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

Karen Gray Beverly Petersen Meghan Brooker Mary Quiggle-Pickering

Office Manager:

Music Director:

Office Administrator:

Congregational Care:

J C 00

Director of

Family Ministries: Kayla Schwanke

May 2019

"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

May Meetings

May 6 - 6:45 p - SPRC

May 7 - 7:00 p - *Finance*

May 13 - 6:00 p - *Childcare*

May 14 - 7:00 p - Property Trustees

May 19 - 12:00 p - Memorial

May 20 - 7:00 p - *Outreach/Witness*

May 21 – 7:00 p – *Education*

Sunday, May 5th



This month's Communion offering will benefit Warren County Prison Ministry. Please use the Communion envelope in your monthly packet or pew pocket envelope for your contribution.



May Greeters

5 – Amy Ei	Parking Lot Door
Alice Bonnell	Prospect St. Door
12 – Harold & Janis Wall	Parking Lot Door
Amy Ei	Prospect St. Door
19 – Dan & Steph Russo	Parking Lot Door
Skip & Linda Morrison	Prospect St. Door
26 – Skip & Linda Morrison	Parking Lot Door
Dan & Steph Russo	Prospect St. Door

May Ushers

Dean Johnson, Melinda Johnson, Bob Silzle

From the Pastor

Ebenezer

ere I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come..."

That's how verse two of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" begins. I remember being a kid in church wondering why Scrooge was being raised and what that had to do with helping me... I had a lot of weird thoughts when I was a kid.

Eventually, I just sang the line without even thinking about it. It was just another word in another hymn that we sang every so often at church. It wasn't until I was serving my first church that I had to think about it again. Someone asked me, "What's an Ebenezer?" Okay, I was new, I didn't know the answer, I was on the hot seat... So I...told the truth. I had no idea. And looked it up.

The word comes from the Old Testament – and it's not a good story. The Philistines defeated the Israelites at a place called Eben-Ezer in a battle. So the next day, the Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant into the battle with them. This time the Philistines really crushed Israel, killing thirty thousand men and capturing the Ark of the Covenant (which they eventually returned – great story, you should read it). Shortly after the Ark was returned, the people of Israel turned their hearts back to God, put away foreign gods, and served the Lord their God. The Philistines attacked again, but this time God intervened, routed the Philistine army and the Israelite army chased them for miles. This ended the Philistine attacks against Israel for that time. Samuel the prophet raised up a memorial stone as a reminder of what God had done for the people of Israel, and he called it Ebenezer. (1 Samuel 4-7)

So, the short answer is, an Ebenezer is a stone or a monument declaring the greatness of God (the word literally means "the stone of help").

I was thinking about this this week because all too soon we will celebrate Memorial Day. And the thing about Memorial Day is that we, as a culture, don't really think about what it means anymore. Just like I sang "Here I raise mine Ebenezer..." for years without paying any attention to what it meant, I think many people just see Memorial Day as a day off from work, as a holiday, a long weekend. Maybe (if it's nice out) we'll have a picnic. It began as a day to honor those who died in the Civil War, but has become a day to honor all those who have given their lives in service to their country.

So, let me bring it back around to our faith. I bet there are some Ebenezers in your life – I bet there have been some moments when God really showed up for you. God may not have routed an army for you, but think about how God has provided for you, blessed you, and maybe even delivered you. Those moments are Ebenezers, Memorials to God's greatness in our lives.

I want to encourage you to take a moment on Memorial Day and just be thankful for those who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy, maybe say a prayer for families who are mourning. I also want to encourage you to take a few moments this week and raise your Ebenezer: remind yourself of what God has done for you, how God has cared for you, how God has delivered you. And maybe say a prayer or two of thanks.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Bill



inally!! At last!! It's about time!! Isn't it beautiful?!!! Spring has come!!! The magnolias, forsythias and some ornamental trees are blooming, and I couldn't love it more!!

Easter Sunday was festive, with beautiful music, flowers were everywhere, and lots of people (the best part!).

Grace Choir was spectacular – all week. From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday they performed <u>12</u> anthems!! Thank you, my darlings. There is <u>no</u>

other choir <u>anywhere</u> that does what you do. I run out of words (imagine) to describe my feelings of love and gratitude for all of you. Grace Church is definitely blessed. God love you <u>all</u>.

