

Grace Notes

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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501 Pennsylvania Avenue East

Warren, PA 16365

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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*

July

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



July Meetings

July 14 - 7:00 p - Property Trustees



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

Ushers & Greeters



July Greeters

Will resume soon.

July Ushers

Will resume soon.

From the Pastor

It Wasn't Supposed To Be...

I can't tell you how many times I have hoped for something to be one way, and it turned out to be something very different. From small disappointments like movies that didn't live up to the promise of their trailer (*Superman vs. Batman*, I'm looking at you... or, you know, every *Transformers* movie ever made), to really huge disappointments like getting a job I thought I'd love and hating it (I worked, very briefly, for a shipping company for very good money and very terrible job conditions) or getting a routine blood test and then getting grilled about my general health and why is my white count so high...

This year is full of things that weren't supposed to be. Virtual graduations and online worship, stay at home orders and masks in public places. Gas prices drop while bleach prices skyrocket... But there were a lot more things that weren't supposed to be in 2020. We weren't supposed to still be fighting for basic human rights for so many people – especially here in America. We weren't supposed to be battling in public forums about police violence and racism and politicizing everything that happens.

In the Gospel of John, the Disciples see a man born blind and they ask Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Think about that question: here's a "this isn't supposed to be" moment, right? This man was born blind. Why is this happening? Who can we blame?

Jesus' response isn't about blame, but about opportunity: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." It's not about who is to blame, it's about Who can do something about it. "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." And then Jesus spits and makes some mud and

smears it on the guy's eyes and he's healed. (John 9:1-7)

We all face those "it's not supposed to be" moments in our lives and it's easy – it's human nature – to look backwards: why did this happen? Who can I blame? How did I get into this mess? And reflection is important for our growth and for not repeating mistakes over and over again. But... it almost never solves the "what now?" question. Jesus is less interested in what caused this man's blindness than he is about helping give sight to someone who can't see.

Let's look for the opportunities amid this season of "it wasn't supposed to be this way." VBS this year will be online. That's weird. But it's also opening an opportunity for families. I remember when our kids were little it was a struggle sometimes to get them out of the house – and it was even harder when one was participating in something and the other wasn't (Elie HATED going to Rachel's soccer games when she was little, Rachel didn't love going to Elie's, either, I might add...). So there's a new opportunity – and this online environment allows us to engage in different ways. That's not a bad thing.

There will be lots of limitations on social gatherings for a while. Let's look for the opportunities in that. I know the huggers and the extroverts are going to be twitching at not being able to touch people (I kid, I kid!!!) but the withdrawn and the introverts might have a moment of comfort, of flourishing even. Heck, if you don't know someone's name, just look at them funny when they are wearing a mask and say something like, "Who are you? I can't tell with the mask?" It might not work, but it's worth a try 😊

In a few months things will probably look more normal. I hope and pray we don't just settle back into old ways and old routines, but that we keep looking for opportunities to love our neighbors, to encourage one another, to build up and look ahead.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Thank you for worshipping with us!

June has been a new transition month for our church. We've been worshipping online since March 15, and I hope you've stayed along for the ride. (If not, you can always "binge watch" our services online.) I want to thank the talented 11 o'clock musicians Kris Magnuson, Carmen Pearce, Megan Moore, Renee Magnuson, and the Inspirations: Beth MacPherson, Karen Conarro, and Trish Gentilman. In June we also filled the choir loft with the Grace Madrigals, and some of THE WOMEN of the choir. Thank you all!



There's an encouraging, timely hymn in our hymnals that I can't get out of my head. It's Hymn # 383, by Brian Wren, written in 1987. Sing along:

"This is a day of new beginnings"

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

As we begin to carefully re-gather, reacquaint, and renew our worship experiences, let's simply remember that each of our days is a day of new beginnings. During our re-gathering in this warm July, let's not greet each other with "Happy New Year", but "Happy New Day!"

Happy New Day!

Floyd Moore

From the Director of Congregational Care

I have a friend (no, it's not the one you are thinking of!) who lived a loose life. She and her partner depended on alcohol to get them through each day. They were chained to that drug. Today, they are married, have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and have pastored a church for more than 30 years. How did that happen? It came about by the grace of God; through the prayers of many and the action of one loving, Christian landlady.

