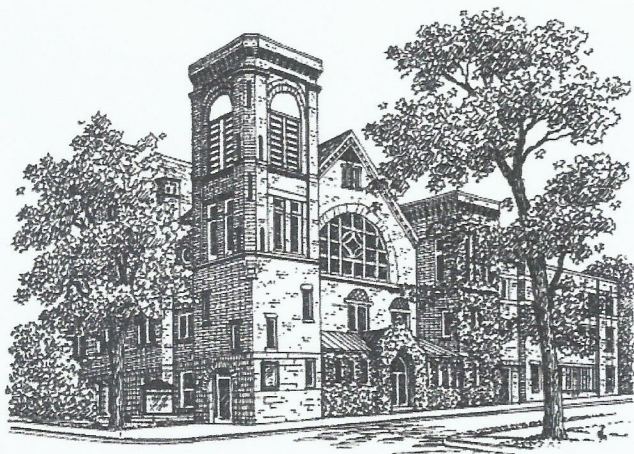


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100 CENTRAL AVENUE
OIL CITY, PA 16301
(Address Service Requested)

12/21

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 302
Oil City, PA 16301



GRACE NOTES

December 2021

Grace United Methodist Church

100 Central Avenue, Oil City, PA 16301

Pastor Ron Geisler

Phone: 677-3013 (office) 677-3345 (parsonage)

Church Office Hours: M-Thurs 9AM - 2:00PM

E-Mail: church@graceoilcity.org

Website: www.graceoilcity.org

Facebook: Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

TV Broadcast: Ch 22 Sunday Live 10:45AM,

Rebroadcast 8:30 AM & 8:30PM

Worship Service Online: <http://www.graceoilcity.org>

Sunday School: 9:30AM

Weekly Sunday Worship Service: 10:45AM



December 2021

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



OFFICE HOURS
 Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Closed for lunch noon - 1:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quentin McDonald Elizabeth Rice Christine Sanford	2 Ella Ristau Nancy Whaley	3 Adam Gahr Kiley Schorr	4 Danielle Davis Jim Whaley
5	6 Ken Vogan	7 Kelly Kosman Brenna Myers	8 Emily Goughler Walt Sumner Jr.	9 Bill Muldoon	10 Margie McCash Melanie Myers	11 Stacy Griffin Jalyn Taft
12 Tracy Winger Mike/Nicole Goughler	13 Sarah McDonald Tom Rudolph	14 Judy Guyton Mazie Mellring Karen Warner	15 Roberta Cauvel Deborah Hricsina Stacielynn Leombruno	16 Julie Arnink Mark Davis Ian Scheer	17 Sara Flockerzi	18 Jason/Sass Galla
19 Chelsey Atkins Michelle Bender Donald Hartsell Dorie Kurzenberger Larry Shaffer Jr.	20 Allysa Hoyle Ritchey Logan Monn	21 Barb Huey Don Stillings	22 Michelle Shiley	23 Gerald/Sheryl Giaccai Jim/Lorraine Puleo	24 Bill Conn John Mahle Ralph Solida	25 Linda Owens
26 Susan Hileman Holly Rodgers Frank/Cindy Fultz	27 Rodney Campbell Jr. Beth Ann Heller Mike/Gretchen Kenemuth	28 Tim/Karee Heffernan	29 Ben Campbell Connor Highfield Deacon Smith	30 Jim/Nancy Whaley Rob/Tina Ziegler	31 Norman Griffin Carolyn Stack	

Grace Church will partner with God in transforming people from unbelievers into fully devoted disciples of Jesus, to the glory of God.



Grace Church family,

Advent is perhaps one of the most misunderstood seasons in the church year. The season of Advent is absolutely Christian. It is a season that is not yet Christmas. It's a period of waiting and preparation. A season of expectation. The Savior is coming! And we prepare and wait and cherish the time.

We celebrate Advent every year. But every year it seems like the world around us rolls straight from Halloween to Christmas. There is no waiting. Our culture has the propensity to drag us from one season of spending to another season of spending. I find it amusing that the media is trying to convince us Christmas won't be the same this year due to the number of products stuck on container ships in the Pacific Ocean. That view misses the point of Christmas. Advent corrects our misplaced ideas!



Advent is about waiting. Advent grounds Christmas in reality. Because the truth is that in many moments in our lives we are waiting. We are waiting for hope in a world that often feels full of uncertainty. We are waiting for love in places where we carry hurt and shame. We are waiting for our world to reflect God's dreams. Advent meets us where we are, amid the darkness and amid the waiting, and reminds us that waiting is not a barrier to God. God acts in the waiting.

