



Grace Notes

February 2021

Worship With Us!

10:45 Worship Service

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 9-3:25
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

Sue Monk Kidd tells this story of her childhood. “I still remember the day in the third grade when I got back that terrible arithmetic paper. I had missed every single problem. I was so ashamed and angry with myself that I wadded up my paper and slumped down in my seat. The teacher noticed my discouragement. She came over, put her arm around me and whispered, ‘It’s not the mistakes you make that are important, but how much you learn because of them.’ Then she smoothed out my crumpled paper. ‘Now, try again,’ she said. I did. And that time my teacher wrote across the bottom of my paper, ‘IMPROVED.’ That experience is one I hope I never forget. I still make mistakes. Some cause me to feel ashamed and angry with myself. Sometimes, when I am berating myself - I can hear God whisper in my ear: ‘It’s not the mistakes that are so important, but how much you grow because of them.’”

Lent is the season of “Now, try again,” a season when we stretch, grow and improve. It’s a time to examine our shortcomings. But the important part is what we learn from them and how we grow. Christ calls us to press on and he gives us his own Spirit to guide and strengthen us.

Lent begins February 17, Ash Wednesday. Plans for the Lent Season worship services are going to be flexible because of Covid, so keep an eye on ChurchPost e-mailings.

On Ash Wednesday we hope to hold an evening worship service at 7:00. We will offer imposition of ashes and celebrate the Lord’s Supper at that service.

The ashes remind us of our sin, and call us to examine our lives carefully, and to cultivate repentance. The Lord’s Supper reminds us that repentance is not grievous. It is filled with hope. For God has shown his love for us in this, while we were sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). The Lord’s Supper tells us that we are continually connected with God’s grace through Jesus Christ and faith in his finished work on the cross.

In repentance, even though we acknowledge and grieve for our sin, we are not taking the weight of our sin on our own shoulders. Rather, we uncover it so we can lay it at the foot of the cross. There Christ has provided for our full redemption. And if we confess our sin, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sin, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

So I hope you will join me in the season of preparation for Easter known as Lent, (Easter Sunday is April 4) and discover God’s encouragement for your soul.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Byron

Mission Notes - February 2021



Missions Budget Update – The Grace Mission Committee was unable to meet its planned Mission Support in 2020. We were, however, able to cover our total UMC Apportionment for the year. Because a number of the missionaries whom we support are not currently able to be actively working, due to the world-wide pandemic, our plan is to meet in early January to determine where our remaining 2020 funds should be directed. Our focus will be missions, such as our local Salvation Army, which has been working throughout the year providing food and services to our local community.

Venango Youth For Christ ministered to 265 different local students during the July 2019-June 2020 ministry year. How blessed we are to have YFC in our area! Due to the effects of COVID they have had many adjustments to make in their ministry style. They now connect with their students online through social media and live video meetings. During the warmer months they met outside and in the YFC garage in smaller groups. They pass on their “thanks!” to the churches and individuals who helped them to stock up supplies and snacks for their Cranberry 6th Grade Outreach and for their weekly clubs. In November, youth participated in Operation Christmas Child. And in December they filled Stocking for our Soldiers – which went to a homeless shelter for Veterans in Pittsburgh. They are a wonderful, active, local, Spirit-filled mission which deserves our continued support.

Child Evangelism Fellowship is another program which supports local students. Each year CEF holds weekly camps for kids to attend. The camps provide fun, games, and spiritual learning. With COVID, the camps were not held this past summer, but they are looking at other ways to connect with kids. Additionally, our local CEF is in transition with its leadership and is looking for a part-time office manager. CEF is asking for your prayers and support as they consider the possibilities for their programs and as they adjust to their staffing changes.

Mustard Seed Missions has helped over 1,300 families and individuals in our community over the past years. They provide essential services to people in need in our area. During the past year their home repair ministry and household goods delivery ministry were put on hold for a while due to COVID. But there were other projects to work on! Volunteers were able to assist another ministry, Emmaus Haven, in remodeling a building in Siverly that is going to be a shelter. They also helped the County Housing Department with renovating a house that was donated and is being converted into apartments to help families in need of emergency housing. And they are always ready to install ramps. However, in order to provide these services, Mustard Seed needs volunteers; people of all skill levels. If you would like to help with this program, please contact Eva at eva@msmvenango.org or call 814-437-1982 to be added to the volunteer list.

