

# GRACE NOTES

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN!

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Warren, PA 16365

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[www.graceumcwarren.net](http://www.graceumcwarren.net)

## FEBRUARY, 2016

SENIOR PASTOR:  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR:  
MINISTRY INTERN:  
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE:  
MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
YOUTH DIRECTOR:  
OFFICE MANAGER:  
STAFF ASSISTANT:

Rev. Richard Pearson  
Rev. Erica Wellner  
Danielle Munksgard  
Karen Gray  
Beverly Petersen  
Sarah Brown  
Marianne Scheer  
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



February 1 - 7:00 p - SPRC Meeting  
February 3 - 6:30 p - Finance Committee  
- 7 p - Church Meeting with Pat Lenox  
February 8 - 7 p - NOW Meeting  
February 9 - 7 p - Property Trustees  
February 15 - 7 p - Education Committee

**COVERED BY GRACE** the new ministry of the Outreach and Witness committees has been a huge success, but we are still in need of hats, gloves and scarves to re-stock the clotheslines at the front of the church.

If you are able, please bring new hats, gloves and scarves to the collection box outside of Pastor Rich's office so that we will be able to get them out as soon as possible. **Let's make sure everyone in Warren is warm this winter!**



**To date, the numbers are: 38 scarves, 222 hats, 4 earcovers and 215 pairs of gloves!**

The deadline for the March Newsletter will be **Friday, February 19**. Please have anything and everything you want included in the newsletter to Marianne Scheer ([mariannescheer@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:mariannescheer@atlanticbbn.net)) by that date.



**Thank you!!!!**



**Sunday, February 7**

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

## FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

It's hard to believe that it is almost February. When I lived in Pittsburgh I could say that winter was over half-way done, but I guess I can't really say that anymore, can I? Sometimes I believe Warren has two seasons – winter and Fourth of July. But February has always been a month that I looked forward to. It's a month of new beginnings. It's a month of new promise. Why, you ask?

February marks the beginning of Major League Baseball's spring training. Pitchers and catchers report first. Then the position players begin to find their way to Florida and Arizona. Every team is on equal footing. Nobody has a win-loss record yet and anything is possible. Finally, after 20 years of losing as a Pirate fan, I've experienced several years of winning – what a treat!

Well, as we approach this season of Lent in a few short weeks I am reminded that we have markers along the way on our Christian journey, too.

Each and every Sunday is a "Little Easter" that reminds us of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ as well as God's great mercy. We are once again reminded that each day in Christ begins without a win-loss record, and anything is possible!

I urge you to celebrate each of these markers along the journey. Gather together with your brothers and sisters in the faith and celebrate the fact that God has made all things possible through His Son. If your journey has taken a detour lately, use one of these markers to get back on track. And remember – God's love endures forever, and His faithfulness continues to all generations!

I look forward to the days ahead as we continue this journey together. I hope you'll plan on joining us at some of the many opportunities we will have to worship and fellowship together this year. Gather with us as we begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There is much to be excited about here at Grace United Methodist Church as we do our best to glorify God and serve in the name of Jesus.

As always, if there is anything I can do for you, please call on me any time.

Be Blessed!  
**Rich**

## From our Associate Pastor

I do not know about you, but for me, the New Year is a time of reflection and planning—reflection on the year past and planning for the year to come. This time last year, I was experiencing a lot of change in my life, and I was going through some emotionally rough times. Change does not come easily to me, but I know in the long run, it is very good for me. So as I have reflected on 2015, and as I have prepared and continue to plan for 2016, I have decided to revive a practice I learned in seminary. It is one that I hope will bring about good spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth in my life in 2016. The practice I speak of is writing a Rule of Life.

A Rule of Life is, in some ways, like a New Year's resolution, but the focus tends to be more on our spiritual growth rather than changing bad habits or becoming more physically fit, though those practices can be part of a Rule of Life. A Rule should be short and concise; it is a list of practices you want to partake in so you can grow closer in your relationship with God. Often, the practices that make up a Rule of Life include Spiritual Disciplines such as scripture reading, prayer, worship, confession, fellowship, solitude, fasting, etc. But they can go beyond these practices. One of the greatest lessons I learned in seminary was that our relationship with God impacts more than just our spirit, but our body and mind as well.

