



Grace Notes

June 2021

Worship With Us!

10:00 AM

Summer

Worship Service
Hours

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 10AM-1PM

Closed noon-12:30

NOTE: Hours are currently
fluctuating.

Local Public Access TV:

Channel 22 -

-Previous week service
broadcast at 8:30AM.

-Current week service at
10:00AM

-Service rebroadcast at
8:30PM each Sunday.

Web Broadcast:

graceoilcity.org – or –
streammedia.tv

-Sundays at 10:00AM

-Replay Sundays at 8PM

All weekly services are
available online

Dear Friends – It may seem hard to believe, but after 26 years as your pastor, this is the last time I will write a Grace Notes article. It's hard to know what to say.

But I remember these words from Joshua 23:6 "Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left."

Joshua had served as the leader of Israel since the death of Moses. He had led Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, throughout the early stages of the conquest. He had led the process of assigning the tribes of Israel their inheritance in the land, appointed cities of refuge and cities for the Levites.

But at this point in his story, he was stepping down from leadership and passing that mantle on to younger leaders. He was selecting his final words to the people of Israel. And his words were: Be strong and obey the Lord.

Now, I am no Joshua and we all have a way to go to reach the Promised Land. But I think his words to Israel are appropriate for me to quote and for you to hear. Be strong. Obey everything that Jesus taught us (see Mt 28:20).

Our starting place is always the same: we want to follow Jesus in every part of our lives. This is not an abstract command. It does not speak about an emotional feeling of surrender. It is the deliberate, careful and determined daily decision to put Jesus' words and example into practice. Jesus commanded the church in Matthew 28:20 to teach disciples to "obey everything I have commanded you." He really meant that.

Understanding Jesus' commands is not the hard part. Putting them into practice is. We'd rather not. We'd rather do what we want. That is the natural consequence of the fall. It is the outgrowth of our sin-nature. Don't be surprised by your own natural resistance to doing what Jesus commanded.

That is why Joshua's first words are so important. BE STRONG. It takes strength of character, and the daily decision to live as a disciple to put Jesus' words into action. This isn't stubbornness. It is surrender to Christ demonstrated by the will to do what Jesus said.

I know the bishop has appointed a wonderful pastor to serve Grace. While it is hard to say goodbye, that is much easier knowing your pastor. Perhaps it is hard for you to say goodbye to Melanie and me. Remember, there is much more God wants to do in and through you.

So be strong. Obey. And be blessed. — Pastor Byron

Parish Register June 2021

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

Sheridan Cavanagh

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.

Baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday May
23 -

**Avalynne Grace and Adria
Jean Kaye Sterling** -

daughters of Erica and Ian
Sterling

Jaxon James Miller - son of
Ashley and Jason Miller

Kaylee Joy and Alaina Mae English - daughters of
Adam English and Joy Shiley, step daughters of Ron
Shiley

Let us keep these young people in our prayers as
they grown in the grace of the Lord.

*I am a
Child of
God*

In Search Of

In July we will once again open our search of a
secretary for the church. The position is part time.

If you are led to serve the church in this capacity or
know someone who might be, please keep this in
mind. More information will be forth-coming.

Updating Grace Membership Records

Grace Church is in the process of upgrading our church membership records.

Over the years members of all churches join other congregations, or perhaps have moved on in other ways.
Grace is not always informed of those changes among our members.

We are asking you to contact the church via a phone call or an email if you have joined another church and wish
to be removed from our church roles. Additionally, if you wish to remain a member of Grace Church but would
like to be removed from the Grace Notes mailing list, please let us know.

Our email address is church@graceoilcity.org and the phone number is 814-677-3013. You can leave a message
on the answering machine. Thank you.

Ron Geisler Appointed to Grace UMC

Pastor Ron Geisler has been appointed to begin
serving Grace UMC beginning on July 1, 2021.

Pastor Ron was born and raised in Washington, PA.
He began following Jesus and received a call to
full-time ministry through the faithfulness of the
West Washington UM Church. He attended Grove
City College and Asbury Theological Seminary.

Ron is an ordained elder, serving in ministry since
1993. He has been the pastor of churches in
Kentucky, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

With the spiritual gifts of teaching, leading, and
encouragement, Ron offers expertise in discipleship
training, leadership development, and the creation of
strategic missional goals. In 2016, he received the
Erie-Meadville District "Turtle Award" for "serving
the Kingdom with courage and an entrepreneurial
spirit and being willing to stick your neck out for
Jesus!" One of his great passions is seeing churches
move from struggle to success.

Pastor Ron's wife, Melissa, will serve as Pastor of First
UMC in Franklin.

He and his wife, Melissa met in Kentucky and have
been married since 1995. They are the parents of two
adult sons.

Record of our Faithfulness	2020	2021
17 Weeks	April	April
Avg Sunday School Attendance	N/A	N/A
Average Worship Attendance	69 (COVID)	81
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$18,398	\$18,261
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$18,999	\$18,534
Mission Offering received	\$3,345	\$6,203
Mission Expenses paid	\$10,362	\$9,842.83

Online giving is available on our website,
www.graceoilcity.org

Confirmed Into The Faith

The following young people were confirmed into professing membership of Grace United Methodist Church on Sunday May 23.

