

Grace Notes

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace
United Methodist Church of Pen Argyl



November/ December 2022



On Sunday, November 6th we will be celebrating our church's Heritage, one service will be held that morning at 10:00 am so that we can all worship as a church family. Following the service we will have a luncheon in the fellowship hall.

We are asking you to sign up if you are planning to attend the luncheon. Meats will be provided but we are looking for side dishes, salads and desserts, the sign up sheets are in your bulletins this morning. Also, any donations towards the meats would be greatly appreciated.

Grace United Methodist Church Mission
Make followers of Jesus Christ through ministries that seek to nurture people to model Christ, reach out to people right where they are and witness that Jesus Christ is Lord!
Nurture – Outreach – Witness



Grace United Methodist Church
404 East Mountain Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sundays At Grace

8:30 — Worship Service
8:30 — Adult Sunday School
10:00 — Worship Service
10:00 — Children's Sunday School

Phone 610-863-4811
www.worshipatgrace.org
Email: graceumc
@worshipatgrace.org

FROM THE PASTOR

“Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!” Thus Paul greeted many of the churches to whom he wrote and so I do you.

Every year I am required to write a “State of the Church” report for the Charge Conference. What follows is part of that. My salary is formally certified; the Staff-Parish, Trustees, Finance Committees, and any others who wish make their reports. It’s a time of celebrating mission and ministry accomplished and hoped for in the year ahead. Our “General Budget”, as well as most of the Missions and Trustees budgets and staff compensation, will be voted upon at the next Council meeting this month.

At last, after two years of disruption in one way or another by the Covid pandemic, Grace Church has returned almost fully to its normal rhythms of ministry. We had returned to worship long before but Sunday School and Vacation Bible School had been severely affected and it was a joy to have them return. It’s interesting, I think, to observe that the ‘style’ of the worship services has almost flipped in the wake of Covid’s disruptions: the 8:30 service is the more formal of the two. I am very grateful to Lenny Petraitis, our Lay Leader, for bringing a reflection upon the first Scripture lesson at the 8:30 service. You may not know this but he has quite a following as these are sent out through Google Photos and that is touching the hearts of many people beyond our 8:30 congregation.

In addition to the weekly worship, we held two Christmas Eve services: one “Family-oriented” at 3:00 and a second more traditional at 7:00, with 63 and 74 people attending them respectively. During Lent we gathered again for “Soup and Scripture”, using the material created by the North District.

Furthermore, not only did we have these worship services, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School “reboot” but the Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner outreaches to people in the Episcopal Apts, Bangor Highrise Apts and our shut-ins grew to serve almost 140 people. Grace is getting quite a reputation for its cooks! Thank you, Dick Stiles, and all the others who have made possible this outreach to people who are truly isolated and in need of a meal reflecting the goodness of the Lord.

One great cause for celebration is that our finances not only stabilized but improved. This is a huge testament to the faithfulness of the people of Grace. I would be remiss in not thanking every one of you for prioritizing the church’s ministries through your giving. This next

season and beyond into 2023 may prove more challenging as the effects of inflation hit us all. Keep the faith; the Lord is with us, therefore nothing can prevail against us.

The Trustees have kept excellent care of the buildings and grounds. Chad Buzzard, our buildings & grounds “man on the ground,” has undertaken expanded responsibilities caring for our cemetery, Fairview. The Trustees purchased a new mower for it and the cutting has been insourced to Chad. In addition, several trees surrounding the church needed either pruning or removal and the Trustees were able to take care of this through the funds supplied both by your giving and one of our endowment’s yield. One point of concern for the Trustees, however, is that the yield during this economic downturn is diminished while expenses have risen due to inflation. These factors affect all our budgets – the Trustees, the Missions and the General Budgets.

If you don’t already know this, the largest endowment’s yield is split in three ways equally, with the principle kept untouched. A third goes to the Trustees’ work; a third goes to Missions; and a third goes to help support the General Budget. Another, much smaller, endowment is unrestricted but the Trustees and Council have tried to carefully shepherd it’s use. We are sure that the Lord will supply the church’s financial needs if we continue to be generous to her so the Word might go forth: “Onward! Christian Soldiers!” If you’d like to know more about the endowment funds and/or how to include the church’s ministry, either in with a special gift to reduce taxes as the year’s end approaches, or in your will, please speak with me.

Our Apportionments have thus far been paid in full AND, moreover, we have kept generous faith with other Missions and Missionaries whom we support. Pam D’Andre, who serves in Ukraine, was of course, particularly affected by the Russian invasion and Ukrainians brave refusal to bend the knee to this tyranny. She was at one point relocated to Poland but has since returned to Ukraine, though hasn’t been able to reach Kiev again. Please keep her and all our missionaries in your prayers. I am proud to say how we support the work of spreading the Gospel to all the earth.

Our General Budget, praise the Lord, kept apace of our needs, and, moreover, we have not had to lay off any staff or restructure the pastoral appointment. I am indeed proud of you for your generosity. You are the hands and feet of the Lord at work.

In Christ always,

Tim

Children's Ministries

CELEBRATE
JESUS'
BIRTHDAY!



The Children's Sunday School departments will be having a **Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party** at 10am (during church/Sunday School hour) on December 18, 2022. Children will start out in the Sanctuary at 10 and be dismissed to Fellowship hall with their teachers after the Children's message.

Also, there will be no Children's Sunday School on Dec. 25 so that children can spend time with their families in church.



Christmas
Eve
Services

Join us for one or both of our
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services.

The Family service will be held at
3:00 pm and will feature a special

children's message The 7:00 pm service will have music
lead by the Celebration Choir and will be a more
traditional Christmas Eve Service.



