



Grace Notes

September 2020

Worship With Us!

Through 9/27
sanctuary is
closed -
10:45 Worship Service
via TV and Online Only,

See below for
rebroadcast
times.

Contact Us

Email:
church@graceoilcity.org

Phone:
814-677-3013

Website:
www.graceoilcity.org

Facebook:
Grace United Methodist
Church in Oil City

Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9-3:30
Closed noon-12:30

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:
graceoilcity.org – or –
streammedia.tv
-Sundays at 10:45AM
-Replay Sundays at 8PM
All weekly services are
available online

Dear Friends – On July 19 Grace suspended in person worship for the second time. This was in response to Gov. Wolf’s renewed restriction of group meetings to 25 or less. I know many are missing in-person worship, and want very much to return to our sanctuary. The Worship Committee adopted a plan to do that on Sunday, Sept 27. Here is an outline of the reasoning behind the suspension of in-person worship and the proposed date of our return:

- Gov. Wolf reinstated restrictions limit gatherings to 25 people or less.
- Churches were exempted from this restriction, but COVID-19 does spread in church gatherings.
- We chose to err on the side of caution rather than increase the possibility that worshippers could become seriously ill or even die.
- The Corona Virus is in Venango County. Though the spread has been slow we can’t ignore mitigation practices and expect that slow spread to continue.
- Because of the love of Christ the church has a responsibility to do what we can to limit further spread of C-19, perhaps even more than other organizations.

At this writing, I haven’t received any additional instructions regarding C-19 from Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. Congregations have been urged to make their own decisions based on all the risk factors and mitigation practices.

The plan to resume in-person worship on September 27 is based on the Oil City Area School District’s plans for the beginning of school. OCASD students will be separated into two groups. Beginning September 1 half of the students will attend in-person classes for two days while the other half attends cyber classes. Then the second half will attend in-person for two days while the first group attends cyber classes. If this plan successfully limits COVID, OCASD will resume in-person education 5 days per week for all students on September 28.

The Worship committee felt that if OCASD can successfully resume in-person education, it will be safe enough for Grace to resume in-person worship at the same time. Therefore, the first in-person worship is set for September 27.

We will, of course, continue televised and online worship each week. I am so grateful to our TV team for their diligent work.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Continue to pray for an end of this pandemic. God hears even BIG prayers. And continue to support one another. Make a phone call to members who may be experiencing loneliness. Pay special attention to shut-ins and anyone who is ill. And please continue to support your church financially.

We will get through this with God’s help. — Pastor Byron

Parish Register September 2020

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

Jan Angove, Ray Goodwill, Don Hartsell, Pete Knight, Dick Moyer, Libby Williams, Phil Womer, Rob Ziegler

Grace Church has lost a number of church members since the last edition of Grace Notes.

Joan “Rusty” Pokay passed away on Sunday June 28, 2020. She had been a member of Grace for 8 years, having joined on March 4, 2012. A service celebrating Joan’s life was held on Tuesday June 30 with Pastor Myers officiating. Our prayers continue to be with “Aunt Rusty’s” family as they mourn her loss.

Lois Reed passed away on Tuesday July 7, 2020. Lois had been a member of Grace for 44 years, joining on April 11, 1976. A service celebrating Lois’ life was held on Thursday July 9 with Pastor Myers officiating. Our sympathies and prayers will continue to be with Lois’ family and loved ones as they mourn her loss.

Ray Fry passed away on July 16, 2020. Ray had joined Grace Church as a youth in April of 1959. He was currently active in the Oakland UM Church. During this time of loss we pray for Ray’s family, including his niece, Rina Anderson.

Philip Anderson passed away on July 20, 2020. Phil was a member of Grace Church from 1956 through 1977. He had restored his membership in 1995. He was dedicated to missions, with the Hope for Hispanola mission in the Dominican Republic especially touching his heart.

Funeral services for Phil will be held at a future date. Memorial contributions can be made to Grace UMC or the Venango County Humane Society. Our prayers are with Phil’s wife, Rina and with all of Phil’s family during this difficult time of loss.

Della Rodgers passed away on Tuesday July 28, 2020. She was a member of Grace for 65 years, joining in May 1955. She had been an active member of Grace. A private service for immediate family was held on Sunday August 2 with Pastor Myers officiating. A celebration of life memorial service will be held at Grace at a future date. Contributions in Della’s memory may be made to Grace Church’s TV Ministry program. Our prayers continue to be with Della’s family and loved ones as they mourn her loss.

May the grace of the Lord bring comfort to the family and friends of those we have lost.

If you are admitted to UPMC Northwest in Seneca, please remember to tell the admissions staff that you are a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City and you would like pastoral care.

Leeann McCullough will retire as Grace Church secretary effective August 15. Shena Bennett will begin working as our new secretary on Monday August 31.

Please note that there will be limited office coverage during the weeks of August 17 and August 24. We appreciate your patience and prayers as Grace Church moves through this transition.