Parish Register February 2021

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

Richard Moyer

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.

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

Richard Thomas Moyer, Sr passed away on January 20, 2021. He and his wife, Margie, were long time members of Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City. Please keep Margie and family in prayer.

May the grace of the Lord bring comfort to the family and friends of those we have lost., and those who are not listed.



Urgent Need for Blood Drive Volunteers.

Commitment: At least 1-2 shifts/month (4-5 hrs./shift)

Location: Venango County

For additional information contact: Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist; Danielle Reed 412-266-4639

TV Ministry

During this time of Covid when we feel the need to separate from the fellowship of our own congregation, your TV Ministry has been a real blessing.

Thank you, Jan Womer

Record of our Faithfulness	2019	2020
Ministry/Operations Offering Received (Jan.)	\$24,314	\$19,858
Ministry/Operations Expenses Paid (Jan.)	\$17,743	\$14,697
Mission Offering Rec. (Jan.)	\$4,147	\$3,864
Mission Expenses Pd (Jan.)	\$10,397	\$4,587

On The February Calendar –

2/3	6:30PM Choir Practice
2/10	6:30PM Choir Practice
2/11	7PM Trustee Meeting
2/15	Church Office Closed- Presidents Day
2/17	6:30PM Choir Practice
2/18	7PM Ad Council Meeting
2/24	6:30PM Choir Practice

The Grace Church Library has recently been reorganized. Please stop and visit the library located in the Lounge which is on the ground floor on the Central Avenue side of Grace Hall. The library has three main bookcases. The first holds reference books, Bibles, Commentaries, and other religious history books. The middle bookcase contains books by well known Christian authors from Billy Graham to Rick Warren. In this case, books are alphabetized by author's name or sorted by topics which are labeled on the edges of the shelves. The third bookcase holds biographies first and then novels also arranged alphabetically by author. Our library is now a browsing library and books may be borrowed on the honor system. No cards need to be signed and there is no time limit for returning the book. Donations of books are always welcome. There are bookplates for memorial books if you should wish to purchase a book in memory or in honor of a friend or family member. Please enjoy and use this wonderful resource.



Through Amazon Smile, Grace Church has received: \$255.79 as of November 2020. Please continue the help.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | Casey Rybak
Bonnie Cassatt
Jason Galla
Vinnie Lehman
Jaclyn Ridgeway | 15 | Mary Ann Eckert | 26 | Owen Mahle
Margaret Knighten
Kathy McVeagh
Scott Sherick |
| 2 | Pauline Benton
Edward F. Rogers | 16 | Vivian Davis
Dan Littler | 27 | Dave/Lorraine Millin |
| 3 | Josh Knight | 17 | Ethan Cochran
Lisa Myers | 28 | Jordan Siler
Tom Clark
Jeff Forshree |
| 4 | Frank Fultz | 18 | Haley Myers
Vivian Todd | 19 | Jacob Meals
Amy McCarthy
Janice Williams |
| 5 | Jesse Benton III
James Cook | 20 | Jo Lauer | 21 | Steve Sherick |
| 6 | Lloyd Rodgers | 22 | Cynthia Lilly | 23 | Kaela Wheeler
Dick Baker |
| 7 | Andrew Hale
Cynthia Lilly | 24 | Gail Beck
Lisa McClain
Jay Rider | 25 | Charlene Kerstetter
Marcy Ridgeway |
| 8 | Anne Shiley
Renee Stephenson | 9 | Nicholas Gadley
Chris Guthrie
Danielle Guyton | 10 | Landon English
Marcia Campbell |
| 11 | Carly Albrecht
Ed Rodgers, Jr. | 12 | Dave Weaver | | |

OUR FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

N/A

WORSHIP LEADERS

N/A

COUNTING TEAM

Steve and Kim Scheer, Jim and Bev Borchert

USHERING TEAM

Captain -Don Hartsell / Tom Bish, DougeBerle, Christopher French, Jim Fink, Ken Vogan

TV MINISTRY:

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

CAMERA OPERATORS / AUDIO

Feb 7 Wesley Scheer, Rob Ziegler / Lloyd Rodgers
Feb 14 Paul Myers, Bill Lamberton / Tom Eberle
Feb 21 Jim Carner, Andrea ziegler / Frank Fultz
Feb 28 Andrea Ziegler, Scott Ridgeway / Tom Eberle

NURSERY

N/A

JUNIOR CHURCH

N/A