

GraceNotes

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!

May, 2016

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Richard Pearson
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Erica Wellner
Ministry Intern:	Danielle Munksgard
Director of Congregational Care:	Karen Gray
Music Director:	Beverly Petersen
Office Manager:	Marianne Scheer
Youth Director:	Sarah Brown
Office Assistant:	Meghan Brooker



"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

II Corinthians 9:8

Phone - 814-723-9440

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FAX - 814-723-6137

Email - graceoffice@atlanticbbn.net

501 Pennsylvania Avenue East

www.graceumcwarren.net

Warren, PA 16365

May MEETINGS

May 2 - 6:30 p - Habitat for Humanity
May 6 - 6:00 p - Daughters of Grace Dinner
May 8 - Communion & Mothers' Day
May 9 - 7 p - NOW Meeting
May 10 - 7 p - Property Trustees
May 15 - 12 p - Memorial Committee
May 16 - 7 p - Finance Committee
May 17 - 7 p - Education Committee
May 30 - Memorial Day - Office Closed



Get ready to gear up for VBS at **First UM Church, 200 Market Street** - also included are 1st Presbyterian, 1st Lutheran (and their sister churches), Grace and Covenant UMCs (for children **Ages 4 - Grade 5**)!! Are you ready for the **Coolest Week of the Summer**? Our **VBS Program** is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences - *kids see, hear, touch and even taste!* They'll play team-building games, learn cool Bible songs and the daily offering will go towards a special mission (TBA). So, grab your friends and come to **First UM Church on Sunday, July 24th through Thursday, July 28th from 6:00 - 8:15 p.m.** (*Early registration will begin at 5:30 on Sunday, July 24th*). We need lots of volunteers (adults & youth) to make this week successful. Also, **ALL** adult volunteers 18+ must have clearances on file to help with any programming that involves children/youth. **We also hope to have registration online, so be watching for that.** Contact Grace Office to get forms to get your clearances. Thanks and see you in July!

Sunday, May 8



This month's Communion offering will benefit **Warren Jail Ministries**. You may use the communion envelope in your monthly contributions packet or a pew pocket envelope for your contribution.

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

We have officially entered into my favorite time of the year. There are so many things I love about this season. First and foremost, we just celebrated Easter. There is no other day that touches my soul quite like Easter does.

We are also in the first days of spring. Each day I wonder if this is the day I will see the first flowers poking their way up through the ground. I wonder when the trees will begin to bud. Warmer days are just around the corner. Can you sense it?

This is a season of new life! Everywhere you look there is now life. But nowhere does that new life look as good as it does in the church.

I have had the privilege of watching some folks in our midst receive new life this year. Their search for the truth has been rewarded with a glimpse of the Master. They have turned the corner from the dark days of self-sufficiency and have given their hearts to Jesus. As much as I love to see the new flowers and trees and hear the birds singing their songs, I live for those moments when someone crosses over from death to life in Jesus Christ.

My friends, we are here to make disciples of Jesus Christ. That is our purpose for being. It is our calling. It is what should be on our minds as we rise in the morning and as we lay our heads down at night. It should shape each day. It should be the focal point of our existence.

We have many programs, but one mission. We have different ways to worship, but one mission. We even have different ways of understanding the world around us, yet there is still only one mission.

I pray that you will keep your focus on this mission of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known as part of the family here at Grace United Methodist church. As we join together our time, our talents, and our resources in the name of Jesus, there is nothing that can stop us from accomplishing our mission.

May God richly bless you and yours in this season with the knowledge that you are a child of God, loved simply because God created you. May you accept that precious gift of salvation that Jesus made possible in his death and resurrection. And may you set your sights on bringing that message of salvation to the ends of the earth.

*In the grip of His grace,
Rich*

From our Associate Pastor

When is the last time you got away? I am not necessarily talking about a vacation, though vacations are good and necessary at times. What I am asking is, when is the last time that you and God had some extended quiet alone time? I will admit that I have not been good about having extended alone time with God since entering full-time ministry. When I was in seminary I used to take the weekend before each semester and go to a retreat center to clear my head and regroup before the beginning of another chaotic semester. I loved my times away, just God and me.

