



Grace Notes

May 2021

Worship With Us!

10:45 AM

Worship Service

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 9-3:30

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
10:45AM

-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

Dear Friends – May is Mother’s Day Month, and Mother’s Day makes us think of the most essential job of moms (and dads) - the raising of our children.

When asked what we want for our children, parents often say they want their children to be happy. They want their children to be successful, to live a balanced life, to contribute to society and to build loving relationships with their own spouse and children.

The question is, How do parents help their kids reach these goals?

The only sure anchor for a full, abundant and eternal life is a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. A faith relationship with Christ lays out the way we are to live daily life. That’s true for children and adults.

If we want our kids to reach the dream, WE NEED TO PASS TO THEM A PASSION FOR JESUS CHRIST. Parents, that task is primarily yours. The church can help but your responsibility for your kids extends to developing their adult faith.

I’m not talking about simply passing along good morals: things like being generous, having compassion, serving others, or reserving sex until marriage. These are important results of a relationship with Christ, but they aren’t the relationship itself.

I’m talking about passing along a love for Christ and his kingdom. Without that love for Christ, even our good morals miss the mark. We can’t be “good” as God would have us be “good” and ignore the God who made us to be “good” or the Savior who transforms us.

Joshua 24:15 reads “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Is that the tone of your household? Is that the cry of your heart for your children? You see, if you don’t live **your** faith your kids will learn that faith is just for kids. After all, if the most important adults in their lives don’t live it, they will learn from you not to live it too.

So I’m asking moms (and dads) to examine what you do. Do your children see you attend worship, and Sunday School, or is that just a kid drop-off? Do your children hear you pray, or is that something only they do before bedtime? Do your children see your love and passion for Jesus Christ or do they see you ignoring the things of faith in your own daily behavior?

Mothers (and fathers) have a great commission from God; to go into their home and live and teach the good news so their children will love Christ and do all he taught us.

My prayer this May is that our passion for Christ will ignite a great fire that the next generation will see and embrace. — Pastor Byron

Parish Register May 2021

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

*Jim Borchert, Sheridan Cavanagh,
Miriam Myers, Jim Whaley*

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.

Our sympathy is extended to Arlene Wise and to all the family and friends of Will Wise who passed away on April 6, 2021.



Will joined Grace Church on April 24, 1955. He had been an active member of our congregation for 66 years.

A funeral service for Will was held on Tuesday April 13 at Grace Church with Pastor Byron Myers officiating. If you wish, online condolences may be placed at www.hilebest.com and memorial contributions may be made to Grace Church or to the Venango County Humane Society. Our prayers are with Will's wife Arlene and with all his family and friends. We pray the grace of the Lord will bring them peace and comfort.

WPA Wesleyan Covenant Association Meeting May 15 Galloway UMC – 3:00 pm

The Wesleyan Covenant Association is a voluntary association of conservative United Methodists organized to promote a conservative consensus within the United Methodist Church. Conservative here doesn't mean stodgy, or reactionary. It means applying the orthodox faith of the church to today's issues and challenges in fresh and grace-filled ways.

You are probably aware of the long-running debate within the United Methodist Church regarding homosexual practice. The debate has become more rancorous in recent years. Some are suggesting that allowing congregations to leave the denomination with their assets in order to reorganize around theology closest to their own understanding is the only way to end the friction and resulting anger.

The WCA supports the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace by Separation. The WCA is also developing plans for the organization of a new global Methodist denomination that could welcome congregations that wish to separate from the UMC.

If you are curious about these issues, regardless of your perspective, you may want to attend the WPA WCA meeting. Your questions and concerns will be addressed

Updating Grace Membership Records

In this Grace Notes you will find a self-addressed "Membership Information" card. This card may create a little confusion, so here is what we are trying to do.

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. Updating our information regarding those changes is the purpose of this card. **If you are an active member of Grace please disregard this card.** If you have joined another congregation, or no longer wish to remain a Grace Church member, please complete the card and return it. It is already addressed, just add a regular or a 36cent postcard stamp. You may also call the church office at 814-677-3013 or email secretary@graceoilcity.org with your changes.

Finally, just to be very clear, no member of Grace Church will have their membership status changed unless they specifically request a change. We simply want to catch up with changes you may have already made. Call Or email with any questions or concerns. ***Thank you for understanding and help.***

Mission News May 2021

Andrew and Karen Bush are serving the Lord Jesus in the Palestinian section of Israel. After a trip back to the states, they have not been permitted to return to their mission for a year due to Israeli covid restrictions. Andrew reports in his latest newsletter that the restrictions may be lifted soon. That is another example of the type of frustrations that missionaries abroad must deal with. We need to continue to pray for the Bushes as they fight to build on a foundation they have formed in their 35 years in the mission field. God bless them with success in their efforts.

Mission Fund Raiser The mission committee set a 2021 budget that requires us have fund raisers. The spaghetti dinner was a taste, (pun intended), of what we hope to do this year. With the help of the committee and other Grace brothers and sisters, we raised \$1,205 for the mission program. We received several comments that the meal was a great deal and the spaghetti was delicious. We all enjoyed the fellowship. Thank you for your support.

Wesley Woods' Annual Spring Work Week is scheduled from **May 14 thru May 22**. No work will be performed on Sunday. If you are interested, contact Jerry Brosius or the church office.

Now More Than Ever - Grace TV Ministry

"Now more than ever" is an advertising slogan that is definitely overused. From an insurance policy to a new cell phone, we're told we need it "NOW more than EVER!" And, honestly, this typically doesn't apply.

But when it comes to Grace Church's TV Ministry during the past year, these words are so very true. We have needed TV Ministry more than ever.

Through our TV Ministry the Grace Sunday morning services have reached not only our church members who have needed to stay at home during the COVID pandemic, but also members of other churches and people who do not typically attend a church. The services are shared on local TV and are available to virtually anyone through our webpage.

We receive notes from people thanking us for providing this service. Some are of various faiths who comment that they watch our service in addition to their own. It is wonderful that we are able to spread God's message through this medium!

TV Ministry was conceived by a group of dedicated individuals back in the early 1980's and some of the equipment still in use is from that original time period. The occasional glitches experienced in our transmission can be attributed to this older equipment. The equipment needs upgrading but that is an expensive task. Therefore, TV Ministry would welcome monetary donations towards this upgrade. These donations will help to continue the spreading of the ministry of Jesus Christ and the word of God through the Grace Church TV Ministry.

Any donations to TV Ministry may be made payable to "Grace UMC" and sent to the church. Please designate that you wish the donation be directed to TV Ministry. Thank you.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to run the cameras and the sound board. If you are interested in serving Grace in this capacity, please call or email the church office; 814-677-3013 / church@graceoilcity.org

**NOW
MORE
THAN
EVER**

Record of our Faithfulness	2020	2021
13 Weeks	March	March
Avg Sunday School Attendance	N/L	N/A (Covid)
Average Worship Attendance	89	69 (Covid)
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$17,373	\$13,964
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$20,801	\$19,166
Mission Offering received	\$4,171	\$5,149
Mission Expenses paid	\$2,912	\$1,743

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

*I am a
Child of
God*

These children were baptized during the month of April:

Benjamin Michael Stoltz and Olivia Anne Stoltz, son and daughter of Lucas and Lauren Stoltz.

Their family includes brother and sister Liza and Nathaniel. Benjamin and Olivia were baptized by their grandfather, Pastor Byron Myers with proud grandma Melanie in attendance.

Lillian Lynn Youkers and Courtney Rose Youkers, daughters of Scott and Crystal Youkers. The girls were baptized during Sunday morning worship services with family members surrounding them. Let us keep these children in our prayers as they grow in the grace of the Lord.

Grab 'N Go Luncheon — Sunday May 23
 BBQ Ham Sandwich Macaroni Salad
 Cookies Drink

Sponsored by the Grace UMC Youth
 Benefits the Mission Committee
 Pick up a meal after worship service!

Arlene & The Wise Family wish to thank our church family for all their prayers and much-felt support in the time of Will's passing. Love in Christ - Arlene ☺



A Retirement Celebration for Pastor Byron Myers
 Grace United Methodist Church
 10:45AM -- Sunday May 16, 2021

Pastor Byron Myers will retire in June 2021 after 27 years of dedicated service to Grace United Methodist Church. We will host a celebration in his honor during our worship service on Sunday, May 16 and we would like our members to take part.

There are numerous ways you can be involved -

1. You are welcome to speak during the service to share a special memory or tell how Pastor Byron has blessed your life. We ask that you limit your time to 3-5 minutes. If you wish to speak, please email financialsec@graceoilcity.org
2. You may write out your special memory or message and it will be included in a printed bulletin to be distributed the day of the service. Send your information to the church address or email financialsec@graceoilcity.org by May 5th.
3. You may send a retirement card or note of congratulations to Pastor Byron. Please send any correspondence to the pastor at the church address.

