

# GRACE NOTES

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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[www.graceumcwarren.net](http://www.graceumcwarren.net)

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN!

January 2012

PASTOR:  
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE:  
MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
YOUTH DIRECTORS:

Rev. Kevin R. Haley  
Karen Gray  
Beverly Petersen  
Beth Conklin, Sarah Lucas

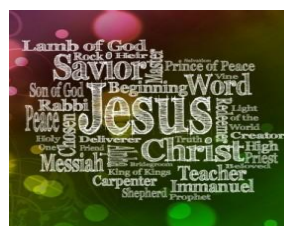
“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” II Corinthians 9:8

## JANUARY MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 3<sup>RD</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Property Trustees
- Monday, January 9<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Childcare Board of Directors
- Tuesday, January 10<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Community Outreach Ministry Team
- Sunday, January 15<sup>TH</sup> @ 12 Noon – Endowment Committee
- Monday, January 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Nurture Ministry Team
- Tuesday, January 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Outreach Ministry Team
- Sunday, January 22<sup>ND</sup> @ 12 Noon – Memorial Committee
- Tuesday, January 24<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Church Council
- Monday, January 30<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:30 PM – Promise Preschool Board of Directors
- Tuesday, January 31<sup>ST</sup> @ 7:00 PM – Education Ministry Team

## JANUARY EVENTS

### Sunday, January 1<sup>ST</sup> ~ New Year's Day



- 9:00 AM Sunday School  
(for all ages)  
10:00 AM Worship  
Service/Holy Communion  
~only one worship service  
for this day

### Sunday, January 8<sup>TH</sup> ~ Epiphany Sunday

8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 AM Worship Services



12 Noon Soup & Pie Church Luncheon  
~Stripping of the Trees! (undecorating after lunch)

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

A new series begins on Thursday, January 5<sup>TH</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Wesley Parlor based on Paul's letter to the PHILIPPIANS. This letter of Paul's is often called the epistle of joy, because it speaks of the joy of the Lord that Paul knew and shared with other Christians.



This 8-week series will run from January through February on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. Bring your Bible and bring a friend, and come ready to dive into God's Word!

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

It was one of those rare wintry days with snow drifting over the sidewalks and people slipping and sliding. A man needed to mail a letter and decided to trek the extra distance to the post office, rather than just set the letter in his mailbox for the mail carrier. He wanted to enjoy walking in the now gentle cascade of snowflakes and the not-so-gentle brisk wintry wind.

As he walked with head slightly turned down as if he were cutting through the winter wind, he noticed a small red glove nestled in a snow bank. The path he had chosen to the post office was the same one children used to walk to school. He picked the glove up, searched for the mate without success. The glove obviously belonged to a child in the elementary school, probably a little girl. He mused that she should have immediately missed the glove and was probably walking home with one hand in her pocket and throwing snowballs with the gloved hand. He placed the glove back on top of the snow bank with the hope she would return. He returned to the snow bank for the next five days checking on the unclaimed glove. Finally the snow melted and the glove became part of the "stuff" that collects after the pristine white snow disappears.



Last winter, the man found another red glove in a snow bank along the sidewalk in front of a church. Once again he checked every day, believing some child would return and rescue the mate to their remaining little red glove. With sadness he watched the unclaimed glove become part of the "stuff" remaining after the spring thaw.

Our immediate reaction swings from wondering how a child could be so very irresponsible to lose a glove in the middle of a snow storm to bewilderment why a parent would not escort their child to the most obvious path of the lost glove.

How many red gloves have we lost in our day and we simply moved on in life? Most of you reading this newsletter have a relationship with Jesus. Yet, some may have lost part of the passion, accountability, closeness, seriousness, or dedication you once had. Perhaps it is impossible to retrace our steps to the place the red glove slipped from our soul. We did not deliberately toss the red glove on a snow bank with the intent of allowing it to become embraced and absorbed in the "stuff" remaining after the snow has melted away.

I want to invite you to a sacred moment when you can retrieve your lost red glove, no questions asked. Sunday morning worship is a wonderful time to rediscover what may have been partially lost in your life. Is your red glove the loss of spiritual peace, intimate relationship with God, a sense of the holy, the wonder of God's love, the fellowship of the redeemed, perhaps the knowledge of a personal relationship with the living God on a day to day basis? I look forward to greeting you

every Sunday morning in this coming year with the eternal message of God's redeeming love.

Your red glove awaits you. It still fits.

Embrace grace!

