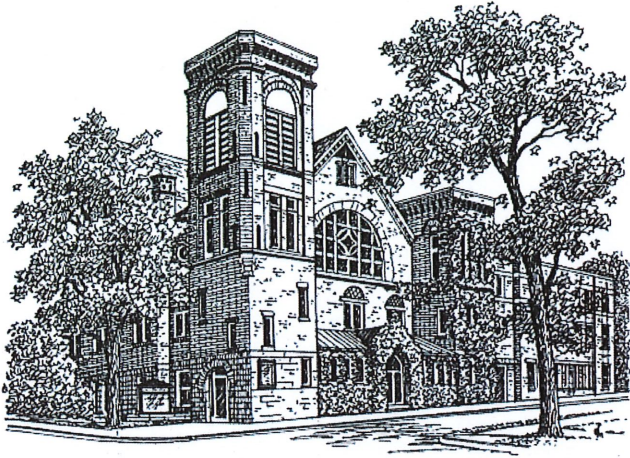


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 CENTRAL AVENUE  
OIL CITY, PA 16301  
(Address Service Requested)

1/23

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Permit No. 302  
Oil City, PA 16301



# GRACE NOTES

January 2023

## 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](mailto:church@graceoilcity.org)

**Website:** [www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org)

**Facebook:** Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

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

**Sunday School:** 9:30AM

**Weekly Sunday Worship Service:** 10:45AM



# January 2023

## 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 Holly McKenzie Mike Goughler	2 Kim Scheer	3 Cade Cochran Mike Rybak Beverly Weingard	4 Justin Woolcock	5	6 Beverly Conner	7 Libbie Arnink Natalie Arnink Jennifer Davis
8	9 Barb Hayes Dan Wrhen	10 Carletta Howard Galla Vogan	11 Shirley Bucholz	12 Heather Howard Hailey Munoz Hannah Webber	13 Randy Hicks Nathaniel Stoltz	14 Bob Delaney II Ryan Shimko
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Jan Angove Ethan Goughler Dominick Leombruno	Judson Galla Josh Webber	Laura Flockerzi Andrew Geisler John Greene	Cyndee Clayton Ben Hickman Robert Hogg Penny Weichel	Christopher French Chris Hare Sandy Hartsell		Jamie Kirkwood Olivia Stoltz
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Nicholas Hepler	Jamie Rybak	Donald Cochran Denise McCay	Abby Sharrar Tom/Cyndee Clayton	Sherry Conlan Dick McCreary Walt Jr/Maureen Sumner	Lillian Sorokin	Lincoln Galla Chris Hepler John Madden
29	30	31				
Rhonda Bush Madison Cornelius Jim Middleton Jr. June Reisinger Sara Solida	Marcia Crawford					



# Message

FROM OUR PASTOR

Grace Church,

Happy New Year!

Are you setting any new year's resolutions in 2023? Personally, I don't. I've found that resolutions don't work for me. They don't work for many people. Do you know that new year's resolutions rarely last beyond the beginning of February?

A new piece of ministry that God has called me to in the last five years is the ministry of coaching. I am a certified life and discipleship coach and an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation. Coaching is centered on helping individuals, groups, and even organizations, discover their purpose, set significant goals, and create steps to reach those goals. But it all begins with a reason to change. You need a "why?"

New Year resolutions rarely involve a reason – a "why"- to change. We like the idea of losing weight, being patient, exercising more, or getting out of debt. But until the idea moves from "wish" to "I need to..." nothing usually changes.

So, as you think about the next 365 days in front of you, what would you like to see better or healthier in your life? Do you have a goal and firm conviction of how your relationship with Jesus and with your spiritual family can improve in 2023? Where do you see some growth areas? Let me offer a few suggestions:

- Do I practice a daily devotional where I read the Bible, pray, and journal?
- Do I serve out of a love for Jesus?
- Who do I need to forgive, in Christ? Or who do I need to seek forgiveness from?
- Am I worshipping with my church family at least three times each month?
- Am I showing my neighbors or co-workers, by my words, actions, and attitude, that I'm a follower of Jesus?
- Am I growing in my financial generosity?

These are some ideas. Choose one or two, and describe what you see your life becoming if you practiced this for 12 months. Then, set some steps to achieve it. Partner with God and let him work the transformation in you.

