



DECEMBER 2023



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Christmas Eve will begin with a 10am service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Then, 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 along with special songs by our Sunday School children. The 7:00 pm service will have music lead by the Celebration Choir and will be a traditional Christmas Eve service.

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

Christ the King, 2023

Twenty-six weeks after Pentecost the Season of Pentecost ends with a reflection upon Jesus Christ as our Lord, our King. The very next week Advent begins, the four weeks of preparation for the birth of our King.

Sometimes thoughts about who the Babe born in the manger in Bethlehem neglect the fact that the Holy Child will become the Savior of all who put their faith in him only by teaching the ways of God's Kingdom and then finally giving his life over to those who killed him – his kingdom was only won by way of the Cross. Paul thus said, “²³ we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1 Corinthians 1:23-25)

In other words, as Jesus himself said, his kingdom is not like that of the rulers of the Gentiles [= the worldly] who lord it over [each other] “²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt. 20:26-28)

The Kingdom begins not with power but with humility and only through that servant's attitude is it at last attained in glory – by gaining the “Victory in Jesus”, as an old hymn goes. Or, as Paul so beautifully said it,

“⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”

(Philippians 2:5-11)

The Child of Bethlehem, born of the Virgin Mary, came for one reason only. His teachings, of God that they are, are insufficient without that ultimate teaching which proved him to be the Messiah, the Christ: Jesus' death as the atoning sacrifice fulfilling all the Old Testament's legal requirements for the forgiveness of sins. (cf. Hebrews, chs. 8-10) And his resurrection and ascension as the seal of his work and the surety of our hope. “¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:19-23)

We have come full circle, then, from the ‘Light shining in the darkness’ on Christmas Day to Christ the King and Lord of all!

May you and yours have a very blessed and merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor Tim Fisher

Children's Ministries

Sunday Funday and our Happy Birthday Baby Jesus party will be held on Sunday, December 17th during the 10am service. All children are welcome to join us for songs, story, craft, games and birthday cake! Meet in the Sanctuary at 10am. We will dismiss to Fellowship Hall together.



There will be NO Sunday School on December 24 at 10am so that children are able to attend worship service with their families. We will have Sunday School the following Sunday, 12/31 at 10am.

The Children's Sunday School Departments will be singing at the Family Christmas Eve Service on 12/24 at 3:00pm. We will be practicing our songs in Sunday School over the next few weeks. Please plan to bring children to the Primary Department Sunday School room at **2:45 pm** on 12/24 so that we can practice before the Christmas Eve Service. We will go into church together as a class and sing early in the service. After children sing they will return to their families in the pews for the remainder of the service.



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfasts will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP with Dick Stiles or Jessica in the Office

All men are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend!

Women of Grace

The Women of Grace wrapped 110 gifts for the men and women at Slate Belt Medical Center to be delivered closer to Christmas. A gracious *Thank You* goes to all of those who donated!

We will be meeting on Monday, December 18 at 5:30 for a Christmas party. Pizza will be served, gifts will be exchanged, and games will be played!! If you would like to join in with us, bring a gift (serious or silly) that costs around \$10, give or take a few bucks!!! Don't miss out on this night of Christian fellowship!!

MISSION MOMENTS

On behalf of the Missions Committee, we wish each and every one of you a very joyous Christmas season as we celebrate our savior's birth.

The generosity and support for our missions is amazing. We delivered 48 shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse. Did you happen to scan the QR code to track your gift? If you did, please keep us posted, it would be fascinating to see where they all go! Our Fall Craft Festival was the best one yet, with a profit well over \$1500.00. We can't thank you all enough for the baked goods, kitchen help and THOSE SILENT AUCTION BASKETS!!!! Our year winds down with the Angel Trees. Can you imagine the children's faces on Christmas morning? God Bless you all for the kindness you show and we are looking to 2024!

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you for your prayers, beautiful cards and flowers as this untraveled road of treatments will soon begin.
—Nancy Michler

THANK YOU...

I would like to thank each one of you who helped to make the Sight and Sound Bus trip a big success. I hope everyone enjoyed the day. I have heard a lot of comment about the show and the restaurant. One comment I heard was let's do it again. If anyone is interested in doing another trip maybe in the spring to see *Daniel*, please let me know . If we have enough interest, I will bring it to leadership to get the ok to do it again. Please feel free to make any suggestion.

If you are not a member of Grace you can contact me at dmbm74@outlook.com or phone 610-703-1412 for information on any of our events.

Thank you again for making the bus trip a great success

Denny Miller

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On December 9th at 6:30 pm the Celebration Choir will be hosting the Family Fun Night with Christmas caroling around the area. We will be carpooling to as many places as time will allow. (If you know someone who we could visit, call the church office to add them to the list.) After caroling, we will return to the church for refreshments and Christmas fun. If anyone would like to donate cookies for the night please bring them to the church that night. If interested in attending, please RSVP to the church office so we can plan the refreshments. We will have a special guest helping us to bring Christmas cheer to everyone A little hint: he wears a red suit and has a white beard. HO HO HO! So dress warm, get the kids and come out for some Christmas Fun and fellowship.





DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 <h1>DECEMBER 2023</h1>						1	2 7:30 am Men's Breakfast Private birthday Party
						3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	4
10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School 7:00 Jazzy Christmas w/ Brian Rasley	11	12 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	13	14 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	15 6:00 pm Girls Scout Sleepover	16 -11:00 am Girl Scout Sleepover	
17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School—Sunday Funday & Happy Birthday Jesus Party	18 5:30 pm Women of Grace Meeting	19 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	20 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	21 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22	23	
24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26	27	28 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	29	30	
31 NEW YEARS EVE 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School							



A Jazzy Christmas

Grace United Methodist Church
404 E. Mountain Ave, Pen Argyl



Presented by Trumpeter
Brian Rasley

Dec, 10th @ 7 pm

Bring A Friend....or Two!

An hour of Jazzy
Christmas Carols
and an
encouraging
word about
God's gift
to us.



2Chronicles 5:13