Pastor Kevin

Have you ever seen God? I haven't, but I felt Him there and heard Him through the singing of the great Grace Choir on concert night. It was an awesome feeling and it gave me inner peace and support through the concert. The choir was totally inspired and it showed. Wherever I've been this week people have said to me, "Are you the choir director?" and proceed to say how much they loved the concert. They've all been strangers to me. Of course people I know have said so too, but I don't think I've ever talked to so many strangers. It was a wonderful concert from the Bells to the last hum of "Still, Still, Still". I'll never forget it – ever.

Thanking everyone would fill the newsletter so if you had any part in this, consider yourself thanked and remember how much I love you. We practice, beginning after Labor Day and in 90 minutes it's over. I hope you all went away from it with a song in your heart and the great feeling that you had spent this time with God. I have a special thank you to Julie for her pristine accompaniments. They also put my heart at ease, and made the music really come to life. Thank you, so very much.



The choir will spend December 18<sup>th</sup> caroling to Golden Living, Cambridge, Watson Home and Warren General. That will be fun. Regular Wednesday practice will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to Kris and his 'Bones'. If you didn't know it, he arranged all their music, directed them, and even had them singing and using their horns for percussion. Wonderful job!

Don't look for a bunch of prattle from me next month as I will be laid up after knee surgery on December 28<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in early February.

So – have a Happy New Year and thanks to all for your great blessings!

Beverly Petersen



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

At the close of each year, the media recaps all the happenings over the past 12 months. The emotions we felt at the time of these events resurface and we are left to deal with them once again; good, bad or indifferent.

The same applies as we rerun the events of our private lives. Some memories bring us laughter and joy while others lingering sorrow or regret. If you are burdened with the latter, it's time for some "positive replacement". It's a decision we can make to first reject the negative thoughts that bombard our minds and then renew our minds by meditating on Godly and redemptive things. We must decide to do it though. What a difference it makes! We can have the mind of Christ!

"This is the Day of New Beginnings", number 382 in the United Methodist Hymnal reads in verse two, "For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again." Then in verse three, "Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt and grieving, seeking new paths and sure to find." And in verse 4, "Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new."

2012 may not be much different than 2011 but we can be different and make some difference in our spirits, souls and bodies, in our families, church, work places, community, state, nation and world.

Now, different ones, reach out to others with the love and life of Jesus Christ. He'll give them "a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, a time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone." (verse 1)

Grace, mercy and peace,  
Karen Gray

## JANUARY COMMUNION



Our communion offering for January will benefit The Crossing, the local Christian coffeehouse. You may use your communion envelope in your monthly packet or a pew pocket envelope for your contribution.

The deadline for the February issue of the newsletter will be January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**

## PROMISE PRESCHOOL

December was a busy month full of excitement as we prepared for the Christmas season. We decorated the room and tree, learned many new songs and listened to wonderful stories. Both classes got to hear Rev Kev tell the Christmas story as they sat around the nativity in the sanctuary and received an Advent book to share with their families. We made special gifts for our moms and dads and decorated our own gift wrap. Our parents came to school on December 19<sup>th</sup> to share our fun and see firsthand what preschool is like for us. When we return to school after our Christmas break, the morning class will begin working on colors, shapes and writing our names. The afternoon children will continue learning the skills they will need for kindergarten. We hope your Christmas season was filled with the same joy and excited anticipation that we experienced with our students.

Happy New Year!  
Trish Gentilman & Brenda Whyte

### *Operation Christmas Child Update:*

An email was received from Jim and Heather Rodgers (part of the Northwestern PA area team) regarding the number of boxes collected in November.

The goal for Northwestern PA was 32,011 boxes. The total collected was 34,941!!!! This is a 27.3% increase over last year and 7,497 boxes more than last year. Please continue to pray for the Mid-Atlantic regional goal of 700,000, our national goal of 5.8 million and our international goal of 8.5 million boxes.

Amazing!!!! Grace church supplied 66 boxes toward this worthwhile cause.

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND:

FOR: Shirley Eyster  
BY: Martha Anderson

FOR: Tom, Jack, and Jim Schorman  
BY: Mary Schorman

FOR: Dorman Swanson  
BY: Martha Anderson

FOR: Margaret Wineriter  
BY: Judy Graham, Jim & Joyce Manchester, Jean & Terry Jackson, Jerry & Loraine Manchester, the Dudick family

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND:

FOR: James Schorman, Dana Ostergard, Virginia Reiff, and Dorman Swanson  
BY: Bill & Trish Gentilman



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY:



Advisor: Sheryl Richards, 726-3876  
Linda Knapp, 726-1199

January 1 – Tristan Johnson  
January 8 – Schuyler Campbell & Maribeth Miller  
January 15 – Olivia Brocklehurst & Emily Weiland  
January 22 – Sydney Brown & Braydn Wilson  
January 29 – Tristan Johnson & Cole Brocklehurst