As an example and a way for me to be held accountable, here is my Rule of Life for 2016:

- Walk at least 7,000 steps a day
- Dedicate one solid hour a day to prayer/devotional reading
- Read 10 hours a week outside of sermon and bible study preparation
- Read 20 books in 2016
- Become more involved in the local community outside the church

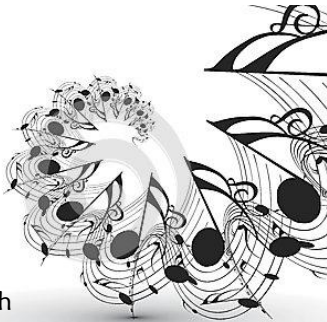
While most of the practices do not look particularly "spiritual" they are ways for *me* to grow in *my* relationship with Christ in this coming year. This is *my* Rule, and it works for *me*. Yours may look very different. If you would like to hear my reasoning behind what I have put down I would be happy to talk with you. If you would like help putting together your own rule, again I would be happy to help.

My prayer is, as we all move forward into the year 2016, that we would all grow in our relationship with Christ. I pray that when we prepare to say goodbye to 2016 and hello to 2017, we can all say that we have changed and grown in our relationship with God and with each other. Finally I pray that we as a church are not only better disciples, but that we are prepared to help others become better disciples through what we have learned this year. May 2016 be a year of growth for us as individuals and Grace Church as a whole.

Growing with You,  
Pastor Erica

## ChoirNotes

February already - this is a tough month for many reasons, but mostly I don't like to write "February". There are too many R's, and I don't enjoy making capital F's! And finally (notice the and saved me from another capital F) the snow is here, which is due and expected. It's when it doesn't go away in March that makes everyone cry for mercy.



Choirs are up and running after a much deserved Christmas vacation. We miss Judy B., Sally H. and Alfred, but also welcome another new member: Nancy Johnson! (That makes 3 Nancy's added to 2 Karen's, 2 LuAnn's, 2 Kris's and 2 Vickie's (Vicki). Back to Nancy J. - welcome to our loving fold and may you enjoy choir and be blessed by it. It's great having new members to welcome!

The January music was enhanced by Renee M., Jason on drums, Liz on guitar and Kris on keyboard - all at one time!! We also heard the 3 kings: Larry K., Bill G. and Kris M. Thanks, everyone! Also, on the 18th of this month (!!) LuAnn S. is singing for the community Lenten Service at First Church while I play for her.

The children are meeting each Sunday at 9 A.M. They are so cute and such nice kids. I enjoy them very much. More kids are always welcome.

The Girls and Youth sing each Sunday afternoon and they are any director's delight! They do indeed sound like angels.

Grace Handbells ring on Wednesdays and they work very hard, and are such a pleasure to be with. We'll play soon. The children are singing this month on the 14th at 9:30, the Girls sing Jan. 31 at 11:00, and the Youth on the 21st at 11:00. Enjoy this month and keep the love of Jesus in your hearts!

*Beverly Petersen*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."  
Romans 5:5b*

During January we learned how God loves us and how we then should love God. This is not a lesson we should quickly dismiss. When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment in the law His response was, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. This is the Most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to sit alongside it: Love others as well as you love yourself. These two commands are pegs: everything in God's Law and prophets hang on them." Matt 22:38 *The Message Bible*.

I've been recalling all the wonderful hymns about God's love and the soloist like George Beverly Shea who sang, "The Love of God." Sorry to say that song isn't in our hymnal. Frederick M. Lehman, a German-born Christian that immigrated to America was the composer. As he was thinking about the limitlessness of God's love, he was inspired to pen this timeless hymn of praise.

There are also modern day songs that express God's love for us and we for Him. One chorus repeats, "His love never fails, never gives up and never runs out on me." Just as truthful, scriptural and anointed as songs in our hymnals.

Now how about our love for God?

