



# Grace Notes

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace  
United Methodist Church of Pen Argyl



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

## FROM THE PASTOR

5<sup>th</sup> Week in Easter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Gerry Baker, editor at large for the Wall Street Journal, recently interviewed Prof. Jonathan Haidt of NYU's Stern School of Business for an episode of Baker's podcast "Free Expression". Haidt is a "social psychologist" who focuses on moral reasoning from an admittedly secular point of view. He was in Baker's 'hot seat' for a book he's written, "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness", in which he advocates that our addiction to social media is causing devastating harm to teens and young adults whose self-images are defined by the airbrushed, imaginary lives they see portrayed on their social media feeds. The dramatic rise of depression, eating disorders, mental illness and, sadly, suicide is directly correlative with the advent and rise of social media. This is especially true among girls but, as I've read other articles about this, boys are not far behind. Girls, though, seem, according to Haidt, particularly susceptible because they are, in general, so much more social and mature earlier than boys generally do. Haidt's argument is pretty compelling and I've observed some of the things he speaks about even in my extended family. He says it would be best if middle schoolers, if not high school age young people as well, were blocked by their parents from engaging in social media altogether. The "smart phone" is not too smart but is very addictive.

Baker asked him what we can do to help our children. And this is where my ears really perked up for he said something that really leapt out at me, something I've heard time and again as study after study is indicating a great retreat from church

attendance and faith practice in American families and Western culture in general: Haidt said that people who attend church (or other communities of faith) and openly practice their faith (disciple) are "inoculating" themselves and their children against the harms of social media. Sharing the walk together is so important. I think of the things that led me to Christ – and that led me back to Christ when I had strayed – and realize that it was because "the Word was made flesh" by people in the church who strove along with me because the love of Christ had made them new.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, before his execution by Hitler and his minions, wrote "Life Together" describing the transformative power of the community (fellowship = 'koinonia') of Christ. We are part of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) and meant for building each other up (Ephesians 2:19-22). This calling we have is no airbrushed thing – we hold this "treasure in jars of clay", sometimes with cracks (2 Corinthians 4:7-10) and even so are "ambassadors of Christ, God making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:16-21, esp. 20).

Life in Christ, lived together – that's our inoculation from the wiles of the world, the flesh, and the devil. After considering the sacrifice of Christ "once for all", Hebrews enjoins us to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Let it be so. Amen!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim Fisher



## Children's Ministries

The Sunday school department is in need of teacher or teacher helpers. Our children are the best around and the curriculum is easy to use. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this very rewarding volunteer opportunity.

Commitment is one Sunday a month. Please see Beth Snyder or Jessica in the office for more information.

### June 30th is Sunday Funday



ATTENTION: All students for songs, a story games, crafts and snacks during the 10am Worship Service!

## Missions and Social Concerns

The committee would like to thank everyone who came out to our Family Fun Night Spaghetti Dinner. It was a great evening of good food and fellowship!

In the coming weeks we will be planning

### “A Day at GRACE”

**August 3rd**

We are looking to have vendors (indoor and outside), food, games, and music.

Mark you calendars for August 3<sup>rd</sup>! Come join our fun.

And as always, if you would like to join the Missions committee please contact Jessica or Pat Weber.

## THANK YOU

The church has received quite a few thank you notes and cards in the appreciation of the Easter dinner we offered.

Dear Church Family-

Thank you so very much for the wonderful and delicious Easter meal. The card is absolutely beautiful. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness and hard work.

Christian Love– Debbie L.

Many thanks to all who are involved in the dinners you provide here at the Episcopal Apts and elsewhere. They are delicious and appreciated!

Love in Christ, Betty R

To everyone who made Easter very enjoyable, thank you for the beautiful card and the Easter blessings,  
-Carol L. D.

I was present when your group of volunteers delivered the delicious Easter meals. They moved me in tears as they came into our Community Room with bags in hand. The kindness and enthusiasm showed on their faces. God Bless all the people preparing the meals as well.

-Linda, Ray, Lanette, Diane and the TORA Group



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### Discovery on Adventure Island

From Visions Boards to word documents, the VBS staff is planning for our visit from Beacon, the Puffin. Five mysterious lanterns will help light the way for our Explorers to use their map coordinates (the Bible) to discover clues as to God's shining light!

**Tell everyone to save the date – July 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>!**



## Your gifts make a difference

The church recently received a letter from someone we assisted through the Love Fund and I thought you should know what a difference you make. The letter said in part "From the bottom of our hearts, (our family wants) to THANK YOU for your gift of love.... With your help it made it easier to sleep at night knowing God's people love us. We are beyond humbled !! And beyond grateful and blessed!! ...."

## WOMEN OF GRACE

The Women of Grace are meeting as follows:

**Monday, May 20th at 5:30 PM**—Making Father's Day Gifts  
&

**Monday, June 17th at 5:30 PM**—Recapping the year's activities

*As always all women are welcome to join us.*

## MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfasts will be held on Saturday, May 4th and June 1st, 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!***

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT


The Children's Sunday School Department is hosting  
Family Fun Night

**June 8th 6:30pm-8:30**

**Kick Off to Summer**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3	4 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 12:00 pm Girl Scouts Mom and Me Tea
5 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	6	7 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	8 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	9 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10	11
<i>MOTHER'S DAY</i> 12 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	13	14 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7pm Finance Meeting	15	16 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17	18
19 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School 12:30 pm Private Party	20 5:30 pm Women of Grace	21 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	22 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	23 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Sunday School	<i>Memorial Day</i> 27 Office Closed	28 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	29 6:30 pm Missions & Social Concerns	30 4:00 pm Private Event 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31 9:00 am Private Event	

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