

Grace Notes

February 2024

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



February Meetings

February 6 - 6:00 p - *SPRC*
February 12 - 5:30 p - *Nurture*
February 13 - 6:00 p - *Property Trustees*
February 20 - 5:30 p - *Education*
February 27 - 6:00 p - *Church Council*



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

From the Pastor

Beauty for Ashes

I was meeting with a group of pastors and someone commented that Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year which led to a lot of goofy comments (someone said they'd use a chocolate fountain instead of ashes this year). But then the talk got a little more serious. There's a certain appropriateness in celebrating the beginning of the season of Lent on a day that we have set aside to celebrate love.

Early in Jesus' ministry, he traveled to his hometown of Nazareth and he read from the Isaiah scroll part of Isaiah 61 (Luke 4:16-30):

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."*

And, as you read the Gospel of Luke, Jesus sat down and said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." And the religious leaders and the people accused Jesus of blasphemy... a tense and uncertain moment in Jesus' ministry.

But the words of the Prophet Isaiah are *supposed* to be fulfilled in our hearing – in our reading – in our living. We are empowered by God to bring the hope of salvation to the people.

That's part of why I think it is so appropriate that Ash Wednesday is on the secular day of celebrating love: everything we are and do is to be motivated by love – by true, godly, unconditional love. We love, John tells us, because God first loved us.

And so the ashes of Ash Wednesday are an "outward and visible sign" of the inner working of God's love in our lives. Ashes represent our repentance, our willingness to be transparent and vulnerable before God and release all our hurts and our troubles and our resentments and our obsessions.

Jesus stopped reading after the first phrase of verse 2 of Psalm 61. The rest of verse 2 and verse 3 say:

*"...to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."*

I don't know about anybody else, but I want to go to the beauty, the oil of joy, the garment of praise right away. But the promise is that God makes beauty from ashes, joy from mourning, praise from heaviness. The season of Lent – the six weeks before Easter – is a season of examining our lives and our relationships and our

faith and pouring all that we are out before God – who trades beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and praise for heaviness. But the ashes and mourning and heaviness cannot be bypassed for all of this is part of the human condition, a legacy of original sin. And because we mourn and struggle and sin, God responds to us in perfect love to make something beautiful and hopeful and live giving in our lives through Jesus, the atoning sacrifice for our sin and our brokenness.

Beauty for ashes...

So celebrate Valentine's Day with those you love, and with the One who loves you enough to die for you.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bill

Choir Notes

Your wonderful Choir and Madrigals are still ministering to your congregation here at Grace. We have worshipped throughout the fall and winter and are preparing for the Lent and Easter seasons.



If you missed the Christmas concert, you missed a blessing! You can still experience the worship presentation online, but you should really stand and join in singing with the congregational carols.

We recently celebrated the life of Beverly Petersen, Grace's wonderful choir director for more than 33 years. She certainly gave Grace Church all of her personality and talent and dedication. She will continue to be missed, but I'm glad that her choir hasn't stopped with her. Her choir continues to be a blessing to many, especially me. Bev's funeral service is also available online.

We are looking forward to many wonderful worship services including Communion on February 4 and March 3, Palm/Passion Sunday on March 24, Maundy Thursday service on March 28, Good Friday service on March 29, and Easter services on March 31, 2024.

Thank you for keeping your Grace Choir in your prayers. We enjoy being used as a part of one of many ministries here at Grace, regardless of the weather outside!

Floyd Moore
Choir Director
amfm123@verizon.net

We will begin February by making predictions on whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and hope for an early spring! The children have settled back into the routine after our Christmas break and are well into our winter activities. Our three-year-old class is starting their color unit and doing "homework". The four-year-old class is working on their "Passport to Kindergarten" and proudly adding stars for each skill they master. We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with a class Valentine's party. Our party day is always great fun as we share treats and cards from our friends.



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is well under way for current preschool students & Grace Church families. We will open to the public on February 1, 2024, so if you or someone you know would like to register a child for next school year, please pick up a registration form from the office, call (814) 723-9440 and we can

mail you a packet or call the preschool room at (814) 723-8011 during school hours.

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Grace Promise Preschool!

