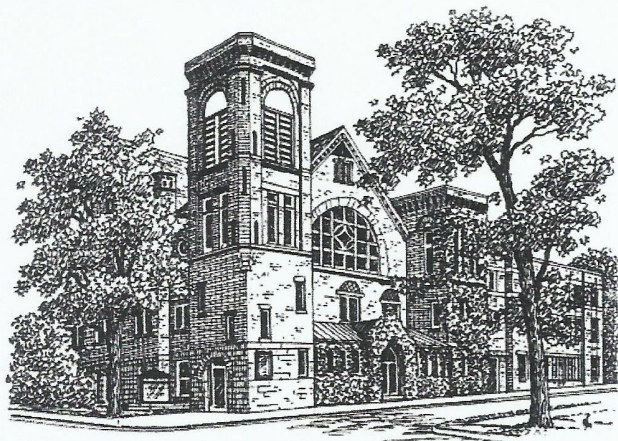


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100 CENTRAL AVENUE
OIL CITY, PA 16301
(Address Service Requested)

1/22

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GRACE NOTES

January 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

Website: www.graceoilcity.org

Facebook: Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

TV Broadcast: Ch 22 Sunday Live 10:45AM,

Rebroadcast 8:30 AM & 8:30PM

Worship Service Online: <http://www.graceoilcity.org>

Sunday School: 9:30AM

Weekly Sunday Worship Service: 10:45AM



January 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 Holly McKenzie
2 Mike Goughler Kim Scheer	3 Cade Cochran Mike Rybak Beverly Weingard	4 Justin Woolcock	5	6 Beverly Conner	7 Libbie Arnink Natalie Arnink Jennifer Davis	8
9 Barb Hayes Trisha Lockhart Dan Wrhen	10 Carietta Howard Galla Vogan	11 Shirley Buchholz	12 Heather Howard Hailey Munoz Hannah Webber	13 Randy Hicks Nathaniel Stoltz	14 Bobby Delaney II Ryan Shimko	15 Jan Angove Ethan Goughler Dominick Leombruno
16 Hudson Galla Josh Webber	17 Laura Flockerzi Andrew Geisler John Greene	18 Cyndee Clayton Ben Hickman Robert Hogg Penny Weichel	19 Christopher French Chris Hare Sandy Hartsell	20	21 Jamie Kirkwood Olivia Stoltz	22 Nicholas Hepler
23 Jamie Rybak	24 Donald Cochran Denise McCay	25 Abby Sharrar Thomas/Cyndee Clayton	26 Sherry Conlan Dick McCreary Walt Jr./Maureen Sumner	27 Lillian Sorokin	28 Lincoln Galla Chris Hepler John Madden	29 Rhonda Bush Madison Cornelius Jim Middleton Jr. June Reisinger Sara Solida
30 Marcia Crawford	31					



Message

FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!

Are you setting any new year's resolutions in 2022? Personally, I don't. I've found that resolutions don't work for me. They don't work for many people. Do you know that new year resolutions rarely last beyond the beginning of February?

A new piece of ministry that God has called me to in the last five years is the ministry of coaching. I am a certified life and discipleship coach and an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation. Coaching is centered on helping individuals, groups, and even organizations, discover their purpose, set significant goals, and create steps to reach those goals. But it all begins with a reason to change. You need a "why?"

New Year resolutions rarely involve a reason – a why- to change. We like the idea of losing weight, being patient, exercising more, or getting out of debt. But until the idea moves from "wish" to "I need to..." nothing usually changes.

So, as you think about the next 365 days in front of you, what would you like to be better or healthier in your life? Do you have a goal and firm conviction of how your relationship with Jesus and with your spiritual family can improve in 2022? Where do you see some growth areas? Let me offer a few suggestions:

- Do I practice a daily devotional where I read the Bible, pray, journal?
- Do I serve out of a love for Jesus?
- Who do I need to forgive, in Christ? Or who do I need to seek forgiveness from?
- Am I worshipping with my church family at least three times each month?
- Am I showing my neighbors or co-workers, by my words, actions, and attitude, that I'm a follower of Jesus?
- Am I growing in my financial generosity?