A few weeks ago while on vacation in Kentucky I went back to one of my favorite retreat places, the Abbey of Gethsemani, a silent monastery about an hour from where I attended seminary. I first encountered the Abbey during my Contemplative Spirituality class, we spent a Saturday out there walking the grounds and participating in worship with the brothers. That was a bad semester for me. I was in a dark place spiritually; but my time at the Abbey helped me reconnect with God and while I was lost spiritually, and physically at one point (the monks have many acres of poorly marked trails). I left that day feeling like I had found my way gain spiritually and physically (I finally found my way back to the monastery without the help of the monks). When I returned to the Abbey a few weeks ago I was taken back to my first experience there, the pain and the heartache of that semester and it was nice to be able to look and see how much I have grown since that time.

So again I ask you, when is the last time you got away with God? You do not have to travel far, nor do you have to spend days away. I spent about 4 hours at the Abbey that day, and it was only an hour from where I was spending the week, but it was some of the best four hours of my vacation. I spent most of my time there in prayer, praying for Covenant and Grace, for myself, for my ministry. I spent a lot of time listening for God's voice, for his guidance and direction. I did not realize how much I needed that one-on-one time away with God until I left the Abbey that day and began to reflect on my experience. It felt as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders and I was ready to come back to Warren able and ready to take on whatever I would encounter upon my return.

We have many wonderful, beautiful places around here like Kinzua Dam and Olmsted Manor in which I like to spend Mondays (my Sabbath day). They are quite, calm, and peaceful. They have been great places for me to connect with God in and through the nature around me. Silence is hard for many, we are not used to it in our culture, but if you are willing to take the time to get away and talk with God in a deeper way than what you do on a daily or weekly basis I promise it will be worth it. Even once or twice a year can make a difference in your spiritual life. If you would like to know more about taking a quiet retreat with God, or if you know of a good place to go on retreat please get in touch with me. This is a spiritual practice that has greatly helped my spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Time away has made and continues to make me a better pastor and a better person and I know it can do the same for you.

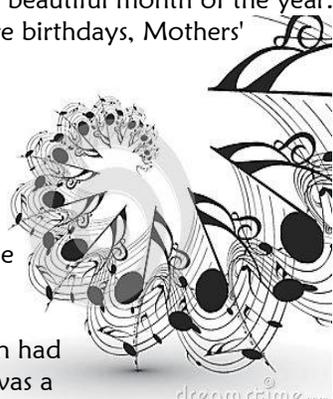
*Seeking God in the Silence,
Pastor Erica*

ChoirNotes

We are entering the most beautiful month of the year. It's the easiest to spell, there are birthdays, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, gorgeous flowering bushes and trees and the beginning of summer. What could be better?

In Grace Church we have enjoyed April so much, because Easter was in March! We did celebrate an anniversary - our own Kris and Renee Magnuson had their 40th anniversary which was a tremendous musical treat for everyone. A trombone quartet from Eastman School of Music surprised Kris by playing HIS arrangements plus a Haydn spectacular. It was *gorgeous!* They were wonderful!!

Besides that we were blessed with Kris' piano solos, and our ensemble accompanists - Liz A. on guitar and Jason on drums. We also enjoyed all the performances on the talent show. Good job, everyone.



May brings the children's choir to a close as well as the bells. Grace Choir and the Girls will go on a little longer into May, but the end of practices is in sight. Do not worry.

Again, thanks to *everyone* who so faithfully comes each week. God bless you all - I love you.
Have a *lovely* May!

Beverly Petersen

From the Director of Congregational Care

*"...man ought always to pray and not to give up."
Luke 18:16*

I wondered why the ministry to the military was so important to me. Now I wonder how I could have missed it as I began to count the number of loved ones who served or are serving in the armed forces.

My father served in the Philippines, brother in Guam, husband in Okinawa, son in the Air Force, one grandson deployed to Bosnia and South Korea, one deployed to Afghanistan and one to Iraq, a grandson newly enlisted and a neice who was deployed to Germany.

You may have served and now have family members following in your footsteps, so you'll want to read on.

I'm so blessed to have Alice Bonnell as a close friend and sister in the Lord. She has come forward to head a faithful team that will inspire us to pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces as well as their families.

