

Grace Notes

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace
United Methodist Church of Pen Argyl



 January

&

 February

2024



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

January-February, 2024

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you had a wonderful and blessed Christmas. It was both for Robin and myself, being able to spend some time with our children and their families and shortly will gather with my extended family. These times are treasured gifts from our God. One of my favorite parts of our gatherings has always been the hymn-singing session we work in; I hope we're able to do this again.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to look back and forward, making those so-called "resolutions" for change or addition to our habits that we'd like to see happen in our lives. I, for instance, am looking forward to getting knee replacement surgery so I can get up the mountain, fish without falling down, or just walk around our streets! That's going to take a resolution to follow-through with the physical therapy required, no matter the difficulty or pain. Just today I was called to say the surgery's had to be rescheduled for April 3rd so there goes a resolution I can start immediately.

A lot of resolutions are like that: they're not something for the moment or easily done – they require work and a change of behavior. It's said that Benjamin Franklin was so disappointed by a sermon he heard on Philippians 4:8 ("Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.") that he went on to develop his famous "13 Virtues" – which I'll let you "google" to find them out. Studies of behavioral change, however, have shown that, however virtuous, any list of 13 changes in a person's lifestyle are not going to be accomplished. Keep it to three or so and you might have a chance.

Wesley, I think, had us more on track when he and the original Methodists looked for three things as evidence of the Christian joining of evangelical faith with evangelical living:

"Do no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind..."

"Do good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all..."

"Attend upon all the ordinances of God – such as public worship; reading the Bible and hearing it expounded upon; sharing in the Sacraments; family and private prayer; fasting or abstinence..."

What the last means has largely remained constant, given its rather obvious meaning; what the first two mean has, frankly, changed slightly over time, given the nature of a changing society. For instance, Methodists were among the first to say that "doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind" meant "slaveholding; buying or selling slaves" was not compatible with Christian living. Largely, though, all the examples of what they mean are worth emulating. For instance, in a time in which there are heated discussions about "censorship" and "banning books from libraries", it's well to remember this one injunction about what it means to do no harm by avoiding evil: [Avoid] singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God."¹

Whatever your 'resolves' for the year may be, I pray that they will bring you closer to the 'knowledge and love of God.'

In Christ always,

Pastor Tim Fisher

Children's Ministries

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Sunday school departments are hosting a community Easter Egg hunt at church for children birth through 6th grade. We are looking for donations of small individually wrapped pieces of candy to put in the eggs. We DO NOT need any plastic eggs. Donations can be brought to the Church Office by February 18, 2024.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS NEEDED



The Children's Sunday School has grown over the past 2 years! We have recently started a Junior High Level Class. We are looking for additional Volunteer Teachers and Helpers to volunteer once or twice a month. We have great students and the curriculum provided makes it easy and fun to do! Please prayerfully consider helping our youth in this capacity. Contact Beth Snyder or the Church Office if interested.

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.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The committee voted on and had a check written in the amount of \$500 to the Allentown Rescue Mission. As we have lost a few of our missionaries, we have chosen to donate to this local group. We will be discussing adding them to our list for 2024. As well, I will be preparing a list of all the missions/missionaries that Grace Church is currently supporting.

January 22, 2024 is our next meeting, please join us. If you cannot attend and have any suggestions for our group, please contact Pat Weber, or let a message with Jessica.

Spring
Craft & Vendor
Show

Our Spring Craft/Vendor show will be held on March 9th! We will need baked goods for the ladies in the kitchen.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE! July 8th - 12th

We will be going to *Discovery of Adventure Island*! If you would like to help in any way, please contact Pat Weber or let Jessica know! Who wouldn't LOVE a good island party?



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfasts will be held on Saturday, January 6th and February 3rd, both at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Dick Stiles or Jessica in the office.

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



TIME TO THINK SNOW!

Please remember to check for cancellations of meetings, events and Sunday worship services when we face inclement weather:

TV — Channel 69

Online — www.worshipatgrace.org or wfmz.com

Facebook — facebook.com/graceumcpa

Phone message — 610.863.4811



If your group cancels due to weather, or any other circumstance, please be sure to let the office know.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember to notify the church office if your address, phone number or email address changes.

Thank You.

WOMEN OF GRACE



The Women of Grace had a very successful 2023. We reorganized in March and are currently 21 women strong. We supported many church events and provided gifts to many in our community, all while having fun Christian fellowship. We will be meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 5:30pm to make Valentine's Day cards to mail to the Shut-Ins. Our following meeting will be on February 19th at 5:30pm. As always, newcomers are warmly welcomed.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE! February 10th

Keep an eye out for more information!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|--------|--|
|  | <i>New Years Day</i> 1 | 2 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 Cub Scouts Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting | 3 | 4 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 5 | 6 7:30 am Men's Breakfast |
| <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 7 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | 8 | 9 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Meeting | 10 6:30 pm Girl Scouts | 11 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 12 | 13 9:00 am Girl Scouts Cookie Rally |
| 14 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | 15 5:30 pm Women of Grace | 16 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting | 17 6:30 pm Girl Scouts | 18 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | 22 6:30 pm Missions & Social Concerns | 23 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting | 24 | 25 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | 29 | 30 5:30 pm Cub Scouts | 31 6:30 pm Girl Scouts |  | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  FEBRUARY 2024 | | | | 1 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 2 | 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 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 9 5:00 pm Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby Check in | 10 8:00 am Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby |
| <i>Scouting Sunday</i> 11 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | 12 | 13 5:30 pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Finance Meeting | <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts | 15 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 16 | 17 8:00 am Girl Scouts' Thinking Day |
| <i>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</i> 18 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School | <i>President's Day</i> 19 5:30 pm Women of Grace | 20 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting | 21 | 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 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting | 28 6:30 pm Girl Scouts | 29 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | | |