

Grace Notes

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace
United Methodist Church of Pen Argyl



June/July

2023

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Join DJ Cupcake and our own Top Chef for a fun filled week! Our little chefs will learn important lessons about God's ability to provide. Because God loves and cares for us, we, in turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. Our Bible stories will include; God Provides Manna and Quail, Elijah, the Widow, and the Endless Oil, Daniel and Friends Eating and Good Stuff, Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Plus and finally Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day! This year the children will be doing a Missions project as well. Mark your calendars for July 10th – 14th. (You won't want to miss our closing ceremony and ICE CREAM on Friday evening.) Register the children online, or contact Lori in the church or Pat Weber (484-695-5754).



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
10:00 — Worship Service
10:00 — Children's Sunday School

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Pentecost, 2023

Greetings in the Triune Persons of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

There is a long, long history of discussion and debate about the three-fold nature of the Godhead (as “God in three Persons, blessed Trinity” from the great hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy”, is formally called). One of the best summaries of the ‘orthodox’ (meaning ‘right/correct doctrine’) is the ‘Gloria Patri’ – from the Latin first words: Glory be to the Father – itself. It’s in our Hymnal in two tunes, #70 or #71, and is often sung after an Affirmation of Faith (usually one of the historic Creeds, from the Latin ‘Credo’ – ‘I believe’, the first word of the Apostles’ Creed). The song simply names the three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – for us to ascribe glory and honor to. Significantly, it does NOT try to explain the fact that Christians believe that there is one GOD in three PERSONS; it simply declares it for us to sing our praises to.

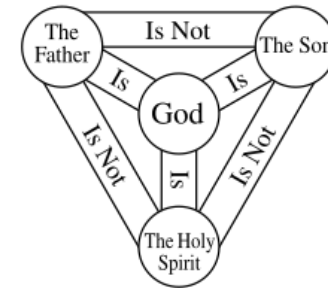
Many cults of Christianity – such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons/Latter Day Saints, Unitarians/Universalists – will tell you that there is no word “Trinity” in the Bible and so we should not say there is. They are correct insofar as this Latin word is not found in the New Testament, written in Greek as it was.

But throughout and behind the Bible is the Triune God:

The Father who creates and whose covenant love for us caused him to send the Son, the 2nd Person of the Trinity, who was with the Father and the Spirit at creation itself. The Son’s Incarnation as Jesus, fully God and fully man, whose Death and Resurrection was the Triune God’s means to redeem and save us from the eternal consequences of our sin and rebellion: death.

And, at Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the 3rd Person of the Trinity, equally God with the Father and the Son, “who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.” (The Nicene Creed, finalized in 325 A.D.) The Holy Spirit is called ‘the Sustainer’, both of the creative works of God and of our faith, and He is ‘the Revealer’, convincing and convicting our hearts and minds of the need for ‘that hole in ourselves no other can fill except God’ (St. Augustine) and is the Author Who lies behind the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments which “reveal to us everything necessary for faith and practice” (the many catechisms (instructions in the faith) and confessions).

One famous image helping us understand the Trinity as the Bible presents God in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – looks like this:



Perhaps the most detailed expression of the Trinity comes from the so-called “Athanasian Creed”, named after the Church Father Athanasius who lived in the 300s A.D. The Creed known by his name comes from the late 500s-early 600s, probably in what’s now southern France, but is certainly as orthodox as its famous namesake. It now is included in the Global Methodist Church as one of the official Creeds.

Reflect upon its deep dive into the wonder of God-in-three-Persons:

The Athanasian Creed (On the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity)

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic [i. e., universal, Christian] faith. Which faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, Neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible.

Continued...

So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty. And yet they are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before or after other; none is greater or less than another; But the whole three Persons are coeternal together and coequal, so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped. He, therefore, that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

I know this is dense but in a time when people from some of the Christian cults come knocking at our doors, and we meet others from other faiths altogether, we must know what we believe. This was and is the purpose of all the Creeds: to provide the people with a summary of what the Bible says about God.

On Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus gave as ²⁶... the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

My friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever: "Be not afraid."

Pastor Tim Fisher

Children's Ministries



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS NEEDED

Want to be a blessing AND be blessed? Volunteer as a Sunday School teacher or helper. We are in need of teachers and helpers. The commitment is only one week a month. If you are interested in helping or would like more information see Beth Snyder or Lori in the office.

SPECK SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Kathryn J. and Walter R. Speck Scholarship fund was established in 1967 to recognize graduating seniors who are members of Grace United Methodist Church and plan to attend college. Scholarships are based on financial need, scholarship involvement and, most important, church involvement. The Speck's generosity and interest in the youth has resulted in 128 seniors receiving scholarships totaling over \$63,000. This year's recipient of a \$500.00 scholarship is Ella Wagner. Ella is a senior at Pen Argyl High School and plans to attend Shippensburg University.



WEIS REGISTER TAPES

Did you know the church collects Weis register tapes? The money received is used to help purchase supplies for the Sunday School.

You can place your register tapes in the basket on the bookcase in the narthex/lobby or drop them off in the office.



Grace Church's 50th Anniversary Celebration June 18, 2023!

Grace will be celebrating 50 years on Sunday June 18. The Reverend Hal Hallam will be our guest preacher that morning. We will be holding a luncheon following the service.

The deadline to sign up for the luncheon is Sunday, June 4th, please contact Lori in the office ASAP if you are planning to attend so we have an accurate number to plan on food.

Please note there will be ONE service at 10:00 am.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS



FAMILY FUN NIGHT SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Missions Committee is planning to host the August Family Fun Night by holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, August 12. More details to come so watch the bulletins

and newsletter for August.



CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

From June 30th through September 1st the Church office will be closed on Fridays. Regular office hours will continue on Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.



WOMEN OF GRACE

Women of Grace will meet on Monday, June 12 at 5:30. Please note that this has been moved up one week from our usual time so that we can prepare the Father's Day packets. Some of our other near-future plans include preparing backpacks for needing students in both Bangor and Pen Argyl schools and hosting Family Night in October. Look for specifics in upcoming bulletins and emails. As always, all women of Grace are warmly welcome to come to our meetings to share in our fellowship and in our support for both Grace Church and our community.



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfasts will be held on Saturday, June 3rd, and Saturday, July 1st at 7:30 am in the fellowship hall.

*All men are welcome and encouraged
to bring a friend!*

THANK YOU...

We would like to thank everyone who showed up to help with the clean up day on May 6. It was a small but mighty group that cleaned up outside and hauled mulch around the grounds. Also, thank you to the ladies that spent time in the sanctuary cleaning the pews.

Chad Buzzard
The Trustees

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
				1	2 6:00 pm Cub Scout Committee meeting	3 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
4 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	5	6 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	7	8 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9	10
11 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	12 5:30 am Women of Grace	13 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	14	15 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	16	17
18 50TH ANNIVERSARY FATHER'S DAY 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School 11:30 am Anniversary Lunch	19	20 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	21 6:30 pm VBS Meeting	22 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	26 6:30 pm Missions & Social Concerns	27 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	28	29 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	30	

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2 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	3	4 4th of July Church Office Closed	5	6 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	7	8
9 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	10	11 12 13  Vacation Bible School July 10—14, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm			14	15
16 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	17	18 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Program	19	20 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	21	22
23 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School Sunday School Sunday Funday 30	24 31	25 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Program	26	27 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28	29