Plans have been made to highlight this opportunity throughout the year. May 21 is ARMED FORCES DAY USA. You'll be asked to select a service person's name that is printed on a card in a basket located on the altar rail.

The team has made these cards very decorative so that you will gladly display them where you can be reminded of your loving commitment.

Now, Prayer Warriors, reach out to others with the love and life of Jesus Christ. Lives depend on it.

*Grace, mercy & peace,
Karen D. Gray*

*PS ~ "When you can't put your prayers into words,
God hears your heart."*

Promise



Our school year is quickly coming to an end and we are looking forward to summer vacation! The year certainly has been a busy and exciting one. The afternoon class got to ride a bus and visit Warren Elementary Center so they can see where they will be going to school next year. They are also finishing their achievement chains in final preparation for "big school"! As we spend our last few weeks together, we hope the weather stays warm so we can play outside. Our school year will conclude with acting out fun stories, discussing summer fun and safety and making our own pizzas on the last day of school which is May 12th.

We would like to thank all of you for the incredible support for our preschool program, especially our wonderful Preschool Board that does so much for us.

If you know of anyone that has not registered for preschool, we have started a waiting list for 2016 - 2017, so have them sign up ASAP!

Have a great summer!

Trish Gentilman & Brenda Whyte

Check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool



9:30 NURSERY (0-2 yrs.)

11:00 NURSERY (0- 5 yrs.)

May 1 - Becky Fuller

May 8- Anna Peterson

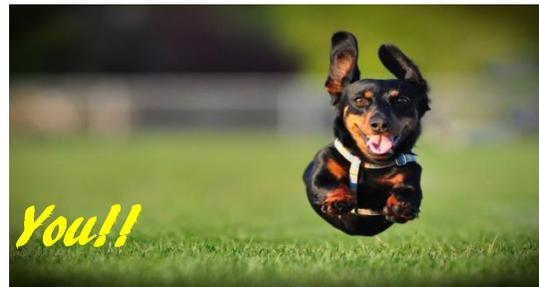
May 15- Becky Fuller

May 22 - Anna Peterson

May 29 - Becky Fuller



Cassie Bailey was baptized on April 10, 2016. Caleb John Hellman was baptized on April 17, 2016. Caleb is the son of Mary and Kyle Hellman.



Thank You!!

Dear Grace Church,

We are so blessed by your participation in Operation Christmas Child in 2015. Through your efforts, 160 children will receive a gift to bring them joy and hope and to tell them of the love of Jesus.

With your help, 47,296 shoeboxes were collected in Northwestern PA. These boxes are on their mission to needy children around the world. Please continue to pray God uses these gifts to draw children and their families to Jesus. Thank you again for making an eternal difference through these simple boxes.

*Blessings from the NWPA OCC Area Team
and Mary Coopy, Church Relations*

Dear Grace Church,

Thanks so much for all of your prayers, cards and visits during my time in the hospital. They all helped during a difficult time. Our Grace Church family is special, and I feel blessed to be a part of it.

Mary Schorman



Grace Church welcomes Cassie Bailey, Mike Waseleski and Kyle Hellman into membership.



The new issues of *Equipping the Man in the Mirror* magazines are available on the back tables in the sanctuary and Higginbotham Hall. Get yours today!

OUR CHURCH'S
FINANCIAL HEALTH

Finance Committee Report
Denny Munksgard

Through the end of January 2016 our budget was:

BUDGET	March	YEAR-TO DATE
Income:	24,097	73,536
Borrowed:		0
Expense:	<u>29,483</u>	<u>92,282</u>
Ahead (Behind):	(5,386)	(19,746)

Connectional Apportionments

Obligation:	3,769	11,305
Paid:	<u>3,769</u>	<u>11,305</u>
Ahead (Behind):	0	0
Percent of Year to Date Paid:		100.0%
2016 Connectional Apportionment Obligation: 45,221		
Percent of Total Year Paid:		25.0%

His Income: We are \$10,626 lower Year-to-Date compared to 2015.

Our Expenses: We are \$1,564 lower Year-to-Date compared to 2015.

With 25% of the year behind us, I am cautiously optimistic His Income will pick up and close the gap versus Our Expenses. I looked back over the last five years and did not find a deficit this large at this time of year.

May God continue to bless you and Grace Church in 2016.

I hope to see you soon,
Denny



May Worship Assistants

Advisors:

Sheryl Richards 726-3876
Betty Marshall 484-5095
Linda Knapp, 726-1199

- May 1** - Seth Conarro and Derek Hahn
- May 8 - Communion** - A.J. Slattery and Anthony Tatarski
- May 15** - Gabrielle Hahn and Maribeth Miller
- May 22** - Hailey Peterson and Sara Tucher
- May 29** - Lily Brooker and Mackenzie Tucher

Deadlines

The deadline for the **June Newsletter** will be **Monday, May 23**. Please have anything and everything you want included in the newsletter to Marianne Scheer (mariannescheer@atlanticcbbn.net) by that date.



Thank you!!!!

The food pantry is in need of spaghetti sauce and apple sauce. Thank you to all of you who continue to contribute to Grace Church Food Pantry!



Grace Church would like to organize a group of volunteers to help with the **12th Annual Allegheny Reservoir Clean-up on May 14**. It will be a nice day of fellowship cleaning up the beautiful land around the Reservoir. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Chuck Keepports at cmkeepports@gmail.com or 814-726-2260 by May 7.

May Servers:



Coffee Fellowship

- May 1 - Katie and Chuck Keepports
- May 8 - *Communion* - Shirley and Kurt Shafer
- May 15 - Stacy and Jon Vavala
- May 22 - Elishia Wurst
- May 29 - Alice Bonnell



We extend our sympathy to David Kifer and his family at the loss of his aunt, Betty Kifer, who passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. The family would appreciate your prayers at this time.



Greeters

- May 1 - Dawn Werner
- May 2 - Terry McKown, Jacqueline Sadler, James Black, Jamie Watson
- May 3 - Madison Alcorn, Dudley Wineriter, Eric Zavinski, Barb Hulings
- May 4 - Simon Smith, Nancy Zaffino, Floyd Moore
- May 5 - Joe Sienkeiwicz, Sally Moldovan, Evelyn Eaton
- May 6 - Connor Grey, Edwin Rickerson, Kim Tutaro
- May 7 - Richard Thoma, Emma Stimmell
- May 8 - Jan Garrett, Melissa Larsen
- May 10 - Erin Werner, Susan Puhl, Julie Danielson
- May 11 - Karen Schwone
- May 12 - Helena Moore, Laura Rescorla, Violet Brooker, Stephanie Reagle
- May 13 - Brittany Saber, Beth Anne Nichols
- May 14 - Robert Woods, Dan Farr, Shirley Alvino, Linda Clover
- May 15 - Corinn Gern, Dona Miller, Gary Fleming
- May 16 - Matt Jeffrey, Dick Clark
- May 17 - Shane Burns
- May 19 - Caroline Curren, Mary Rose Farr
- May 20 - Kailee Morrison, Kylie Pearson
- May 21 - Jennifer Morrison, Beth Sprentz
- May 22 - Jacob McCollough, Kirsten Johnson, Patricia McClement, Sarah Tarpinning
- May 23 - Bev Petersen
- May 24 - Tom Mintzer, Tyler Gustafson
- May 25 - Brandi Buchanan, Marci Barker, Beau Kibbey
- May 26 - Michael Phillips
- May 27 - Adam Barker, Cory Burns
- May 28 - Julie Ross, Ryan Gustafson, Dave Berdine
- May 29 - Taylor Napolitan, Linda Morrison
- May 30 - Paul Johnson
- May 31 - Gayle English, Walt Miller, Julie Halteman, Amanda Green, Anna Peterson, Rhonda Narlee, Marty Adams, Tony Ross

- May 1 - *Parking Lot Door* - Dan and Steph Russo
Prospect Street Door - Alice Bonnell
- May 8 - **Communion ~ Mothers' Day**
Parking Lot Door - Alice Bonnell
Prospect Street Door - Dan and Steph Russo
- May 15 - *Parking Lot Door* - Janey Swanson
Prospect Street Door - Carol Ostergard
- May 22 - *Parking Lot Door* - Carol Ostergard
Prospect Street Door - Janey Swanson
- May 29 - *Parking Lot Door* - Peg and Larry Willis
Prospect Street Door - Neal and Peggy Twist

Ushers

Ushers for May are Dennis Munksgard, Alex Danielson, Dean Johnson and Melinda Johnson.