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool

Trish Gentilman & Jen Lynds
PromisePreschool@myyahoo.com



During Worship
9:30 a.m. (0-2 yrs.)
11:00 a.m. (0- 5 yrs.)
February 4 – Anna Peterson
February 11 – Melissa Zaffino
February 18 – Anna Peterson
February 25 – Melissa Zaffino



Items for the **March 2024**
Newsletter need to be
delivered to Mary in the office
mary@graceumcwarren.com
by **Friday, February 16.**
Thank you.



The Grace Church Food Pantry is
in need of **pork n' beans and**
canned fruit at this time. Thank
you to all who contribute!



General Memorial
For: Sandy Smith
By: Christine Smith

For: Hazel Finley
By: Donald McCurdy

For: Pete Smith
By: Carol Ostergard

Music Memorial

For: Beverly Petersen
By: Cindy Lindemuth, Mathis Family,
Mary Conarro, Carol Ostergard,
Bill Bunce, Linda Shattuck,
Rev. Kevin & Amy Haley,
Janet & Lee Dettra, Arden & Linda Knapp

HOPES Fund

For: Pete Smith
By: Jocelyn & Jeff Thompson, Bill Bunce,
Mary Conarro, David & Patty Bateski,
W. James & Patricia Host,
Tim & Marlene Walsh

Covered by Grace is in need of **gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves**. Donations can be
placed in the bin across from Pastor Bill's office or visit our website for the link to our
Amazon wishlist. The lines are up November through February so please keep those
items coming throughout the winter.





Flock Talk

*"Above all else, guard your heart, because everything you do flows from it."
Proverbs 4:23*

This is the month that celebrates the heart! On Valentine's Day, we see a swath of red throughout the congregation as we commemorate this sweet day. For young sweethearts, it's a time to make a great first impression. For many, it's simply a pleasant day that allows us to eat a little extra chocolate!

We use the word "heart" in so many different ways and it travels the gamut of emotions along that journey. We are warmhearted and drawn to people who have a happy heart. It's good to be soft hearted and to treat others tenderheartedly. Our hearts are filled with joy one moment and yet, can be saddened in the next. We have hearts that break and hearts that mend. Our hearts overflow with love and we embrace each other wholeheartedly. The list goes on.

It comes as no surprise that the heart is a celebration in the Bible. The word "heart" is in the Bible at least 1,000 times. It is the spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell. God knows the secrets of our hearts and Jesus pointed out the fallen condition of our hearts. David asked God to search his heart. God creates a new heart in us by testing us and giving us new desires and new wisdom. The list goes on.

So, we guard our hearts and we turn to Christ for His healing, for our Great Physician to evaluate our heart condition. Let's scan the horizon and see just what happens this month when we quicken our pulse with a strong heart that yearns for our Savior!

Heartfelt,
Sue Toombs, Lay Leader

Staff Appreciation Day!

We are celebrating Staff Appreciation Day on Sunday, February 11th! When you see one of our staff on this day, or anytime this month, please take the opportunity to voice your appreciation toward these incredible people! We are aware of all your efforts and hard work and cannot thank you enough. We would like to congratulate and acknowledge all of you for your commitment and your unique skills and abilities. Our church is grateful and supportive of you for bringing your best to work every single day! We extend a warm hearted "thank you" to the following people:

Mary Quiggle-Pickering, Office Manager
Meghan Brooker, Office Administrator
Cindy Price, Director of Congregational Care
Floyd Moore, Director of Grace Choir
Debbie Airgood, Organist/Accompanist
Nicki Egger, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Amanda Slattery, Director of Children's Ministries
Dave Moore, Audio and Video Equipment Technician
Trish Gentilman, Director of Promise Preschool
Jen Lynds Co-Teacher of Promise Preschool
Mike Roney, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Tristan Johnson, Security/Set-up Custodian
Shirley Shafer, Housekeeping Custodian
Anna Peterson, Nursery Worker
Melissa Zaffino, Nursery Worker

Grace Church Finance Report



Happy New Year Grace Church! We ended 2023 with good momentum in the last quarter of the year. October, November, and December were all positive months for Grace, and we recovered from some of the months of deficit from earlier in 2023. With that said, we still ended the year with a net loss. Let's all pray on keeping the positive momentum going as we head into a new year so that Grace Church is well supported and positioned to do God's work.

