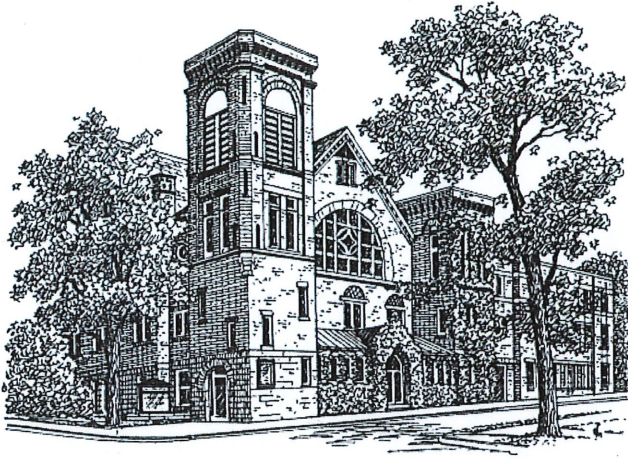


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100 CENTRAL AVENUE
OIL CITY, PA 16301
(Address Service Requested)

4/23

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 302
Oil City, PA 16301



GRACE NOTES

April 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

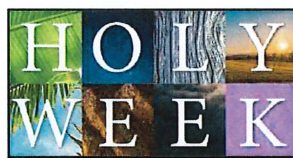
Website: www.graceoilcity.org

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



Holy Week at Grace Church

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 – Holy Thursday (worship and communion at 7 pm)

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Layman's Breakfast/Service

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Worship Celebration

April 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 Kendall Carner
2 Marilyn Kirkwood Shane Wheeler	3 Jennifer Brogan Samantha Woolcock	4	5 Deborah Butchart Marge Conn	6 Katie Arnink Emily Eckert Susan Perry Michele Woolcock	7 Jack Warner Jerry/Lea Brosius	8 Lilly Shiley Dave/Gail O'Neil
9 Maria Salvo Eugene/Amy Dykins Bill/Janille Lamberton	10 Dennis Puleo	11 Kris Walter	12 Charles Fentress Sandy Friggle Michael/Kirsten Hassan	13 Todd Heffern	14 Randy Aaron Joe Emanuele Randy Heighley Anna Shaffer Virginia Ziegler	15 Kris Flinchbaugh Heather Williams
16 Chris/Linda Owens	17 Steve Goss Barb Siler Darrell/Gayle Smith	18 Mitch Eberle Lana Jolley Lerisa Shiley	19 Amanda Cornelius Sam Shaffer	20 Ed Berringer Rodney Campbell Sr. Kim Eberle	21	22 Judy Cochran Matt/Sheila Updegraff Pat/Cindy Zerbe
23 Brit Flinchbaugh Holly Toy	24 Amanda Lehrman Pete/Gwen Berry	25 Tim Berry Kason Carner Susan Hodge Jason Mahle Liam Montgomery	26 Tina Boyd Matt/Michelle Shiley	27	28	29 James Dehner Taylor Hepler Norma Hogue Jason/Faith Mahle
30						
Brandon Wheeler						



Message

FROM OUR PASTOR

“...on the third day, he rose again...”

The Apostles' Creed

We believe in the literal and physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead! Matthew concludes his gospel with the women going to the tomb early on the first day of the week only to discover that Jesus was not there. In fact, an angelic messenger points to this reality when he invites the women to step into the tomb and witness for themselves (Matthew 28:1-10). To some, belief in the literal and physical resurrection of Jesus may seem old-fashioned, small-minded, or even ridiculous. But Christians have accepted this reality ever since Mary, Peter, and John ran to the tomb.

The Apostles' Creed, one of the earliest doctrinal statements of Christianity, communicates this truth as an essential Christian belief. Why? Because the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is **THE CENTRAL PROCLAMATION OF THE CHURCH!** The resurrection of Jesus and your belief in it identifies you as a Christian. We follow a risen savior.

To support this statement of faith and encourage you, let me highlight three implications about the resurrection of Jesus.

