



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

February 2024

What's Inside

- Mid-Week Lenten Worship 1
- From Our Senior Pastor.....2
- From Our Associate Pastor4
- Financial Page6
- Council Highlights6
- Super Wednesday.....6
- Preparing for Worship7
- Green Tip7
- Congregation News/Events... 8-12
- Disciples Together. 10
- DEIB Team News..... 10
- Anti-Hunger Update 12
- Calendar13-14
- New Members..... 15
- Faith Formation16-17
- Artists: Guiding Us to a Deeper Truth..... 18
- Campus Ministry 19
- Preschool News.....20-21
- Worship Sponsors & Volunteers 22
- Pastoral Acts, Birthdays & Prayers 23

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

The season of Lent provides us with an unmatched opportunity to reflect upon our faith journey, and to ask God to help transform us into the kinds of disciples God made us to be and the kinds of disciples that, deep-down, we long to be.

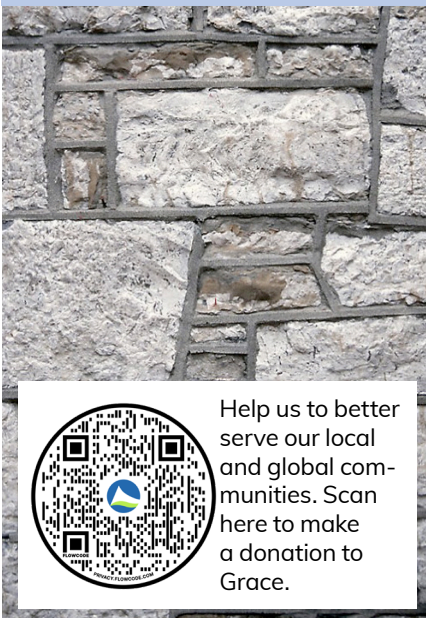


To help us in that endeavor, this Lent at Grace we will be using a resource developed by the Church of England called “Dust and Glory.” Through Bible stories and reflections, this series blesses our walk with Christ by honestly and gently acknowledging that we are human and we will stumble. But even when we fall, Christ will extend a helping hand to our dusty selves and lift us to the glory that only he can provide.

We will explore the various stories and themes of “Dust and Glory” through two sets of devotional booklets: an adult version and a simplified youth version that addresses the same topics. We will further unpack those stories and themes in midweek worship. We hope this integrated approach will provide thematic coherence that reinforces the overall teachings and encourages multigenerational conversation.

Worship will be offered each **Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.** The midday service will follow the traditional, abbreviated style we have used at Grace for over a decade now. It has proven to be meaningful and well-crafted to fit within the space of a lunch hour. Evening worship will run about 45 minutes and offer a bit more opportunity for silence and reflection.

It’s no secret; the surest way to obtain the greatest personal growth from Lent is to invest your time in the fundamentals of the faith like prayer, devotional reading, and worship. We hope these resources will be meaningful and help you along that journey. Here is the midweek worship calendar:



Help us to better serve our local and global communities. Scan here to make a donation to Grace.

2024 Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule	
Date	Worship Services & Times
2/14/24	Ash Wednesday 12:15 & 6:15
2/21/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
2/28/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/6/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/13/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/20/24	Ecumenical Choir Concert 7 (with 6:40 prelude)
3/27/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15 & Concert Makeup
3/28/24	Maundy Thursday 6:15
3/29/24	Good Friday Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew’s Episcopalian Church 1:00 Evening Tenebrae Service at Grace 6:15

From Our Senior Pastor



The Rev. Scott E. Schul
pastorschul@glcpa.org

The Areopagus

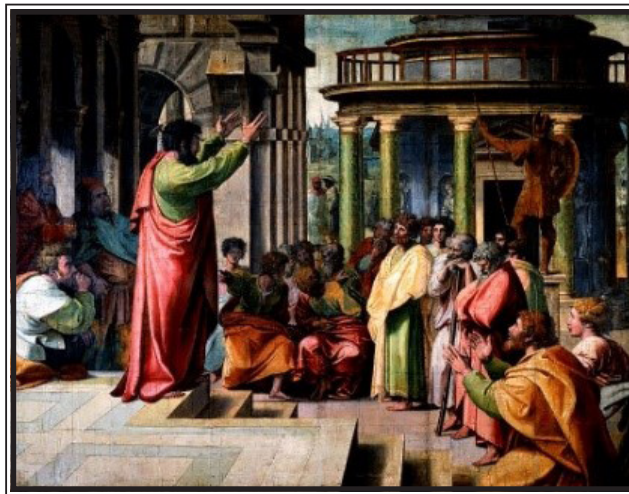
Throughout the history of the Christian Church, there have been times when the Church and its people have adopted a “fortress mentality.” By this I mean they hunker behind their walls, hiding and refusing to engage the broader world, convinced that society and culture can do nothing but corrupt and contaminate the faithful.

Certainly there are times when we must cling for safety to our God who, as Luther (and Psalm 46) put it, is a “Mighty Fortress.” But that’s a very different thing from a “fortress mentality.” We can put our faith and trust in God and still engage the wider world, can’t we? Or is the Christian life a war in which Christians are called to battle against anything that isn’t explicitly Christian?

To answer that question, we can look to Paul and the early Christian church. In Acts 17 we read of Paul’s journey to Athens, Greece and a local gathering spot called the

Areopagus. If Paul had adopted a “fortress mentality,” he would have stayed close to the other Christians in Jerusalem and Galilee. Greece was then still a land dominated by a pantheon of mythical gods and worldly philosophies. But Paul and the other apostles knew that they could not follow Jesus’s call to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28) by remaining in their little fortress.

At the Areopagus, Paul spotted an altar that was inscribed with these words: “To an unknown god.” With a “fortress mentality,” Paul would have launched into a diatribe about how superior *his* God was to this unknown god, and how lost, corrupt, and fallen the people were



who had erected this altar. But Paul took a very different approach. He taught the people their unknown god was in fact Paul’s God, and then shared all about that God, who in Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected so that all might taste the fruits of salvation. Did it convince everyone there to immediately become Christians?

No, but it started a dialogue that surely resulted in the salvation and transformation of many hearts.

Paul’s approach at the Areopagus is the approach that we endeavor to take here at Grace. We do not blindly follow and endorse every societal movement or trend, but we also don’t retreat into our fortress here at the corner of Beaver and Garner and condemn everything that doesn’t look or sound just like us. Rather, like Paul, we look for the hidden and not-fully-revealed Christ in our community and our culture and gently help our friends and neighbors to see our loving, merciful Jesus.

As we do this, our faith is strengthened, and we get a reassuring vision of a Christ who is far more active and present in this world than we may normally see or acknowledge. As we prepare for Lent, it is helpful to seek that hidden Christ who is just waiting to be discovered. He is just as robustly present *outside* the Church as he is *within* the Church, because he is the Lord of all creation. When we find him and illuminate him in cultural touchstones like popular music, literature, or films, we – like Paul – can start a dialogue that can result in the salvation and transformation of many hearts that aren’t otherwise inclined to enter a church building.

Lent

Speaking of Lent, it begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday services at Grace at 12:15 p.m. and

6:15 p.m. Pastor Hetrick and I will also hold a special Ash Wednesday service at the Village at Penn State at 3 p.m. that day. The full midweek Lenten schedule is on the cover of this newsletter.

Lent is a time for preparation and renewal, both individually and collectively. We generally undertake this through honest reflection on our shortcomings and our desires to be more like Christ. The traditional tools are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some people find it helpful to give something up, as a Lenten discipline. Others choose instead to take on a new activity, like volunteering with a local charity or committing to more regularly read scripture. Choose the approach that is best suited to your needs and personality. At minimum, I encourage you to make Sunday and midweek worship a priority in Lent. Worship is a key place for us to express our love for God, and the means by which our hearts are motivated and trained to love our neighbors.

New Members

On January 14 Grace was blessed to receive 11 new and returning members. Their biographies are listed in this edition of Grace Notes. Please welcome them. As we have often said at Grace, we know our new members will be a blessing to us. We pray that we will be a blessing to them.

