we ask for prayers for wisdom as we move forward with starting our 2020-2021 school year in September, and for the health and safety of our students and staff.

THANK YOU!

Trish Gentilman & Jessica Rex

**T**he summer is almost over and school is going to start. Just in case school doesn't start or does and closes again, we are going to offer all day care for school age children. We are also going to offer all day care for parents that do not want to send their children to school by doing virtual class through WCSD. We will help the children to log in and watch their virtual class. The parents will be responsible to make sure their child work is completed.



Irene Garriss

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

Will resume soon.

### August Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Linda Knapp 726-1199

Sheryl Richards 726-3876

**Will resume once we know what the school year looks like. September at the earliest.**

Thank you Grace United Methodist for donating money to me for camp. I lov going to your church. You are the best. I love Sunday School. It is the bomb.

Love, Riley Lyle



Dear Grace Church Family,  
Thank you for the generous gift of money. It will be used for my college.

Love, Tyler Gustafson

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](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com). Online giving accepts checking/savings accounts as well as debit/credit cards.





**Our budget the month of June 2020:**

*Other income consists of funds from Sunday School, Room Rental,*

*Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.*

<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Other Income:</b>	64.03	164.75
<b>Offerings &amp; Tithes</b>	<u>26,584.37</u>	<u>41,491.35</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26,648.40</b>	<b>41,656.10</b>

<b>Number of Sundays:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Borrowed	0	0
<b>Expense:</b>	12,557.55	32,309.77
Attendance:	1,316*	1,021

**Connectional Apportionments**

**Obligation-** 3,252.42  
**Paid to date** 19,515.10

Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 50%

**His income:** Was \$15,007.70 higher in June 2019 compared to June 2020

**Our expenses:** Were \$19,752.22 lower in June 2020 compared to June 2019

**Six Month Review**

Income: January – June \$160,099.21  
 Expenses: January – June \$167,958.83

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

\*June 2020 attendance is estimated due to online worship services.

Submitted by:  
 Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair

**Flock Talk**



*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.”*

**Galatians 6:10**

We have some unsung heroes in this church! They are the people who sanitize, clean and maintain our beautiful building. I’m speaking of Mike, Shirley, and Tristan. If you happen to see any of these three hardworking people, please take time to thank them. They are the key to our healthy environment, to our safety and to our security. When we enter these doors, we know that significant measures have been taken to ensure our well-being. This comes with a personal cost to each of them as they spend more hours and exert more energy. They are willing to take that step into the unknown territory of “We can honestly say we have never done it like this before and we don’t know what’s next”.

These three people are beyond essential, they are a blessing to each of us. One of the best ways to thank them is to wear a mask. And, to do it for THEM! The amount of hours they spend in our glorious building means that they are breathing the air we left behind. It’s more than a matter of following the guidelines, it’s “working together”.

So much happens in this building when most of us are not here. When we are here, let’s create a safe environment for our extremely essential and treasured custodial staff. Your church loves and appreciates you, Mike, Shirley and Tristan!

Wholeheartedly,  
 Susan Toombs, Lay Leader



The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, Knorr pasta sides, boxed potatoes** at this time.

Thank you to all who contribute.

### ....CONTINUING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

As of this writing (July 17, 2020), I am trying to begin women's Bible study classes in mid-September. This will be a continuation of the Colossians and Philemon study begun back in March. Those classes only lasted two weeks before the church building had to be closed because of Covid-19.

I've contacted some of the class members, asking if they would please switch to a different class time in order to allow for social distancing – a limit of 12 people per class. The Wednesday, 8:45a.m. class is full. The 10:45a.m. class has fewer than 12 members.

The Tuesday 7:00p.m. class is still too large. A few ladies have agreed to have Bible study on Monday nights, instead, but, as of today, I still need to find 3 more ladies who would be willing to make the change from Tuesdays to Monday evenings at 7:00p.m.

Each class will meet for 8 weeks, starting Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>; and Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in Wesley Parlor, as always, but will sit on the folding chairs spaced across the whole room – not gathered around the tables as in the past.