These are some ideas. Choose one or two, describe what you see your life becoming if you practiced this for 12 months. Then, set some steps to achieve it. Partner with God and let him work the transformation in you.

Live On Purpose,

Pastor Ron

GRACE CHURCH JANUARY 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.

To begin the new year, we will be reading through the Gospel of Mark. Our SOAP devotionals will correspond to Pastor Ron's new sermon series, "Jesus: Plain and Simple."

January 1	Mark 1:1-8
January 2	Mark 1:9-15
January 3	Mark 1:16-20
January 4	Mark 1:21-34
January 5	Mark 1:35-45
January 6	Mark 2:1-12
January 7	Mark 2:18-22
January 8	Mark 2:23-28
January 9	Mark 3:1-6
January 10	Mark 3:20-35
January 11	Mark 4:1-20
January 12	Mark 4:21-25
January 13	Mark 4:26-34
January 14	Mark 4:35-41
January 15	Mark 5: 1-20
January 16	Mark 5:21-34
January 17	Mark 5:35-43
January 18	Mark 6:6-13
January 19	Mark 6:30-37
January 20	Mark 6:38-44
January 21	Mark 6:45-56
January 22	Mark 7:1-16
January 23	Mark 7:17-23
January 24	Mark 8:27-33
January 25	Mark 8:34-9:1

January 26	Mark 9:2-13
January 27	Mark 9:14-29
January 28	Mark 9:30-37
January 29	Mark 9:38-41
January 30	Mark 9:42-50
January 31	Mark 10:1-12



A Message from Your Pastor

I learned a long time ago that one of the most important things a leader can do is to tell the truth. Truth is hard. It's hard to speak and people rarely like to hear it, especially when it comes to change. No one likes change except a wet baby! But we need to tell the truth – we need to address the elephant in the room. So please read to the end.

The elephant in the room is the music ministry of Grace Church. No doubt, music is important to worship. Music helps connect us to God and it is one of our responses to God.

Here are just few verses about worship and music. I encourage you to look these up and study them.

Ephesians 5:19

Psalm 105:2

Psalm 150:1-6

Psalm 71:23

2Chronicles 5:13

2Samuel 6:5

Throughout church history multiple forms of music and worship have been practiced. Much of what we call “traditional” worship/music has been around since the nineteenth century. When you look at the composition dates of the hymns this becomes very apparent.

Different instruments have also been used throughout church history. Style, instruments, and words have always been scrutinized. Even the organ, which many congregations praise and value, was once thought to be an inappropriate instrument for worship. In the 1980's the church was even caught up in what we now call the “worship wars.” People took sides when it came to styles of music in worship. So glad those days are past us! Aren't you?

As in all things, worship must be grounded in Biblical theology. Worship is a response of gratitude to who God is and what God has done. Worship is praise. Regardless of style. Worship is thanksgiving to God. Biblically, any style will do. There is no one way to worship and no one style of music that God “likes.” So long as our worship honors God, it is acceptable.

Grace Church is very blessed to be able to bring a Director of Worship Ministry onboard. This new position is not like the previous position of “choir director.” The new position was created to be much fuller and deeper in scope. The primary role of this position is to help everyone at Grace Church (present and future) worship and encounter Jesus. There was specific attention given to respecting what we already do and position us (through modern worship) to welcome new people. Since we are logistically unable to have multiple services right now, the decision was made to create a “blended worship style.” This style, commonly used in churches, seeks to bring the best of both traditional and modern styles. This is the direction we are taking and will continue to take. The format we've been using the last couple of Sundays will be our primary format moving ahead.