Grace Giving

In the February 2023 newsletter, I noted that we had fallen behind in our budgeted giving. With your generosity, we then quickly chipped away at that giving deficit. This February we are again behind in our giving targets (by about the same magnitude) and it's time to catch up again. If travel, football, illness, or cold weather has prevented you

from being at Grace and investing in our ministries, please consider making up missed contributions so that we can continue the vitally important work we are all doing as together we seek to love God and love our neighbors.

Finally...

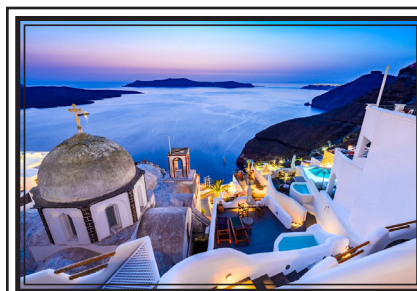
The Prayer of the Day that we pray on Ash Wednesday very effectively sets the tone for the whole season of Lent. Here it is:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

It's a prayer worthy of being prayed throughout Lent. But did you know its long history? It was originally composed by the Englishman Thomas Cranmer when he wrote and assembled the Anglican Book of Common Prayer in 1549. It first entered Lutheran usage in 1868, and since then has been a staple of Lutheran worship on Ash Wednesday, with forms of this beloved prayer appearing in all of our recent hymnals. You can find it on page 26 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. I am sure this beloved prayer will continue to bless us in worship and private devotion long into the future.

Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul



Tour Greece with Pastor Schul: Oct. 1-12, 2024

Friends, you are welcome to be part of our next Grace pilgrimage, which this year will take us to the Biblical sites of Greece and Turkey. It will be a rich and rewarding time of reflection as we walk in the footsteps of Paul and the first apostles. Your faith will be rekindled and your spirit renewed.

The trip is all-inclusive. Airfare, in-country bus transportation, guides, breakfast and dinner, hotels - it's all part of the package price of \$4,790. You just have to show up and be prepared for your heart to be transformed.

Interested? Contact me for more information. My email address is pastorschul@glcpa.org. It will be an unforgettable experience!

~ Pastor Schul



Dear Grace Family,
Your thoughts and wishes for my speedy recovery are greatly appreciated. I am thankful for Grace's caring and compassion.
~ Peter Forster

From Our Associate Pastor

A few years ago, Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day and Easter fell on April 1 - no joke! This year Ash Wednesday is again on Valentine's Day and it got me thinking about all the kinds of love we can know. In the time of Jesus and the early church, the Greek language had a bunch of ways to talk about love.

There is **Eros**- think of cupid, romance, passion and whether you are running out of time to get your special someone those flowers. This is also the love of beauty. We know this one best, so I will leave you to your own imaginings.

But then there is also **Philia** which best describes the love we have for family, and friends and even our community. It is intimate, authentic friendship. This is the love of shared core values and commitments. It is the root of the name of the city of Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love, and it is intended to be love between equals.

Sort of related is **Philautia** which is love for one's self. We cannot love others if we do not love ourselves. This love is self-esteem, taking care of our bodies and honoring our limits. This love is about believing in our own worth no matter what anyone says and not seeking the approval of the rest of the world. Of course, when this kind of love is out of balance, it's darker side is egotism, narcissism and self-destructiveness.

There is **Storge** which is the way to talk about the love and affection of parents for children, encompassing gentleness, empathy and tolerance. You might love a family member despite their mistakes. It might be the love you have for a little one before they can love you back.

Then there is **Xenia**, which is the hospitality we show to travelers or guests. This is the kind of love that gets someone a gift because they gave you one. It is a love that socially reciprocates.



There are two more kinds of love. The first is **Agape** love which is used especially by Christians to express God's unconditional love. Thomas Aquinas would say this love "wills the good of another." This is Jesus saying, "love one another as I have loved you." Agape is universal love, not because someone is in your family, or the object of your desire, but because you are drawn to do so. In community we see glimpses of this and are to hope, pray and work for it to be so more fully. Imagine the all-encompassing love for God, creation, strangers, those in need. It is selfless love.



The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick
pastorhetrick@glcpa.org

This is the kind of love that the cross represents for all.

But there is one more kind of love. It's one we do not hear about very often. It is called **Pragma**. Pragma is a love built upon commitment, honor, and respect. It is the love that is embodied in doing something you know you should because you love the person asking. The Right Rev. Carmen Landsdowne is the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and at the recent Evolving Faith

Conference this past fall she shared that pragma love includes the idea that "Everyone needs to make friends with the parts of our jobs (and lives) we don't like." Pragma, you see, is the root of "pragmatic."

I think about this as we live in an intersection between life and what love means for ourselves and our world. Our collective wisdom across cultures is one of our greatest assets. What would the world look like if we only had one kind of "love?" We need discernment because love isn't easy. Yet, it is important to be centered in all of these loves. How do we know which to

tend and how? This is the work of reflection and prayer especially as pragma love is intended to be the love that decides not to do harm.

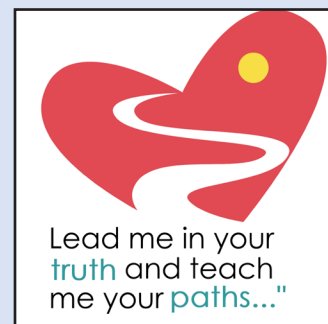
God's agape love is the deepest commitment to love. It feeds our desire to do and be better and to dwell in the love of the one eternal God who seeks relationship in this universe and holds up the possibility of being. This is the God who is enlivening and mending - the God who sighs with sighs too deep for harmony. Such a holy love is a holy mystery. It is the mystery that will be revealed not only in Jesus' living but in his dying to rise. It is a mystery into which we are invited to draw close. And maybe pragma is the love we practice amidst all the other forms until we get to the moments of agape.

This for me is an approach to Lent, the season where we take stock of how closely we are dwelling with the God who loves us and every living thing. God's love made known in Christ, unlike ours, is not partial, and dependent upon identity, or loyalty. Christ's selflessness reminds us there are indeed parts

of God's vision for living we may not like, but we might want to ask why and what is getting in our way. Because life is messy-our lives, the lives of others and our collective whole are so very messy. But God is right here with us in it and loving us into more. Neither our failures nor those of others are irredeemable. I hope and pray you will draw close to our loving God this season and imagine what the world and our lives can look like if we explore all the ways of love God calls us to embody. And then look at the cross. That last time Ash Wednesday was Valentine's Day, I saw a picture that said, "I used to think love was in the shape of a heart, but now I see it is in the shape of a cross." Imagine all of our ways of loving and being, caught up in this. I look forward to seeing you in worship, and knowing we are joined together in love and prayer for the sake of the world.
Yours in Christ,

~ *Pastor Carolyn*

PS- If I have not seen you to thank you for all the many ways you loved my family and I at the holidays, allow me to do so now. We are blessed.