- 1) We should never fail to put Him foremost in every area of our lives, body, soul and spirit. Matt 22:37
- 2) We should never give up our prayer life, worship, witness and obedience. 1 Cor 15:58
- 3) We should trust that He is always with us and will never run out on us. Matt 28:20b; Heb 13:5

Now how about loving ourselves?

If God loves us so much that He gave His beloved Son to suffer and die for us, who are we to say, "I'm unloveable and so are you? He has made us worthy, adopted us as His children, justified and sanctified us, put His seal on us and made us joint heirs with Jesus. It doesn't get any better than that. As another, fairly new song states, "I am loved. You are loved. Won't you please take my hand? We are meant to love each other. We are loved." Embrace it!

Now Matt 22:37, 38 saints, reach out to others with the love and life of Jesus Christ.

*Grace, mercy & peace,*

*Karen D. Gray*



We are thankful for a mild winter so far this year, but winter isn't over yet! We will see what Punxsutawney Phil predicts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and will hope for an early spring! The children have settled back into the routine after our Christmas break and are well into our winter activities. Our three year olds are starting their color unit and doing "homework". The four year olds are working on their achievement chains and proudly adding links for each skill they master.

As we begin our February activities, we look forward to Valentine's Day and our annual Family Dinner. The children enjoy preparing Valentine cards for their families and decorating Higginbotham Hall for the dinner. It is a wonderful time for all of us to gather, share a meal and fellowship. Our class Valentine's party is always great fun as we share treats and cards from our friends.

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is well under way for current preschool, Grace Church and daycare families. We will open to the public on February 1, 2016, so if you or someone you know would like to register a child for next school year, please pick up a registration form from the office or call the preschool room at 723-8011. We are filling up quickly, so reserve your spot now!

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Grace Promise Preschool!

Find us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool](http://www.facebook.com/GracePromisePreschool)  
 Trish Gentilman  
[preschool@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:preschool@atlanticbnn.net)

*Trish Gentilman & Brenda Whyt*



#### February Servers:

February 7 - Becky and Rick Gnage  
 February 14 - Joe and Beth Sprentz  
 February 21 - Katie and Chuck Keepports  
 February 28 - YTBD



*Grace Church Christmas Carolers,*

It was so nice of you to come sing for me. I really enjoyed it. Thank you so much.

**Leo Baughman.**

*Dear Carolers,*

Thank you so very much for giving of your time on a cold Saturday afternoon to minister to our shut-ins. I know they all greatly enjoyed and appreciated your time and talent. It was wonderful to minister alongside you.

*Blessings,*  
**Pastor Erica**

Thanks to all who helped with the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and the wandering minstrels who sang Christmas carols at my home in December. God Bless you all!

**John Lindberg**

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***IN THE HOSPITAL ~ Leo Baughman and Sandy Trumbull are patients in Warren General Hospital.***



## January Worship Assistants

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

**February 7** - Lily Brooker and Mackenzie Tucher  
**February 14** - Derek Hahn and Scott Stewart  
**February 21** - Seth Conarro and Anthony Tatarski  
**February 28** - Maribeth Miller and Hailey Pete



Finance Committee Report  
Denny Munksgard

Through the end of December 2015 our budget was:

BUDGET	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO DATE
Income:	30,104	361,177
Borrowed:		0
Expense:	<u>28,511</u>	<u>353,637</u>
Ahead (Behind):	1,593	7,540

### Connectional Apportionments

Obligation:	3,214	40,621
Paid:	<u>3,214</u>	<u>40,621</u>
Ahead (Behind):	0	0
Percent of Year to Date Paid:		100.0%
2015 Connectional Apportionment		
Obligation:		40,621
Percent of Total Year Paid:		100.0%

Grace Church continues to be blessed with a faithful and committed family. We ended 2015 with a positive cash flow for both month of December and year-to-date.

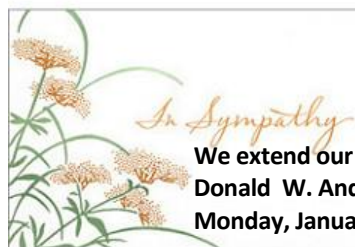
May God continue to bless you and Grace Church in 2016.