Live On Purpose,

Pastor Ron

## GRACE CHURCH JANUARY SOAP READINGS

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. What is God speaking through these verses? What do these verses mean?  
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? What principles can you apply to your life today?

**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.

During January, Grace Church will read through the Scriptures about **NEW BEGINNINGS**.

January 1	2Corinthians 5:17-18	January 17	Colossians 3:9-10
January 2	Jeremiah 29:11	January 18	Psalms 73:25-26
January 3	Isaiah 43:18-19	January 19	Psalms 23:1-3
January 4	Ephesians 4:22-24	January 20	Romans 12:2
January 5	Lamentations 3:22-24	January 21	Romans 6:3-4
January 6	Isaiah 40:31	January 22	John 10:10
January 7	1Peter 1:3	January 23	Isaiah 41:13
January 8	Ezekiel 36:26	January 24	Philippians 4:6-7
January 9	Philippians 3:13-14	January 25	Proverbs 16:19
January 10	Ecclesiastes 3:11	January 26	Isaiah 60:1-2
January 11	Matthew 7:7-8	January 27	Psalms 40:1-3
January 12	Acts 3:19-20	January 28	Galatians 6:14-16
January 13	Isaiah 65:17	January 29	Psalms 98:1-3
January 14	Proverbs 3:5-6	January 30	John 3:16-17
January 15	Malachi 4:2	January 31	Revelation 21:4-5
January 16	2Chronicles 7:14		



# PARISH REGISTER January 2023

## Our January Servants

### Counting Team

Kim Eberle, Don & Sandy Hartsell, June Reisinger

### Ushering Team

Captain – Lynne Delaney, Rina Anderson, June Reisinger

### Sharing Grace Ministry fna TV Ministry

#### Director/Graphics/Audio/PowerPoint

Jan 1 – John McCullough/John McCullough/Jim Whaley/Leeann McCullough

Jan 8 – Bill Lambertson/Rodney Campbell/Jon Sterling/Brea Fennick

Jan 15 – Ian Scheer/John McCullough/Ian Sterling/Wesley Scheer

Jan 22 – John McCullough/Rodney Campbell/Wesley Scheer/Rob Ziegler

Jan 29 – John McCullough/John McCullough/Tom Eberle/Leeann McCullough

### Greeters

Captain – Cindy Fultz

Jan 1 – Jim & Loraine Puleo, Cindy & Frank Fultz

Jan 8 – Jim & Loraine Puleo, Ruth Woolcock, Judy Cochran

Jan 15 – Nancy Whaley, Kim Bridge, Cindy Fultz

Jan 22 – Art & Rhonda Cubbon, Brenda Chapin, Frank Fultz

Jan 29 – Art & Rhonda Cubbon, Donna Boocks, Brenda Chapin

### Coffee Bar

Jan 1 – Open Door Class

Jan 8 – Disciples Class

Jan 15 – The Net Class

Jan 22 – Youth Group

Jan 29 – TBD

### Worship Leaders

Jan 1 – Jerry Brosius

Jan 8 – Jerry Brosius

Jan 15 – Cindy Fultz

Jan 22 – TBD

Jan 29 – TBD

Record of our Faithfulness	2021	2022
	November	November
Avg Sunday School Attendance	47	37
Average Worship Attendance	85	70
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$14,278	\$11,285
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$17,004	\$18,658
Mission Offering received	\$5,175	\$3,462
Mission Expenses paid	\$1,743	\$1,708

Thank you for your generosity!

Your routine giving supports the ministry of Grace Church.

**We encourage your online giving on our website:**

[graceoilcity.org/giving](http://graceoilcity.org/giving)

Donate to Grace Church through your Amazon Orders

When you shop at Amazon, begin at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Grace Church at no cost to you.

To set up your page, go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0965381](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0965381).

This is the page for Grace Church. Bookmark this page so you will begin each Amazon shopping trip here.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Giving Envelopes are delayed in arriving

The company that prints our giving envelopes is having difficulties with a few presses going down and getting the parts here to fix them. They are trying to get our order out as soon as they possibly can. We should expect them shortly after the first of the year.