The children sang at 9:30 and were <u>so</u> good. Never say that they can't be heard!! Thanks to Beth M. for playing hand chimes for them. Come to the choir hallway and see their poster of baby pictures. Adorable!! Thanks, Karen C. for putting them up. They will end their choir year on Mother's Day and will resume in September. What a nice group of kids they are. I love and enjoy them very much.

The bells are going to Otterbein to give a program on May 9. Thanks to Mary B. and the Anderson's for fixing up our lights and providing transportation of bells, etc. They will be done for the summer after that. Thanks to you for your faithfulness, talent and patience. I love you all.

The choir will sing all summer, but regular practices end in May. Dem Bones, trombone choir, is coming on May 19. They will do a new arrangement by Kris. I'm really looking forward to it.

Enhancing the choir's music in April were soloists: LuAnn S., Beth M., Floyd M., Don S., and Carmen Pearce, organist. We are so blessed.

Thanks, everyone! Have a joyful, gorgeous and delightful (add other adjectives at this point)
Spring and come to church!

Beverly Petersen

From the Director of Congregational Care

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer." John 15:1

ook around you. Winter is over, the winter rains are over, gone. Spring flowers are in bloom all over. The whole world is a choir. Spring warblers are filling the forest with sweet arpeggios. The lilacs are exuberantly purple and perfumed and cherry trees fragrant with blossoms." Song of Solomon 2:11, 12 The Message Bible. Sounds a lot like Warren County in spring; the reward for enduring the less

colorful season of winter.

Gardeners are busy repairing and preparing the vegetable and flower beds. Farmers are busy with spring plowing. We emerge from our homes to enjoy the warmth of May. Most everything seems pleasanter with spring's lessons of hope and renewal.

I think our souls are like a garden that God tends. We may resist the tilling that cuts through to the stone hard places we keep hidden. However, we want whatever it takes to be made tender, tillable soil for God's word to take root in. Matthew 13:5, 6

How about that weeding process? Yes, we need those unholy habits, activities, relationships and cares that choke out the seed of God's word uprooted. Matthew 13:7

Next we need to safeguard the soil of our hearts by continually feeding on the Word of God and being nourished by His Holy presence. Now our souls will be rooted and grounded in Him so His word won't be plucked away by every wind of doctrine but we'll grow up in Him. Ephesians 3:17-19 & Ephesians 4:14, 15

He provides the seed, multiplies the seed sown and increases the fruits of our righteousness, bountifully enriches us which causes us to give thanks for His precious beyond telling gift. II Corinthians 10:11&15

Now well tilled, weeded, safe guarded, nourished, fruitful ones, go into God's garden of souls reaching out with the love and life of Jesus Christ.

Grace, mercy and peace, Karen D. Gray



ur school year is quickly coming to an end and we are looking forward to summer vacation! The year certainly has been a busy and exciting one. The afternoon class will get to visit Warren Elementary Center so they can see what kindergarten will be like next year. They are also finishing their "Passports to Kindergarten" in final preparation for "big school"!

As we spend our last few days together, we hope the weather will get warmer so we can play outside and look for signs of spring. Our school year will conclude with acting out some stories, discussing summer fun and safety and making our own pizzas on the last day of school.

We would like to thank all of you for the incredible support for our preschool program, especially our wonderful Preschool Board that does so much for us. We continue to work with our Care with Grace Daycare program to provide the best care and learning experience possible! We are always humbled at the on-going support we receive from our Grace Church Family. Our March S.O.C. offering and Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser was beyond our expectations! We shouldn't be surprised at the giving spirit at Grace but are so thankful to you all!

We still have some openings for next schoolyear. If you know of anyone that has not registered for preschool, please have them give us a call! Our tuition is only \$75 a MONTH! Registration forms can be picked up in the church office during the week or can be mailed. Please call the church office for more information 723-9440.

Have a great summer!

Trish Gentilman & Brenda Whyte

preschool@atlanticbbn.net or find us on Facebook!

n My 24 there will be a spring scavenger hunt beginning at 5:45pm at the church and going through out the city of Warren.



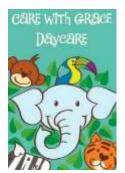
Vacation Bible School is being held at Warren First UMC July 21-25, 2019 from 6-8:15pm. This year's theme is "Athens-Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth."