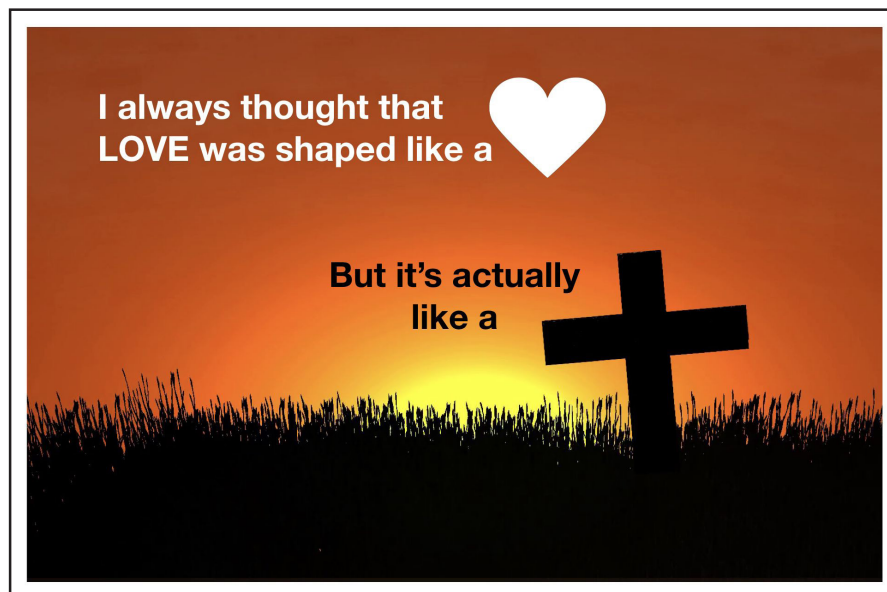


“Learning To...” A Pocketful of Grace podcast for Lent beginning February 19

Psalm 25:4 says words we, perhaps, often are thinking as we try to navigate the world and our faith journey, “Lead me in your truth and teach me your paths.” Lent is a time to check in with God as we try to live our daily lives which can be messy and beautiful, but with conflicting messages along the way. Each week this 12 minute “sit down with Jesus” will offer restoring breath prayer, a brief passage of Scripture, music and space for reflection and hope for the journey.

Our first week, we will be “Learning to Trust God” as we hear Jesus, stretched by the wilderness, having to trust God, who promises to care for him in what seems unending temptation. In week 2, we will be “Learning to Rethink” as we hear Jesus tell his followers to focus on God's vision and not our own, made even harder when we hear difficult news. In the March issue of Grace Notes, we will share more episodes to look forward to.

To access “Pocketful of Grace,” just visit our website, www.glcpa.org and click “LISTEN” or use the Grace app and click on “Learn”- the podcast is in the menu of options. Episodes will be available each **Monday at 7 a.m.** for you to connect anytime.





Finances for 2023

	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, December 2023	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, December 2023	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$106,249.74	\$145,175.00	(\$38,925.26)	-26.81%
Expenses	\$66,924.20	\$79,646.57	(\$12,722.37)	-15.97%
Net Income	\$39,325.54	\$65,528.43		

Happy New Year all!! December offerings were quite a bit below the budget, but consistent with historic giving patterns. Fortunately, we are rigorously controlling expenses. If you have been absent from church due to the cold weather, the football schedule, travel, or illness, will you please consider making up missed contributions? Grace's expenses never take a holiday, and the ministries we provide to our community are vitally important. The most convenient and helpful way to ensure steady support is by a secure, scheduled monthly bank transfer (called an "ACH") from you to Grace. To set this up, or to increase or change your monthly account transfer, email Sally Grine, Finc. Admin. at sgrine@glcpa.org or call her at 814-238-2478. You can also donate using any major credit card via Tithe.ly, which is accessible via the GIVE button on our website at www.glcpa.org. Please consider covering the processing fee (approximately 2% of your donation) to ensure Grace benefits fully from your support. An increase of \$20, \$10, \$5, or even \$1 per week from many people can make a significant difference. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council Highlights

At its **January 2024** meeting, Grace's Church Council:

- Approved a proposal from Sekula Signs to refresh some of the exterior church and preschool signage on our campus, including lettering that explicitly identifies the Miller Center; and
- Engaged in an informative presentation during council's discussion time about the "why's and how's" of worship.



Super Wednesday

Super Wednesday dinners are available each Wednesday in February. Look for our menus in the Grace Weekly News email and Sunday bulletins.



Did you know...

... that there will be an ecumenical service with our friends at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Good Friday, March 29, at 1 p.m.?

This afternoon service will be focused on the Stations of the Cross and held at St. Andrew's at 208 W. Foster Avenue in State College. Mark your calendar and please join us!

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
February 4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 18 First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 25 Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Green Tip for February

With winter weather, safety is important, but using salt on sidewalks and driveways has an impact on the environment. Various organizations are working to encourage the responsible use of salt through the “Salt Smart” educational campaign.

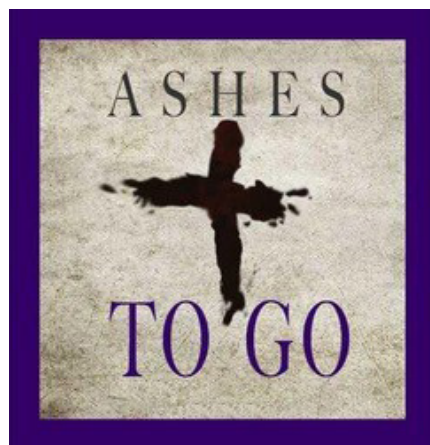
One key of the “Salt Smart” campaign is not using more salt than necessary.

How much salt is needed may surprise you. Twelve ounces of salt — about as much as would fill a coffee mug — is enough to treat a 20-foot-long driveway or about 10 squares of sidewalk, according to the “Salt Smart” initiative.

Using more salt won’t yield better results. If you see salt left on the ground after the snow and ice clears, you are using too much. Sweep up the excess salt and throw it away rather than allowing it to run off. Cleaning up excess salt is important because what’s left on the ground eventually makes its way into our soil and water supply, including both surface water and groundwater, where it alters the natural pH level.

Here are some more “Salt Smart” tips that can help reduce the amount of salt released into the environment:

- Shovel first. Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.
- Consider using sand, gravel, wood shavings, etc. for traction or use other organic anti-icing products instead of salt.
- Salt should only be used after the snow is removed and only in areas needed for safety.
- Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps. Clumped salt is wasted salt.
- Untreated salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to sand for traction or choose a different deicer formulated for colder temperatures.



ASHES TO GO

We will again be providing Ashes to Go at the Village at Penn State on Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick will offer worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes on **February 14th at 3:00 p.m.** in the Community Room at the Village. Pastor Hetrick will also visit the Atrium Memory Care unit for those not able to attend in the Community Room.

FOR
DUST
 YOU ARE AND TO
DUST
 YOU WILL RETURN



FEBRUARY FUN!
Congregational News & Events

**Mark Your Calendars –
 March 20 Event “Songs of Our
 Time: A Lenten Meditation”**

**Martin Luther once said,
 “He who sings prays twice.”**

Come to Grace on **Wednesday, March 20** (11 days before Easter) for a community meal, followed by an hour of powerful music, readings, and prayer, presented by an ecumenical choir representing a dozen churches and organizations from the Centre Region with pianist Victoria Petrovsky, additional instrumentalists, and The Bells of Grace. Dinner is from **5 – 6:15 p.m.**; piano prelude music begins at **6:40 p.m.**; the event is from **7-8 p.m.** Details will follow in March Grace Notes. Questions? Contact Laurel Sanders at lsanders@glcpa.org.



**Lenten
 Music
 Event**

**Centering Prayer Introductory Program coming in
 Lent. All are welcome to attend!**

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? The Centering Prayer Introductory Program will help us to understand the Indwelling Presence of God within each of us, and offer prayer periods to experience this Presence. We will explore our intimate relationship with God through Christian contemplative prayer, which has been a part of our Christian heritage for centuries.

We will explore the benefits of Centering Prayer in ordinary life. Time will be allowed for practice of the prayer and discussion of the practice each **Wednesday** afternoon from **4-5:15 p.m.** throughout Lent.

The program will be presented starting on **Ash Wednesday at 4 p.m., February 14, 2024** for the 7 weeks of Lent at Grace Lutheran Church. A donation of \$20 per person is requested, which includes a book. Please note that no one seeking to experience this form of prayer is ever turned away due to any financial constraints.

The program will be presented through the local chapter of Contemplative Outreach by Mary Kay and Doug Laplante, experienced practitioners of Centering Prayer. For more information email Mary Kay at mklaplante1@gmail.com or to sign up, please call or e-mail Sherri Rider at (814) 238-2478 or srider@glcpa.org.



**Wanted: singers for
 “Songs of Our Time: A
 Lenten Meditation”**

Choristers of all backgrounds and faith traditions from throughout the Centre Region are invited to sing in our 11th annual ecumenical choir – a music and faith journey led by Laurel Sanders. Journey through Lent with intention; explore faith through an artistic lens; make new friends; and create beautiful music together!