I hope to see you soon,  
Denny



**9:30 NURSERY (0-2 yrs.)**  
**11:00 NURSERY (0- 5 yrs.)**

**February 7** - Becky Fuller  
**February 14** - Anna Peterson  
**February 21** - Becky Fuller  
**February 28** - Anna Peterson



We extend our sympathy to the family of  
Donald W. Anderson who passed away on  
Monday, January 11, 2016.



For Betty Willis by Bill and Trish Gentilman  
For Donald W. Anderson by Golden Living

*Equipping the Man in the  
Mirror* magazines are on  
the tables in Higginbotham  
Hall and the back of the  
sanctuary. Get yours for  
January, February and  
March before they are gone.

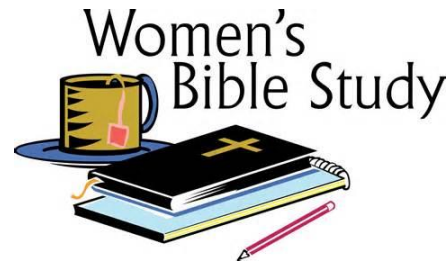




February 1 - Gary Culbertson, Mark Robinault  
 February 2 - Riley McCollough, Thomas Jones, Tim Price  
 February 3 - Rick Reiff, Sam Birgel, Tammy Kibbey  
 February 4 - Maddie Kridler  
 February 6 - Arlene Sailer  
 February 7 - Larry Knowlton, Jesse Lucks, Heidi Christensen, Linda Knapp  
 February 9 - Danny Grosch, Maria Miller, Jaclyn Barrett  
 February 10 - Ted Huber  
 February 11 - Jacob Alcorn, Phyllis Marti, Norma Dey, Eric Christensen, Dave Carter  
 February 12 - Tristan Danielson  
 February 13 - Mona Rosequist  
 February 14 - Kyle Grey  
 February 15 - Bud Price, Kurt Smith  
 February 16 - Lisa Shall  
 February 17 - Brett Ball, Bill Bunce  
 February 18 - Stacy Vavala, Linnea Wertz, Josie Bailey  
 February 19 - Heather Schultz  
 February 20 - Jeff Benjamin, Lisa Gelotte  
 February 22 - Judy Conklin  
 February 23 - Cheyenna Thompson, Jennifer Phillips, Karen Lucks  
 February 24 - Amy Haley, Russell Pearson  
 February 25 - Kaila Abplanalp, Bradyn Wilson, David Johnson, Eric Moore, Melissa Zaffino  
 February 26 - Danielle Munksgard, Barb Kulinski, Randy Johnson, Steven Poorman  
 February 27 - Donna Risinger  
 February 28 - Judy Bunce, Terry Moldovan, Olivia Bednez  
 February 29 - David Morrison

Sue Toombs is beginning a new ministry with Grace Church this month - a series of Christian exercise and Yoga classes. Classes will be held each week at the times shown below:

Monday: 1:15 - 2 p.m. - Fitness Class Ministry  
 5:15 - 6 p.m. - Christian Yoga Ministry  
 Tuesday: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. - Healing Christian Yoga Ministry  
 Wednesday: 1:15 - 2 p.m. - Fitness Class Ministry  
 5:15 - 6 p.m. - Christian Yoga Ministry  
 Friday: 12:15 - 1 p.m. - Christian Yoga Ministry



Spring Bible Study is starting March 1 and 2, and running for 12 weeks through May 17 and 18. The book is called *Magnificent Grace* by Margaret Feinberg. It is part of

the *Women of Faith Study Guide Series*. The book will cost \$8.00 or \$9.00. We will have **THREE** study times instead of two this spring: Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the library, and two sessions Wednesday mornings in Higginbotham Hall - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

To sign up for the class - call me at 726-7890, email me at [radmagnuson@gmail.com](mailto:radmagnuson@gmail.com) or write me a note and hand it to me. I will need the following information: Your name; your telephone number; which class you plan to attend usually - you can switch to a different time if that would work better for you; if you need a book purchased for you or will you download it to your Kindle.