Now, this does cause challenges. And I have heard your challenges. Not everyone is going to like everything. But I can tell you that for everyone who has told me they do not like what we are

doing, I have had another person tell me they love it. There are many in the congregation who have been waiting. I want to make this transition as easy as possible, that is why we are respecting the things we have done: hymns, organ, prelude, doxology (maybe choir again if you want to participate). But we must add new elements that help others worship, too.

Here is what I am asking: **love, listen to, and respect one another.** We are brothers and sisters in Christ, first. We all serve Jesus. When we always want our way, we are neglecting to think about that part of our church family who might need something else. **I am not asking you to love everything we do.** I am asking you to love one another and listen to one another.

On another note, we have to pay attention to the big picture of Grace Church. Things are so much different now than they were 5, 10, or 15 years ago. Attendance has dropped as people have either died or gone elsewhere. We only have a few little kids in Sunday school and church. There are some teens but if we are not careful, we'll lose them too. These are tough times. Good or bad, this is our REALITY!

I was appointed here because there was a deep desire for new things. I have some gifts and skills to help churches re-discover who they are in the 21st century and to create steps forward for health and vitality. What we do in worship will determine how the future of Grace Church goes.

If we only think about our needs, then Grace Church will not last much beyond those who currently attend. But if we think about the future; about people who do not come here yet; about what we can adapt that will help people meet Jesus, then we will be all right and most importantly Jesus will be praised.

Here is what I am asking you to do:

1. Love one another. Know that there are other people in this congregation who need these new things. It is not just about you!
2. Have compassion for one another. Reach out. Try to understand. Be kind.
3. Focus completely on Jesus. He is the center of worship. We will maintain traditional elements that might help you worship. And we will add new elements to help someone else worship. It is about Jesus and it is about "us" together.
4. Communicate with love and respect. I am happy to listen. SPRC is happy to listen. We are all doing our best in challenging times.
5. We will not be perfect. But we will do our best to honor Jesus in everything. Will you join me in this endeavor?

When we participated in *A Disciple's Path* we learned about worship. In one exercise we were asked to change our perspective about worship. Often our perspective is that we are the audience and worship is about pleasing us. We learned instead that God is the audience, and we act to please God in worship. Let us do that.

In Christ,

Rev. Ron Geisler

GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:45 AM

Contact Us

Email:

church@graceoilcity.org

Eva Palmer:

secretary@graceoilcity.org

Leeann McCullough:

financialsec@graceoilcity.org

Allen Frederick:

dir.worship@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

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:

www.graceoilcity.org – or –
streammedia.tv

-Sundays at 10:45AM

-Replay Sundays at 8PM

All weekly services are
available online at:

<https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

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.

Pastor Ron is on vacation until January 4th.

Pastor Tom Carr will be on call for any pastoral need during that time.

His number is 412-600-7375.

Jan 2 – 10:45am Worship – Rev. Rick Harry

Jan 2 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jan 9 – 9:30am Child Evangelism Presentation by Kelsie Kennedy, Youth Suite

Jan 9 – 10:45am Worship/Communion Sunday
Kelsie Kennedy, Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship, will be presenting a Mission Moment, on the work of this ministry Grace Church supports

Jan 10 – SPRC Meeting, 6:30pm

Jan 13 – Trustee Meeting, 7pm

Jan 15 – Church Family Meeting, 9am-12pm, Asbury (see more info on following page)

Jan 16 – Bell & Vocal Choir Reorganization Meeting, 9:15am sharp – 9:30am

Jan 20 – Administrative Council Meeting, 7pm

Jan 26 – Grace Notes Mailing Day

January Sermon Series

January 9 – *The State of the Church* – A Prayerful Vision for 2022

January 16 – *Jesus. Plain and Simple* – The Gospel of Mark is straightforward. It is a biography of Jesus' life that highlights his character and mission. Mark focuses on the Kingdom of God breaking into human life. Jesus is the Good News for everyone! This series will focus on the good news in Jesus who comes to set us free.

GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Education announcement

What: A presentation of Child Evangelism Fellowship of PA

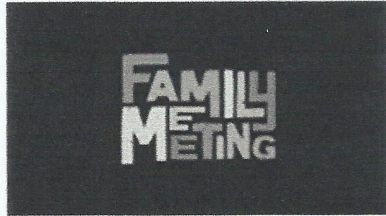
Who: Kelsie Kennedy CEF Coordinator with Children, Youth, Teachers and Parents

When: Sunday, January 9, 2022 @ 9:30 am
Sunday School

Where: Youth Suite

Church Family Meeting

Keep your calendar clear for Saturday January 15th. Pastor Ron will be hosting a church



family meeting which will include training, focus, and direction for 2022.

If you are a committee or ministry chair, member of a committee or ministry team, or just care about your church, you are asked to attend. Here's what we'll focus on...

- How are we doing?
- What keeps us focused and unified?
- Let's make some goals for 2022.

We'd love to see you here. We can't stress enough, the importance of this time. You'll leave wiser, excited, and energized for possibilities.

**CHURCH FAMILY MEETING
SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH 2022
9AM-12PM
ASBURY HALL**

A Message from the Director of Worship

A reorganizational meeting for the Bell and Vocal choirs is scheduled for the 16th of January. I would like it to be at 9:15 sharp so that everyone can be excused by 9:30 for Sunday School or other duties.

This is a reorganizational meeting to establish practice times and schedule and to ascertain the availability of interested members as well as answer any questions that may arise and to try to get the ball rolling for the new year.

Any question please do not hesitate to contact me at dir.worship@graceoilcity.org.

Ginny Taylor has about 100 hand-knitted dishcloths for \$2 each. The proceeds will go towards Missions. If you would like to purchase some see Ginny or call her at 814-677-4876. There are some available in the church office during office hours as well.

THE CHURCH OFFICE HAS NEW FLOORING!!

Thank you to the Women of Grace for your work in raising funds at the Fall Jumble Sale to make this wonderful improvement to our church building. Thank you to everyone who helped at the event as well. Thanks also to the Trustees for covering the rest of the funds needed and to Bill Lamberton for all the extra work to make it happen.

We also have a new phone system, what a blessing! A call no longer has to go through the secretary's phone; you can call and/or leave a message directly for the pastor, financial secretary, custodian, and director of worship.

Sunday Memorial Flower Calendars – The bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway directly across from the pastor's office will have Memorial Flower sign-up sheets for each month of the year. Please check the calendars if you had previously signed up for a recurring memorial. If you no longer wish to continue, please contact the church office. If you would like to request a memorial, write the names in the lines for the Sunday you would like the memorial for. There is a maximum of 3 per Sunday.

PARISH REGISTER January 2022



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

Betty Magness and Wes Lauer

If you are admitted to UPMC Northwest in Seneca, please remember to tell the admissions staff that you are a member of Grace UM Church in Oil City.

Please keep these members in prayer: Praise for successful surgeries for Betty Magness, Charlene Kerstetter's son David, Wes Lauer, Nancy Simpson's daughter and Rina Anderson's daughter Trish; June Reisinger and her son-in-law Bret Peterson who will need heart surgery; and Pastor Pete Knight who is now in hospice care.

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

Esther Spanberger on 11/18/21, member since 11/18/2007; Betty Stempin on 11/30, member since 2/26/1956; Jeffrey Bickel on 12/6, member since 3/30, 1969; Margaret "Peg" Shuffstall on 12/14, member since 9/12/1993; and Donald Fischer on 12/21, member since 1/15/2006.