Honors & Memorials

The following gifts were received in honor of Kris and Renee Magnuson's 40th Wedding Anniversary:

General Fund by Burnell Carlson and Burnetta Saulsgiver
Music Fund by Pete and Marge Smith and Linda and Arden Grey.

The following gifts were received in memory of Dylan Bednez:

By Julie Myler and Charles and Mary Sampson.

Grace Church has received a donation from *Hospice of Warren County* for the **Red Bird Mission** in honor of *Dr. Keith Price*, where he is the Medical Director. The Red Bird Team from Grace Church was at the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky from April 23 - 30 to serve on community improvement projects.



Grace Yarn Angels, along with some of their friends, have sent 205 baby hats to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. The goal of one Angel was 100 hats, and that number was more than doubled by other Angels and their friends. Thank you, ladies, for your hard work and dedication - these babies will be greatly blessed by your gifts.

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Children's Choir 3:00 Girl Scouts 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 5:30 4th of July Meeting 6:00 Youth Group	2 1:15 Fitness Class 5:00 Girl Scouts 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Habitat for Humanity	3 5:15 Healing Christian Yoga 7:00 Women's Bible Study	4 7:00a Men's Breakfast 9/10:30a Women's Bible Study 1:15 Fitness Class 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Grace choir 7:00 Girl Scouts 8:15 Madrigals	5 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Acera Care Bereavement 	6 10:00 Yarn Angels 12:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 <i>Daughters of Grace Dinner</i>	7
8 <i>Communion</i> 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Children's Choir 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 	9 1:15 Fitness Class 5:00 Girl Scouts 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Gym Reserved 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 <i>NOW Meeting</i>	10 5:15 Healing Christian Yoga 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 <i>Property Trustees</i> 7:30 Boy Scouts	11 7:00a Men's Breakfast 9/10:30a Women's Bible Study 1:15 Fitness Class 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Grace Choir 8:15 Madrigals	12 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts - Higginbotham 7:00 Girl Scouts	13 10:00 Yarn Angels 12:15 Christian Yoga	14
15 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:00 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 12:00 <i>Memorial Committee</i> 3:00 Girl Scouts 4:00 Watson Home 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 5:30 4th of July Meeting 6:00 Youth Group	16 12:00 Caregiver's Support Group 1:15 Fitness Class 5:00 Girl Scouts 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Gym Reserved 7:00 <i>Finance Committee</i>	17 5:15 Healing Christian Yoga 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 <i>Education Committee</i>	18 7:00a Men's Breakfast 9/10:30a Women's Bible Study 1:15 Fitness Class 5:00 Girl Scouts 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Grace choir 8:15 Madrigals	19 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Girl Scouts	20 10:00 Yarn Angels 12:15 Christian Yoga	21 1:00 Higginbotham Reserved 
22 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:00 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 5:30 4th of July Committee 6:00 Youth Group	23 1:15 Fitness Class 5:00 Girl Scouts 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Gym Reserved 7:00 Girl Scouts	24 5:15 Healing Christian Yoga	25 7:00a Men's Breakfast 9/10:30a Women's Bible Study 1:15 Fitness Class 5:15 Christian Yoga 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Grace choir 8:15 Madrigals	26 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 7:30 Boy Scouts	27 10:00 Yarn Angels 12:15 Christian Yoga	28
29 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:00 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir	30 Office Closed 	31 5:15 Healing Christian Yoga	7	CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE is open daily from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm on the second floor, parking lot side.	PROMISE PRESCHOOL is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-11:30 am (3 year olds) and 12:30 – 3:00 pm (4 year olds) on the ground floor.	GRACE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (GAP) is open each school day from 3:15 - 5:30 in the gym.