First, the resurrection of Jesus is the public demonstration of God's victory over sin, death, and hell. The resurrection proclaims the reason for the cross and Jesus' descent into hell. To believe in Jesus does not simply mean to believe that he lived, or even that he was a great ethical teacher – even most other religions believe that about Jesus. The distinctive of the Christian faith is that we believe Jesus is the risen Lord. We believe that his death and resurrection publicly testify to God's victory over sin, death, and hell. (John 10:9, Acts 15:11)

Second, the resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our future bodily resurrection. Christianity does not believe that God just saves souls. God is saving ALL OF YOU: your body, soul, mind, and spirit. God redeems the whole person! At his resurrection, Jesus received his resurrection body, just as you and I will at the end of time. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul points this out to us. *Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20).* Because Jesus has been resurrected, we have the promise of our own resurrection. Jesus is the first, the pioneer of our faith, guaranteeing our own resurrection body.

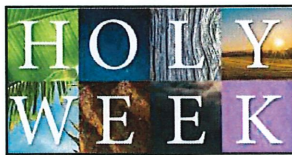
Finally, Jesus' resurrection makes Christianity unique among all world religions. You've heard people say a terribly misleading statement: *all religions are basically the same*. Nothing could be further from the truth. Again, the Apostle Paul teaches that the resurrection of Jesus is the central distinguishing feature of Christianity. He even goes so far as to say that if Jesus has not been raised from the dead then our preaching and our faith are useless (1 Corinthians 15:14). If Jesus has not been raised, we are liars, our sins have not been forgiven, and we have no hope for the future. The credibility of the gospel rests on the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Without the resurrection of Jesus, Christianity is no different from any other world religion.

Furthermore, when it comes to the uniqueness of Christianity, we are not spreading religious ideas that inspire the human race to greater positivity. Christianity doesn't help us cope better. We are proclaiming the historical events upon which the entire history of the world is laid. This is about who God is and what God has accomplished.

"Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die."
- Matthew Bridges

Live On Purpose,

Pastor Ron



Holy Week at Grace Church

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 – Holy Thursday (worship and communion at 7 pm)

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Layman's Breakfast/Service

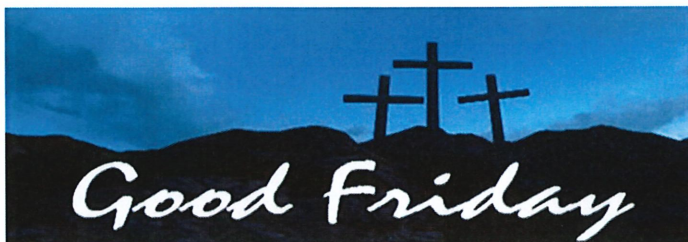
Sunday, April 9 – Easter Worship Celebration

The Good Friday Laymen's Service 2023

Join men of all ages April 7th for the 56th Good Friday Laymen's Service.
Breakfast at 6am at the K of C Hall and worship service here at Grace at 7am.

This year's speaker will be Ron Marsh of Oil City.

Breakfast tickets are \$10 and available at: Friedhaber's Appliance, Somers
Dentistry, Scott Walters and Lou Slautterback in Franklin and at the K of C door.
Brian Butchart also has tickets.



Oil City Good Friday Cross Walk

APRIL 7th at 10:30 am

Begins at the Route 8 end of Center
Street Bridge. Route map is posted on the
Announcement Board in the Sunday
School hallway.

For more information contact Phil
Thompson at 814-758-6208.

GRACE CHURCH APRIL 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?

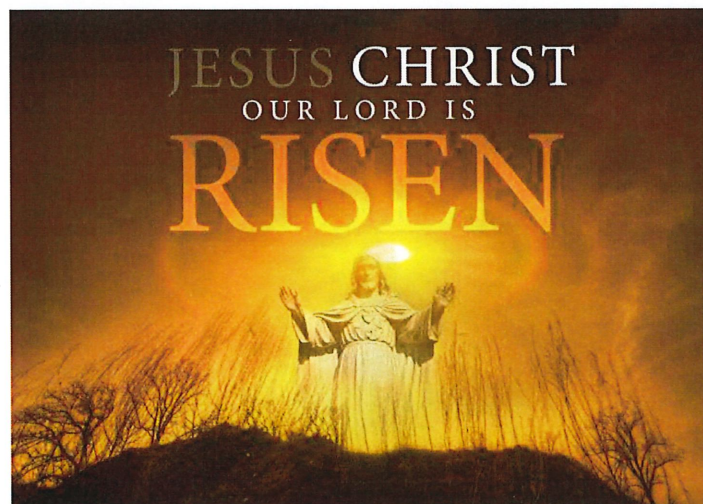
What do you observe in your reading? Jot these observations in a journal or notebook.

