

Grace Methodist Church

# Grace Reporter

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February 2024

CHILDREN ARE INDEED A  
HERITAGE FROM THE  
LORD, AND THE FRUIT OF  
THE WOMB IS HIS  
REWARD.

- PSALM 127:3



*Sunday School at Grace*

*See page 3 for details*

## Grace Family Matters



**February 11 at noon is the day for our Chili Cookoff!**

**Bring your favorite chili to share or a side, dessert or chili-alternative!**

**This looks to be a fun time, folks, so mark your calendar and enjoy breaking bread (and eating chili!) with your Grace Church family.**



Be sure to pick up a Kindness Stone from our Prayer Garden. Painted and placed by our SWAGgers last summer, the Kindness Stones are a great way to be reminded of the love and faithfulness of God.

Keep one for yourself or share one with a friend.



**February suggested donations:**

**Baby Wash, unscented Baby Shampoo**

Their greatest needs are baby wash, baby lotion and wipes

**Go to page 8 for details on a fun congregational outing!**

## Sunday School Begins March 3!

### **Exciting things are happening at Grace!**

Beginning Sunday, March 3 we will offer Sunday School for preschoolers through teens between the worship services (9:45 – 10:30 am). Seeing a need to educate our younger members in their Christian faith, Chuck and Betsy Ahlborn have been working the past few months to pull this together. We are excited that Susan and Naomi Custer, Michelle Harvison, Marlina Hays, Tina Sauritch and Jenna Bartrug have agreed to step up to serve. There's always room for more! If you'd like to offer your assistance, see Chuck or Betsy. There's a sign up sheet for the kids in the Narthex or to sign them up or to offer assistance, contact Chuck at [chuckahlborn63@gmail.com](mailto:chuckahlborn63@gmail.com); (412) 719-1829 or Betsy at [betsyahlborn@gmail.com](mailto:betsyahlborn@gmail.com); (412) 760-7603



Parents: while your kids are learning, it is our plan to offer *Refreshing Grace*, the parent group previously offered on Wednesday evenings. This group will be led by Renee Heckler. Renee can be reached at [gracechristianed@gmail.com](mailto:gracechristianed@gmail.com); (724) 288-5730

Adults can also join the Kit & Caboodle small group in the Clover Hill Room at 9:30 am. They are currently studying Charles Stanley's book, *The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*. Kit can be reached at [carsonjk49@gmail.com](mailto:carsonjk49@gmail.com); (724) 809-4927.

We will continue to offer Jr. Church during the 10:45 worship services. Following Pastor Ken's Children's Time in the service, PS – 5<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to leave the sanctuary with volunteers for an age-appropriate learning experience.

Please note – all leaders, teachers and volunteers have provided clearances prior to working with children.



## ICYMI : In Case You Missed It



Christmas Caroling at the homes of our church family members who have a hard time getting out.

Led by Marlina Hays, the caroling was a great event!



Christmas Eve Barn Service

January's Fellowship Luncheon ~ Hosted by Jeremy & Jenna Bartrug, Scott & Tina Sauritch, Tiffany Stotka and Ed & Barb Savarno



## Praying for you from the computer . . . Pastor Ken

Planning and preparation is taking place to begin Sunday School at Grace. It has had me thinking about a story told of a Sunday School teacher whose assignment was to explain to the 6-year-olds in class what someone had to do in order to get to heaven. In an attempt to discover what the kids already believed about the subject; the teacher asked a few questions.

“If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church , would that get me into heaven?”

“NO!” the children all answered.

“If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would *that* get me into heaven?”

Again the answer was, “NO!”

“Well then,” the teacher said, “if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children and loved my spouse, would that get me into heaven?”

Again they all shouted, “NO!”

“Well then, how *can* I get into heaven?”

A boy in the back row stood up and shouted, “YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!”

Dead...      Sure...      That’s the problem: You gotta be dead to go to heaven.

Remember how we are worthy of heaven. We don’t acquire feelings of self-worth by standing in front of a mirror and repeating to ourselves,

“I am worthy. I am worthy. I am worthy.”

We acquire feelings of self-worth when we stand in front of the cross and come to realize the greatest truth of all time.

*“I am worthy because God says I’m worthy.  
Jesus died in my place for my sins so I may spend eternity with God.”*

Godspeed

Ken

I am worthy.  
I am loved.  
I am enough.

## Give Thanks to Him & Praise His Name! Psalm 100:4

Thanks to the Christmas Carolers who visited our homes. It was truly a delightful Christmas blessing to be remembered.