There are no auditions; some choral experience and/or music reading skills are helpful. **Rehearsals are Sundays from 2-4 p.m. at Grace starting February 11; the event is Wed., March 20 at 7 p.m.,** following a community supper. Singers should attend at least four of the six rehearsals; one make-up is offered.

Email lsanders@glcpa.org to sign up (and to ensure we have music for you) and enjoy making music with old and new friends!



**“Sing psalms
 and hymns and
 spiritual
 songs with
 thankfulness
 in your
 hearts
 to God”**
 Colossians 3:16

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry at Grace

What's the importance of a name? Sometimes we get questions about where the name for our ministry comes from. Is there a guy named Stephen who started the ministry? Well yes there is or rather was. Stephen Ministry is named after Stephen in Acts in the Bible. He was appointed by the Apostles to provide care for those in need. His name was chosen for the ministry to carry forward Jesus' mission of helping those experiencing difficulties.

Grace's Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one confidential Christ-centered care to those who are struggling with such things as grief, illness, financial setbacks, or divorce. They do this by listening, understanding, praying and directing people to outside resources, if needed. Stephen Ministers are guided by pastoral support.

If you or someone you know thinks they would benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship, please reach out to Grace's Stephen Ministry Coordinator Brenda Palmgren at 814-574-1039.



Book Drive for Mid-State Literacy Council, February 26-March 24

Grace's annual book drive for Mid-State Literacy Council starts later this month. New and gently used fiction and non-fiction books for all ages are welcome. Your donations will help both school children without easy access to books and adults enrolled in literacy classes. Some of the books will also go to local social service agencies. Look for the big blue container in the narthex beginning **February 26**. The collection will run until **March 24**. Please make sure books do not have writing in them or any personal information such as names, pictures, and bookmarks. Thank you in advance for your support!

Dr. Michael Burkhardt to Lead Children's Summer Fine Arts Camp at Grace

Nationally known musician Michael Burkhardt will come to State College **June 24 - 27** to lead a hearts, hands and voices Worship and Fine Arts Camp Program at Grace! The camp, from **9a.m.-3p.m.** daily, is for children in the Centre Region entering grades 2-8.

The theme this year is "Take It to the Lord in Prayer." Children will MAKE, RING, DRUM, and SING as they pray the psalms with Michael and regional fine arts educators.

Internationally known for his creative work with children, Dr. Burkhardt is in frequent demand as a choral clinician, organ recitalist, and hymn festival leader. Registration opens soon, so spread the word! All age-eligible children are welcome. Tuition assistance is available upon request to those who need it. For details, email arts@glcpa.org or leave a message for Laurel in the church office.

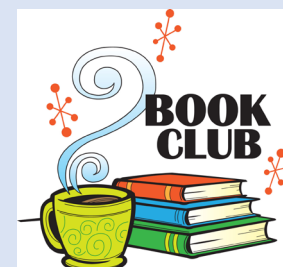


Sisters of Grace is Starting Again

The first meeting for 2024 of the Sisters of Grace Circle will be **Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. The program will be a presentation about Interfaith Human Services by board president Sue Forster. Subsequent meetings of Sisters of Grace will center on the book *The Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life* by Tony Jones. All women and friends are welcome to attend any and all meetings. Questions may be directed to Bonnie Burris (bonnieburris@comcast.net) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net).

The Garden of Reading meets February 20

The next meeting of the Garden of Reading' (Women's Book Club) is **Tuesday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Stinson Library (also available on Zoom). The selected book is *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. This is the 2024 selection for Centre County Reads. The discussion will be facilitated by Laura Pauley. Contact Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for details.





Disciples Together will meet **Wednesday, February 7** in the Stinson Library at **6:15 p.m.** to prepare for the season of Lent and talk about how LIFE IS MESSY but God is right there with us and promises even our worst day is not how God sees us. We will hand out *Dust to Glory* large print devotion books and share our hopes for this time.



In January we had a joy filled gathering in the Stinson Library to talk about baptism and being Beloved by God. We learned the ASL for baptism and painted crosses with watercolored paper to remember that, although the water of the cross at baptism dries and is not seen, God’s love for us never fades.

DEIB Team News

This month the DEIB team will begin taking a look at where Grace is on our journey in becoming recognized as an “RIC” - Reconciling in Christ Church. We are so very blessed by the support of the congregation and leadership here at Grace to be able to continue this important work. One important part of the Reconciling in Christ process is to form and publish a statement with our commitment to racial equity or anti-racism. After talking with our pastors, the DEIB team will be doing some self reflection and evaluation to dig into what it means and looks like to stand for racial equity both individually in our personal lives and as a community here at Grace. This month we encourage you to consider what racial equity means to you. Here are two questions to reflect on:



- What is your earliest memory connected to race?
- What did you learn from that experience?

SAVE THE DATES - February 24 & 25

The 18th Annual Penn State Powwow will be held on **February 24 and 25** at the C3 Sports Complex, 200 Ellis Place, State College, PA 16801. The doors open at **11 a.m.** on both days. DEIB Team members will be gathering to attend the Powwow on **Saturday, February 24**. The Grand Entrance starts at **12 p.m.** We would love to have any members join us! We will meet at the Powwow around **11:30 a.m.** Please reach out to Natalie or Sarah if you are interested in attending but need transportation.

During the Month of February the DEIB team recognizes and honors the dates listed below:

- **February 1** Marks the beginning of Black History Month
- **February 10** Happy Lunar New Year!
- **February 14** Ash Wednesday
- **February 16** National Caregivers Day
- **February 19** Presidents’ Day
- **February 20** World Day of Social Justice

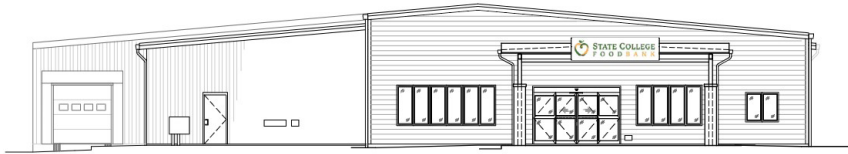
Please join us! Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month in the Fireside room as well as offered via Zoom. Contact Natalie Slane at nataliejslane@gmail.com or Sarah Rodgers at skrodgers@hotmail.com with any questions.

February Bucket Collection benefits the State College Food Bank

The impact of food insecurity is more severe in Centre County than most of us realize. The pandemic and a rollback of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments has exacerbated the problem. There has been a 40% increase in the number of clients using the food bank in the past year. Anyone can get served at the food bank as long as they have a referral through a case management program such as Centre Helps, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, or the Salvation Army. There is no income guideline.



The food bank is moving from its current location of 10,000 square feet at 1321 South Atherton to a 20,000 square foot facility at 169 Gerald St. (former home of Apple Antiques). The expansion includes a larger client-choice pantry space set up like a free grocery store, a large donation center, and expanded cooler and freezer spaces. A large warehouse will give the food bank the ability to increase their function as a food distribution center for the county. The space will be able to receive tractor-trailers and thus the food bank can order food in bulk.



The food bank is in the midst of a \$3,000,000 capital campaign named "Fighting Hunger. Feeding Community. Building Hope." Our Grace donations to the February Bucket Collection will help them reach the last \$500,000 toward that capital campaign goal. Please join us as,

WE ARE...Grace Together!

Ways you may donate:

- During the Bucket Collection on **Sunday, February 4**, via cash or check
- Any Sunday in February, via the offering plate, by check or cash in a marked envelope
- **February 4 - February 25** via Tithe.ly or check (Mail to Grace at 205 S. Garner, State College, PA 16801)

Always know the importance of your donation, small or large. We combine our monetary donations and make a difference! Thank you.



A Big Thank You!

Thank you, Grace Family, for your generous donation to Centre Volunteers in Medicine during the **November 2023** Bucket Collection to support our medical and dental clinic. We are very grateful for your support.

The new clinic is fully operational. If you would like to come out for a tour, contact Sue Forster at sforster@cvim.net. You will be amazed at the extent of programs offered to care for those living or working in Centre County.