At the end of the month or early in June the Youth will be doing a fun event of their choice before summer comes. What it will be is still in the works. ~Kayla Schwanke – Director of Family Ministries

hank you for all your support with our baked potato fundraiser. We appreciate all the love and support we received.

We are currently finishing up planning our summer

program. We have a ton of fun activities planned such as bug week, pirate week, and cooking week. We are looking to hire a bus driver for the summer. If you are interested in a apart-time job one day a week, please let us know. We are also still looking to add



people to summer activities if anyone is interested. We are excited for all the activities we have planned and to have a busy summer at Care with Grace. ~Jolee Cradduck & Irene Garris, co-directors



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

11:00 a.m. (o- 5 yrs.) May 5 – Becky Fuller May 12 – Anna Peterson May 19 – Becky Fuller May 26 – Anna Peterson

The Grace Church Food Pantry is in need of **jam/jelly**, **brownie mix**, **and spaghetti** at this time. Thank you to all who contribute to the Grace Church Food Pantry!





Our budget the month of March 2019:

Other income consists of funds from Sunday

School, Room Rental, Bible Studies, Literature Tables, Fitness Ministry, Easter, Christmas, and Misc. Income.

BUDGET 2019 2018 853.65 407.00 **Other Income:**

Offerings &

Tithes 33,772.82 32,683.99 **Total Income** 33,090.99 34,626.47 **Number of Sundays:** 4 0 0 Borrowed **Expense:** 33,113.71 32,251.92 Attendance: 1,099 1,030

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation-3,330.00 **Paid** 3,330.00 Ahead (Behind)

Percent of year to date paid 25%

His income: Was \$1,535.48 higher in March 2019

compared to March 2018

Our expenses: Were \$861.79 higher in March

2019 compared to March 2018

Quarterly Review

Income: January – March 2019 \$93,305.16 Expenses: January - March 2019 \$101,893.67

Submitted by:

Alice Bonnell, Finance Chair



Flock Talk!

"You know how much of a servant you are when you are treated like one."

This is one of those quotes you may need to read twice to see how well it fits. The word servant is used in the Bible 422 times and is a title of recognition as God's person, His property, His beloved child. It's a noble title. Jesus demonstrated it to His disciples with foot washing and Paul demonstrated it with his life. To serve is to actively love one another. We have a church that overflows with people willing to serve. They are the volunteers and committee members and sometimes they are people we simply

never see serving. Their willingness to use their gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission and the ministry of this church.

The founder of the Salvation Army once said, "There have been others who have had greater plans, greater opportunities than I; but from the day I got a vision of what God could do, I made up my mind that God would have all there was of me".

To all who serve in any capacity, we thank you for your time, your effort and your hard work. Please accept the appreciation of Pastor Bill and this church, its leaders, its staff and the congregation. You have truly been a blessing!

Sincerely,

Sue Toombs, Lay Leader



Summer Camp is a place for kids to find themselves. meet new friends.

and above all connect with God. Wesley Woods has something to offer everyone! Grace church covers 50% of camp tuition and Wesley Woods also offers scholarships! Please don't let camp costs be an issue!

Please, take a look at the catalog and REGISTER TODAY! The catalog is available for viewing at www.wesleywoods.com or let Meghan in the office know if you would like a paper copy. If you have any questions about camps, registration or scholarships please contact Meghan at meghan.brooker@graceumcwarren.com or 723-9440.

ACOLYTE NEWS

Recently 6 new acolytes were installed to begin service at Grace Church. They were presented acolyte cross pendants and participation certificates during the 11:00 a.m. service. These



students completed a 5-week training class with Pastor Bill and helpers, where they learned about the worship service, symbols in the church, the sacraments, what it means to be an acolyte, and practiced lighting the worship candles. A "getacquainted" pizza party included current acolytes and was held at the conclusion of the last class with 11 present. Becca Anderson, Alanna Byrd, Adelaide

Keeports, Kaden Werner, Karson Werner, and Tymber Barr will begin acolyte duties on Sunday, April 21st. For the first few times of serving, each will work with a "veteran" acolyte. We now have a total of 14 active members. Congratulations to the new class and thank you to everyone for serving in this important part of worship.

PS - We are still in need of another adult or older teen to help with the acolyte program. Please call the church or let Pastor Beatty know if you are interested.



