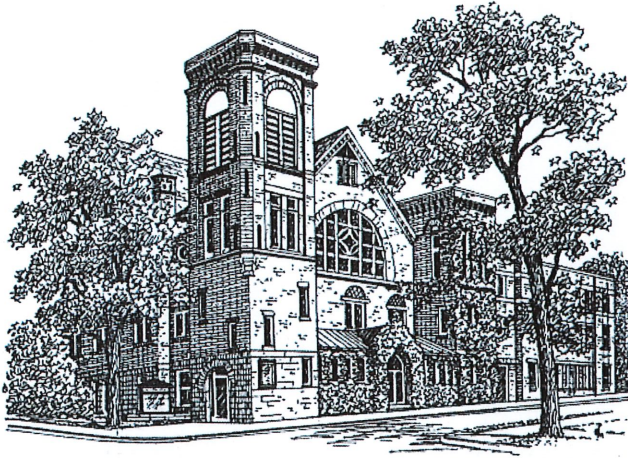


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 CENTRAL AVENUE  
OIL CITY, PA 16301  
(Address Service Requested)

12/22

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U. S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 302  
Oil City, PA 16301



# GRACE NOTES

December 2022

## 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



# December 2022

## 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 Ken Vogan	6 Ken Vogan	7 Kelly Kossman Brenna Myers	8 Emily Goughler Walt Sumner Jr.	9 Bill Muldoon	10 Margie McCash Melanie Myers
11	12 Tracy Winger Mike/Nicole Goughler	13 Sarah McDonald Tom Rudolph	14 Judy Guyton Mazie Melring 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 John Mahle Ralph Solida
25 Linda Owens	26 Frank/Cindy Fultz Susan Hileman	27 Mike/Gretchen Kenemuth Rodney Campbell Jr. Beth Ann Heller	28 Tim/Karee Heffernan	29 Ben Campbell Connor Hughfield Deacon Smith	30 Jim/Nancy Whaley Rob/Tina Ziegler	31 Norman Griffin Carolyn Stack



# Message

## FROM OUR PASTOR

Grace Church,

The month of December puts us squarely in the season of Advent – a time of expectation for the coming of Christ. Along with Christians around the globe, we remember the first coming of Christ as an infant in Bethlehem and we anticipate the second coming of the exalted Christ who will bring the Kingdom of God in its fullness to the earth. These are exciting times.

During Advent I like to reflect upon this particular phrase from the Apostles' Creed as it relates to Jesus: *Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...*

From all eternity the Son is in the Father and the Father is one with Son. But, in the fullness of time, God sent his Son, the expression and extension of his radiance, Word, and glory, into the world. We remember what John exclaimed in the gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:1-18). Paul agrees with John's theology when he wrote, "the Son is the image of the invisible God..." (Colossians 1:15).

God the Son is born into the world, and although he is eternal God, he takes on human flesh and becomes a man. He is fully God and fully man. He's not half God and half man – not a mixture of two. Jesus is fully God and fully man. God the Son was conceived by the Holy Spirit and clothed in flesh in the womb of Mary.

Advent and Christmas are such important moments in the life of the church. The moments are important not simply because of the nostalgia and celebrations they bring but because of what the season teaches us about our doctrine and belief. We hold up the virgin birth of Jesus so this God-Man comes without sin to save and redeem us from our sin, reconcile us to God and one another, and work in us making us holy and like Christ himself.

The Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church (our theological and doctrinal statements) remind us "that the Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men" (*Article 2: Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man*).

Let's praise Jesus in this season.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Ron

## GRACE CHURCH DECEMBER 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.

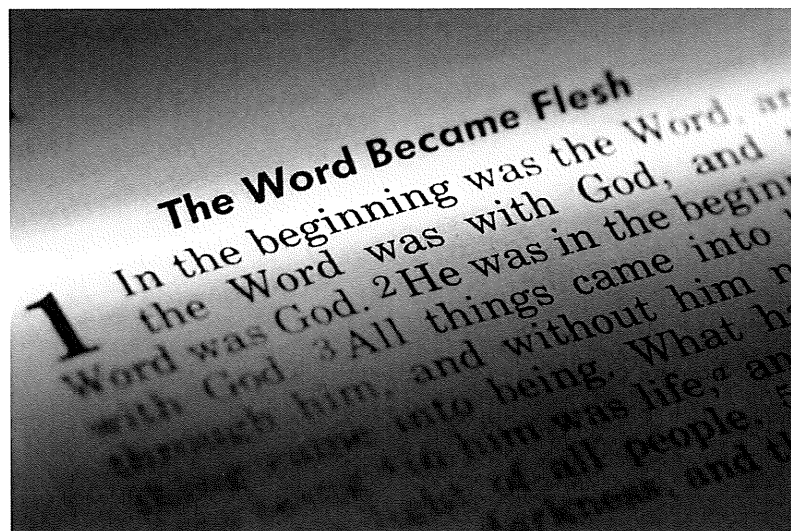
**A** – Application. How does what you read apply to your life, right now? What is God saying to you? What principles can you apply to your life today?

**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.

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During December, Grace Church will read through the Scriptures about the birth of the Messiah.

December 1	Genesis 3:14-15	December 17	Luke 1:1-7
December 2	Genesis 22:1-12	December 18	Luke 1:8-17
December 3	Genesis 22:13-18	December 19	Luke 1:18-25
December 4	Isaiah 7:13-14	December 20	Luke 1:26-38
December 5	Isaiah 9:1-7	December 21	Luke 1:39-45
December 6	Isaiah 53:1-6	December 22	Luke 1:46-56
December 7	Isaiah 53:7-12	December 23	Luke 2: 1-21
December 8	Jeremiah 23:1-8	December 24	John 1:1-8
December 9	Micah 5:1-5	December 25	John 1:9-18
December 10	Hosea 11:1-2	December 26	Colossians 1:15-23
December 11	Jeremiah 31:15-17	December 27	Hebrews 1:1-4
December 12	Isaiah 40:1-5	December 28	Hebrews 2:1-11
December 13	Matthew 1:18-25	December 29	Hebrews 2:12-18
December 14	Matthew 2:1-12	December 30	1John 4:1-6
December 15	Matthew 2:13-20	December 31	Revelation 22:12-21
December 16	Matthew 3:1-12		





# PARISH REGISTER December 2022

## Our December Servants

### Counting Team

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

### Ushering Team

Captain – Tom Eberle, Frank Fultz, Jim Puleo, Bruce Siler, Paul Siler, Rob Ziegler

### TV Ministry

#### Director/Graphics/Audio/PowerPoint

Dec 4 – Ian Scheer/John McCullough/Jon Sterling/Charlie Motter

Dec 11 – John McCullough/Rodney Campbell/Ian Sterling/Wesley Scheer

Dec 18 – Brad Arnink/John McCullough/Wesley Scheer/Leeann McCullough

Dec 25 – Bill Lamberton/Rodney Campbell/Tom Eberle/Wesley Scheer

### Greeters

Captain – Rhonda Morris

Dec 4 – John & Leeann McCullough, Youth, Rhonda Morris

Dec 11 – Darrell & Gayle Smith, Art & Rhonda Cubbon, Rhonda Morris

Dec 18 – Gale & Donna Boocks, Youth, Rhonda Morris

Dec 24 – Dave & Rhonda Morris, Mark & Rita Hale

Dec 25 – Dave & Rhonda Morris, Youth

### Coffee Bar

Dec 4 – Open Door Class

Dec 11 – Disciples Class

Dec 18 – The Net Class

Dec 25 – Youth Group

### Advent Readers

Dec 4 – Patty Shiley & Penny Lehnortt

Dec 11 – Student Ministry

Dec 18 – Lynne Delaney & Brenda Chapin

Dec 24 – Jerry & Lea Brosius

### Worship Leaders

Dec 4 – Jim Carner

Dec 11 – Eva Palmer

Dec 18 – Lynne Delaney

Dec 25 – Rhonda Cubbon

Record of our Faithfulness	2021	2022
	October	October
Avg Sunday School Attendance	45	38
Average Worship Attendance	91	71
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$18,600	\$21,608
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$14,084	\$12,695
Mission Offering received	\$4,574	\$4,161
Mission Expenses paid	\$9,843	\$10,433

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

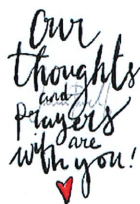
When you shop at Amazon, begin at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Grace Church at no cost to you.

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

### HOSPITALIZED:

- Blaine Beers fell and was taken to Hamot; he is now home.
- Joe Emanuel was hospitalized briefly for testing but is back at his place at the organ.
- Kim French was admitted to Hamot ICU for lung issues.
- Ginny Taylor for gall bladder surgery.



### OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

- Marcus Morris for heart issues
- Jim & Loraine Puleo – Jim's son David has been placed in hospice care.

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](mailto: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

**Local Public Access TV:** We continue to apologize for issues related to our Worship Service Broadcasts on StreamTV and Comcast Channel 22. StreamTV administrators have informed us that their contract with Oil City has not been renewed, therefore it is unlikely that our Worship Services will be broadcast on Channel 22 anytime soon.

Please continue to watch or rewatch our Worship Services on our website.

### Web Live Broadcast:

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

-Sundays at 10:45AM

## 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 3** – Victorian Christmas Breakfast, 8-10am

**Dec 3** – Victorian Christmas Bazaar Too, 9am-4pm

**Dec 4** – Communion Sunday

**Dec 6, 13, 20** – *Invitation* Bible Study, Tues @ 2pm, Lynne Delaney's home, 1363 Riverside Dr OC

**Dec 6** – Super Senior Hosted Christmas Party, noon

**Dec 8** – Communion Steward Training, 11am

**Dec 8** – Trustees Meeting, 7pm

**Dec 11** – Deadline for Poinsettia Order

**Dec 11** – Schubert Club Christmas Concert, 3pm

**Dec 18** – Deadline for Memorial/Honorary donation

**Dec 19** – Grace Notes Submission Deadline

**Dec 24** – Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

**Dec 25** – No Sunday School Classes

**Dec 26** – Office Closed

**Dec 27** – Grace Notes Mailing Day

## Christmas Card Exchange

The Open Door Class will be offering the Christmas Card Exchange tables starting December 4th. Place your addressed cards in the green box provided at the usher table.

Please note that all unclaimed cards after December 26th will be discarded.

## Mission Toiletry Bags

**Once again Grace UM will be collecting and bagging toiletries to send with the large mission team going to the Dominican in January**

If you have small travel sized shampoos, creams, soaps, and toothpaste that you wish to donate, please place them in the small brown basket in the Sunday School hallway. Washcloths are welcomed, too.

We hope to send at least 50 bags to be given to those who visit the medical clinics during that team week.



# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

## Missions

### Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Drive

As Christmas draws near, the effort to mobilize the ladies from Grace to gather hygiene items, school supplies, toys and other children's small gifts has ended. Just to summarize, the program was started in September. We felt a target of 50 boxes was reasonable for the first year of a new effort like this one. Well, the third week of November, we delivered 112 boxes! The Samaritan's Purse, led by Franklin Graham, will now deliver the boxes to children in over 100 countries. Each gift box will have a message of hope and love telling them about God's greatest gift free to them through Jesus Christ. God again shows his love to us by giving us the funds to easily include this in our Christmas season giving.



**A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated. We have a wonderful giving church family.**

**God is Good!**

### Mission Trip for Hope for Hispaniola

Rina Anderson, Frank and Cindy Fultz returned Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from a one-week mission trip to Higuey, Dominican Republic serving with the Hope for Hispaniola full time missionaries, Jake and Faye Vincik and their sons, Christian and Luke. During the short visit, much was accomplished, and both the team members and the Dominicans were blessed. Our team of seven included Bill and Sandi Young from Nicklin UMC and Bill and Lynn Black from Christ UM Church. Some of the work accomplished included purchasing, sorting, bagging, and delivering bags of food staples to 70 needy families in 4 extremely poor villages, two of which were devastated by the recent hurricane. The mostly Haitian villagers and churches have little and most lost what little they had due to hurricane flooding. Partnering with Pastor Tony and Pastor Ruth, we were connected with some of the neediest of all. We also distributed clothes and toiletries in villages. The villagers were very appreciative, and many hugs and tears were shared.