~ Sue Forster, CVIM Volunteer



Thank you to everyone who came out to Meyer Dairy and/or The Downtown Waffle Shop during the month of December. The 2023 Wishing Well Campaign was a great success for Interfaith Human Services thanks to our many volunteers who were willing to brave the weather and ring the bells.

The winter weather is here and the Fuel Bank Program stands ready to help during the cold months. Go to www.interfaith-humanservices.org to learn more about the Fuel Bank and the other programs offered by IHS.

~ Thanks! Sue Forster, IHS Board

Anti-Hunger Update

I want to thank the Grace Families who helped to distribute the food on **December 28, 2023** for the first time. It was wonderful to have entire families with youth who worked together to help our neighbors have enough food to eat. I had been concerned about having enough volunteers during the holidays but I was overwhelmed with the generosity of our group. Normally I hope to have 20 volunteers between the food packing and the food distribution. For **December 28** we had over 30 people volunteer! I am so proud of our Anti-hunger team and feel blessed to work with our volunteers. I look forward to working with you in the future and I welcome anyone else who wants to join us to contact me, Kathy Kalbach at kathymkalbach@gmail.com.

As for me
and my
household,
we will serve
the Lord.



Joshua 24:15

We have been very fortunate to work with the Fresh Express program through the Central PA Food Bank. They have been providing us with food for 120 families twice a month. Prior to January, we have been averaging 112 to 115 families that have participated for each Food Distribution. On **January 11, 2024** we had 131 families come to our Food Distribution. We scrambled to assemble extra food boxes using what we had as “reserve food” on our shelves. We were able to provide at least some food to the last 11 families. I felt like the disciples in the Feeding of the Multitudes story.

When looking at the statistics, we had 12 new families attend this distribution. I am glad the word is getting around to the people that need the food, but I am also sad there is so much need in our area. We will be asking the Central PA Food Bank if we can increase the amount of food we receive to accommodate the additional families.

We are continuing to pre-bag food in the Narthex and Distribute food the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We'd love to have you join us in this important community effort.

Future Food Distribution Dates at the Grace

February 8
February 22
March 14
March 28
April 11
April 25

Starting at **1:30 p.m.** to unpack food and **3:30 p.m.** to distribute.



Food Bank Needs

The Food Bank of the State College is always in need of donations. Grace Lutheran church collects donations monthly in the church narthex on the first Sunday of each month at each worship service. Cash/check donations, grocery store gift cards, and brown paper grocery bags are always accepted.

Current Needs

- GREATEST NEED! Ready-to-Serve Soups (Progresso, Campbell's CHUNKY, etc.)
- Pasta Sauce
- Tomato Product (diced, stewed, paste, sauce, etc.)
- Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, applesauce)
- Snack Items (crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels, granola bars, etc.)
- Gluten-Free items (pasta, flour, baking items, snacks, etc.)
- Ground Coffee
- Condiments
- Oil (vegetable, canola, olive oil)

Non-Food Items

- Laundry Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash

We cannot accept expired or opened food items. Please check the expiration dates on items before donating them. Our food donation guidelines provide assistance in determining what can be accepted.

<https://scfoodbank.org/donate/current-needs-list>

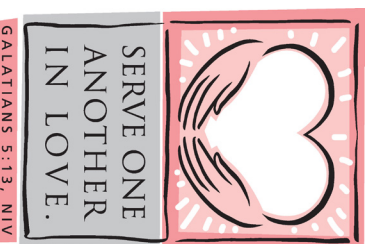


HEART FEBRUARY

2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 205 South Garner Street • State College, PA 16801
 Phone: 814-238-2478 • Webpage: www.glcpcpa.org


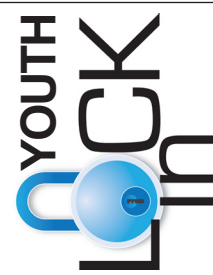





February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

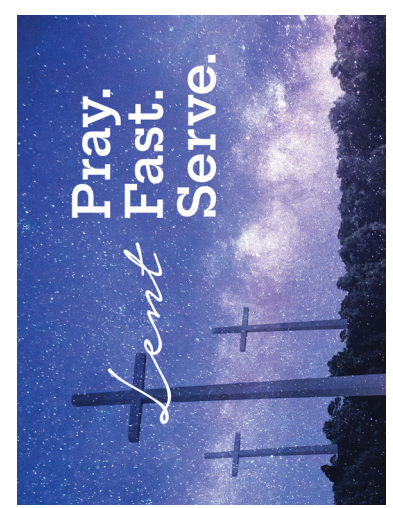


March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday, February 4	Monday, February 5	Tuesday, February 6	Wednesday, February 7	Thursday, February 8	Friday, February 9	Saturday, February 10
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal/Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Natheux Bell Choir Rehearsal 11:30a LCM Luncheon/Fireside 7p QNA/ Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 7p Men's Book Club/Library	9a - 2:30p GLP 4p Filink/ Miller Cnt 5p REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/Harkins 6p Family Activity Time/ Miller Cnt 6:15p Disciples Together/Library 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP 4:30p GLP Open House 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Scouts BSA	9a - 2:30p GLP Spring Photo Fundraiser 1:30p Ministry Coordinators 3:30p Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Scouts BSA	9a - 12p GLP Spring Photo Fundraiser 5:30p NA Group/Library 5:30p NA Group/Library Groundhog Day	5:30p NA Group/Library



Sunday, February 11	Monday, February 12	Tuesday, February 13	Wednesday, February 14	Thursday, February 15	Friday, February 16	Saturday, February 17
Transfiguration of Our Lord Youth & Family Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal/Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ LCM Luncheon/Fireside 2p Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary	9a - 2:30p GLP SCASD Rep onsite for Kindergarten Registration 9:30a Staff Mtg/ Fireside 10:30a Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside Church Council/ Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP Valentine's Day 12:15p Ash Wednesday Svc 3p Ash Wednesday at the Village 4p FiLink/ Miller Cntr Centering Prayer 4p Wkshp/ Fireside 5p REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Ash Wednesday Svc 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP No Enrichment Classes 5:30p NA Group/Library 6p Youth Lock-In/ Miller Cntr 	9a - 12p GLP Penn State Powwow Feb 24 & 25 Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 11 a.m. C3 Sports Complex 200 Ellis Place State College	Youth Lock-In pick up time 8a
Sunday, February 18 First Sunday in Lent 7:45a Bell Choir Rehearsal 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Munchkin Brunchkin/ Miller Cntr Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal / Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ LCM Luncheon 2p Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary 7p Young Adult Bible Study/ Miller Cntr	9a - 2:30p GLP Snow Make-up Day - School is in session 7p DEIB mtg/ Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin' / Library 	9a - 2:30p GLP 12:15p Mid-Week Lenten Svc 4p FiLink/ Miller Cntr 4p Centering Prayer 5p Wkshp/ Fireside REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Mid-Week Lenten Svc 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 3:30p AA Group/Library 7:30p Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall 	9a - 12pm GLP 5:30p NA Group/Library 	Saturday, February 24 Penn State Powwow Feb 24 & 25 Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 11 a.m. C3 Sports Complex 200 Ellis Place State College
Sunday, February 25 Second Sunday in Lent 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal/Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ LCM Luncheon/Fireside 2p Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary	No School- GLP 	9a - 2:30p GLP 9a Comfort Makers/ Library 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP Woodwind Assembly 12:15p Mid-Week Lenten Svc 4p FiLink/ Miller Cntr 4p Centering Prayer 5p Wkshp/ Fireside REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Mid-Week Lenten Svc 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP AA Group/Library 7:30p Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall	9a - 2:30p GLP AA Group/Library 7:30p Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall	Thursday, February 29 9a - 2:30p GLP AA Group/Library Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall



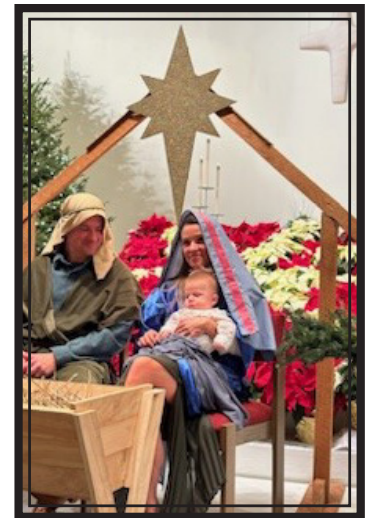


Meet Our Newest Grace Members

Dr. Abhishek Seth began worshipping with us this fall at our **10:30 a.m.** service. He works at Mt. Nittany Health in hematology and oncology. Abi enjoys travel, reading about history and running/fitness and is fluent in several languages including Hindi and Punjabi.