Libbie and Natalie Arnink - daughters of Brad and Julie Arnink

Alaina and Kaylee English - daughters of Adam English and Joy Shiley, step daughters of Ron Shiley
Brea and Carson Fennick - daughter and son of Ryan Fennick and Stacia Fennick

Christopher French - son of Kim French

Jerica and Taylor Hepler - daughters of Chris and Kerry Helper

Charlie Motter - son of Mark and Heather Motter

Madison Salvo - daughter of Scott Salvo and Chris Salvo

Ian and Wesley Scheer - sons of Steve and Kim Scheer

Congratulations to all of you. May God bless you as we grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Grace Church Celebrates With Our Graduates

Amanda Rae Cornelius, daughter of Ray and Cindy Cornelius, will graduate from Penn State University in August with a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. She asks that you keep her in your prayers as she finishes her classes and searches for a job.

Landon Ryan English, son of Adam English and Joy Shiley and stepson of Ron Shiley, will graduate in June from Oil City High School. He plans to Attend Penn State University in the fall to major in Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences. He asks for your continued prayer and support.

Andrea Nicole Ziegler, daughter of Rob and Tina Ziegler, will graduate in June from Cranberry High School. She will attend Marian University in Indianapolis and will study Nursing and participate on the bowling team. She asks that you pray for her continued success in life as a student and athlete.

Kalynne Louise Ziegler, daughter of Bryan and Wendi Ziegler, will graduate in June from Cranberry High School. She will attend Indiana University of PA and plans to study Health and Physical Education. She will also run cross country. She asks that you help to provide spiritual guidance throughout her college career.

Carson Fennick, son of Stacia Fennick and Ryan Fennick will graduate from Oil City High School in June. He plans to attend Gannon University in the fall, majoring in Biology.

Additional 2021 Grace graduates are:

Haley Myers

Jordan Siler

Scholarships Awarded to Grace Church Graduates

The Memorial Committee has granted four scholarships from the Askey Current Fund for the 2021/2022 school year. Receiving the scholarships to further their education are:

Landon English, Carson Fennick, Andrea Ziegler, and Kalynne Ziegler.

We will keep you in our prayers and wish you the best in your academic career.

Mission News June 2021

Most of us go to church, hear about missions around the world, agree that the people whom the churches send out are doing a wonderful job. We give our money to support the radio stations, salaries for those who are witnessing, and to buy Bibles to be given out. Then we get on with our everyday, very safe, lives.

Recently I read a first-person account written by a college student who was asked by her roommate if she would like to join her on a tour of China. Only after they were there was she told that the trip was to sneak Bibles across the Chinese border! If caught, this could mean a life in prison. After much prayer, she agreed to do it. The article describes how scared she was. As she stood in line to show her passport, one guard never took his eyes off her. She was sure that he suspected she was smuggling. She had a big decision to make: stay in line and hope she was wrong or try to get over into the other line and chance that he would come after her.

The next few paragraphs are in her words.

“God, I whispered, I leave my life in Your hands.”

When I looked up, a handsome young Chinese man dressed in business attire was approaching my side. He gently touched my elbow, asked for my passport and gestured for me to follow him. He escorted me directly to the head of a different line that was adjacent to the line in front of the angry guard. Panic rose up in my spirit. Who is this man? Why had I just given him my passport?

These erratic thoughts pummeled my fist like a prize fighter landing fists for the knockout blow. I was now at the mercy of an angry guard and an unknown stranger. Slamming my passport on the table directly in front of the border guard, my escort declared, “Your line is too slow! You are taking too much time! This girl is traveling with me and my tour is getting later by the minute.” He pointed to the large group of people standing on the other side of the border who were looking back at us as if waiting for him to return. “You must stamp her passport immediately and get going or I will report you!” The guard indignantly stamped my passport, muttered his disapproval, and motioned for us to pass through.

Could it be that easy? I quickly hurried behind my newfound friend but stopped for a moment to make sure I had all my bags. When I looked up, to my astonishment, my hero had disappeared. I searched every direction to see if I could find him, but he had vanished. No sight of him or any of the tourists who were following him.

Could it be ... was he ... an angel? Was this a miracle like the miracles I had heard about and read about in the Bible?

I gathered my thoughts and searched for my traveling companion. We boarded the train and settled in our seats. As we neared our destination we sunk low in our seats and transferred the Bibles from our back packs into carry-on luggage that we held between our knees. We had been told that a young college age student would approach us and offer his assistance once we arrived at the station. We were to hand over our luggage filled with Bibles.

As we stepped off the train we were engulfed in a sea of humanity. Hundreds of people rushed past us to board trains. In the midst of this confusion a young Chinese man approached us and asked if he could help with our luggage. We entrusted our precious cargo into his outstretched hands. In a blink of an eye he dropped out of sight into the heavily crowded station.

I stood in awe at what God had done.

Isaiah 43:2

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.*