Once a month, the Men's Ministry of Warren County, a non-denominational group of Christian Believers, will gather

for Christian Fellowship to hear God's Word and discuss the needs of the church, community and family as it pertains to men's ministry. With God's help, we are committed to the transformation of our lives and the lives of the next generation of men, through biblical discipleship and mentoring for the specific purpose of building faith, character, purpose, strength and compassion. This fellowship is a Christian response to the huge cultural changes that have occurred over the last few decades; unfortunately redefining the God ordained institutions of marriage, family, and community life. In the spirit of the freedoms we have inherited in America and by God given rights, we simply want to live out the kind of life that honors God and builds strong families and communities. We believe in the idea of the Land of the Free!

If the problem described above and the vision for a God centered solution resonates with your soul, please join us. We know that many hands make light work and a well-equipped body of believers can bring talent, gifts and anointing. We have an opportunity to respond positively to the disturbing changes occurring by the hands of the few.

We seek to have a response of compassion & love

We seek to have a response of compassion & love that was exemplified by out Lord Jesus Christ and to invite all to receive the gift of salvation and eternal life. These things we know through Jesus Christ who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6) and that the Word of God is Truth and our only True Hope (John 17:17).

In His Grace & to His Glory, Men's Ministry of Warren County If you wish to attend or have questions, please contact Kurt Shafer (814) 230-1511 or email mensministrywarrenco@gmail.com

L.A.M.B. Ministry

The animal food pantry is pleased to announce that we have distributed over 250 lbs. of food since last November.



We thank everyone who has donated or contributed in any way. You are making a difference! Our decision to partner with the Salvation Army was a great success and we were able to help animals this past winter who were off the radar.

We are moving ahead with plans to assist Love, INC and will establish a working relationship with them soon. What a wonderful feeling to know God's creatures are experiencing kindness!

Baby Bottles...will be distributed to you on Mother's Day. Please fill them with your spare change. The money collected will benefit the "Women's Care Center of



Warren County". It is located in North Warren at 60 Hatch Run Road. The center provides free pregnancy screenings, ultrasounds, STD testing, counselling for those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, education about childbirth and baby care, as well as "in school" education regarding life decisions concerning responsibility in relationships and lifestyles. This is only a short list of the services provided. The center is a Christian, "Life Affirming", facility that seeks to provide gentle, empathetic, nonjudgmental and caring services to all clients. All services are free! The baby bottles will be collected on Father's Day and we pray you will be generous and also prayerful about the work of the center.



Usher teams are looking to add to their numbers!
Please indicate your interest on a communication card from the pew pocket or

contact Don Anthony or Richard Thoma.

TECH TEAM

TECH teams are looking to Spring Ahead adding to their numbers!

Please prayerfully consider joining the team. Act on that spark of an idea – training will be provided. What a blessing it would be to add you to the team that is behind the scenes "pointing" us through our wonderful worship services! Please indicate your interest on a communication card found in the pew pockets!

Thank you & God Bless! Worship Committee



Thanks to the many helpers for the Lenten luncheon at First United Methodist Church on March 21.

Grace Church was represented with church members providing and serving soups and pies. We appreciated the many pies provided, the help in making and transporting the soup, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. More than 56 persons were served lunch besides the committee of 10. Again, thank you all for a successful day in providing this time of fellowship following worship to our community during the Lenten season.

General Fund

For: Nancy Zaffino By: Danette Sarvey

For: Hazel Finley By: Donald McCurdy

For: LeRoy Marti

By: Harold & Janis Wall





Youth 180 is a youth ministry for any youth grades 6th – 12th held the third Friday of every month at Grace Church from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Pizza, pop, and snacks will be provided. Open gym, organized activities, board games, rock painting, coloring, Nintendo Wii, and Youth 180 lesson. Bring friends! For more information find us on Facebook under Grace Warren, email youth180@yahoo.com, or call 814-688-64445.

May Worship Assistants



Advisors:

Sheryl Richards 726-3876 Linda Knapp 726-1199

May 5 - Charlotte Keeports & Adelaide Keeports

May 12 – Kaden Werner & AJ Slattery

May 19 – Karson Werner & Ryan Egger May 26 – Tymber Barr & Isabella Egger



Items for the June Newsletter need to be delivered to Mary in the Church office

(mary@graceumcwarren.com) by Friday, May 17. Thank you!