Two construction projects were completed. One of the workers on the new medical and retreat center has been able to build his family a block home piece by piece over the past two years. A bedroom, living room, and bathroom still had dirt floors although the family has been living there. In two days, our team completed the cementing the floors of those rooms... mixing the "megla" and hauling it by buckets into the rooms. The family stayed with us while the floors were drying. Amato and his family should have moved back into their house on Saturday.

Our team spent one day at La Higuerra visiting the children's center, Benito (a bed ridden man who HFH has been serving for nearly 10 years), Pastora Lydia, and many friends in the community. The men on the team built a small roof on the back of the children's center to help with drainage and prevent leaks that occur during rains.

For a bunch of old people, we were able to accomplish quite a lot. Many friends were made, and two persons committed their lives to our Lord during the service on Sunday at Pastor Tony's church where Bill Black presented the Sunday sermon and gave an invitation for new Christians. All of us want to thank you for your prayers, your donations, and your faithful commitment for Hope for Hispaniola, led by Matt Henderson, a son of Grace UM Church! His parents Ed and Claire were active in this ministry from its beginning and have led many Grace UM Church members in opportunities to serve with them.

**God is so Good!**

# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

## The Merry Quilters

The Merry Quilters have finished hand quilting a second vintage quilt. This beautiful heirloom is blue and cream and has a traditional Chimney Sweep block design. Marie Stephens first owned the quilt top and possibly hand-pieced by someone in Marie's family. Our best guess is that it was pieced in the 1920's or 30's although the Chimney Sweep pattern was popular in the late 1800's. Marie Stephens's niece, Amy Ziegler, donated it.

The quilt will be on display in the Sunday School hallway and bidding will be open until the Victorian Bazaar on December 3, 2022. The bidding sheet will be in the hallway. The proceeds from this quilt sale will benefit the mission budget of Grace UM Church.

Thank you to all the many quilters who added stitches to this quilt!  
Cindy Fultz for the Merry Quilters



Pictured are some of the Merry Quilters

## Victorian Christmas Bazaar Too - Saturday, December 3

**Breakfast served from 8:00am – 10:00am, Shop with vendors 9:00am – 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.

If you have hand-crafted items to donate for the Grace Church table, please bring them to the church office. We hope to have a table of hand-crafted items of all types to sell to add to the mission budget.

## Notes from the Financial Secretary -

- Thanks to your generosity, the Missions committee has met their budget goals for 2022. All of their mission support will be fulfilled and the apportionment payments to the Conference will be paid in full. **God is Good!!**
- The Ministry and Operations side of the budget needs your support for the remainder of 2022. This portion of the budget covers programs such as Youth, Super Seniors, Worship, and Christian Education, as well as the basic operational expenses of the church.
- Donations can be made to Grace Church in many ways. Besides the Sunday morning offering, you can mail donations to the church, or set up direct payments to Grace UMC through your bank. Grace Church also accepts donations through PayPal. As a convenience, payments made through your bank or PayPal can be set up on a recurring basis.
- In the first 9 months of 2022 Grace UMC received over \$100 in donations through the Amazon Smile program. If you are not familiar with Amazon Smile, it is a service by which a percentage of your Amazon.com purchases are donated to a charity of your choice. You are not charged anything; this philanthropic service is provided free through Amazon. It's quite easy to use you simply designate Grace Church as your charity of choice and then begin all your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). See more instructions in this edition of Grace Notes.

Thank you for your continued, generous support of Grace Church. If I can be of help to you, please call the church and leave a message. I'll try my best to get back to you within a day.

Blessings to you through the remainder of 2022! – *Leeann*