



"...Someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?' How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body... So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable; it is sown in

dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

We are approaching Holy Week in our forty days journeys through lent. I thought it is time to remind us, as Paul stated above, about the Feast of Passover of the Old Testament and the resurrection event on Easter morning of the New Testament. Here, Paul helped the Corinthians to understand the mystery of resurrection using nature's phenomena. It was the best tool for him to utilize for a better understanding since Corinthians were agrarians themselves. Corinthians, like all of us, had theological and doctrinal questions, and the issue of resurrection was one among many. "I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you," Paul reminds the Corinthians that his gospel was a revelation from God. It was original; Jesus was raised and is the First-Fruit lifted up to God in glory and broken in pieces and consecrated for God. Thus, the resurrection of the body is a standard Christian doctrine that has been handed down through centuries. It is enshrined in the Creeds of the ancient church, affirming that Christ's resurrection was foretold by the prophets, engraved in the Torah. That Jesus' resurrection wasn't a myth, neither did it happen in secret, rather his resurrection was witnessed. After he was raised, Jesus was seen by many before ascension to the heavenly realm of God fulfilling the prophecies of the OT.

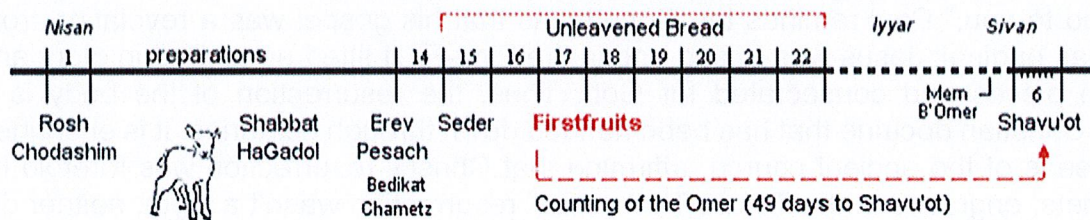
As we begin journeying through the Holy Week to Easter, the Christian church begins to reflect on the fulfilment of the promises enclosed in the Feasts of the Old Testament, where Jesus celebrated figuratively. Palm Sunday marks Day Ten of Nissan, where we begin the feast of Passover that will last for the seven days of the Jewish Passover. On this day, the Passover lamb is chosen, observed, and inspected and must be found blameless. "For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses "(Exodus 12"19)—officially the feast of Unleavened Bread begins. The Passover lamb is offered in the Temple at 3pm on Day Fourteen of Nissan (the hour Jesus gave up his last breath). At the twilight of the hour of Day Sixteen, marking Seventh day of Passover, families will weave their own sheaves of harvested barley as the priest weaves the sheaf at the altar, roasts, grinds, and presents it as a peace and consecration offering to the Lord(Lev.23:10-11).

When Paul speaks of Christ as "the First- Fruits of them that sleep" he alluded to Jesus' resurrection, presentation to the Lord and acceptance as a sheaf is woven and the flour of ground barley is presented as a consecration offering to God. When Jesus said to Mary "Don't touch me, for I haven't yet ascended to the Father," (John 20:17) he meant that that he must present himself and be accepted by the Father. He was raised on the Tree as the sheaf is lifted up, roasted on the cross as the barley is roasted on the altar, was crushed as the barley is ground into to flour, only, he needed to present himself to the Lord. "Offering the first fruits actually consecrated the entire harvest to God. If God

accepted the first fruits of the harvest, it meant the entire harvest would be accepted by God,” said Richard Booker. This means, as the body of Christ, we are accepted as our Passover lamb is offered and consecrated and we will all be raised from the dead with glorified bodies like Christ.

Remember then, whereas the feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us about separation, the Feast of First fruits teach us about consecration Therefore, let us meditate on this truth of the scripture and celebrate Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as part of Passover, and Easter morning as a day of victory. May we make a joyful noise while we sing “He is risen,” and wave our hands to God like Jewish farmers with their barley sheaves, consecrating our hearts to God and Lord Jesus Christ. We are set apart in Christ!

Season of our Liberation



Happy Easter

Owar

Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu

MARCH GRACE HIGHLIGHTS

Updates from Session

- ✝ Rev. Owar Ojulu will be in the pulpit on Sunday March 3, to begin his ministry at Grace.
- ✝ Session thanked Rev. Noftzger for his guidance and ministry with us these last two months.
- ✝ Rev. Owar's installation service will be a Sunday afternoon date in April TBA.
- ✝ Staff Appreciation Sunday March 10th. Staff will be recognized for their faithful ministry at Grace Community.
- ✝ The Personnel Committee will be looking for someone to be the wedding coordinator.
- ✝ The Property Committee will be making repairs and modifications to the outdoor Grace Church sign.
- ✝ Children' Easter event will be on March 30; this will be opened to the community.
- ✝ Vacation Bible School dates will be June 10-13
- ✝ Easter Sunday will have two services. There will be a sunrise service at Greenwood Cemetery (time will be announced later) and a worship service at Grace Church at 10:00
- ✝ Stewardship and Finance adjusted the yearly budget to show Rev. Owar's salary shows 10 months for 2024. Financial report was received and approved.

PASTOR OWAR JOINS GRACE CHURCH – MARCH 3, 2024 PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND WORSHIP!!!!



The Reverend Dr. Owar Ojulu – Pastor Owar – is starting his ministry at Grace Church on March 1, 2024. His first Sunday with us is March 3, 2024. This is a very exciting time in the life of our church. Please plan to attend worship on March 3 so that we can show Pastor Owar that we are excited about starting ministry with him. Hopefully, you have met Owar but if you haven't, you will have an opportunity to meet him at Coffee Fellowship following that service. It will be exciting for us to get to know him, and he is equally excited to get to know us as our Pastor. Let's all welcome Pastor Owar on March 3 to the life of Grace Church. We'll see you there!



