

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter  
of Grace Church of  
Pen Argyl

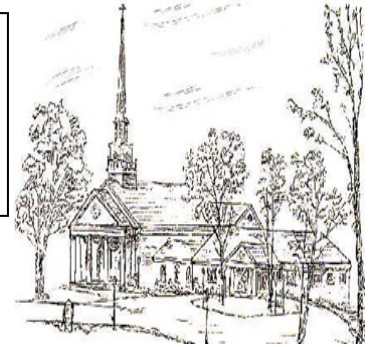
# Grace Notes



## Grace Church Mission

*Nurture – Outreach – Witness*

*Our ministries do N. O. W.*



&



2025



**Grace United Methodist Church**  
404 East Mountain Avenue  
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Sundays At Grace

9:30am—Worship Service

9:30am—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



On February 8th, 2025, a humpback whale briefly swallowed Adrian Semancas while he was kayaking with his father in the cold waters off Chilean Patagonia. He was quickly spit out, unharmed.

NPR reported, "It happened in Bahía El Águila last Saturday near the San Isidro Lighthouse in the Strait of Magellan.

The massive whale suddenly surfaced, trapping the young man and his yellow kayak in its mouth for a few seconds before letting him go.

"His father, Dell Semancas, was just meters away and captured the moment on video while encouraging his son to stay calm.

"Stay calm, stay calm," he can be heard saying in the footage, which has become one of the most striking and terrifying images in Chile in recent years.

"I thought I was dead," Adrián told the Associated Press. "I thought it had eaten me, that it had swallowed me." He described the "terror" of those few seconds and explained that his real fear set in only after resurfacing."

If you're thinking you've heard this before, you may be thinking of the biblical account of Jonah being swallowed by "a great fish", in Jonah 1:17. In poor Jonah's case, he was "in the belly of the 'fish' three days and three nights."

Jesus himself saw the connection between Jonah and his own life. "40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah

## MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfasts will be held on Saturday, March 1st and April 5th, 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!*

## WOMEN OF GRACE

The Women of Grace have planned some Easter activities for their next meetings.

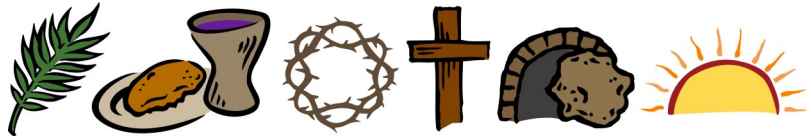
**March 17th** they will fill Easter eggs or the Community Easter Egg Hunt.

**April 14th** will be making cards to go along with the Easter dinners that had delivered to our shut-ins. Both meetings start at 5:30pm and, as always, all women are invited to join!



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each week after the 9:30am worship service for Adult Sunday School!



## EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday (4/13) 9:30 am Service in the  
Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday (4/17) 7:00 pm Service in the  
Sanctuary

Easter Sunday (4/20)

6:30 am— Sunrise Service in back parking lot,  
weather permitting.

9:30 am—Easter Worship services in the  
Sanctuary

*\*No Children's Sunday School on Easter*



Children ages birth through sixth grade, please join us for our **Community Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday April 12** at 10:00 am Rain or Shine. We will meet at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs).

is here.” (Matthew 12:40f)

And the wise Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386) noted other similarities between Jonah’s experience and Christ’s:

“... when we study the story of Jonah the force of the resemblance becomes striking. Jesus was sent to preach repentance. So was Jonah. Though Jonah fled, not knowing what was to come, Jesus came willingly, to grant repentance for salvation. Jonah slumbered in the ship and was fast asleep amid the stormy sea; while Jesus...was sleeping [and] the sea was stirred up, for the purpose of manifesting [the] power of him who slept.

“They said to Jonah, ‘What are you doing asleep?! Rise up, call upon your God, that God may save us!’ But the apostles say, ‘Lord, save us!’ In the first instance they said, ‘Call upon your God’; in the second, ‘Save us!’

“Jonah was cast into the belly of a great fish, but Christ of his own will descended to the abode of the invisible fish of death. He went down of his own will to make death disgorge those it had swallowed up...”

Adrian Semancas will forever remember what happened to him that day while kayaking with his father, when the whale swallowed him and spat him out alive. What Jesus did upon the Cross, then being swallowed up by death those three days for us and rising victorious from death’s grip: What a Savior! Forever remember.