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
Warren, PA 16365
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~ Grace Praise Team ~
Rob Pearce, Dave Brockleburst, Julie Danielson, Dave Engstrom, Chuck Keeperts, Walter Miller
Jan Moore, Cindy Price, Shirley Shafer, Jason Tucher, Liz Anderson

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GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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If you have brought food to the church for an event or a luncheon, please check the kitchen to see if any of the dishes, pans or containers belong to you.

Camp Talk-a-lot - June 13 - 17 & June 21 - 24

The Don Mills Achievement Center in North Warren will once again be holding their annual Camp Talk-a-lot at Chapman's Dam for Warren County children with speech delays or disorders. We are in need of teenage and/or adult volunteers to help support our program. If interested in volunteering for a full or partial session, please contact Barbara Swanson, director of Don Mills Achievement Center, at 723-5730.

For All Women Wrestling With Weight Gain -

I am thinking of starting a group that would deal with the spiritual and emotional side of weight loss and making good food choices. The books may be pricey. Susan Toombs already takes care of Christian exercise classes and nutrition - this would deal strictly with the emotional and spiritual side of over-eating. Some people have already expressed an interest in this kind of group, but I need to know how many would be interested in starting to meet (possibly beginning the end of June). Please call or email me by Sunday, May 22, if you are interested. I look forward to some feedback on this idea.

Renee Magnuson
814-726-7890
radmagnuson@gmail.com



If you are currently a 3rd grader or older, you are invited to join the new session of Acolyte Training Classes which will be held weekly beginning the week of May 2, 2016. Sessions will include a light snack followed by instruction and practice. Acolytes will learn about church symbolism, church history, procedures and expectations of acolytes. Please call the Church office, 723-9440, if you are interested in participating in this training. When calling, please specify which time would best fit your schedule - the majority will rule!

Sunday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m.

- or -

A specific day after school from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.



ADVISORS Additional advisors are needed to assist with the Acolyte Program on Sunday mornings. If you could give one Sunday (or more) on a monthly or quarterly basis, it would be helpful and appreciated. Please call the church office, 723-9440, for more information if you are interested. This is a great way to get to know our young people and help them participate in and learn more about the worship service.

**"Change For Life"
Baby Bottle Drive**

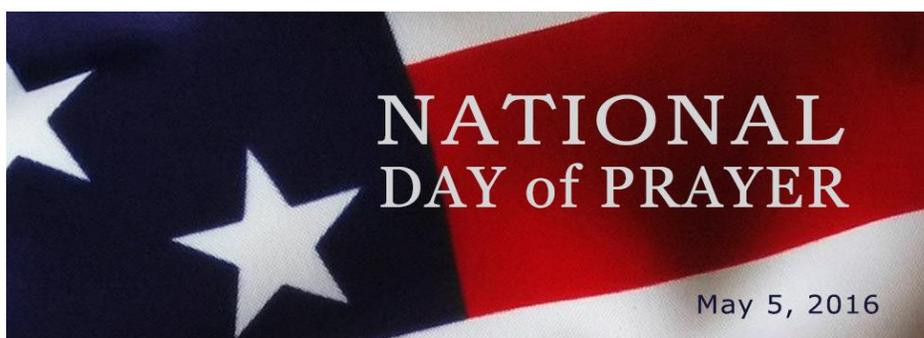
Grace Church will once again be supporting the Pregnancy Support Center of Warren and their Change For Life campaign. You will be able to pick up your baby bottles on Mother's Day, May 8.





Senior Recognition Day - Sunday, June 5, 2016

If you know of anyone who will be graduating in June from high school, college or trade school, please submit their names to the church office by phone at 814-723-9440 or email to mariannescheer@atlanticbbn.net. Watch for more information about *Senior Recognition Day* in upcoming bulletins.



This day is set aside each year to give all Americans an opportunity to pray for all branches and levels of our government and our military, as well as our churches and family.
"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God."
President George Washington, 1789

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) exists to be an advocate for both the staff as well as the congregation. If you have questions about the staffing of our church, or have an issue that you feel you can't approach a staff member with, please feel free to contact one of the members of the SPRC. They are listed below, and their contact information can be found in the church directory.

Michael Barr Art Anderson Mary Schorman Floyd Moore
Andrea Sedon Larry Sutton Dean Johnson, Acting Chair