Pam and Denis Wagner

Judy and Jim Parks

Dear Church Family, We want to thank you for the Christmas Caroling. It was wonderful to hear the singing. Thank you also for all that you do for us. God bless us all and have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Barry and Mary Miller

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Thank you all for the get well card and the prayer shawl. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. God bless you all!

Michael Zehel

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As you all know, Sam fell through our porch steps a couple of weeks ago. Sam, Michael and I want to thank Mark, Mike and Chuck for helping us rebuild our porch. We are so grateful for having such men of GOD at Grace Church who are taking the time out of their busy schedules to help us rebuild our porch. GOD answers prayers!

Thank you, Shirley, Samuel and Michael Zehel

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I would like to thank everyone at Grace who offered up prayers and support during the recent passing of my dad and for the current issues with my stepdad. I would especially like to thank the ladies of the D4 Bible Study group, Bev Minor and Dianne Naylor, Janet Stevenson and Barb Bruce, for the assistance during the funeral day luncheon. These ladies, Jane and Molly Diethorn, and The Springhouse provided such delicious desserts and entrees. If I missed anyone who may have provided food, I apologize. The D4 Bible Study ladies have been very faithful prayer warriors for me and I will be forever grateful for their friendship and their persistence in prayer. The grace of God and their support over the last three years has carried me through very difficult times. They are true servants of the Lord,  
In Christ, Kim Sabatini

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Many thanks to my Grace Church family for the prayers, calls, texts, cards and food, given to us following my Achilles tendon reconstruction surgery in December. I truly felt the power of prayer as I have had practically zero pain post-op. I am so appreciative of the lovely prayer shawl; I keep it in the basket of my scooter so it is always near. A truly humble servant is my incredible husband, Wyatt. He makes a fine care giver; combined with our girls I have had the best care possible. God willing, I will be back on two feet in March!

Blessings, Jane Diethorn



## Exploring God’s World with Ross Golden

### BEAVERS

Beavers were at one time extirpated in Pa, meaning extinct in a region. In 1917 the PA Game Commission reintroduced the beaver back into the wild. For many years they were protected but now beaver populations are large enough they can be trapped to help maintain healthy populations.

Beavers are generally known for the building of dams and lodges, but many simply live in a burrow in the bank of a stream or river. If the water is sufficiently deep and large enough in area there is no need for a dam. The dam is built for safety and floating food, in the form of trees. They eat the buds and inner bark of trees they cut down. As good an engineer as they are at building, they are not gifted loggers, many trees hang up in other trees or fall in a direction that makes transport difficult.

Beavers eat cattail roots, grasses, reeds but the preferred food is the buds and inner bark of the maple, aspen, willow and even cherry. They store tree limbs underwater for winter when the surface freezes.

Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and second largest in the world. They weigh in at about 60 pounds. They live in small family groups of the male, female, and new born kits, and any yearlings that are still in the den.

One last point of safety: do not and let me repeat DO NOT drink the water where beavers live. Giardia is a normal flora in the intestines of beavers and can cause giardiasis sometimes called beaver fever. This can cause abdominal pain and far worse which we will not discuss here.

Ross Golden



# Military Prayer List

**Hampton, Zachary** ~ United States Army

**Haschets, Anthony** ~ United States Air Force

**Levy, Chris** ~ United States Air Force

**Minor, Gabriel** ~ United States Army

**Minor, Lucas** ~ United States Army

**Oveson, Clayton and Hannah (Smitley)** ~ United States Air Force

**Paci, Jacob** ~ United States Air Force

**Rager, David and Cheyenne** ~ United States Air Force

**Rager, Josh and Audra** ~ Alabama National Guard

**Wonsettler, Christopher J. and Lauren** ~ United States Army



*Please keep our military service men and women in your daily prayers!*

## Celebrate Valentine’s Day early with your church family with lunch and a movie!

We will dine at Bonefish Grill at 12:30PM then go to AMC Classic S Hills Village cinemas to see the 3:00PM showing of The Chosen 4. This will be the newly released episodes 1, 2 and 3 of the beloved Chosen series. If you have not seen any of the Chosen series, not to worry!



not to worry!

This series is based on the life of Jesus.

Sign up to go on the sheet in the narthex. We will each pay our own way for lunch and the movie. Movie admission is \$12.50 per person.