Church Anniversary

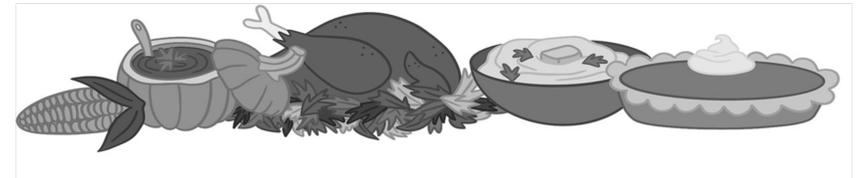
Grace Church's 50th Anniversary Celebration – Save The Date, June 18, 2023!

Preparations have begun for the 50th Anniversary of Grace Church, we will be celebrating 50 years of being here worshipping and praising God on Sunday, June 18, 2023. We are planning a special service and a luncheon to follow. We would like to invite ALL past and present members and attenders of Zion UMC, Bethany EUBC and Grace UMC. So, get the word out to all your friends and relatives who were members and attenders.

Also, **WANTED** are any copies of pictures, slides, or videos and any memorabilia you would like to share for the displays for the anniversary.

THANKSGIVING DINNER OUTREACH

Again this year we will be continuing the Thanksgiving Dinner Outreach, by offering meals to those who are shut-in and alone on Thanksgiving day. The hope is to supply at least 140 meals as we did last year. We are in need of volunteers to bake boneless turkey breasts and pans of stuffing, monetary donations are also helpful. We will need help to pack the meals on Wednesday, November 23 and deliver the meals on Thanksgiving Day. If you are interested in helping or have any questions please contact the church office.



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfast for November will be held on Saturday, November 5, and December's breakfast will be on Saturday, December 3, both at 7:30 am in the fellowship hall.

All men are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend!

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS



It's Time to Pack Shoeboxes

All are invited to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is a great opportunity to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ. Look for the

display coming soon with instructions and empty shoeboxes you can use (or provide your own shoebox.) Choose boy or girl and an age range - 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Pack a wow item - a stuffed animal, sports equipment, art supplies, etc. Also include school supplies because in many parts of the world children can't go to school if they don't have school supplies. Add hygiene items like a washcloth and toothbrush, but no toothpaste, please. It is not allowed. Check the brochure for other items that are not allowed. Filled shoeboxes will be due back at the church by Sunday, November 13.

If you have any questions contact Lori Heckman at the church office at graceumc@worshipatgrace.org or 610-863-4811. If you are not attending and would like to participate, you can pick information at the church office or you can get more information at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Watch for information coming soon about helping with Families First's as well as Slater Family Network's Adopt-A-Family programs for Christmas. We will be "adopting" families to help with their Christmas dinner and gifts for their children.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday School class be resuming again in November. The class will be held at 8:30 am in the Jr. Room downstairs. Watch for more information coming soon or contact the church office.

WOMEN OF GRACE

Greetings!

'Tis the season- the season for families and friends gathering together to give thanks and for getting ready to celebrate the birth of our blessed Lord Jesus. Two busy months lie ahead and our Women of Grace group is busy too.

Coming up in November-we will meet at our usual time of 4:30 on Monday Nov. 14 in Fellowship Hall to wrap gifts for the Slate Belt Nursing Home and dinner will be served as well. Donation boxes are at the church office door and in the church narthex and we will be collecting up until November 13. Items can include new men's baseball caps and women's dressy scarves, bead necklaces, body creams, body wash, shampoo (no conditioners), socks, large print word searches, (no crosswords or sudoku), coloring books, and solar motion window characters. We are very grateful for the generous response our church family has had to this outreach this year and every year. Your giving is so appreciated-thank you!

Looking forward to December, we are planning for our annual Christmas Luncheon which will be held at the Carrescia home on Monday, December 12th at 11:00 AM. This tradition is always a wonderful time with yummy food and fun and fellowship.

Our Women of Grace group is going strong! Over the years we continue to grow our group and we have been able to reach out to serve our community in new and exciting ways. Women on the Go is a branch of our group that has been blessed with sharing a "Snack and Scripture" hour with a great group of women at the Bangor Hi-rise once a month.

Please consider coming to one of our meetings. We would love to have you! If you are interested in coming or in getting more information about Women of Grace, please call Lori in the church. Office

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	2 5:00 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts 6:00 pm Daisy Scouts 6:30 pm	3 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	4 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	5 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
6 HERITAGE SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School 11:30 am Heritage Sunday Luncheon 4:00 pm Cub Scout Committee	7	8 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts' 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	9 5:00 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts	10 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	11 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Cub Scouts Camp-In and Regatta	12
13 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	14 4:30 pm Women of Grace 5:00 pm Lion Cub Scouts 6:00 pm AOL Scouts	15 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts' 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	16 5:00 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts 6:00 pm Daisy Scouts 6:30 pm	17 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	18 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	19
20 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	21	22 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	23 5:30 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	28 5:00 pm Lion Cub Scouts 6:00 pm AOL Scouts 6:30 pm Missions & Social Concerns	29 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts'	30 5:00 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts 6:00 pm Daisy Scouts 6:30 pm			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 DECEMBER 2022				1 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	2	3 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School 4:00 pm Cub Scout Comm	5	6 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	7 5:30 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts	8 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9	10 9 am-3 pm Missions Craft and Vendor Fair
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 11 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	12 4:30 pm Women of Grace 5:00 pm Lion Cub Scouts 6:00 pm AOL Scouts	13 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	14 5:00 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts 6:00 pm Daisy Scouts 6:30 pm	15 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	16	17
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY	19 7:30 pm Cub Scouts Christmas Party	20 5:30 pm Bear/Webelo Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	21 5:30 pm Tiger/Wolf Scouts	22 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day 25 10:00 am Worship Service— <i>only one worship service</i>	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	30	31