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor Tim

## Children's Ministries

The Children's Sunday School Departments are looking for *donations of small individually wrapped candies* to put in plastic Easter Eggs for the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Please place your donations in the box outside of the church office by March 17.

They are also looking for donations of prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt. Small, medium and large prizes for all age groups from birth through sixth grade are needed.

### **Attention Children: March 30 is Sunday Funday.**

Please plan to attend for a morning filled with songs, stories, games, crafts and snacks! Come to the church service at 9:30am and sit with us in the front of the church. We will stay through the Children's Message and then go together to Fellowship Hall for a fun time of Worship!

Also, there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter Sunday so that children are able to worship with their families.



## HAM DINNER OUTREACH

On Saturday, April 19th we will be preparing and delivering meals to our shut-ins as well as residents of the Episcopal Apartments and the Bangor High Rise. If you would like to help we will be meeting at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of boneless cooked hams and pineapple filling will be accepted that morning. For more information see Dick Stiles or Jessica in the office.

### **Sight and Sound Bus Trip**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**\*Payments are due April 6, 2025\***

Adults \$137.00

Children (ages 3-12) \$94.00



## WEIS REGISTER TAPES

Another batch of Weis slips have been handed in which will bring us \$226.81 for our children's Sunday School!!!! A special thanks to all of you who faithfully save your slips for this cause. Every time you buy eggs, console yourself by the fact that we are getting a little more back on them!!!



## Vacation Bible School

July 7-11, 2025

March 1: Nancy Overdorf, Jessica Miller

March 3: Stephanie Ponist

March 4: Vicki Buzzard

March 7: Denise Knecht,

Dennis and Carol Voorhees Anniversary

March 9: Richard Yatchyshyn

March 13: Grace Brewer, Ron Sandt

March 19: Louise Edelman

March 27: Kinsley Quinn

Would you like to take a ROAD TRIP? If you love road trips, games, crafts, music and just down right fun, (oh and ice cream) then you will not want to miss VBS this summer! Our new friend, Scout, will be taking us on the road, stopping at 5 mile markers learning of our God's word. Spread the word to all as we prepare for a week long adventure for pre-school children all the way through our newest group of Teens!

To join our group of Navigators, please contact Pat Weber at 484-695-5754 or Jessica in the church office. **There is a planning meeting on March 30th in the library.**



*"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* Joshua 1:9



April 2: Ginny Gibson

April 3: Chris Yatchyshyn

April 8: Dick Stiles

April 9: Bonnie Wagner

April 11: Lee Lutz

April 18: Jervaise Surotchak

April 20: Denny and Bonnie Miller Anniversary

April 21: Ginny Hamm

### SPECK SCHOLARSHIP

Senior Students who are members of Grace Church and plan on attending college may apply for the Kathryn J. and Walter R. Speck Scholarship. Interested Seniors may pick up an application at the office and return it by April 21, 2025.

# Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

March 29, 2025

9:00 am—3:00 pm

*Grace Church*

404 E. Mountain Avenue

Pen Argyl, PA


**Hand made items, Florals, Gifts, Jewelry,  
Direct sales and Silent Auction**


Our kitchen will be open for a light lunch and bake  
sale

For vendor info call the church at 610-863-4811

or Pat at 484-695-5754



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:00 pm Family Fun Night
2 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School	3	4 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	5 6:30 pm Lenten Study	6 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School	10	11 5:30 pm Cub Scouts	12 6:30 pm. Lenten Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	13 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School	17 5:30 pm Women of Grace	18 5:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	19 6:30 pm Lenten Study	20 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 12:00 pm Girl Scouts Teddy Bear Tea
23 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School	24 6:30 pm Missions and Social Concerns	25 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	26 6:30 pm Lenten Study	27 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28	29 9:00 am Craft Show
30 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School	31					

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		6 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School 2:00 pm Private Event	7	8 5:30 pm Cub Scouts	9 6:30 pm Lenten Study	10 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	11 6:00 pm Egg Hunt Prep Meeting
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 13 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Sunday School		14 5:30 pm Women of Grace	15 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	16 6:30 pm Lenten Study	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 17 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	19 10:00am Ham Dinner Prep
<b>EASTER</b> 20 6:30 am Sunrise Service 9:30 am Easter Service		21	22 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	23 6:30 pm Lenten Study	24 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	25	26
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