



# August/September

## 2023



Mark your calendars!

The Sunday School's Rally Day will be held on Sunday, August 27th. We will have one service that Sunday at 10:00 am outside if weather is permitting. Following the service we will hold our Rally Day Picnic. To sign up for the picnic call the church office.

**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](http://www.worshipatgrace.org)**  
**Email: [graceumc@worshipatgrace.org](mailto:graceumc@worshipatgrace.org)**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Jay Therrell, head of the Wesleyan Covenant Association nationally, sent out an article, using advice his mother gave him when he was learning how to drive as a general example to look ahead to where you are going rather than behind at where you've been: "That's why windshields," she said, "are bigger than rearview mirrors." Of course, you learn from the past but that learning is for the future.

In the article he said some things that really caught my attention and I want to pass it along to you.

Speaking of the Global Methodist Church, he said, "The GMC was designed from the beginning to be a permission-giving church, not a gate-keeping church. Everything is streamlined and the church has been put back in the driver's seat. *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* has been reduced by 88% – over 700 pages! This isn't the same church you've been used to. And anyone who says it's UMC-lite or UMC 2.0 hasn't done their homework.

**"Instead of having to focus on internal doctrinal battles, here are the sorts of things we'll be focusing on. First, we want to help our churches move from an attractional model to a missional model. By attractional, I mean the old *Field of Dreams* concept: "If you build it, they will come." If we just had a better choir or band, they would come. If we just had a better preacher, they would come. If we just had a new building, they would come. The fallacy in that model is that people are just waiting to come to our churches if something was better. They aren't going to. By and large, people in this post-modern, post-Christian culture are skeptical of the church. They like Jesus, but they're not sure about us. They'll only come if we go to them and meet them where they are, at their point of need, and offer them Jesus. That's what John Wesley did and that's our future!**

**"Second, we want to help our churches move from an internal focus to an external focus. I'm noticing that many of our churches exist to take care of the people already inside them. I'll go so far as to that totally misses the point of church. The church is one of the only organizations in the world that exists for people who aren't a part of it. It's not wrong to take care of each other, but our focus should be on those outside our church and how we can go to them to offer them Jesus.**

"By the way, I want to be clear that in our quest to become externally focused, we do have to remember to offer people Jesus. We Methodists are so good at feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and helping people, but while we're doing that if we don't tell them that we're doing it because Jesus loves them and wants to be in a relationship with them, then we're missing the point. We become no different than the Red Cross or FEMA. And while both of those organizations are wonderful and I'm grateful for them, there ought to be something different about us, and it's Jesus. The local church is the hope of the world. We have to offer that Hope and His name is Jesus.

**"Third, and last, we'll focus on getting deadly serious about evangelism and discipleship.** The future is remembering John Wesley's instructions to his preachers:

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most. It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance."

**"We want to move toward that kind of passion and zeal.** We want to lead our churches to the place where our local congregations are actively asking on a regular basis if their ministries are focused enough on sharing the Good News of Jesus..."

During the Vacation Bible School just completed I saw a lot of families, children and adults, who are not a part of Grace Church – or any church. It's ministries like this, that reach beyond our borders and even – perhaps especially – beyond our comfort zones of looking at the outward appearances and seeing people that "God so loved that He sent His only-begotten Son so whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son to condemn... but to save... through Him." (John 3:16-17) That's a tangible example, right here at Grace Church, of "the missional model rather than attractional model" Therrell is talking about. **"The fallacy in [the old attractional] model is that people are just waiting to come to our churches if something was better."** The culture has changed; people are not "just waiting to come to church." We've got to go out to seek and save the lost by whatever means we can.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

## Children's Ministries

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAP-UP

VBS 2023 was a huge success thanks to the VBS Staff and congregation of Grace Church. 43 children registered! The children played games, did crafts (including a missions project!), learned bible verses, snacked, sang songs and more importantly heard Bible Stories. Those stories taught our children how God provides us with "our daily bread", both physically and spiritually. Of course the star of our show helping to bring the word was DJ Cupcake! An amazing job he did coming from is custom made food truck! I cannot thank all those who helped on Staff, baked, donated snack supplies and I am counting the blessings for the offerings and gift card donations. VBS 2024 is well funded!



### 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.

### 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.

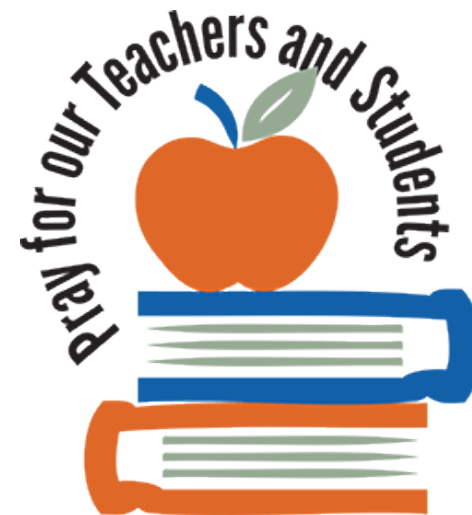
## WOMEN OF GRACE

The Women of Grace will have no regular meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 18th at 5:30. We will share about books we read over the summer and/or about our summer high-lights. This will be followed by discussing plans for Family Night that we will be hosting in October and a baby shower that we will have in November for the Pregnancy Center. ALL women are invited to join in the fun and fellowship!!

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### Ladies Bible Study

Our ladies Bible study will be starting up again in early September. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Philippians . We meet weekly at 10am. We've been meeting on Fridays but may change the day of the week based on what's best for our group. If you're interested in joining us, please call, text or email LuAnn Berger 484-627-4775, [luannberger@me.com](mailto:luannberger@me.com).



## As I leave...

So many people have said how much they will miss me at Grace, well I'll miss you all even more! As I have said many, many times, my position as Office Manager was more than a job, it was my ministry. Along the way it led me to help in a variety of other ministries, from teaching Sunday School, to helping with Youth Group and attending many Youth retreats, and serving in many different positions during 20 years of Vacation Bible Schools. I was blessed to work with great Christian brothers and sisters on Missions Committee, Nominations Committee, Church Council and Finance Committee. I learned through Disciple Classes, Adult Sunday School and Bible Studies, and from wonderful mentors who taught those classes. I grew here both professionally and spiritually, and I will always hold Grace Church close to my heart.

I would like to thank those who over the years have helped me in the office, supported me through personal trials in my life and were good Christian friends that I could count on and held me accountable.

I will keep Grace and the people here in my thoughts and prayers. This is never good-bye, just see ya later!

In the love of Christ,

Lori

My life verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, which is also my hope for the future of Grace church:

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*

## 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, 6:00 to 8:30 p.

To sign up call the church office or sign up on Sunday Morning



### MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfasts will be held on Saturday, August 5th, and Saturday, September 2nd at 7:30 am in the fellowship hall.

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



### 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.

### SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Anyone who would like to provide special music for the summer 10:00 am services, please contact the church office or Bonnie Miller. Thank you.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Program	2	3	4	5 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
		6 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	7	8 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Program  7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	9	10 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
13 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	14	15 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	16	17 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	18	19
20 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	21	22 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	23	24 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	25	26
<b>RALLY DAY</b> 27 10:00 am Worship Service—outside 11:00 am Rally Day Picnic	28	29 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	30	31 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>September 2023</b>					1	2 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
3 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6	7 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	8	9 6:00 pm Family Fun Night
10 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	11	12	13 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	14	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	18 5:30 pm Women of Grace	19	20	21 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir	22	23
24 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	29	30