\*\*\*If you are interested in carpooling, make sure to check that box on the sign up sheet. If you want to skip lunch and meet us at the theater, check that box.\*\*\*



## Country Six Food Pantry ~ Kristen Louttit & Jane Diethorn



On Saturday, December 30, one week before the first distribution of 2024, we had five people signed up to volunteer. On the low end, we can handle a typical distribution with 15 volunteers who are hustling from beginning to the finish. The optimum number is 24. But, five? It would take a fishes and loaves miracle to pull off a distribution with only five volunteers expected. So, I did what any sensible person would do and freaked out a little. Knowing that I would be completely helpless to contribute in person due to my post-surgical recovery, I finally remembered what someone wise once said to me, "The BEST thing we can do is pray." So I prayed. Then I texted Pastor Ken asking for an emphasis on the need for volunteers during the announcements portion of worship that weekend. The result was not 15 volunteers or even 24 volunteers but so much help turned out that an accurate count was not made. The estimate was 36! WOW! Let us all allow our faith to ROAR through prayer . . . and the occasional emergency text to a friend who spoke for this ministry. Thank you all. JD



## Country Six FOOD PANTRY



The next distribution is **February 3**

Use this link or the QR code below to sign up as a volunteer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948A5AF28A6FCC52-46384232-country>



## Grace United Women in Faith



### United Women in Faith

Grace Women in Faith met on January 11, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the Newkirk Room. There were 9 members present. All brought cookies which were delicious.

On December 7, 2023, GWIF had our annual Christmas Party at Nemaconlin Country Club. We all had delicious food

and great entertainment. The Gift of Service Pin was given to Mary Thompson.

Thank you for helping us donate \$145 to the CYS Helping Hand project. We appreciate your support.

Our mission project for this winter is **Hygiene Kits** for the Mission Barn. Please refer to the list on the next page for what is included in the kits. We will be having a speaker from the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA in April. We are hoping to have her take the kits back with her.

“Thinking of You” card was sent to, Marc Vogel, who is being detained in Russia.

Next Month’s meeting will be held February 8, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the Newkirk Room. Cynthia Pysh and Joyce Hill are the hostesses. Joyce will have our devotions.

As always, all women of the church are invited to attend our meetings on the Second Thursday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Belski, President, Grace Women in Faith.



Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you all for the cards, calls and visits for my 91st birthday. Thank you for the soup, visit and cards from the mission team. It is nice to be remembered. God is so good.

John (Sonny) Sokolosky

## Grace Women in Faith Service Project

Grace Women in Faith are hoping Grace Church will help us with our service project this winter. We will be collecting articles for “Hygiene Kits” for Mission Barn. There will be a basket in the narthex for your purchases and the last day will be the last Sunday of March (Easter Sunday) . Here is a list for what to purchase and can be bought at the DollarTree Store. Thank you for your participation.

**One Hand towel** (15 X 25 or 17 X 27 inches. No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels.

**One Wash cloth.** No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels

**One Comb** **Must be sturdy with at least 4-7 inches of teeth.** I talked with Katie from Mission Barn and she states that the combs from Dollar Tree are too thin. She suggests looking elsewhere for the combs.

**One set of fingernail clipper.** No emery boards or metal nail files.

**Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger) in boxes. No Ivory or Jergen’s soap. Do not remove from packaging.

**One adult toothbrush.** Do not remove from packaging. Personal advertising not acceptable.

**10 adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)** Common household bandages acceptable.

**One 1-gallon size resealable bag.**

Do not add toothpaste when assembling the kit.

All items must be new.



## Grace Family Matters

### A Peek Inside Our Classrooms



We are thrilled to share the exciting learning journey our Preschool and Pre-K students had in January. Last month, we explored pets and animal care and sharpened our mathematical and literacy skills. Our Preschoolers are practicing numbers up to 8, while our Pre-K students are delving into numbers up to 10. In Preschool, we are focusing on identifying lowercase letters and our Pre-K students are beginning to write lowercase letters. We are also all working on the sounds letters make. These foundational skills are integrated into our fun and interactive lessons for our little ones. During Bible time, we read the stories of Jesus's boyhood, early life, and miracles. We are looking forward the month of February to be filled with discovery, growth, and lots of learning.

Kindergarten has been taking flight in their social studies unit discovering Jesus' love for all the children of the world. Each week we grab our suitcases and passports to take a flight exploring a new country. This February we will be adventuring through Italy, Israel, Kenya, and China! We will also be starting our Word Family Bootcamp where we will continue our practice in reading and writing words in a new way. In math we are adding numbers and skip counting our way to 100. Our Kindergarten/1st/2nd grade students will also be finishing our Old Testament study during Bible just in time for our Valentine's Day celebration where we can experience God's Love for us through his Son Jesus' Birth.