Judi Kern has returned to State College, having transferred from Trinity Lutheran Church in Hershey, PA. She attends the **8:00 a.m.** service with her mom, June Krumrine. She is a Penn State alum, now enjoying retirement and can boast that her great-great-grandfather helped found this congregation.



Leah Osowski McShea is married to member John McShea and they are the proud parents of son Land. If you attended the Family Service this past Christmas Eve, they portrayed the Holy Family. Leah works at PSU in the School of Global Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She enjoys hiking and writing poetry and her work *"hover over her"* was chosen for the Wick Poetry Prize in 2015. We look forward to baptizing Land on **April 14!**



Mike, Jody and Gunther Kull transferred to Grace from The Table, a new start congregation in the ELCA. Mike is a Project Coordinator for the non-profit Africa Fire Mission. Jody is a veterinarian working at the PSU College of Agriculture, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences Department. Gunther attends Bellefonte Middle School and enjoys cross country. The Kulls enjoy the outdoors and playing music together - you may have seen their brass trio at Advent Fest.

Jeremy, Amber, Ogden and Eliana Burris are returning to Grace from Pittsburgh which makes Grandma Bonnie Burris and aunt Jen Conklin very happy. Jeremy is the principal for Technology Services division of SR Snodgrass PC accounting firm. Amber and Eliana have become a regular part of our Anti-hunger team and Ogden can usually be seen with the best snacks at worship.



William Ruth (picture not available) has been attending Grace for some time and has been an eager contributor to our mission. Now he is officially joining our congregation. Many of us have a favorite spot in worship and you can usually find William in the back by the Good Samaritan window.

Another New Member Class? Yes! Believe it or not, more folks are telling us they too want to join Grace! Before too long we will announce another date.



CALENDAR February

Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Sunday, February 11

- Youth-Led Worship

Wednesday, February 14

- Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 16

- 6:00 p.m. Lock-in / Miller Center

Sunday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Munchkin Brunch-kin / Miller Center
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study / Miller Center

Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex


Confirmation & Youth Group Time-Out for February

Confirmation Class and Youth Group will pause for February. Please join in the Youth & Family Sunday (Feb. 11) and Lock-in (Feb. 16-17) activities for this month.




Youth & Family Sunday is on February 11

Join us in leading worship, ushering, distributing communion, and welcoming fellow church goers at both the **9:00 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** worship services. Families, even young ones can greet worshipers with your help. Look in your email for a signup. This is the Confirmation class for February.



Back by popular demand, we are having another Youth Lock-in! On **February 16-17**, Middle School and High School Youth are invited to gather in the Miller Center. The event will run from **6:00 p.m. February 16 to 8:00 a.m. February 17**. Dinner and breakfast will be provided, so please bring food to share (snack, dessert, or otherwise). If any parents would like to join in on the fun, especially if you would like to stay overnight, please contact Cindy & Peter. A schedule of events, packing list, and a signup link will be sent out via email. We will be sleeping on the gym floor in the Miller Center.

CALENDAR March Preview

Sunday, March 3

- No Sunday School (Spring Break)

Sunday, March 10

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Friday, March 15

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Fun Night / Miller Center

March 17

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center

March 24

- 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional with ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional with Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

March 31

- Easter Sunday



Contact Us!

Any interest or questions about any Faith Formation activity, please email Cindy and Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org.

Munchkin Brunchkin

Hey families: join us for Munchkin Brunchkin, **Sunday, February 18 at 10 a.m.** in the Miller Center. Munchkin Brunchkin is a ministry for any family with one or more children ages 0-4 years. Each time we gather, we send home a faith based board book to add to your library. This is an intentional time for parents with young children to share faith and fellowship and make new connections.



Middle School Fun Night & HS Youth Group

The Lock-In is happening! See Lock-in (on p. 16) for information on the joint Middle School & High School Fun night.



ECHO Sunday School

Due to Youth & Family Sunday, **February 11**, we will not have ECHO Sunday School. During both the **9:00 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** worship services, we will have services led by youth and their families. Cindy and Peter are looking for youth to usher, greet, read, help with communion, and give a Ministry Moment.

Note: There is no Sunday School on **February 11** due to Youth & Family Worship and on **March 5** due to the start of Spring Break.

Cafe Sunday School

The Dunkin is open! We will meet at **10:45 a.m.** in the Narthex each Sunday to depart for a cafe downtown. On **February 11**, youth will be helping with the Youth & Family Sunday Worship instead of Cafe Sunday School.



Note: There is no Sunday School on **February 11** due to Youth & Family Worship and on **March 5** due to the start of Spring Break.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



2024 Youth Gathering

Cindy, Kathy Kalbach, and Peter are back from exploring New Orleans! We are excited to announce that we will be staying at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

ELCA Youth Gathering participants can expect Po Boys, Beignets, Jazz, hot weather, and experiencing service learning and the Creole culture.

Out of the Cold Supplies Request

Grace Lutheran Church continues to support our community homeless population through the Out of the Cold organization. Families, adults and kids, we are requesting new unopened toothpaste and toothbrushes to finish our toiletry backpacks as well as Hot Hands.



This article, by Pastor Schul, appeared in the January 14, 2024, edition of the Centre Daily Times.

Artists: Guiding us to a Deeper Truth

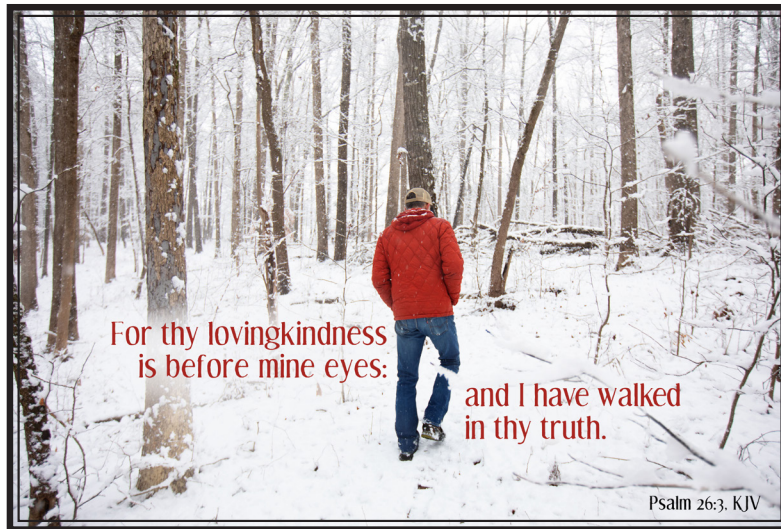
As a young boy, I still remember the first piece of art that captured my heart. It was a painting by Marc Chagall called “Over Town.” It portrays Chagall with his arm affectionately embracing his wife Bella as they float above their village. It is by no means a “realistic” painting – people do not magically float like that – and yet it strikingly portrays the elation of true love, a love so rich that it liberates your heart even from the law of gravity.

As a teenager, I likewise remember the first piece of classical music that gripped this rock-and-roll lover’s attention. It was an orchestrated version of Modest Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition,” which musically depicts the experience of viewing an art exhibition. The notion seems preposterous. How can music convey the experience of a purely visual act? Yet somehow that piece always transports me to the gallery, as if I’m walking next to Mussorgsky himself.

Great artists have a special gift to help us see the world more deeply and more truly. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, aptly described it when he wrote that artists re-work the familiar “so as to expose the real

in the familiar – which means that art consistently makes our world strange to us all over again, makes us learn as if for the first time, and see as if for the first time.”

