

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter
of Grace Church of
Pen Argyl

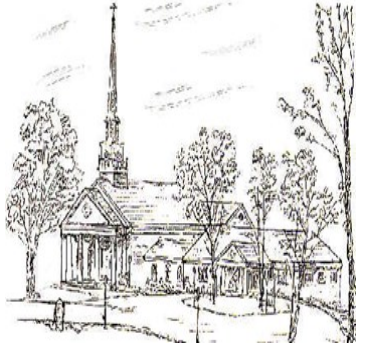
Grace Notes



Grace Church Mission

Nurture – Outreach – Witness

Our ministries do N. O. W.



SEPTEMBER



&



Grace United Methodist Church
404 East Mountain Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sundays At Grace

July & August

9:30am—Worship Service

9:30am—Children's Sunday School

September—December

8:30 — Worship Service

10:00 — Worship Service

10:00 — Children's Sunday School

Phone 610-863-4811

www.worshipatgrace.org

Email: graceumc@worshipatgrace.org

FROM THE PASTOR

15th week after Pentecost, 2024

The United States Surgeon General's Office has been busy of late. Last year Dr. Vivek Murthy declared a national loneliness and social isolation epidemic throughout the country. On May 3rd, 2023, he warned that about half of U.S. adults are experiencing considerable levels of loneliness, which can affect physical, mental and societal health.¹ Less than a month later, we were warned, "While social media may offer some benefits, there are ample indicators that social media can also pose a risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents. Social media use by young people is nearly universal, with up to 95% of young people ages 13-17 reporting using a social media platform and more than a third saying they use social media 'almost constantly.'"² More recently we are told, as one headline put it, "Parenting is hazardous to your mental health." A "Surgeon General's Advisory" was released in August "on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents, highlighting the urgent need to better support parents, caregivers, and families to help our communities thrive." Among other findings, "Over the last decade, parents have been consistently more likely to report experiencing high levels of stress compared to other adults. 33% of parents reporting high levels of stress in the past month compared to 20% of other adults. When stress is severe or prolonged, it can have a harmful effect on the mental health of parents and caregivers, which in turn also affects the well-being of the children they raise."

Now I don't mean to diminish the realities of parenting being stressful, or social media being a problem, or social isolation and loneliness also. (Don't you think it's ironic that the rise of social media is exactly correspondent with feelings of isolation and loneliness?) I actually think these all are symptoms of our contemporary culture which indicate it is sick.

What I would note, however, is that a salve, if not the outright cure, is right before us but cannot be named, apparently, in secular circles: involvement in the church's life and ministries has sadly declined as these symptoms of sickness has risen. The cure is that part of God's grace present in the Body of Christ. We are not alone, on either the 'vertical' relationship between us and God, or on the 'horizontal'

relationships we have as a result of being Brothers and Sisters (and Aunts and Uncles, Grandparents, etc.) in Christ. My fondest memories of church growing up are going camping, learning how to canoe, fishing and hunting with those friends of faith we had. It was the Fellowship Divine that verified the Love of Christ was more than words. Going to church and all the things being a part of a church brings with it, through the thick and the thin of 'life together', provides at least some inoculation from the sickness of a culture which has, to its detriment, abandoned it for a privatized 'spirituality' with little meaning or heft.

"19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor Tim Fisher

1. New Surgeon General Advisory Raises Alarm about the Devastating Impact of the Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation in the United States | HHS.gov

2. Surgeon General Issues New Advisory About Effects Social Media Use Has on Youth Mental Health | HHS.gov

3. U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents | HHS.gov

Children's Ministries

Rally Day/Promotion Sunday will be Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 am followed by a picnic. We have two students moving from the Primary Department to the Junior Department: Colton Ponist and Wolfgang Rader. Congratulations to them! We look forward to watching them grow in their faith as they continue with Sunday school in the Junior Department.

For the Sunday School Teachers:

The Annual Fall Sunday School Meeting for all teachers and helpers will be Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided.



NEW MEMBERS/ BAPTISMS

Those interested in formally joining Grace Church and/or inquiring about baptism, let's get together with Pastor Tim on **September 15th** after the worship service.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember to notify the church office if your address, phone number or email address changes. *Thank You.*

Missions and Social Concerns

A huge shout out to all who donated to the Pocono Pregnancy Resource Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign. We had a total of \$676.44 in donations!

Our next Missions and Social Concerns meeting will be September 30th at 6:30 pm.

Also, **SAVE THE DATE:**

November 23rd

will be the Craft Fair!

CRAFT SHOW
CRAFT SHOW
CRAFT SHOW
CRAFT SHOW
CRAFT SHOW

Sight and Sound Bus Trip to see Noah

May 17th 2025

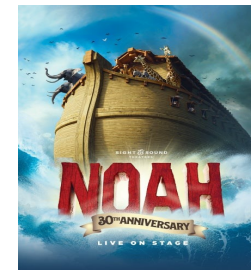
Grace Church will be sponsoring another bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre and Bird in Hand Restaurant on May 17, 2025.

Adults \$137.00

Children (ages 3-12) \$94.00

(Check with Denny for *special pricing for kids of Grace*)

If you are interested in going or would like more information, please contact Denny Miller at 610-703-1412 or Dmbm74@outlook.com



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

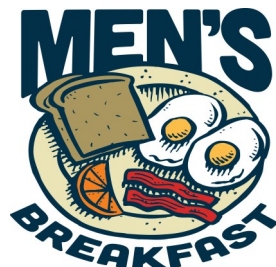
Thank you to all those who volunteered their time, donated, supplied snacks, and made VBS run smoothly! We flew over our target of 50 kids and can not wait for next year!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfasts will be held on Saturday, September 7th and October 5th, both at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Dick Stiles or Jessica in the office.

*All men are welcome
and encouraged to bring a friend!*



WOMEN OF GRACE

The Women of Grace will be meeting on September 16th at 5:30pm to plan the Fall Family Fun Night in October. There will also be a meeting on October 21st at 5:30pm.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

October 12th

6-8pm

Fall Family Fun Night hosted by the Women of Grace!
There will be crafts, games and snacks for all!




THANK YOU...

Dear Friends of Grace,

Thank you for your prayers and cards after the passing of David Buzzard. Your prayers were definitely felt. We greatly appreciate your outreach of Christian love.

-The Families of David Buzzard

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School	2 LABOR DAY Office Closed	3 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	4 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	5 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6	7 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
8 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 Promotion Sunday & Rally Day Picnic	9	10 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	11	12 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am New Member/Baptism Meeting	16 5:30 pm Women of Grace	17 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	18 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	19 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School	23	24 12:00pm Blue Mtn. Library Luncheon 5:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	25 6:00 pm Sunday School Planning Meeting	26 7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27	28 10 am Private Event
29 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School	30 6:30 pm Missions and Social Concerns					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Family Fun Night</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10 am Charge Conference</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 pm Women of Grace</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm Celebration Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
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