Please invite friends or relatives to join us, and always be in prayer for the study to enlighten us to God's Holy word. Peace be with each of you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Renee Magnuson



### Greeters

February 7 - *Parking Lot Door* - Judy Johnson  
*Prospect Street Door* - Leslie Dawes  
**Communion**

February 14 - *Parking Lot Door* - Becky Gnage  
*Prospect Street Door* - Judy Johnson

February 21 - *Parking Lot Door* - Doug Zaffino  
*Prospect Street Door* - Lisa and Jeff Brown

February 28 - *Parking Lot Door* - Ann Rossman  
*Prospect Street Door* - Bill Bunce

**Ushers** are Don Anthony (Captain), Alice Bonnell, Dave Brocklehurst, Bill Bunce, Cindy Price and Gary Culbertson.



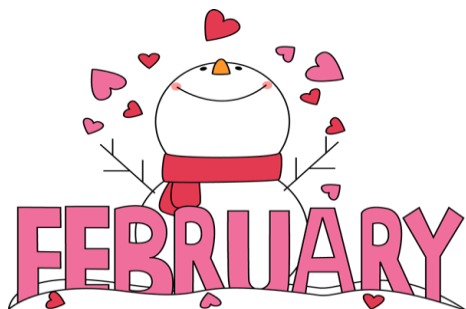
# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 5:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Habitat for Humanity Board 7:00 <i>SPRC Meeting</i>	<b>2</b> 6:30 Gym Reserved	<b>3</b> 7:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Gym Reserved 6:30 <i>Finance Committee</i> 7:00 <i>Church Meeting</i> 7:00 Grace Choir 8:15 Grace Madrigals	<b>4</b> 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Acera Care Bereavement 7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 10:00 Yarn Angels	<b>6</b> 9:00 Kitchen Reserved
<b>7</b> 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship Communion 9:30 Sunday School <i>Jamaica Super Bowl Sub Pick-Up-After Each Service</i> 10:00 Children's Choir 3:00 Girl Scouts 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 5:30 4th of July Committee 6:00 Youth Group	<b>8</b> 5:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Gym Reserved 7:00 <i>NOW Meeting</i> 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:30 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 6:00 Valentine Widow's Dinner 6:30 Gym Reserved 7:00 <i>Property Trustees</i>	<b>10</b> 7:00a Men's Breakfast 5:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Gym Reserved 7:00 Grace choir 8:15 Madrigals	<b>11</b> 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 5:45 Promise Preschool Valentine Tureen Dinner 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> 10:00 Yarn Angels	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School <i>Jamaica Valentine Bake Sale - After Each Service</i> 10:00 Children's Choir 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<b>15</b> 1:00 Caregiver's Support Group 5:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Gym Reserved 7:00 <i>Education Meeting</i>	<b>16</b> 6:30 Gym Reserved	<b>17</b> 7:00 a Men's Breakfast 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Gym Reserved 7:00 Grace Choir 8:15 Madrigals	<b>18</b> 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 10:00 Yarn Angels	<b>20</b> 9:00 Higginbotham Reserved 3:00 Higginbotham Reserved
<b>21</b> 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:00 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 3:00 Girl Scouts 4:00 Watson Home 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 5:30 4th of July Committee 6:00 Youth Group	<b>22</b> 5:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Gym Reserved	<b>23</b> 6:30 Gym Reserved	<b>24</b> 7:00a Men's Breakfast 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Gym Reserved 7:00 Grace choir 8:15 Madrigals	<b>25</b> 9:30/6:30 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 Girl Scouts 7:30 Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 10:00 Yarn Angels	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00/9:30/11:00 Worship 9:00 Children's Choir 9:30 Sunday School 4:45 The Girls 5:30 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Group	<b>29</b> 5:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Gym Reserved		<u>PROMISE PRESCHOOL</u> 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,	<u>CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE</u> is open daily from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm on the second floor, parking lot side.	<u>GRACE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (GAP)</u> is open each school day from 3:15 - 5:30 in the gym.	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Find us on Facebook under the group  
“Embrace Grace!”

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

~ Grace Praise Team ~

Rob Pearce, Dave Brocklehurst, Julie Danielson,  
Dave Engstrom, Chuck Keepports, Walter Miller,  
Jan Moore, Cindy Price,  
Shirley Shafer, Jason Tucher