### CHURCH MEMBERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

- Rita Nulph is recuperating after suffering a stroke.
- Ginny Taylor as she receives chemo treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- Bob Scheer as he recovers from injuries sustained in a car accident.
- DeAnna Mahle's treatment for carcinoma on her head and upper leg.
- Doug & Mike Webber's son, Josh, has cancer of the tonsils and lymph nodes.

To add someone to the Prayer Chain or if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain email, call or email Donna Boocks. 814-676-4423 or donigale@icloud.com

# GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

## PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

10:45 AM

### Contact Us

Email:

[church@graceoilcity.org](mailto:church@graceoilcity.org)

Eva Palmer:

[secretary@graceoilcity.org](mailto:secretary@graceoilcity.org)

Leeann McCullough:

[financialsec@graceoilcity.org](mailto:financialsec@graceoilcity.org)

Pastor Ron Geisler:

[rgeisler@graceoilcity.org](mailto:rgeisler@graceoilcity.org)

### Phone:

814-677-3013

814-677-3345 Parsonage

**Website:** [www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org)



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9-2:00

Closed noon-1:00

*\*\*Starting January 9<sup>th</sup> – office hours will be 9am-noon for a couple weeks. It would be best to call to see if someone is in the office before you stop by.*

### Web Live Broadcast:

Worship service live @ 10:45 via our website at <https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

Previous recordings also available on YouTube.



## 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.

**Jan 1** – No Sunday School; Worship Service @ 10:45am

**Jan 2** – Office Closed

**Jan 8** – Communion Sunday

**Jan 9** – SPRC meeting, 7pm

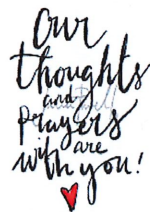
**Jan 12** – Trustee meeting, 7pm

**Jan 19** – Administrative Council meeting, 7pm

Mark you calendar to stay after worship on January 8<sup>th</sup>!

On 1/8, we will need helping hands to take down the Christmas decorations and pack them away for next year.

Many hands make light work. Thank you!



The following members have passed away since the previous edition of Grace Notes.

**Philip Womer** passed away November 30<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of Grace Church since October 22, 1995.

**Mary Elizabeth “Libby” Williams** passed away on 12/13 and had been a member of Grace Church since March 1972.

**Kimberly French** passed away on 12/14 after a month long hospitalization. She was the daughter of Don and Sandy Hartsell and had been a member of Grace Church since June 1986.

**Melissa Roxberry** passed away on 12/26. She was the daughter of Penny Lehnortt and had been a member of Grace Church since June 1989.

Please keep their families in your prayers.

# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

## Missions

### Andrew and Karen Bush

The Bush's are among many of our supported missions in wishing us a "Merry Christmas". They include in their newsletter a cool photo of the hills surrounding Bethlehem.

<sup>11</sup>"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12



### Franklin Life Center

Kim Simon's of the Life Center sends a big **thank you** to Grace for the 2022 support we provided to the center. In this time of the year when we focus on the birth of Christ, it's hard to escape the fact that God sent his Son into a humble situation that today many would have recommended abortion. God shows his goodness in organizations like this center.

### Harvest USA

Jesus warns us about a spiritual battle that we cannot avoid. This is a black or white issue. He is Lord or sin is Lord. "Harvest USA" is on the front line of this battle and reports to us what that can be like. They have been vandalized twice in recent months and Graffiti has been spray painted on their building. What is their offence? They provide Christian support for parents dealing with sex related sin such as a child's struggle with same sex attraction and a women's group that discusses Sexual Sanity for Women. It presents information exposing irreversible damage of the transgender craze seducing our daughters and granddaughters. This is a battle that cannot be fought with the steel sword but with the sword of truth. We need to continue to support "Harvest USA" and more important know our bible, Gods Word.

December 3rd Christmas Breakfast and Bazaar was a great success thanks to Brian Butchart, Frank and Cindy Fultz, Nora Heber, Patty Shiley, Lynne Delaney, DeAnna Mahle, Anne Shiley, Rhonda Morris, Penny Lehnortt and Jerry Brosius.

We were able to collect \$1,037 from our combined efforts that included breakfast, vendor table rentals, the Grace Church craft table, and the quilt auction. These funds will go toward missions. It sure was fun working/serving with this talented group. Love our church family. God is Good! *Lea*

## Sharing Grace Ministry fna TV Ministry

The TV Ministry Committee is changing its name to the **Sharing Grace Ministry**. With the continued loss of our local TV channel and the move to sharing our Worship Services via our website, YouTube, and Facebook, the time for a name update has come. This name change was approved by our committee nearly a year ago, but now is the right time to make the change official.