Throughout my life, great artists have helped me see life as it really is, in its fullest, most complete, and most beautiful form, a view that is obscured when we see life only at the surface level. In short stories by Anton Chekhov, poems by Emily Dickinson and R.S. Thomas, and even the primitive folk-art style of contemporary English artist Gary Bunt, I have been able to see things with the eyes of my heart, which sees a deeper truth than the eyes of my head or my rational brain can perceive.



One need not go to a world-class museum or university library to have this experience. Sometimes you must simply go to your backyard. An artist friend of mine named Olya adores winter. Where I only see the annoyance of icy roads, frigid temperatures, and cancelled plans, Olya sees wonder in the sparkling snow, the promise of new birth in the frozen landscape, and a fairytale tableau of marvels in the frigid forest. I want to see the

world with eyes like hers. Slowly but surely, with the help of great artists, composers, and authors, I’m learning to see my world anew, as if for the first time.

This different way of seeing is also at the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus turns our world upside down not with massive armies or compulsion but with sacrificial love and gentle persuasion. He willingly became small and vulnerable to teach us that true power comes not from the strength of our arms but the compassion of our hearts. His finest hour was not spent sitting on a throne; it was a Friday afternoon when he poured himself out on a cross. Each day Jesus challenges me to see my world and everyone in it anew, as if for the first time.

The most powerful thing I ever read was a little story from Jesus himself, about a son who disgraced himself by wasting every blessing he had been given. But nothing the son did could overpower the love and forgiveness of his father. That little story (Luke 15:11-32) tells us everything we need to know about our

God, who offers us an embrace of love despite all our mistakes.

Is that the “real world” in which we live? Perhaps not, but in that story and in all great art, we get a glimpse at the world God has in mind for us. That’s the world I want to live in, and the world I want to help build.

Will you join me?

~ Pastor Schul



Lutheran Campus Ministry / Lutheran Student Community at Penn State

Despite winter's chill, Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a warm place where you can step away from deadlines and other demands and find community and support, share worship and a meal, learn about God, yourself and the world, and simply be welcome to come as you are!

Student Community Weekly

Thursday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. in the Worship Hall at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on campus (Corner of Allen Street and Curtin Road), followed by dinner with the student community in the Harshbarger Room.

Student Meal After Morning Worship

Sunday late morning after **10:30 a.m.** worship gather with other students for lunch. Build connections and community with other students. Check the bulletin for location and more info!

Other Opportunities!

The Penn State Powwow - February 24 and 25

Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 11 a.m.

C3 Sports Complex, 200 Ellis Place, State College

Watch our website and socials for details and join the American Indian community for this celebration of community and spirituality featuring American Indian drum and dance.



Lutheran Campus Ministry offers service events, formal and informal discussions, social gatherings, and more!

Check our website and calendar for additional opportunities and info!

You can also add yourself to our listserv at lutheranpennstate.org.

Follow and Like our social media on Instagram and Facebook [@lutheranpennstate](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranpennstate)

Reach out anytime to lutheran@psu.edu.



Questions, Not Answers

Questions, Not Answers, "QNA," will meet on **February 7 at 7 p.m. in Fireside**. Please come to join in our discussion. Previous participants and those who just want to check it out once or occasionally are all welcome.

We plan to discuss: "Fewer people these days say they go to church, yet more seem to want some kind of spirituality. What's up with that?"

Contact Carla Rossi – ckrossi@comcast.net – for more information or with any questions.

Did you know in the Gospels that Jesus asks more than 300 questions and he is asked nearly 200, but he directly answered only a handful of them? So, come to QNA to continue the biblical tradition of asking good, complicated questions, but be prepared to leave without answers.



Did you know...

... that this year Ash Wednesday takes place on Valentine's Day, **February 14?**

Grace will host Ash Wednesday services at **12:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.**

In addition, Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick will conduct a special Ash Wednesday service at **3 p.m.** that day in the Community Room at the Village at Penn State.



Dates to Remember!

February 1

GLP Open House, 4:30-6 p.m.

February 1

2024-2025 Priority and Open Registration forms accepted

February 8 & 9

Spring Photo Fundraiser with Katie Brumberg Photography

February 9

Priority Registrations processed followed by processing of Open Registrations

February 12

SCASD Representatives will be onsite for kindergarten registration at 9 a.m.

February 12 & 15

Chapel, 10:30 a.m.

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Staff Meeting 12:15-2:15 p.m.

No Enrichment classes, morning classes are in session as usual

February 19

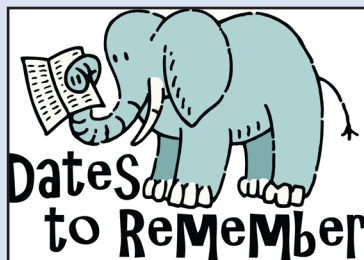
Snow Make-Up Day; school is in session

February 26

No School

February 28

Woodwind assembly, 10 a.m. in the Fireside room



Christian Focus Box for February



Christian Focus: God loves us all
"Love your neighbor as yourself."

~ Luke 10:27



Science Theme: Science is "SORT" of Fun

Afternoon Enrichment Theme: Fairy Tales

Grace Lutheran Preschool Registration Process 2024-2025

814-238-8110 * www.glcpapreschool.org * glpk@glcpa.org

- 2024-2025 registration forms will be available beginning **Thursday, February 1, 2024**.
- Priority and Open registration forms with the \$75 registration fees (payable to Grace Lutheran Church) will start being accepted on **Thursday, February 1, 2024**, within the school entrance lobby.
- Priority registrations will be randomly drawn and numbered on **Friday, February 9, 2024**.
- Open registrations will be randomly drawn and numbered following the processing of priority registrations on **Friday, February 9, 2024**.
- Confirmations of enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year will be sent on **March 20, 2024**.

Note: Priority registration forms for the 2024-2025 school year along with the \$75 registration fees (\$50 registration fee and \$25 technology fee) should be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped into the **PRIORITY Registrations** box beginning on **Thursday, February 1**. Open registration forms for the 2024-2025 school year along with the \$75 registration fees should be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped into the **OPEN Registrations** box beginning on **Thursday, February 1**.

Jr. Kindergarten Option for those not ready for Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 School Year

We have a program that offers an option for those who feel that their preschooler is not ready for full-day kindergarten in public school.




Jr. Kindergarten class is for those children who either miss the cut-off date for kindergarten or have a summer birthday. These students must be age five by **December 31**. The curriculum is a more in-depth study of pre-kindergarten skills and an introduction to kindergarten skills in a whole group setting. For more information on any of GLP's programs, please contact the school office at 814-238-8110 or glpk@glcpa.org.

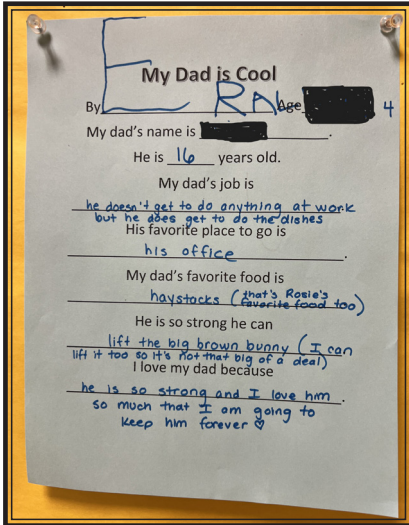
January Highlights

Happy New Year! We started the month of January with winter-themed activities in every classroom. The letters “Mm, Nn, Oo, and Pp” were introduced. With all the snow, we were able to explore water in a different form! We learned that we can talk to God through prayer anytime, any-place, and in all different ways.

For our “Dads are Cool” theme, the GLP students were interviewed about their dads; made fun art projects for their special guys; and read lots of books about fathers, grandfathers, and uncles. We topped off the week with a special Donuts for Dad treat in the Miller Center.