First and Second Grade students continue to work hard and do their best! Our First Grade is excited to learn different forms of measurements using inches, feet, and yards as well as cups, quarts, pints, and gallons. Second Graders are perfecting their special sounds and will soon be master spellers! We are all loving learning about children around the world!

Stay Warm and Safe!



# Grace Christian Ed Center ~ Renee Heckler, Director

## Welcome Miss Donna!

My name is Donna Schultz and I recently retired as a registered nurse after forty plus years in the nursing profession. I obtained a master's degree in nursing education along with three specialty certifications. These include a certified nurse in the Operating Room, school nurse and allergy and immunizations. My background includes medical surgical nursing, operating room nurse and educator, pediatric nurse, instructor of nursing and working with adults and children with mental health and developmental disabilities.



I currently live in Monongahela with my husband Sam and our two rescue fur babies Charlee and Ticha. I have been attending Grace the last 15 months and have finally found a congregation and pastor who have welcomed me with open arms. It is my belief that even though I retired from nursing, God still has plans for me to serve at Grace Christian Education Center. Both nursing and teaching are "labors of love" that cannot be replaced with a dollar sign.

My hobbies include reading, puzzles, visiting museums and historical cities. We also like to travel and try new restaurants with friends and family. We enjoy walks with our pup Charlee and taking her on many of our adventures.



*Donna has joined are Team at GCEC and will be working with our After School kids and subbing as needed. She has already mastered many of the student's names and is beginning to adapt to the flow of the classrooms. We look forward to learning from Donna as well as sharing our school ministry experiences with her. We, as well as Donna, believe that her applying for our open position was a "God" thing.*

*We have had a great start to 2024 and will be sharing about some GCEC sponsored events that will be open to the school and church. Stay tuned!*

*GCEC staff are thrilled that we were able to advance to the highest Star level of Star 4 and will continue to pursue quality care and education for our students and engagement activities for our families.*

*In addition, we will be having a Professional Development Day on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. There is always room for training, learning something new and brushing up on existing Policies.*

*I will be very busy as I have had many invitations from our little friends, to visit their homes to play and have cookies.*

RH

# Grace Family Matters



Receiving the sacrament of baptism on Saturday, January 13, 2024, were Grace Michelle Molisee and Jacob Robert Molisee. Grace and Jacob are the children of Robert and Stephanie Molisee.

*‘But Jesus said, “Let all the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”’*



ATTENTION YOUTH IN 7th and 8th GRADES!

If you are interested in being part of the Confirmation experience, contact the church office or pick up a registration form in the narthex.

Office@gracecoalcenter.org OR 724-330-5350

### Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Imposition of Ashes will be offered on the half hour from 10AM~7PM. Enter through the tri-doors and wait in the café until invited to enter the sanctuary.



### Thursday, March 28, 2024

Holy Communion will be shared on the half-hour from 10AM~7PM. Enter through the tri-doors and wait in the café until invited to enter the sanctuary.



### Friday, March 29, 2024

Join us at 7:30PM for our Tenebrae service which reminds us of the suffering and death of Jesus.