If you are looking for a way to serve Grace Church, consider helping with our Sharing Grace audio and video systems. We are always looking for servants to run PowerPoint, operate the audio board, or direct the service in the Audio/Video room. If you think it's too difficult, you are mistaken. We would love to have more servants available. If you are interested in serving, you could work alongside of another servant until you are comfortable, just contact the church office to let us know.

# Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



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*Our Stewardship - 2023*  
*Grace United*  
*Methodist Church*



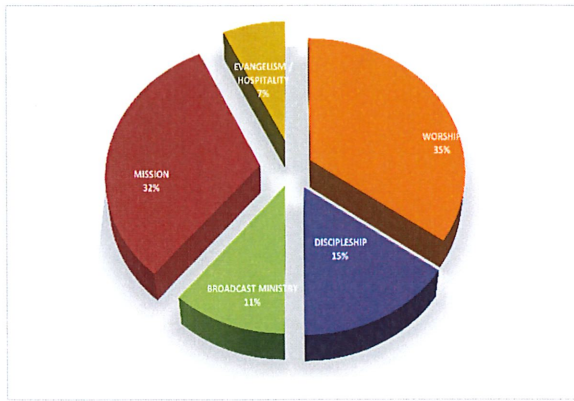
## HOW YOUR MONEY BECOMES MINISTRY

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

*The impact that Grace Church is having on the lives of people is amazing. Your generous support makes that all possible. We have the distinct joy to be a part of the most epic event in the history of humanity— to share God’s love through Jesus. God is the ultimate supplier of the resources we need to fulfill our mission and uses each person who calls Grace Church their church home as the means for supply. You are invited to be a part as you invest your time, your talents, and your treasures.*

*In the Great Commission, Jesus said, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” He made it clear that one of our greatest tasks is to share the good news of God’s amazing love with as many people as we possibly can. From those in our neighborhood to those who live in scattered places around the globe, we want to make an impact in the lives of people.*





As Grace Church prepares for ministry in 2023, we want to think about our giving in five dimensions: **Mission, Evangelism/Hospitality, Worship, Discipleship, and Broadcast Ministry.**

**Mission** encompasses the way we give to support missionaries and ministries across the globe. Included here are our Connectional Apportionments to the United Methodist Church as well as individual missionaries.

**Evangelism/Hospitality** are the ways we reach out and invite people in Oil City and Venango County to follow Jesus. Here we also include the ways we work to make guests and members feel at home.

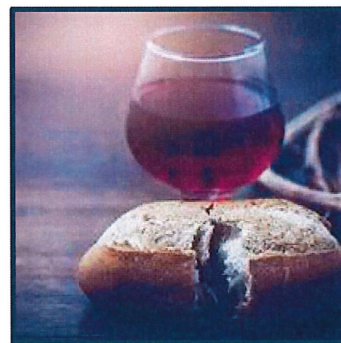
**Worship** is the most important act in which Grace Church engages. This area of our stewardship provides music, preaching, care of the worship space, the sacraments, and so much more.



### **Discipleship**

*Discipleship means growth. Spiritual growth is essential for followers of Jesus. When we give, we are providing the resources for Bible studies, church-wide learning events, and youth ministry.*

Finally, **Broadcast ministry** is the way Grace Church shares the Gospel with the wider community. We continue to live stream worship through our web page and YouTube. There are times we are asked to broadcast funerals or weddings for those who could not attend in person. Your giving cares for this vital ministry.



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## Why Should I Decide to Give?

### *IN GRATITUDE FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE*

*“If God will be with me and watch over me...of all that you (God) give me, I will give you a tenth.”*

*— Jacob’s promise to God in Genesis*

### *EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO GOD*

*“A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether The grain from the soil or fruit from the trees belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord.”*

*— Leviticus 27:3*

### *JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE*

*Jesus had a great deal to say about money and giving. He demanded that his followers not serve wealth, but God. In the parable of the talents, he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all we possess. He taught generosity and sacrifice.*

### *TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN*

*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

*— Luke 12:48*

### *PAUL TAUGHT WE SHOULD SHARE OUR GIFTS*

*“Command those who are rich in this world...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

*— St. Paul’s first Letter to Timothy*

### *BECAUSE WE REAP WHAT WE SOW*

*“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

*— 2 Corinthians 9:6*

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## In What Ways Can I Give?