Plan to attend this special service, and help us thank Pastor Byron for his 27 years of dedication to Grace Church. *Please note that, in keeping with current COVID standards, masks will be required and social distancing will be observed in the sanctuary.*

If you are unable to attend in person, you may watch the service on local cable Channel 22. It will also be available for viewing on our website, www.graceoilcity.org

Finally - we ask, as members and friends of Grace Church who have been touched by the ministry of Pastor Byron, that you will keep him and his wife Melanie in your prayers as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Joe McCay
- 2 **Brea Fennick**
Brad Arnink
Pat Henderson
- 3 Julie Flockerzi
Arnie Jones
Kyle McDonald
Nancy Shoemaker
Joe/Denise McCay
- 4 Faye McKean
- 5 Allison Deeter
Marcus Morris
Matt Shiley
Tim/Jan Wolfgang
- 6 Bill/Nancy Hoyle
- 7 Emily Flockerzi
Nathan Wrhen
- 9 **Carson Fennick**
Alex Meals
- 10 David Bayne
- 12 Rachel Butchart
Patricia Stiles
- 13 Dick Thomson, Jr.
- 14 **Carter Hassan**
Kathryn Flockerzi
Bette Magness
Larry/Carol Shaffer
- 15 Marge Moyer
Jessica/Mike
Gegogaine
- 16 Lisa Littler
Don Wheeler
- 17 Vida Emick
Arlene Wise
Jason Woolcock
Tom/Bonnie Bish
Jason/Michele
Woolcock
- 18 Bonnie Burrows
Barbara Taylor
Don/Missy Roxberry
Mark/Tracy Berry
Greg/Christine
Sanford

- 19 Mike Kenemuth
- 20 Betty Patterson
Sara Sorkin
- 21 Jim Carner
Bob Delaney
Erik Helsley
- 22 Mark Cochran
Kay Ensle
Lorraine Millin
- 23 Melanie Reckner
- 24 Jack Kimes
Kate Shaffer
Joy Shiley
- 25 Tonya Meals
Bruce Siler
- 26 David Beightol
Bud Lilly
- 27 **Madison Salvo**
Larry Kirkwood
- 28 Sandra Travis
Phil Womer
Mike/Stacy Griffin
Lloyd/Holly Rodgers
Steve S./Emily Rood
- 29 **Courtney Youkers**
Tom Bish
Melissa Chapel
- 30 Stacia Fennick
Faye Noyes
- 31 **Austin McDonald**
Ana Lloyd

On The Grace Calendar

- Sunday 5/2 - Memorial Meeting after Worship
 Monday 5/3 - Christian Ed Zoom Meeting 7pm
 Thursday 5/13 - Trustees 7pm
 Sunday 5/16 - Retirement Celebration during Worship
 Thursday 5/20 - Administrative Council 7pm
 Sunday 5/23 - Youth Grab n Go Lunch after Worship
 Sunday 5/30 - Memorial Sunday
Wednesday, weekly, Choir 6:30
-

OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS - N/A

WORSHIP LEADERS - N/A

COUNTING TEAM Kim Eberle, Kim French, Don and Sandy Hartsell, June Reisinger, Peg Shuffstall

USHERING TEAM Captain - Jim Carner; Tom Bish, Bill Lamberton, Paul Myers, Steve Scheer, Ian Scheer

TV MINISTRY: Directors: Brad Arnink, Dick Baker
 Graphics: Rodney Campbell, John McCullough

CAMERA OPERATORS / AUDIO

- May 2 Carson Fennick, Trish Baker / TBD
 May 9 Trish Baker, Charlie Motter / Tom Eberle
 May 16 Rob Ziegler, Andrea Ziegler / Frank Fultz
 May 23 Trish Baker, Scott Ridgeway / Jon Sterling
 May 30 Paul Myers, Wesley Scheer / Ian Sterling

Franklin District Conference To Be Held Monday May 3

The Franklin District Conference is scheduled to meet Monday, May 3 beginning at 7:00pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 1135 Buffalo Street in Franklin. The District Conference is intended to elect lay equalization members to Annual Conference, other district officers, and to care for other business related to our district.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination. That means each congregation is connected to all the others and to the organizations of the district, annual conference and even the entire church around the world. Attending this district meeting is part of our membership in the United Methodist Conference.