2023 Monthly and YTD Financials

	December '23	YTD
Total Income	\$39,764.46	\$350,119.70
Office Expense	\$754.69	\$6,553.10
Buildings & Ground Expense (Church & Parsonage)	\$8,642.01	\$86,060.17
Ministry Personnel	\$19,830.43	\$260,840.09
Church Council	\$0.00	\$429.09
Education Ministry	\$312.50	\$3,872.52
Nurture Ministry	\$151.06	\$1,875.85
Worship Ministry	\$615.66	\$3,390.13
Outreach Ministry	\$312.50	\$870.46
Connectional Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Witness Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Expense	\$30,618.85	\$363,891.41
Net Income	\$9,145.61	(\$13,771.71)

Borrowed Funds

Account Balance 12/31/2023	(\$108,230.73)
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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



Thank you to everyone who helped with Unhanging of the Greens after church on January 7th. We had approximately 18 people who stayed to help. The committee is very grateful for your participation.

Thanks again – Suzette Berdine

To My Grace Church Family,
Thank you to all who prayed, visited, called, sent cards, or just thought about me. God hears and answers and I'm going well. God bless you. I'm praying for you.
Carol Ostergard

Hiking News!

We're still going strong this winter! We hike at least once or twice per week and the weather has been more than generous. If you would like to be on the hiking club email list, please let me know. We are looking forward to special events in our area at Audubon and Chapman's Dam. We would love to see you!
Sue Toombs at fourwindsranch@verizon.net

Extreme Yoga is Back! Saturday, February 17th 10:00-11:30am

For those who like their yoga on the strong side, let's have some fun at this class and see where it takes us! This will be an energetic class with a few surprises along the way. The friendships at these classes are the best part. We're making good ground with this health-focused ministry! Bring a mat and \$8.00. Contact Sue Toombs for more information at fourwindsranch@verizon.net.







- February 1 – Gary Culbertson
- February 2 – Thomas Jones, Tim Price, Riley McCollough
- February 3 – Rick Reiff, Tammy Kibbey, Sam Birgel
- February 4 – Linda Shattuck
- February 7 – Larry Knowlton, Linda Knapp, Jesse Lucks
- February 9 – Jaclyn Barrett, Maria Miller
- February 11 – Phyllis Marti, Norma Dey, Dave Carter
- February 12 – Tristan Danielson
- February 13 – Mona Rosequist
- February 14 – Kyle Grey
- February 15 – Kurt Smith
- February 16 – Lisa Shall
- February 17 – Bill Bunce, Brett Ball
- February 18 – Stacy Vavala, Linnea Wertz, Josie Bailey
- February 20 – Jeff Benjamin, Lisa McDermott
- February 23 – Karen Lucks, Marcy Jurkowski, Cheyenna Thompson
- February 25 – David Johnson, Melissa Zaffino, Eric Moore, Braydn Wilson, Harper Vivian
- February 26 – Randy Johnson, Barb Kulinski
- February 27 – Donna Risinger
- February 28 – Terry Moldovan, Olivia English
- February 29 – David Morrison



february



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>PROMISE PRESCHOOL 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.</p>			<p>1 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Gym Reserved</p>	<p>2 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved</p>	<p>3 9:00 a Praise Team 12:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved</p>
<p>4 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>5 5:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>6 9:00 a Pickleball 11:00 a Staff Meeting 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>SPRC</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>7 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.</p>	<p>8 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Gym Reserved</p>	<p>9 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>10 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>11 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>12 5:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Nurture</i></p>	<p>13 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Property Trustees</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p Choir 6:30 p C.R.E.W.</p>	<p>15 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Gym Reserved</p>	<p>16 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>17 9:00 a Praise Team 10:00 a Extreme Yoga</p>
<p>18 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</p>	<p>19 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 5:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>20 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p <i>Education</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>21 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.</p>	<p>22 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Gym Reserved</p>	<p>23 11:00 a Fitness Ministry 12:15 p Christian Yoga</p>	<p>24 9:00 a Praise Team</p>
<p>25 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Agape 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Worship @ The Crossing</p>	<p>26 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:30 p Full of Grace</p>	<p>27 9:00 a Pickleball 12:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p <i>Church Council</i> 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>28 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.</p>	<p>29 9:00 a Pickleball 6:00 p Disciple IV 6:00 p Gym Reserved</p>		

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

Published monthly;
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- 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*

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