We offer several ways to make your giving a simple, easy, and convenient process. Choose from any of the following:

ONLINE GIVING is the easiest, most cost-effective option for both you and the church. Simply go to [www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org) and click the "Donate" button.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES If you'd rather write a check, you may! Place your check in your offering envelope and mark the designated boxes where you'd like your offering to go.

MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE CHURCH if you're unable to regularly attend worship. Our address is 100 Central Ave. Oil City, PA 16301.

## A Challenge

As you pray about the way you financially support Grace Church, please consider these additional guidelines for 2023.

First, pray about your commitment. Ask God to guide your decision.

Second, consider these challenges:

IF YOU ARE IN A FINANCIAL JAM we only ask that you commit what you can. Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from church! Remember that God honors your faithfulness.

IF YOU ARE AN OCCASIONAL GIVER step up in 2023 to become a regular giver! We challenge you to give a set amount each month and to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current giving by 1-2% of your income or an additional \$15-\$20 per week.

IF YOU ARE A REGULAR GIVER we are grateful for your consistent gifts! We challenge you to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current pledge by 1-2% of your income or an additional \$15-\$20 per week.

IF YOU ARE A TITHER thank you for your commitment to Christ! Our challenge to you is simply to keep up the good work in 2023!

## Grace Church 2023 Ministry and Operations Budget

Salaries	\$108,233.50	*
Benefits	\$37,660.00	*
Church Utilities	\$19,850.00	
Parsonage Utilities	\$0.00	
Building Supplies	\$1,500.00	
Property Insurance	\$13,948.00	
Property Taxes	\$3,397.00	
Office Supplies	\$2,300.00	
Equipment/Computer Equipment	\$2,300.00	
Maintenance	\$150.00	
Postage	\$2,000.00	
Worship	\$2,000.00	
Christian Education	\$2,000.00	
Confirmation Class	\$0.00	
Finance	\$1,300.00	
Youth	\$3,200.00	
Family Life	\$1,000.00	
Evangelism	\$2,550.00	
Visitation & Hospitality	\$100.00	
Super Seniors	\$500.00	
Safe Sanctuaries	\$0.00	
SPRC	\$400.00	
TV Ministry	\$0.00	
Contingency	\$500.00	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$204,888.50</b>	

\* *Note: addition of Youth Director salary and social security expense to 2023 Budget. These expenses will be covered, as in past years, by Kern Funds, directed by the Trustees. Total = \$8,574.*

**2023 TOTAL BUDGET Without Youth Director Expenses: \$196,314.50.**

## Grace UMC Financial Information - Apportionment

Like all United Methodist Churches, Grace Church pays an Apportionment to the United Methodist Conference. Through this apportioned giving we support all the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church.

### How Our Apportionment Payment to the Conference is Calculated

Through 2019, apportionment had been based on annual salaries and operating expenses. But beginning in 2020 the Conference made a change and began calculating apportionment amounts based on the annual donation income received by the church in the calendar year two years prior. For example, 2020 apportionment was based on 2018 donations. There is a Conference Base Percentage which applies to all UMC churches. This percentage changes each year and in the past 6 years has ranged from 12.94% to 10.6%

Our 2023 Apportionment payment will be \$18,577. This represents 11.1% of the \$167,359 which was received in calendar year 2021.

The graph below shows the Grace UMC Apportionment payments from 2018 through 2023.



### Your Mission Giving Options

If you would like to give to the Missions Budget but would prefer that your donation is not applied to the apportionment payment, simply note this on your giving envelope and your donation will go directly to the group of individual missions which are supported by Grace Church. Additionally, if you would like to support a specific mission listed on the Grace Mission Support Budget, simply designate that on your giving envelope.

For a copy of the Mission Support Budget, contact Jerry or Lea Brosius, chairs of the Mission Committee.

*Additional Note: The Administrative Council of Grace Church has passed a resolution which states that beginning in January of 2023, any donations which are not designated on the giving envelope will be split 90% to Ministry and Operations and 10% to Missions.*