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 April, the SOAP readings will focus on the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus, your own resurrection as a follower of Jesus, and the implications of living a resurrection life.

April 1	Zechariah 9:9	April 16	John 21:15-19
April 2	Luke 19:28-40	April 17	John 11:23-27
April 3	Luke 19:41-48	April 18	Acts 4:1-12
April 4	Luke 20:9-19	April 19	Acts 4:13-22
April 5	Mark 14:1-11	April 20	Romans 8:1-8
April 6	John 13:12-17	April 21	Romans 8:9-17
April 7	Psalms 22	April 22	1Corinthians 15:1-11
April 8	Isaiah 53	April 23	1Corinthians 15:12-22
April 9	Luke 24:1-12	April 24	1Corinthians 15:23-34
April 10	Luke 24:13-24	April 25	1Corinthians 15:35-44
April 11	Luke 24:25-35	April 26	1Corinthians 15:45-58
April 12	Luke 24:36-49	April 27	Philippians 3:7-14
April 13	John 20:19-23	April 28	Romans 6:1-14
April 14	John 20:24-29	April 29	Romans 6:15-23
April 15	John 21:1-14	April 30	Colossians 3:1-17



PARISH REGISTER April 2023

Our April Servants

Counting Team

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

Ushering Team

Captain – Jim Borchert, Blaine Beers, Ron Black

Sharing Grace Ministry fna TV Ministry

Director/Graphics/Audio/PowerPoint

Apr 2 – John McCullough/Rodney

Campbell/Wesley Scheer/Leeann McCullough

Apr 9 – Ian Scheer/John McCullough/Tom

Eberle/Wesley Scheer

Apr 16 – John McCullough/Rodney

Campbell/Jim Whaley/Brea Fennick

Apr 23 – Bill Lamberton/John McCullough/Jon

Sterling/Charlie Motter

Apr 30 – Ian Scheer/Rodney Campbell/Ian

Sterling/Rob Ziegler

Greeters

April Captain – Leeann McCullough

Apr 2 – Ramp/Leeann McCullough, 1st St./Debbie Stahl

Apr 9 – Ramp/Sarah & Austin McDonald, 1st St./Patty Shiley

Apr 16 – Ramp/Chris Salvo, 1st St./Debbie Stahl

Apr 23 – Ramp/Amy Ziegler & Tom Peebles, 1st St./Judy Hards

Apr 30 – Ramp/Donna & Gale Boocks, 1st St./Cindy & Frank Fultz

Coffee Bar

Apr 2 – Open Door Class

Apr 9 – Disciples Class

Apr 16 – The Net Class

Apr 23 – Youth Group

Apr 30 – TBD

Worship Leaders

Apr 2 – Jerry Brosius

Apr 9 – Jerry Brosius

Apr 16 – Eva Palmer

Apr 23 – Eva Palmer

Apr 30 – Ron Black

If you would like to be a Worship Leader, please contact Anita Eberle.

Record of our Faithfulness	2022	2023
	February	February
Avg Sunday School Attendance	37	No report
Average Worship Attendance	69	52
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$12,593	\$5,396
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$19,243	\$17,989
Mission Offering received	\$3,713	\$1,224
Mission Expenses paid	\$1,708	\$0

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



CHURCH MEMBERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

- Ginny Taylor as she receives chemo treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- Jim & Loraine Puleo's son-in-law, Dewey, for healing of a 5mm spot on his lower left lobe that was not there in June 2022, he will be scanned in 8 weeks.
- Tim Mong had a minor heart attack but is doing well and at home.
- Jim & Bev Borchert's great granddaughter, Josephine Etzel, needed open heart surgery.
- Nancy Simpson as she recovers from shingles.
- Shirley Baughman was hospitalized but is recovering from severe sciatic pain.

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



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

Hazel Beck passed away on March 2nd at the age of 99. She had been a member of Grace Church since April 1943.

GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

10:45 AM

Contact Us

Email:

church@graceoilcity.org

Eva Palmer:

secretary@graceoilcity.org

Leeann McCullough:

financialsec@graceoilcity.org

Pastor Ron Geisler:

rgeisler@graceoilcity.org

Phone:

814-677-3013

814-677-3345 Parsonage

Website: www.graceoilcity.org



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9-2:00

Closed noon-1:00

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.