May 1 - Dawn Werner

May 2 – James Black, Jacqueline Sadler, Jamie Watson

May 3 – Barb Hulings, Dudley Wineriter, Eric Zavinski

May 4 - Floyd Moore, Simon Smith

May 5 – Joe Sienkiewicz, Sally Moldovan, Evelyn Eaton

May 6 - Edwin Rickerson, Kim Tutaro, Connor Grey

May 7 - Richard Thoma, Emma Stimmell

May 8 - Jan Garrett, Melissa Larsen

May 10 - Julie Danielson, Erin Werner, Susan Puhl

May 11 - Karen Schwone

May 12 – Helena Moore, Laura Rescorla, Stephanie Reagle, Violet Brooker

May 13 - Brittany Saber, Beth Anne Nichols

May 14 - Linda Clover, Dan Farr

May 15 - Gary Fleming, Donna Miller

May 16 - Matt Jeffrey, Dick Clark

May 17 - Shane Burns

May 19 - Mary Rose Farr, Caroline Curren

May 20 – Kylie Pearson, Mitchell Arnold, Kailee Morrison

May 21 – Beth Sprentz

May 22 – Sarah Tarpenning, Jacob McCollough, Patricia McClement, Kristen Johnson

May 23 - Bev Peterson

May 24 - Tom Mintzer, Tyler Gustafson

May 25 – Marci Barker, Brandi Buchanan, Beau Kibbey

May 26 - Michael Phillips

May 27 - Adam Barker, Cory Burns

May 28 - Julie Ross, Ryan Gustafson, Dave Berdine

May 29 - Taylor Napolitan, Linda Morrison

May 30 - Paul Johnson

May 31 – Marty Adams, Walt Miller, Julie Halteman, Anna Peterson, Amanda Green, Tony Ross, Rhonda Narlee

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 second-floor parking lot side and in the gym.	PROMISE PRESCHOOL is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-11:30 am (3-year-olds) and 12:30 – 3:00 pm (4- year-olds) located on the ground floor.		7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Handbells 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	2 3:00 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 5:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 6:00 p Pickleball 6:30 p Disciple IV 7:00 p AseraCare	3 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	4 3:00 p Kane District Conference	
5 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Adult Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 12:00 p New Member Class 6:00 p Winger Parlor Reserved	6 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Youth Group 6:30 p Habitat for Humanity 6:45 p SPRC 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved 8:15 p Praise Team	9:00 a Disciple IV 11:15 a Staff Meeting 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Finance	8 7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Handbells 7:00 p Girl Scouts 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	9 12:30 p Higginbotham Hall Reserved 6:00 p Pickleball 6:30 p Disciple IV	10 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	11 11:00 a Wesley Parlor Reserved 11:00 a Gym & Higginbotham Hall Reserved	
12 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:00 a Children's Choir 9:30 a Adult Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School	13 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Youth Group 6:00 p Childcare 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved 8:15 p Praise Team	9:00 a Disciple IV 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Property Trustees	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	16 6:00 p Pickleball 6:30 p Disciple IV	17 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga 5:30 p Youth 180!	18	
19 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Adult Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 12:00 p Memorial 12:00 p New Member Class 4:00 p Watson Home 6:00 p Winger Parlor Reserved	20 12:00 p Caregivers' Support Group 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Youth Group 7:00 p Outreach/ Witness 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved 8:15 p Praise Team	21 11:00 a Staff Meeting 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball 7:00 p Education	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Girl Scouts 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	23 6:00 p Pickleball	24 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga	25	
26 8:30/9:30/11:00 a Worship 9:30 a Adult Sunday School 9:45 a Sunday School 1:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Winger Parlor Reserved	27 Office Closed 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:15 p Christian Yoga 6:00 p Youth Group 7:00 p Eaton Parlor Reserved 8:15 p Praise Team	28 5:15 p Healing Christian Yoga 6:00 p Pickleball	7:00 a Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:15 p Fitness Class 5:00 p Wesley Parlor Reserved 5:15 p Christian Yoga 7:00 p Choir 8:15 p Madrigals	30 6:00 p Pickleball	31 10:00 a Yarn Angels 12:15 p Christian Yoga		

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~ Grace Praise Team ~
Pastor Bill, Lori Beatty, Julie Danielson, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller,
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Shirley Shafer, Liz Anderson, Mary Hellman, Aaron Stearns
and John Lewis

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