Grace Lutheran Pre-school OPEN HOUSE
 On Thursday, February 1, GLP will hold an open house from **4:30 to 6 p.m.** Families are invited to visit classrooms and talk to teachers about each age group’s educational and social skills goals. Feel free to invite friends and family members who may be searching for a preschool.



February Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers		Radio Sponsors		Bulletin Covers	
Feb. 4	Bruce Rathfon Dedicated in memory of Joyce Rathfon	Feb. 4	Linda Christensen Dedicated in memory of her parents	Feb. 4	open
Feb. 11	Chris Roberts Dedicated in memory of Dottie Roberts		Harold & Margaret Smith	Feb. 11	open
Feb. 14	open	Feb. 11	open	Feb. 14	open
Feb. 18	Rick & Diane Rishel Dedicated to the Glory of God	Feb. 18	Rick & Diane Rishel Dedicated to the Glory of God	Feb. 18	Rick & Diane Rishel Dedicated to the Glory of God
Feb. 25	open	Feb. 25	open	Feb. 25	open

Live-Stream Sponsors

Feb. 4	open
Feb. 11	open
Feb. 14	open
Feb. 18	Rick & Diane Rishel Dedicated to the Glory of God
Feb. 25	open



Coffee Hour Sponsors - Joe and Cindy Nicosia 814-571-6922 jnicosia3@comcast.net

Feb. 4	Joe and Cindy Nicosia	Please join our hosts each Sunday in Harkins Hall between 9:45 and 10:30 a.m. for coffee and treats. We rely on volunteers to sponsor and/or host. You may sponsor and host (treats at your discretion) or just sponsor (others will host). The cost to "sponsor only" is \$30 (check to Grace Lutheran Church with "Coffee Hour" and the sponsored date in the memo line).
Feb. 11	Don and Deana Coine	
Feb. 18	Fellowship Ministry	
Feb. 25	Angie and Drew Hardyk	

Acolytes - Kristin Knowles kristinmknowles@gmail.com

9:00 a.m.

Feb. 4	Anna Coup and Kaylin Slane
Feb. 11	Sydney Lintal and Netta Horn
Feb. 18	Netta Horn and Kaylin Slane
Feb. 25	Fiona and Caitlin Knowles

10:30 a.m.

Feb. 4	Anna Long and Andy Horn
Feb. 11	Lily and Gunnar Rinehimer
Feb. 18	Renee Buda and Andy Horn
Feb. 25	Mya and Jordan Hockenberry

Lectors - Rebecca Arnold Desmarais beckylynn0621@gmail.com

8 a.m.

Feb. 4	Dennis Snider
Feb. 11	Julie Miller
Feb. 18	Vicki Sue Golemboski
Feb. 25	June Walter

9 a.m.

Feb. 4	Lisa Wiedemer
Feb. 11	Natalie Slane
Feb. 18	Open
Feb. 25	Angie Hardyk

10:30 a.m.

Feb. 4	Janet Lybarger
Feb. 11	Ethylee Nordberg
Feb. 18	Brian Christian
Feb. 25	Melissa Hockenberry

Pastoral Acts for January

This month we welcome new members to our Grace family. Please welcome and say hello to: Jeremy, Amber, Eliana and Ogdan Burris; Judi Kern; Jody, Mike and Gunther Kull; Leah Osowski McShea; Abhishek Seth; and William Ruth. Check out their bios and pictures on p. 15.

February Birthdays



1 Sara Horn
1 Rick Rishel
1 James Stephenson
1 Meredith Tamminga
1 Rosalyn Widener
2 Adelina Laine
2 Robert Kauffman
3 Brian Bills
3 Jennifer Griel
3 Aden Dvir
3 Ethan Dvir
3 Andrew Hardyk
3 Logan Preston
3 Carter Preston
3 Holly Stoltzfus
3 Nolan Chamberlain-Corl
3 Tobin Chamberlain-Corl
3 Jennifer Malik-Williams
3 Connie Kurtz
3 Susan Kauffman
4 Mervin Davis

4 Melina Matsoukas
4 Alexander Laine
4 Kelly Weimer
5 Conrad Tucker
6 Peter Forster
6 Nicklaus Giacobe
6 Becky Krantweiss
6 Timothy Lovell
6 Brenda Walsh
7 Leilah Leidy
7 John Wandrisco
8 Ellen Cable
8 Daniel Hosterman
8 Gerda Margittai
8 Jeff Martin
8 Matt Smith
8 Charlotte Taverno
9 Jennifer Conklin
9 Jillian Stoltzfus
10 Connor Fitz
10 Lois Lynn
10 Claire Julia Moore
10 Katelyn Espenshade
11 Robert Cook
11 Jeffrey Stover
11 Samantha Swartz
11 Maxwell Walker
12 Emeline Chandra
12 Shane Gearhart
12 Jackie Kunes
12 John McShea

12 Brian Newcomb
12 Lori O'Donnell
12 Chester Hughes
13 Michelle Thal
14 Jayne Albert
15 Catherine Cutter
15 Madison Czekaj
15 Owen Preston
15 Ben Steward
16 Rosaline Haney
16 Bruce Hockenberry
16 Angela Kempf
16 Eric Schimmel
16 Jack Vanden Heuvel
16 Natalie Wild
17 Mary Bahnfleth
17 Kathleen Kempf
17 Christine Tate
17 Shelby Rinehimer
18 Bryan Ollendyke
18 Victor Sparrow
19 David Zellner
20 James Cartey
20 Tina Scourtis
21 Kathy Cathcart
21 Seth Conklin
21 Heather Brigger
21 Sara Proctor
21 Bill Scilingo
21 Jacob Shearer
21 Zachary Hazenstab

21 Nancy Twichell
22 Kathryn Clayton
22 Elizabeth Kisenwether
22 Maryann Newcomb
22 Mark Pauley
23 Anastasia Woytowich
23 Marjorie Eakin
23 Michael Chaffin
24 James Cathcart
24 Jonathan Kremser
24 Kay Robinson
25 Charlotte Horn
25 Liz Reppert
26 Deana Coine
26 Ryan Knowles
26 Joseph Schuchert
26 Katherine Stenerson
26 Mildred Zellner
26 Erik McShea
27 Scott Schul
27 Molly Hunter
27 Gary Stroschein
27 Russ Albert
28 Brighton Bean
28 Shannon Dinant
28 Cheryl Kleckner
28 Anne Rivell
28 Nina Sparrow
29 Stephanie Fozard

Prayer List for February



All Military & National Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
Joe Belanger
Mary Breon
Tisana Breon, sister of Mary Breon
Grace Brown & family
Michael Cartwright

Pam Crants, friend of Sally Keiser-Bankert
Linda D'Alessandro
William & Barbara Davies
Debra Detweiler, mother of Amanda Simcoe
Chase Ebeling
Kevin Eby and family, friends of the Koths
Steve & Janet Ellis, family of The Louder's
Milo Flannagan
Norma Flanagan, mother of Jim Flanagan
Pete Forster

Cay Griel
Rosanne Fritz, mother of Scott Fritz
Posey Haney
Sherry Harrington
Jim Kratz, father of Pastor Hetrick
Lisa & Ruthie, friends of the Roger's
Paul Larson
Shirley Lucas
Patti McLean, sister of Kelly Borchert
Flo Musgrave, upon the death of her nephew

Brandon
Amy Neveling
Ronald Odland
Anthony & Meryl Parker
Sharon Rivell
Becky Rogers
Ron Smith
Archie Sutherland
Claire Swarr, friend of Leslie Wagner
Val Updegrove
Johnny Walson

And please pray for Members in the hospital

Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
205 South Garner Street
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2478
www.glcpa.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 111
State College, PA

Current Resident or:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and on the
Radio (103.7 FM, 104.3 FM, 1450 AM, 1260 AM)

Live-streamed video of this service at www.glcpa.org

Enjoy pre-recorded Sunday Video Worship from our
website: glcpa.org anytime



Help us to better serve our local and global communities.
Scan here to make a contribution to Grace.



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church 814-238-2478
churchoffice@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool 814-238-8110
glpk@glcpa.org
- Faith Formation Ministry
faithformation@glcpa.org

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.