### GREETERS FOR JANUARY:

Becky Gnage, Carol Ostergard, Pat Slattery, John & Karen Larson



### USHERS FOR JANUARY:

Denny Munksgard, Dean Johnson, Melinda Johnson, Jeff McKown, Terry McKown, Danielle Munksgard, Alex Danielson

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

January 1 – Anna Peterson  
January 8 – Kingsley Reese  
January 15 – Anna Peterson  
January 22 – Kingsley Reese  
January 29 – Anna Peterson



### COFFEE SERVERS FOR JANUARY:



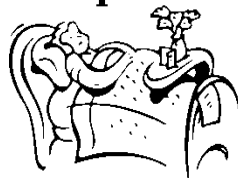
January 1 – Norm Cable  
January 8 – Will & Carol Mead  
January 15 – Pete & Marge Smith  
January 22 – Judy Johnson  
January 29 – Evelyn Boyd

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Jacob Shepherd  
January 3 – Alexis Vavala  
January 4 – Alice Bonnell, Taylor Eggleston  
January 6 – Carol Knowlton  
January 7 – Cole Brocklehurst, Dennis Tuttle  
January 8 – Brenda Lord, Jordan Trisquet  
January 9 – Carrielle Hoffman, Agnes Reed, Nancy Stanton  
January 10 – Lisa Mack, Ann Russ  
January 12 – Cole Abplanalp, Chuck Pearson, Jonah Swartz  
January 13 – Karen Gray  
January 14 – Anne Miller  
January 15 – Travis Berdine, Abbie Buerkle, Jack Napolitan, Joe Sprentz  
January 16 – Austin Linn, Nathaniel Swartz  
January 17 – Troy Burns, Rev. Kevin Haley, William McClement  
January 18 – Colter Johnson, Stacy Knapp, Mark Napolitan, Cindy Strandburg  
January 19 – Mark Danielson, Rocky Knapp Jr., Maria Munksgard, Dick Risinger  
January 20 – Nancy Clark  
January 21 – Dave Brocklehurst, Joan Colvin, Dean Strandburg  
January 22 – Chris Dutchess, Emilee Shafer  
January 23 – Nancy Nichols  
January 24 – Liz Anderson, Elise Brown, Judy Rodgers-Jourden  
January 25 – Lori Heeter, Athena Strickland, Warren Winters  
January 26 – Barb Mintzer, Mike Stimmell  
January 27 – Arlyene Menard, Peyton Morrison, Amanda Slattery  
January 29 – Helen Foster  
January 30 – Jeff Brown  
January 31 – Lois Flood

(If you celebrate a birthday this month, and your name is not on our list, please call the church office and we will add your name.)

### Recently Hospitalized



*Kim Johnson, Donald Jackson, Bill Rapp, Phillip Ittel, Virginia Arnold, Doug Zaffino, Madelene Reid, Sheldon McMeans, Emily Steves*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Through the end of November 2011 our budget was:

<u>Budget</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	25,421	296,917
Borrowed:		0
Expense:	<u>27,319</u>	<u>294,077</u>
Ahead (Behind):	(1,897)	2,839
 <u>Mission Share</u>		
Obligation:	2,820	33,840
Paid:	<u>2,820</u>	<u>35,803</u>
Ahead (Behind):	0	1,963
Percent of Year to Date Paid:		<b>106%</b>
2011 Mission Share Obligation:		<b>36,660</b>
Percent of Total Year Paid:		<b>98%</b>

For the month of November our expenses exceed His income by \$1,897, year-to-date His income exceeds our expenses by \$2,839. We had a positive month of October that helped on the income side. We need to stay focused on our commitments that we made earlier this year to support Grace Church. We need to finish this year strong so we keep His income at or above our spending level.

Our Mission Shares are on track to be paid in full again this year. This is a result of the commitment Grace Church made years ago to pay these first before our general expenses. We have been blessed in many ways as we remain faithful to our commitment.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the mission of Grace Church this year by your prayers, your presence, and your gifts.

Denny Munksgard

## **THANK YOU NOTES:**

Amy and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, food and gifts during the Christmas season to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior! I pray for a healthy and blessed new year for all of us (after 65 doctor appointments, 19 days in the hospital, and 3 surgeries and procedures in 2011, I pray the same thing for myself!) Our Grace Church family rocks – praise God for you!

Pastor Kevin

Thank you to the members of our dear church family for your cards, prayers, and words of encouragement when

my mother (and Kris' mother-in-law), Ruth Stearns, passed away in Oklahoma City in November. All that you said and did was truly a blessing to us.