Our January Servants

Worship Leaders

Jan 2 – Penny Lehnortt
Jan 9 – Natalie Arnink
Jan 16 – Judy Hards
Jan 23 – Natalie Arnink
Jan 30 – Judy Hards

Counting Team

Kim Eberle, Kim French, Don & Sandy Hartsell,
June Reisinger

Ushering Team: Captain – Don Hartsell, Doug Eberle, Christopher French, Jim Fink, Ken Vogan

TV Ministry

Directors: Brad Arnink, Dick Baker, Bill Lamberton, Ian Scheer
Graphics: Rodney Campbell Jr., John McCullough

Camera Operators/Audio

Jan 2 – Natalie Arnink, Libby Arnink/Jim Whaley
Jan 9 – Jim Carner, Rob Ziegler/Jon Sterling
Jan 16 – Frank Fultz, Steve Scheer/Ian Sterling
Jan 23 – Charley Motter, Paul Myers/Tom Eberle
Jan 30 – Libby Arnink, Natalie Arnink/Jim Whaley

Children's Chapel Jan 2 & 16 – Heather Motter, Cyndee Clayton
Jan 9 & 23 – Chris Salvo

Coffee Bar

Jan 2 – Open Door Class, Group Breakfast
Jan 9 – Disciple's Class
Jan 16 – The Net Class, Donuts
Jan 23 – Beth Rood & Rhonda Morris
Jan 30 – Rhonda Morris

Record of our Faithfulness	2020	2021
47 Weeks	Nov	Nov
Avg Sunday School Attendance	CLOSED COVID	47
Average Worship Attendance	61	85
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$15,524	\$14,278
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$17,362	\$17,004
Mission Offering received	\$4,001	\$5,175
Mission Expenses paid	\$2,587	\$1,743

GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Missions

Missions start at home - Each year the mission committee sets aside a portion of mission funds to support projects to help our church family. Grace is blessed with several members with talent and skills to do a lot of small projects. If you are confronted with a crisis and need a friendly hand, consider a "Grace helping hand"; just contact anyone on the mission committee or call the church office. If the project requires minor funding, the mission budget can help.

A big "THANKS" to Ken Wagoner - Ken Wagoner has been a faithful missionary for Christ and Grace Church for some **40 years**. Ken is assigned to the University of Pittsburgh campus with the **China Outreach Ministries** that reaches out to Chinese students that are studying at Pitt. Ken's partner, Rose, has reached a point in her battle with MS where she requires an almost fulltime caregiver so Ken is scaling back his time with COM; sort of a partial retirement. We owe Ken a huge debt of gratitude for allowing us to be part of this ministry that indirectly carried Christ to hundreds, possibly thousands of souls within the borders of Communist China. They really don't get any better than Ken. A big thanks and God's blessings to Ken and his family.

Another successful fund raiser - The Grace Mission Team pulled off another successful fund raiser. Following the weekend of December 5th, we added \$1,412.75 to the mission account. The subtotals were \$680 from the breakfast and vendor table fees, \$325.75 from the sale of crafts from the Grace bazaar table and \$400 from the beautiful hand stitched quilt.

Thanks to all the volunteers that not only sacrificed their time and gave of their talents but did so joyfully. Grace is blessed with amazing Christ filled folks!

Missions Grace Church Supports - Our church is very blessed to be able to support many local missions in addition to the larger international missions that tend to get more notice. We support several Native American organizations such as **The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference**. Many of these families struggle because of COVID 19 and were thankful for the support they received from churches like GUM. It certainly is a good feeling to hear how our funds were able to help.

The local **Youth for Christ of Venango County** is another organization that couldn't continue their ministry without help from churches like ours. Maybe the most visible mission we support is **The Salvation Army**, both monetarily and the food pantry we help supply with our food donations. These things are all greatly appreciated, and we are very thankful that we have a committed congregation to support these and other organizations.

TV Ministry

The TV Ministry Committee met on December 21 and chose Lightning Strike Productions to complete our video upgrade. Four companies provided quotes for upgrading the video equipment and all quotes are within our budget constraints.

Due to delays caused by COVID and the tremendous increase in video streaming upgrades at schools, churches, and businesses, our upgrade process has been very slow. Thanks to all those wonderful, patient folks that have continued to support and donate to our TV Ministry. Our plan is to have our video upgrade completed by the end of March 2022.