That woman saw a young couple ruining their lives. So, she asked them to come to church. Repeatedly asked them. She also showed her love in other tangible ways. And, eventually, through their alcoholic haze, they felt that love. It was a love so great that it goes beyond any human effort. It was God's love given freely through the heart and hands of a woman. **"Love one another"** was put into action.

I daresay that most of us will never know who our prayers, loving actions or just our daily living has positively affected. And there are others who rejoice when, after years of prayer, are able to witness a child, niece or grandson accept the Lord. HALLELUJAH!

The listing of Prayer Concerns and the activation of the Prayer Chain are powerful ways to engage a greater number of Prayer Warriors. As each of us takes the time to pray, that brings us to a closer relationship with God. That bond can then spur us on to more Godly living. Together we form a mighty force that is God's Church in today's hurting world.

Let's all strive to be
CONSTANT in prayer **BOLD** in action and **LOVING**
& **GRACIOUS** in giving of ourselves.

Cindy Price

I am happy happy to announce that the theme for this year's



Vacation Bible School is "Trusting God." VBS will look a little different this year, as the sessions will all be online starting at 6:00pm on July 19, 21, and 23. Even though we won't be seeing each other in-person, there will still be great content, music, kid-friendly snacks, and more! If you would like a registration form to fill out for your child(ren) or to pass along to someone else, please email me at Libby.Yaegle@gmail.com. Children do not have to be a member of Grace Church, or any church, to register for VBS.

Like the VBS theme, I had a Trusting God moment recently. Keith and I decided to put a second story addition on part of our house. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and with the help of family, we were able to get it weather sealed before any rain. For whatever reason, pride maybe, I decided I wanted to help put the shingles on the roof. I wasn't overly involved in the rest of the building since I was busy chasing my three boys around and making lunch and dinner for anyone who was kind enough to help us. I helped here and there while the boys napped, but I wanted to have my hands on some part of the project, get a little grimy even. I have helped shingle roofs in the past, but never on the second story of a house. I pestered Keith earlier in the day, asking when he was planning on putting the shingles on, because I would ask a family member to watch the boys so I could help. His response was that I should try climbing up the ladder first to make sure I was comfortable with it. When no one was paying too much attention, I started climbing up the ladder and even made it about three quarters of the way up before I looked at the ground and immediately climbed back down.

I decided maybe shingling wasn't for me. Maybe they didn't need my help anyways. But then the family member that I had contacted to watch the boys came over and up went some workers to put the shingles on. With a little more determination and oh yes, that pride again, I climbed up the ladder a second time, keeping my eyes skyward, gaining

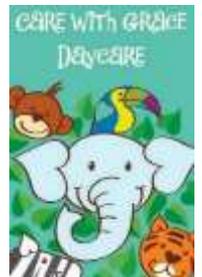
height one rung at a time until I was on the roof. This time when I climbed back down, I had accomplished what I set out to do.

I have a friend who reminds me how important it is to keep my eyes on God. Psalm 56:3 says "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." When I climbed the ladder the first time, fear overcame me and I gave up. Even a cursory glance at the ground below caused me to forget my mission and retreat. The second time, I decided to keep looking up. I put my full trust in the only one deserving of it, and that made all the difference.

Libby Yaegle

We will be closed July 2 and 3. July 2 will be a teacher in service day to do some more cleaning. July 3 we will be closed.

We have been going on walks, playing on the playground and doing water play. Having a great summer so far. Lots more to come.



Irene Garris



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

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

Will resume soon.

July 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.



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!



Our budget the month of May 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:	44.54	374.40
Offerings & Tithes	<u>23,260.11</u>	<u>30,676.00</u>
Total Income	23,304.65	31,050.40

Number of Sundays:	4	4
Borrowed	87,900.00 (PPP loan)	0
Expense:	20,805.11	29,474.35
Attendance:	1,699*	909

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation- 3,253.00
Paid to date 16,262.68
 Ahead (Behind) 0

Percent of year to date paid 42%

His income: Was \$7,745.75 higher in May 2019 compared to May 2020

Our expenses: Were \$8,669.24 lower in May 2020 compared to May 2019

We praise God for the generous gifts and offerings given.