If you would like a copy of Our Daily Bread or The Upper Room, please call the church office to make arrangements for pick-up or mailing. 677-3013

Sign the Conference Anti-Racism Pledge.

If you are like me you recognize the reality of racism in our society, and want to see it end. However, if you are like me, you are not sure what to do. Our annual conference is providing an opportunity to learn more about what to do in the face of racism. It begins when you sign an anti-racism pledge. Beginning in August 2020 participants will receive monthly emails containing educational articles, podcasts, videos or movies and an action task. While the program called Now Action began in August, you can still join the pledge. Check out the conference website for all the details and to participate. Go to www.wpaumc.org and click on Now Action Antiracism Pledge. – *Pastor Byron*

Record of our Faithfulness	2019	2020
Ministry/Operations Offering Received (July)	\$19,797	\$15,045
Ministry/Operations Expenses Paid (July)	\$17,046	\$14,692
Mission Offering Rec. (July)	\$4,526	\$3,628
Mission Expenses Pd (July)	\$10,397	\$2,587

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Bob Taylor
Doug/Kim Eberle
- 2 **Zachary Wygant**
Charles Benton
Dave Morris
James Teifer
- 3 Carla Wheeler
Don/Sandy Hartsell
Byron/Melanie Myers
- 5 **Greydon Galla**
Claire Henderson
- 6 Jay Warner
- 7 Roger Baker
John Heffern
Tyler Lockhart
Kelle Warner
Jerry Yount
- 8 David Hipwell
Kathy Truban
Mike/Faye McKean
- 9 Dick/Trish Baker
- 10 Judy Elwinger
Linda Hoffman
DeAnna Mahle
- 11 **Charlie Motter**
Shawn/Bobbie Beightol
Corey/Jamie White
- 12 Sheryl Giaccai
Gretchen Kenemuth
Kyle/Nicki Siverling
- 13 Dave/Kathy Lauer
- 15 Rob Montgomery
Steve S. Rood
Jim/Judy Guyton
Ed/Paula Pikna
- 16 **Carter Grandin**
Elizabeth Stoltz
Gene Buchholz Jr
Jim Fink
- 17 Michael Coogan
Jerry/Mary Yount
- 18 **Sydney O'Neil**
Dennis/Kelly Alcorn
- 19 Philip Atkins
Anita Eberle
Patty Jo Gilmore
Karen Greene
Heidi Siler
- 20 **Jason Campbell**
Stephen Kelley
Chuck/Mary Benton
Justin/Deb Woolcock
Scott/Crystal Youkers
- 21 **Tage Mahle**
Diane Carroll
Kate Montgomery
Louis Stack
Jamie White
- 22 Nicole Goughler
Rhonda Morris
- 23 Ron Black
- 24 Jeff Bickel
Walter Cook, Jr.
Norrine Gegogaine
Herbert/Sandy Barnes
- 25 **Colby Rybak**
Hope Winger
- 26 Linda Brown
Jim Guyton
- 27 Joseph Boyer
Susan Munoz
Leeann McCullough
- 28 **Ethan Lloyd**
Tom Berry
Carol Shaffer
Bill/Marge Conn
- 29 Herb/Marsha
Anderson
Marcus/Nicole
Morris
- 30 Brooke Blake
Libby Jenkins
Laura Saffell
Autumn Zook

OUR SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

NOTE: We will not have Greeters or Worship Leaders at this time due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, please note that much of our schedule is "To Be Determined" based on when the sanctuary is open for Sunday services. Nursery and junior church availability is suspended at this time.

GREETERS - None at this time

WORSHIP LEADERS - None at this time

COUNTING TEAM Kim Eberle, Kim French, Don & Sandy Hartsell, June Reisinger, Peg Shuffstall

USHERING TEAM Captain - Don Hartsell; Tom Bish, Doug Eberle, Chris French, Jim Fink, Ken Vogan

TV MINISTRY: Directors: Brad Arnink, Dick Baker
Graphics: Rodney Campbell, Jr., John McCullough

CAMERA OPERATORS / AUDIO

Sept 6 Trish Baker, Charlie Motter / Tom Eberle
Sept 13 Rob Ziegler, Andrea Ziegler / Jon Sterling
Sept 20 Carson Fennick, Scott Ridgeway / Ian Sterling
Sept 27 Ian Scheer, Rob Ziegler / Frank Fultz

NURSERY / JUNIOR CHURCH - Not Available

I thank God always for you.
In all my prayers for you,
I always pray
with joy.
Philippians 1:3-4

September Meetings:

Thursday 9/10 - 7PM Trustees
Monday 9/14 - 7PM YAB
Thursday 9/17 - 7PM Ad Council

Monday 9/21 - 6:30PM Family Life
Monday 9/28 - 9AM - Grace Notes
Mailing

Church Conference Date Set

Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 4.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jodie Smith, will preach during worship service on Sunday October 4. The Conference will immediately follow the service. Of course, with COVID these plans are subject to change. However, mark your calendar and plan now to participate. **Your voice and vote matter.**