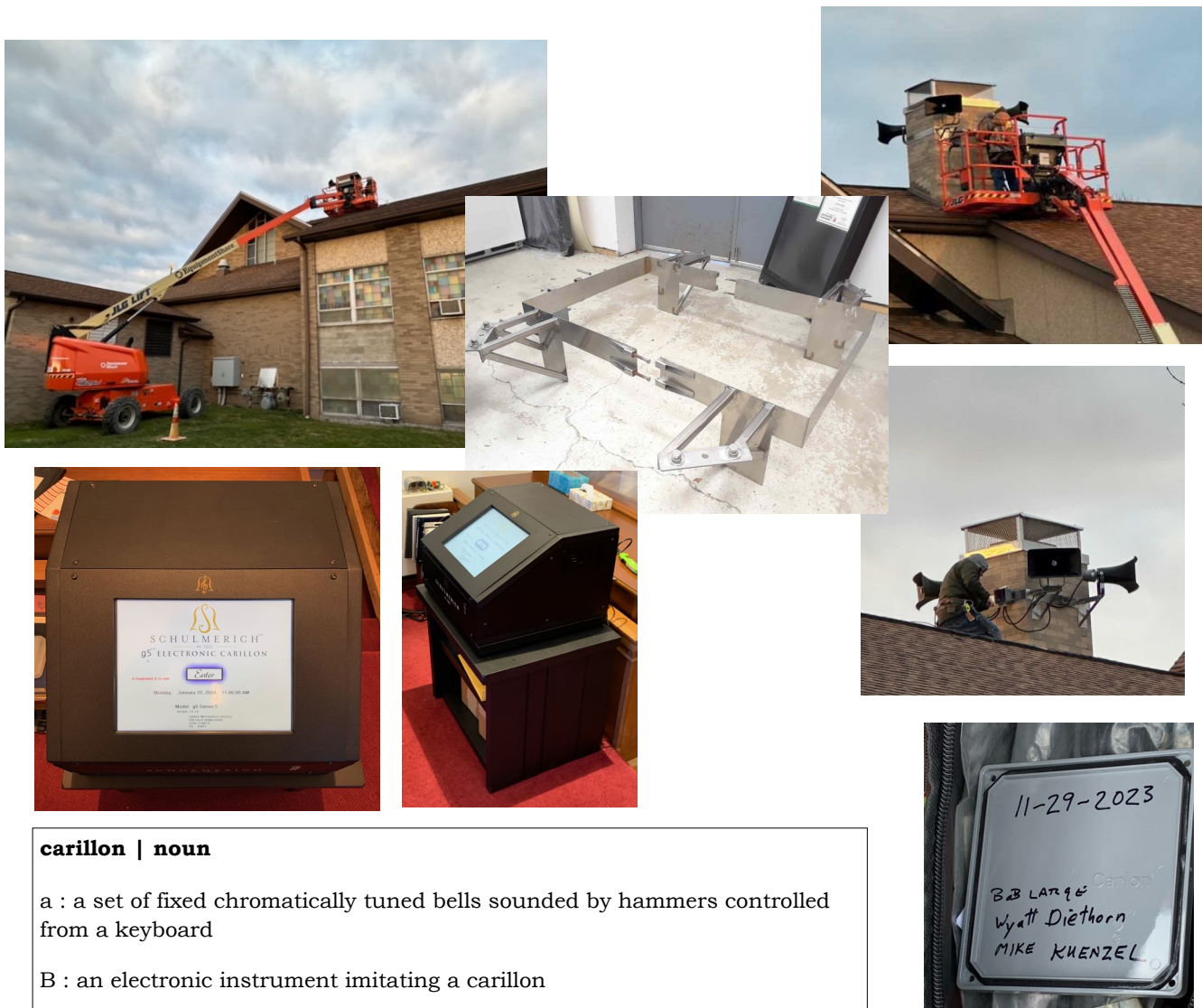
Our Easter tribute gifts in honor, glory or memory will benefit the Roofing Fund. Forms available in the narthex or online by following the link on the homepage.

[www.gracecoalcenter.org](http://www.gracecoalcenter.org)



## The Carillon is Complete!

In March 2023, an anonymous donation was made to purchase a carillon. Todd Reagan, Terry Klorczyk, Ryan Brouzakis, Rich & Peggy Kowalczk and Eric Louttit worked diligently through decision making process to select the perfect device for Grace Church. Just in time for Christmas the installation was complete! Installation was done by Eric Louttit, Michael Kuenzel, Bob Large, Cliff Diethorn and Wyatt Diethorn. The speakers for the carillon are secured to the chimney of the church using a bracket constructed by Mike that Wyatt called a “metallurgic work of art.” Be sure to look up at the chimney to admire this handiwork. Out of respect for the community the sound level thus far has been kept to a modest level. The carillon has a collection of thousands of songs and can broadcast in sync with our church keyboard, organ and sound system. If you happen to hear the carillon playing and are away from the church, please let us know the location! Countless hours of volunteer time have gone into this project. Thanks to all who helped make it happen and thanks to the donor!



**carillon | noun**

a : a set of fixed chromatically tuned bells sounded by hammers controlled from a keyboard

B : an electronic instrument imitating a carillon

# Grace Methodist Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

420 California Drive  
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## OFFICE HOURS

*Subject to change  
without notice.*

Tuesday,  
Thursday and  
Friday 9AM-4PM

**Join our Facebook  
Live Worship  
every Sunday at  
10:45AM**

A recording of this wor-  
ship service will be avail-  
able on our website Sun-  
day afternoon.

[www.gracecoalcenter.org](http://www.gracecoalcenter.org)

**JOIN US FOR  
WORSHIP!  
Saturday Evening  
5:14PM**

**Sunday Morning  
8:30AM and  
10:45AM**