Your sister and brother in Christ,  
Renee & Kris Magnuson

Thank you to the Monday morning tellers, the newsletter/ mailing volunteers, and Vickie Morrison, Treasurer. I truly appreciate your dedication to the task at hand and your support of Grace Church. I'm hoping that you all can continue to help throughout 2012 and I look forward to our time together. A donation has been made to The Crossing in your honor.

Vicki Anthony

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the choir concert reception. The cookies were beautiful, delicious and enjoyed by all. The efforts of all who set up, served, and cleaned up were sincerely appreciated.

Linda Knapp and the committee

## **WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO:**

Dave Kifer and his family on the death of his brother-in-law, Donald Joyce, on November 2, 2011.

The family of Margaret Wineriter on her death November 30, 2011.

Donald and Naomi Anderson on the death of his sister, Bernice Kiffer, on November 27, 2011.

The family of Raymond Anderson on his death December 3, 2011.

The family of Sam Reed on his death December 7, 2011.

The family of Peter Polley on his death December 18, 2011.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**



Paul and Amanda Green on the birth of Luke Paul Green on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*To Know Christ and to Make Him Known!*



***IN THIS ISSUE:***



- New Year's day schedule
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Soup & Pie luncheon

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Pastor	Kevin R. Haley
Director of Congregational Care	Karen Gray
Music Director, Organist	Beverly Petersen
Office Manager	Vicki Anthony
Youth Directors	Beth Conklin, Sarah Lucas

~ Grace Praise Team ~  
Rob Pearce, Dave Brocklehurst, Julie Danielson,  
Dave Engstrom, Chuck Keeports, Walter Miller,  
Cindy Price, Shirley Shafer, Jason Tucher

# JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL 6:00 gym reserved 7:30 Barbershoppers	<b>3</b> 11:00 Staff mtg. 6:00 Wolves 6:30 gym reserved 7:00 <u>PROPERTY TRUSTEES</u>	<b>4</b> 7:00 Men's Bkfst 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Weblos 7:00 Grace Choir	<b>5</b> 7:00 Youth breakfast 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Pastor's Bible study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall reserved – 3:30	
<b>8</b> <b>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b> 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Praise Worship/Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup/Pie luncheon 2:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 – Youth Groups 6:30 Faithbuilders Class	<b>9</b> 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bear den 7:00 <u>CHILDCARE BOARD</u> 7:00 Habitat for Humanity – W.P. 7:00 Lions Club - Library 7:30 Barbershopper	<b>10</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Wolves 6:30 gym reserved 7:00 <u>COMMUNITY OUTREACH MTG.</u>	<b>11</b> 7:00 Mens Bkfst 6:00 – Girl Scouts 6:00 Weblos 7:00 Grace Choir	<b>12</b> 7:00 Youth breakfast 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Pastor's Bible study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	
<b>15</b> <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Praise Worship/Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 <u>ENDOWMENT MTG</u> 4:00 – Watson Home 6:00 Youth Groups	<b>16</b> NO SCHOOL  Noon-Alzheimer's Group 6:00 gym reserved 7:00 <u>NURTURE</u> 7:30 Barbershopper	<b>17</b> 11:00 Staff mtg. 6:00 Wolves 6:30 gym reserved 7:00 <u>OUTREACH MTG.</u>	<b>18</b> 7:00 Men's Bkfst 6:00 Weblos 6:00 – Girl Scouts 7:00 Grace Choir	<b>19</b> 7:00 Youth Breakfast 4:00 SHARING PLACE 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Praise Worship/Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 <u>MEMORIAL COMMITTEE</u> 2:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Youth groups 6:30 Faithbuilders Class	<b>23</b> 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bear Den 7:30 Barbershopper	<b>24</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Wolves 6:30 gym reserved 7:00 <u>CHURCH COUNCIL</u>	<b>25</b> 7:00 Men's Bkfst 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Weblos 7:00 Grace Choir	<b>26</b> NO SCHOOL  6:00 – gym reserved 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>27</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>28</b> Fellowship Hall reserved 9AM – 10 PM	
<b>29</b> 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Praise Worship/Sunday School 11:00 Worship 6:00 Youth groups	<b>30</b> 6:00 gym reserved 6:30 Bear den 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 <u>PROMISE PRESCHOOL BOARD</u> 7:30 Barbershoppers	<b>31</b> 11:00 Staff mtg. 6:00 Wolves 6:30 gym reserved 7:00 <u>EDUCATION MTG.</u>	<p><u>CARE WITH GRACE DAYCARE</u> is open Monday – Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the second floor, parking lot side.</p> <p><u>PROMISE PRESCHOOL</u> meets Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30AM and 12:30 – 3:00 PM on the ground floor</p>				

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