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

Submitted by:
 Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair



Flock Talk
"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength"

Philippians 4:13

As far-fetched as it may sound, a few good things came from the pandemic. We know God works all things together for good in the lives of those who love Him. If we look closely, we can see distinct instances of His love at work these past months. We were given the opportunity to see our church from the outside. We are accustomed to the workings of God on the inside . . . and we missed that dearly. But, as we had no choice but to distance ourselves, we saw how easy it was to be the church differently, creatively, even in step with the early church of Acts.

Every phone call and every errand run was a wonderful opportunity to show our love for one another. Every virtual and in person meeting that held us together was a labor of love. Every need that was met and every prayer that was prayed was God using this for His good in all our lives.

It is with high hopes that these small gestures will continue. Relationships were strengthened, friendships broadened, and compassion given freely to others. One way of looking at this is to see how the pandemic "brought out the Christian in us". We are not held back by our hardships; we are forged by the very hand of God to have the wisdom to trust His strength. Let's stay diligent and prepared to love even more spectacularly in the coming days!

Wholeheartedly,
 Susan Toombs, Lay Leader

With Joyful Appreciation!

Grace Church is blessed to have Pastor Bill reassigned to our church for another year. We now head into our fourth year of his ministry with us. We would like to thank Pastor Bill for leading and guiding us as a congregation. We thank him for caring about us and for always listening to us. We thank him for his musical talent and for his family's contributions. We are especially grateful for his prayers and support during this difficult time in the world. Through his leadership, we remain sincere in our mission to know Christ and to make Him known!



Grace Church Family,
Thank you very much for thinking of my sister Gabrielle and I as we graduate high school and college! We appreciate the card and generous gift card inside. ☺ We love amazon. As we continue our journey through life we just want to thank you for being a part of it! As always bless you all down at Grace with love and prayers!
Love, DJ & Ellie Hahn

Hello! I just wanted to send a thank you note to the church for my graduation card and gift. Thank you!
Allison Sedon

HOPES Fund

For: Dean Johnson

By: Arden & Linda Knapp,

Stan & Shirley Pearson,

Jim & Adele Armstrong,

Linda Falconer, Douglas & Linda Hodorff,

Denny & LuAnn Munksgard



Flowers Fund

For: Robert Ekey

By: Thomas Flood



The July/August 2020 Upper Room Devotionals are now available. They will be available on the literature table in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office. Please specify if you would like large print. Thank you.

Yarn Angels get your crochet hooks and knitting needles ready! We are planning to start meeting again in August.



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



- July 1 - Karl Grosch, Jason Tucher
July 2 - Nano Lopez
July 3 - Chuck McManigle
July 4 - Maribeth Miller, Gabrielle Hahn,
Ann Rossman, Steve Norris, Eliana Beatty
July 5 - Shawn Zaffino, Shari Jerman, Steph Russo
July 6 - Sharaya Vivian, Aliza Shelby,
Margaret Sleeman, Kaitlin Sedon,
Carole Schoenborn, Tyler Dymond
July 8 - Seth Conarro, Sheryl Richards
July 9 - Julana Hanson, Mackenzie Tucher,
Tom Smith
July 10 - Barb Stevenson, Paul Schultz
July 13 - Tressa Knowlton
July 14 - Bonnie Glotz, Patti McMeans
July 15 - Barb Stanko, Karen Conarro, Jim Adams
July 16 - Cale Trisket
July 17 - Derek Hanlin, Keith Yaegle, Kevin Farr
July 18 - Amy Smith, Kerry Pangborn, Isabella Egger,
Eliza Hellman
July 19 - Kylie Jurkowski
July 21 - Tom Sleeman
July 22 - Veronica Andersen
July 23 - Alex Weiland
July 24 - Zachary Ickert, Michaelle Carroll
July 25 - Brian Jurkowski
July 26 - Dennis Strandburg, Jean Anderson,
Brooke Barney, Dave Larsen
July 27 - Lisa Card, Ryan Barker, Ella Card
July 29 - Kay McNaughton, Jordan Arthur
July 30 - Jerry Reichard, Susan Bednez,
Hunter Danielson, Maya Alex, Janis Wall,
Haley Stimmell
July 31 - Denny Munksgard, William Lord



July



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>		<p>1 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 7:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i></p>	<p>15 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

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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 and John Lewis*

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