Apr 2 – Easter Memorial Discretionary Fund Giving due

Apr 2 – Mission Committee Meeting, after worship

Apr 2 – Countywide Palm Sunday Service, 5pm @ New Life Family Worship Center, 100 E. Atlantic Ave in Franklin

Apr 6 – Holy Thursday (worship and communion at 7 pm)

Apr 7 – Good Friday Layman's Breakfast & Service, 6am & 7am

Apr 7 – OC Crosswalk, 10:30am

Apr 9 – Easter Worship Service @ 10:45am

Apr 16 – Youth Luncheon and Church Family Meeting, after worship – see below for details

Apr 19 – Grace Notes Deadline for submitting articles

Apr 26 – Grace Notes Mailing Day

Apr 30 – Usher Meeting, after worship

Grace Church Family,



Pastor Ron and the Administrative Council are inviting you to a **Church Family Spring Meeting**. This gathering will be held in conjunction with the after-worship luncheon on **Sunday, April 16, 2023.**

While everyone is invited, the Family Meeting will be of particular importance to those who are **remaining** United Methodists and specifically **remaining** members of Grace United Methodist Church post-Annual Conference and post-disaffiliation. During the Family Meeting, you will be provided with important and helpful information regarding upcoming opportunities and challenges facing Grace United Methodist Church. **You will not want to miss this gathering.**

It would be helpful for you to confirm your attendance in order to provide enough food. Please email or call the church office.

Part-time Church Staff Opening

Grace United Methodist Church of Oil City is hiring a part-time (24 hours/week Monday-Thursday) church secretary. For a detailed job description please send a request to secretary@graceoilcity.org.

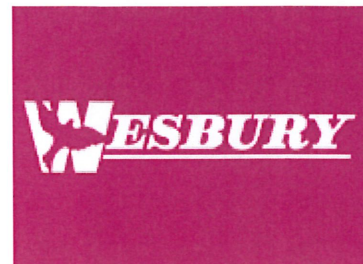
Applications may be sent to the same email address through April 3, 2023.



GRACE CHURCH MISSIONS/MISSIONARY UPDATES

Wesbury

Grace has been a solid supporter of Wesbury United Methodist Community in Meadville for decades and the current Grace representative serving on the Wesbury board of directors is DeAnna Mahle. This senior living community has a great reputation and offers a wide range of living options. They have a quarterly newsletter that can be helpful if you, like many of us, are facing the challenges of aging. The 2023 winter issue has an article entitled, "What does it mean to be independent", and offers suggestions and possible options. The newsletter can be found on their www.wesbury.com internet site. The options included are applicable to those in a wide range of situations from the need to downsize to full-time assisted living.



Wesley Woods

Many of you have asked how the current Methodist separation will affect our Wesley Woods. A recent letter from Rev. Matt Judd, gives us an idea of how the Wesley Woods directors are adapting to this issue. Matt begins by assuring us the camp continues to make progress digging its way out of the fiscal hole they found themselves in five years ago. They are currently marketing the camp for the 2023 summer and are ahead in regard to early registrations.

Regarding the separation, the board made the decision to form its own 501c3 non-profit corporation so they are positioned to embrace future campers from all expressions of Methodism. If you have questions regarding how Wesley Woods intends to deal with the homosexual discussion before you send your child to the camp, they can be reached at 814-436-7802.

Our support for Wesley Woods in 2023 was \$5,000.



Overseas Missionaries need our prayers

During this Easter season please spend some time lifting our overseas missionaries in prayer.

Andrew and Amy Funka are working with their Czech Christian brothers and sisters to find ways to minister to those who have relocated from war torn Ukraine. Alongside Ministries International has created The Blessing Fund with the goal of helping the Estonian Baptist Union send medical, food and other emergency aid to churches in Ukraine.

Andrew and Karen Bush serving in Israel, continue to work with the East Jerusalem International Church to promote peace between Jews and Arabs. Violence seems to erupt with little notice. Andrew preaches the radical teaching of Jesus who calls us to overcome evil with good.

Volunteers in Mission

Thought you should know, Sandra Matoushaya is the contact person for the Western Pennsylvania Association of the United Methodist Church's, (WPAUMC), program called Volunteers in Mission. Sandra reminds us, "VIM is for everyone and there is always a role for someone to play. Whether you are a child, youth, or adult: there is something for you to do in your backyard or across the world".

Contact Sandra at SANDRA.MATOUSHAYA@WPAUMC.org for information if you are looking for an organized UMC mission group.