This Advent, we wait once again. Waiting is a kind of holy slowing down. How can you engage in this time of holy slow down in a season that is often so busy? Maybe that looks like inviting someone who might be lonely over for dinner or coffee. Maybe that looks like taking the time to notice God in the faces of those you walk past in the store. Maybe that looks like taking a few minutes each morning in prayer, not speaking but just sitting aware of God's presence.

When we take the time to slow down and wait, we begin to see the extraordinary in our every day, the signs that what we celebrate at Christmas is still true today: God's love is here with each of us in each moment of our lives.

Happy Advent!

Pastor Ron

GRACE CHURCH DECEMBER SOAP READINGS

We've recently learned about the value of prayer and daily Bible reading. Using the SOAP method of Bible reading can keep us on the disciple's pathway. You're invited and encouraged to use the following Bible passages each day of the month. Here's a quick reminder of SOAP.

- S** – Scripture. Use the ones listed on the calendar
- O** – Observation. As you read the passage ask questions like, "who, what, where, when, how?"
What do you observe in your reading? Jot these observations in a journal or notebook.
- A** – Application. How does what you read apply to your life, right now? What is God saying to you?
- P** - Prayer. Close the time in prayerful conversation with God. Thank him for what you learned and for how this applies to you right now.

December 1	Isaiah 7:17 & Luke 1:35	December 26	Matthew 2:1-12
December 2	Hosea 11:1 & Matthew 2:14-15	December 27	Philippians 2:5-11
December 3	Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:4-6	December 28	Colossians 1:15-20
December 4	Genesis 3:15 & Matthew 1:20	December 29	Galatians 2:20
December 5	Isaiah 40:3-4 & John 1:23	December 30	Revelation 22:6-9
December 6	Daniel 7:13-14 & Luke 1:31-33	December 31	Revelation 22:17-21
December 7	2Samuel 7:12-13 & Matthew 1:1		
December 8	Isaiah 42:1-8 & Luke 2:25-35		
December 9	Isaiah 7:14		
December 10	Isaiah 9:6		
December 11	Revelation 22:13		
December 12	John 1:41		
December 13	Luke 2:11		
December 14	Mark 1:10-11		
December 15	Luke 19:10		
December 16	John 1:1		
December 17	John 11:25		
December 18	Luke 1:5-25		
December 19	Luke 1:26-38		
December 20	Luke 1:39-56		
December 21	Luke 1:57-66		
December 22	Luke 1:67-80		
December 23	Matthew 1:18-25		
December 24	Luke 2:1-7		
December 25	Luke 2:8-20		

PARISH REGISTER December 2021



The following members of Grace Church have been hospitalized since the previous edition of Grace Notes.

Judy Hards, Jim Guyton, and Esther Spanberger

If you are admitted to UPMC Northwest in Seneca, please remember to tell the admissions staff that you are a member of Grace UM Church in Oil City.

Please keep these members in prayer: Charlene Kerstetter's son, David Coogan, as he recovers from surgery; Jim Guyton as he continues to improve at OC Healthcare and Rehab; Esther Spanberger as she continues to recover from pneumonia; Claire Henderson and family for Matt's recent diagnosis of ALS; Rita Nulph and family in the passing of her sister, Joyce Botts.

Our December Servants

Worship Leaders

Dec 5 – Lynne Delaney
 Dec 12 – MJ Eckert
 Dec 19 – MJ Eckert
 Dec 24 – Lynne Delaney
 Dec 26 – Penny Lehnortt

Counting Team

Cindy & Frank Fultz, Arnie Jones, Loraine & Jim Puleo, Nancy & Jim Whaley

Ushering Team: Captain – Brad Arnink, Blaine Beers, Ron Black, Jim Borchert, Larry Kirkwood, John Mahle

TV Ministry

Directors: Brad Arnink, Dick Baker, Bill Lamberton, Ian Scheer
 Graphics: Rodney Campbell Jr., John McCullough, Wesley Scheer

Camera Operators/Audio

Dec 5 – Jim Carner, Steve Scheer/Ian Sterling
 Dec 12 – Brea Fennick, Trish Baker/Jim Whaley
 Dec 19 – Bill Lamberton, Charlie Motter/Tom Eberle
 Dec 26 – Rob Ziegler, Wesley Scheer/Frank Fultz

Children's Chapel

Dec 5 & 19 – Heather Motter, Cyndee Clayton
 Dec 12 & 26 – Chris Salvo

Coffee Bar

Dec 5 - Open Door Class, Group Breakfast
 Dec 12 - Disciple's Class
 Dec 19 - The Net Class, Donuts
 Dec 26 - Beth Rood & Rhonda Cubbon

Advent Candle Lighting

December 5 – Gale & Donna Boocks
 December 12 – Grace Church Youth Group
 December 19 – Arnink family
 December 24 – TBD

Record of our Faithfulness	2020	2021
43 Weeks	Oct	Oct
Avg Sunday School Attendance	CLOSED COVID	45
Average Worship Attendance	70	91
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$19,858	\$18,599
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$14,697	\$14,084
Mission Offering received	\$3,864	\$4,575
Mission Expenses paid	\$4,587	\$9,843

ATTENTION – THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS FOR BOTH SUNDAYS DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2.

GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:45 AM

Contact Us

Email:

church@graceoilcity.org

secretary@graceoilcity.org

financialsec@graceoilcity.org

dir.worship@graceoilcity.org

rgeisler@graceoilcity.org

Phone:

814-677-3013

814-677-3345 Parsonage

Website: www.graceoilcity.org



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9-2:00

Closed noon-1:00

Local Public Access TV: Channel 22 -

-Previous week service broadcast at 8:30AM

-Current week service at 10:45AM

-Service rebroadcast at 8:30PM each Sunday

Web Broadcast:

www.graceoilcity.org – or –
streammedia.tv

-Sundays at 10:45AM

-Replay Sundays at 8PM

All weekly services are
available online at:

<https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

2022 Giving Envelopes

will be available
December 5th, in the Sunday School hallway.

We are also looking for volunteers to deliver. Please
contact the church office @ 814-677-3013 to
arrange a pick-up time if you aren't here for Sunday
services. Thank you.

On the Church Calendar:

Continue to check the weekly bulletins, our website
and Facebook pages for calendar updates. Meetings
are always being added throughout the month.

Dec 1 – Women's Small Group, 11am

Dec 4 – Victorian Christmas Breakfast, 8-10am

Dec 4 – Victorian Christmas Bazaar Too, 10am-4pm

Dec 5 – Communion Sunday (Intinction)

Dec 5 – Missions Cmte. Meeting, after worship

Dec 7 – Super Seniors Christmas Party, noon

Dec 7 – Deadline for Poinsettia Order

Dec 8 – Women's Small Group, 11am

Dec 9 – Trustees Meeting, 7pm

Dec 12 – Schubert Club Christmas Concert, 3pm

Dec 15 – Women's Small Group, 11am

Dec 19 – Deadline for Memorial/Honorary donation

Dec 20 – Grace Notes Submission Deadline

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 7:30pm

Dec 26 – No Sunday School Classes

Dec 27 – Grace Notes Mailing Day

Christmas Card Exchange

The Open Door Class will be offering the Christmas
Card Exchange tables starting December 5th. Please
note that all unclaimed cards after December 26th
will be discarded.

2021 End of Year Giving

This year, since December 31 falls on a Friday,
please make sure your 2021 End of Year Giving is
completed and in the church office by Thursday,
December 30. The office closes at 2:00 PM.

**If EOY Giving is not received at the church office by
Thursday 12/30, it will not be included in your
2021 Giving Statements.**

Christmas Eve Poinsettias or Memorial/Honorary Donation

Deadline to order Poinsettias is December 7th.

Deadline for Discretionary Assistance Fund
donations to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin
is December 19th.

All names received by the deadlines will be listed in

GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Missions

Prayers for missions and the missionaries that administer them is always welcome.

We had two requests that we wanted you to be especially aware of. The first is for Rose Wagner. Rose is the wife of Ken Wagner. He is located in Pittsburgh and ministers primarily to the Pitt students from China. Ken has made several trips to Grace with ministry updates and stories of the need and hunger for the Good News in China. Ken and Rose have been dealing with Rosie's battle with MS for many years. MS is a progressive disease and it has reached a point in the Wagner's case where Rose is bound to a wheel chair.

The second request is for Matt Henderson. Matt began the mission, 'Hope for Hispaniola'. He is Jake Vincik's boss. Many of you have already been made aware of Matt's recent discovery that he has ALS. We are praying for Matt's healing and for Matt, his family and the doctor's as they deal with his situation.

Victorian Christmas Bazaar Too Saturday, December 4

Breakfast served from 8:00am – 10:00am, Shop with vendors 10:00am – 4:00pm

Victorian Breakfast Menu: French Toast or Cheese and Egg Casserole, Assorted Sweet Breads, Fruit, and Coffee or Tea – Donation: \$5 Breakfast to benefit Grace UM Missions.

Handmade items needed for *Victorian Christmas Bazaar Too*

The church will have a table setup to sell handcrafted items that day along with the other vendors. Help make this event a huge success! Proceeds will benefit the missions Grace Church supports. See Lea Brosius for details 814-676-0375.