A hand sanitizer dispenser is at the church's elevator entrance, and we will have some kind of disinfectant in Wesley Parlor to clean off the chairs and the door handles between class sessions. Masks must be worn entering and exiting the church building, and I strongly recommend wearing them during class time. If you cannot wear a mask, please don't come to Bible study at this time.

It is certainly possible that classes will be cancelled again if Covid-19 cases spike in Warren County. In late August, I will send you a letter with final instructions and whether we are going to meet or not.

Please be patient! We all want to stay safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please contact me at [radmagnuson@gmail.com](mailto:radmagnuson@gmail.com) or (814) 726-7890. God bless you.

Renee Magnuson

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### HOPES Fund

**For: Jim Gray**  
**By: Pete & Marge Smith,**  
**Carol Ostergard,**  
**Neal & Peggy Twist**



### Music Fund

**For: Jim Gray**  
**By: Harold & Janis Wall,**  
**Denny & LuAnn Munksgard**

### General Memorial Fund

**For: Jim Gray**  
**By: Angie Darr, Stan & Shirley Pearson,**  
**Larry & Peg Willis, Anthony & Anita Pellegrino**



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**Items for the September Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office ([mary@graceumcwarren.com](mailto:mary@graceumcwarren.com)) by Friday, August 21. Thank you!**

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- August 1 – Julie Hitchcock**  
**August 2 – Guy Baughman, Gregg Danielson**  
**August 3 – Sharon Silzle**  
**August 5 – Brendan Garrett**  
**August 6 – Marlene Avery, Nikolai Long,  
Matt Stapleford, Cadence McManigle**  
**August 7 – Earl Duvall, Shirley Shafer,  
Everleigh Alex, Michael Barr, Trevor Buchanan**  
**August 8 – Bev Himes, Tony Stellato, Tyler Retterer**  
**August 9 – Bill Gentilman, Quay Strandburg**  
**August 10 – Jaxon Knapp, Judy Templeton,  
Caden Beers**  
**August 11 – Craig Rodoski, Becky Ickert**  
**August 13 – Patricia Dutchess**  
**August 14 – Debra Foreman**  
**August 15 – Suzanne Shall, Gladys Jones**  
**August 16 – Gavin LaVan, Andrew Sprentz,  
Karen Conrad**  
**August 17 – A.J. Slattery**  
**August 18 – Randy Grey**  
**August 19 – Lynnanne Hammersley, Kris Magnuson,  
Maggie Birgel**  
**August 20 – Mark Shene**  
**August 21 – Caleb Gnage, Randy Ickert**  
**August 23 – Chloe Watson**  
**August 24 – Aaren Danielson, Adelaide Keeports**  
**August 25 – Derek Knapp, Amy Yaegle, Parker Shene**  
**August 26 – Becca Anderson, D.J. Anderson,  
Eddie Anderson, Lisa Brown, Joyce Font,  
Elin Smith, Bonnie Lopez, Charlie Sienkiewicz**  
**August 27 – Sarah Peterson, Charissa Barkley**  
**August 28 – Charlotte Keeports, Cathy Irwin,  
Ryan Zavinski**  
**August 29 – Midge Gilfillan, Dorothy Culbertson,  
Jordan Retterer, Ashley Barker**  
**August 31 – Chris Zaffino, Seth McClymonds,  
Sheldon McMeans**





# august



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	3	4	5 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:45 p <i>SPRC</i>	6	7	1  8
9 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	10 6:00 p <i>Finance</i>	11 7:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i>	12 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast	13	14	15
16 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	17 7:00 p <i>Worship</i>	18	19 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast	20	21	22
23 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	24	25 7:00 p <i>Church Council</i>	26 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast	27	28	29
30 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship	31		<b>CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE</b> is open daily from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm located on the first floor (nursery) and the second floor.	<b>PROMISE PRESCHOOL</b> 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.		

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501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
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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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