The quilt pictured and which is hanging at the front of the sanctuary has a Carpenter Star quilt top that was likely hand pieced during the 1940's. It was hand quilted by the Merry Quilters of Grace UMC and completed this year.

Bids will be taken until the ***Victorian Christmas Bazaar*** and proceeds will benefit Grace UMC Mission budget. Highest bid currently is \$400. Help us promote this – share with your friends!

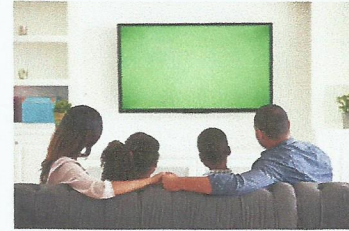
To place a bid, see Cindy Fultz 814-676-6345, Rita Hale 814-432-7437, or Eva Palmer 814-758-0158.

Women of Grace will also have a table at the bazaar which will have the refurbished Christmas decorations left over from the fall Jumble Sale. Thank you to all the willing workers who helped refurbish these items. Proceeds from this table will benefit miscellaneous projects in the church.

GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

TV Ministry

Grace Church's TV Ministry is a valuable resource in reaching so many beyond the church walls.



Testimony to this fact is that we frequently receive cards and donations from people who watch the service on TV or online. A recent card received said this:

"Please accept this check to be used for the needs of Grace United Methodist Church TV Ministry. We are a 'senior couple' who have recently become regular Sunday Viewers."

The TV ministry is gearing up for an upgrade of our video equipment soon. We are still awaiting some cost quotes but have learned that, thanks to all our magnificent supporters, our current finances should be sufficient for the initial phase of upgrade. If you've been touched by our TV Ministry, additional donations would continue to fund a higher quality broadcast.

Lord's Pantry

Please continue to keep The Lord's Pantry in mind as you shop each week and buy a couple extra non-perishable food items. Place them in the bin in the Sunday School hallway and they will be delivered to the Oil City Salvation Army.

Your donations of non-perishable food items are essential to our community. Many in the area would go hungry without your donations. It is one way that we show the love of Jesus Christ to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity.

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON and throughout the year:

when you shop at Amazon, remember to begin at **smile.amazon.com**

A percentage of your purchase is donated to Grace Church at no cost to you. To set up your page, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0965381>



Bookmark this page so you will begin each Amazon shopping trip here. Amazon donates a portion of its sales directly to Grace Church each quarter and your prices are not affected. All church-related purchases at Amazon are made through smile.amazon.com.



A reminder that donations given through your Christmas envelope are split evenly between the Ministry/Operations fund and the Missions fund, unless you request an alternate designation on the envelope.

ALLEN FREDERICK

Director of Worship Ministries
dir.worship@graceoilcity.org



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus,

Let me introduce myself in this new role as Director of Worship Ministries. I am an accomplished musician and vocalist and have dedicated my life honing the gift that God has given me. I am proficient on piano and keyboard, and I play a little organ. I enjoy modern worship music and absolutely love the standard hymns of the church. I believe that music can and should be a vital part in advancing the kingdom of God and a useful tool to uplift and encourage His people.

I believe to maintain a successful music program and to excel in leadership, one must be fully surrendered to God, willing to serve God's servants, able to be led and taught by elders, hold to a firm foundation of faith, and passionate about the church. I believe in setting forth a Christ-like attitude in all areas of service and I hold to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism as I strive to offer my best to the Lord. I have a contagious sense of humor, a solid biblical foundation, a deep love and devotion for Christ and His church and love making glorious praise unto His name!

Music is my passion and serving Christ is my purpose and calling. Whether leading a worship band, a full- choir, a single voice, or producing and directing major musical productions, honoring, and praising God with the best we have to offer is the goal and objective I bring to each task.

My goal is to broaden the reach of, and add depth to, the music ministry by including children and youth frequently into the worship life of the church. It is this foundation of equipping the young that maintains and adds to the growth of a vibrant music ministry within the church.

Although I have been away from the director's chair for a few years, I have been keeping current with church music trends throughout the world as well as the local church communities.

During my down time I have been continuing my learning by immersing myself into the studio honing my skills in recorded music and voice. This has been a grand adventure and a wonderful learning experience. Since the local church has been trending toward a modern worship experience I have kept up with the technical and production needs of a modern worship environment. Having performed on a professional level and having participated in the worship of a large Southern church I know what is involved in running a large music program as well as building a program from scratch.

I prayerfully hope that the Lord will bless me in the Director of Worship Ministries position. I really look forward to seeing what the Lord will do in Grace Church as we work together to glorify His name and offer up heartfelt praise and adoration.

Sincerely,
Allen Frederick