There will be a new member's class starting in April. If you are interested in joining Grace Church, please call the church office @ 724-339-9661. Also if you are at Grace for worship, you can take the friendship pad at the end of pew and make your wishes known. Rev. Owar will contact you to set a date and time.



To: My Grace Church Family,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you during the time of my recent surgery and recovery. Your prayers, cards and phone calls have all been greatly appreciated. It is wonderful to be associated with such a thoughtful, loving and caring group of individuals. Thank You and God Bless You All.

Sincerely,
Rich Sackett



To Our Grace Church Family,

After two months of hospitalizations, surgery and rehab, we both are home trying to get back to “normal.” We are so grateful for the prayers, phone calls, visits, food and transportation to appointments. We are so blessed to belong to this loving, caring church.

With Christian Love,
Charlie (Chuck) and Connie



Thank you for the many prayers and support.

This all started 3 years ago when I contracted a “superbug” called pseudomonas while in the hospital. That infection damaged the nerves in my legs so that I could not make the muscles work properly. The damaged nerves were also so painful that an hour of sleep at a time was the best I could do. The specialist I was seeing was convinced that I would be going from the rollator I was using to a wheelchair. We had other doctors saying the same thing without any hope.

I sent the nerve conductance tests I had gotten from the local nerve specialist to a lifetime friend who as a physician works with spinal cord injuries. Those tests revealed that I had “dead” nerves and other inflamed and damaged nerves. It “just came” to him that there may be a medicine that could reduce the inflammation in nerves, reducing the pain and allowing the nerves that still had conductance to work better.

My walking has remarkably improved, and the pain is reduced. The walker is moved into storage. Finding this medicine is a truly a miracle, and we have gratitude and praise for receiving it. We are thankful for the many prayers from our Grace Church family that brought this miracle to me and my family.
Dan Howard



Henry

A big thank you to Henry Kedzierski and Bill Ludwig for painting the pastor's office. They did an excellent job.



Bill



We would like to thank those that hosted coffee fellowship and to our greeters for the month of February. Darlene Artman, Reitha Bieranoski, Margie Bistline, Dan & Teresa Howard, Cindy Irvin, Glenn Nordmark, and Stephanie Tutka. Again, thank you so much for volunteering each Sunday.

9:40am Sunday Greeters Needed



Church greeters are very essential for our church. A greeter spreads hospitality throughout our church as part of an effective first impression. Please consider volunteering to be a 9:40am Sunday Greeter. Contact the office at 724-339-9661 if interested.

Join the GCPC Chancel Choir



- ♪ Open to members and friends of Grace
- ♪ Join with people who want to praise God thru music
- ♪ Wednesdays at 7:00pm

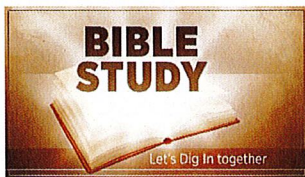
If you are interested, please call 724-339-9661 or email secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Easter Memorial Flowers:



It's that time of year to place your Easter flowers. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 13. See attached order form.

Come join us for Bible Study



- Who:** Everyone
- When:** Every Tuesday @ 1PM
- Why:** Join in an in-depth study of the Old and New Testament Prophecy



March 05 David Highfield
 March 11 Ann Bayruns
 March 11 Katie Ludwig
 March 13 Bonnie Carroll
 March 18 Stephanie Tutka

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.



The GPCPC Member and Friends Directory has been updated. The directories are located on the table in the narthex.

ESTATE & BAKE SALE



GPCPC will be holding an estate and bake sale on Saturday, March 2 from 8am – noon in Cana Hall.

BAKED GOODS NEEDED

Baked Goods are needed for Saturday, March 2, for the Estate Sale. Sign-up sheet outside of the office or call 724-339-9661 and let us know what you would like to bring. We thank you in advance for your help.



We are collecting items for the next spring rummage sale, (Date TBD). Please help by bringing in your unwanted items for the next sale. Your items can be placed inside the upper-level door by the old sanctuary.

NO ELECTRONICS OR LARGE FURNITRE



Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 9 so you are on time for church Sunday, March 10. While some people love gaining the extra hour of afternoon daylight, most don't enjoy losing the extra sleep. Daylight Saving is a good time to get in the habit of changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Announcing Staff Appreciation Day

The staff at Grace Church works hard to give us the very best spiritual life. Most of us never get to see how much they do for us. The music doesn't get selected and rehearsed, the phones answered, Bulletins and CrossCurrents printed, the PowerPoint for the Sunday service entered, the youth activities set up, the building cleaned, and tables set up for our dinners without the day-to-day work behind the scenes.

The Staff Appreciation Social is our chance to recognize their work and thank the servants of God who are also our staff. To each of them, their job is much more than a job, it is a mission. None of them has received a raise over the past years. Our gratitude is a major part of their salaries.

As a part of this celebration/recognition, we are asking the congregation to write notes of thanks to our employees. Starting Sunday, February 25, there will be a basket in the narthex to deposit these thank-you notes. It will be there through Sunday, March 10. Also, if you feel inclined to include a gift with your note, we are sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendar for the Reach out Committee Staff Appreciation Social in Cana Hall. This will be held immediately after Sunday worship service on Sunday March 10. This social is in place of Coffee Fellowship.

Our Church Staff:

Pastor:	Owar Ojulu
Secretary:	Wendy Stein Clark
Christian Ed:	Bill Ludwig
Organist:	Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer:	Ray Zerjav
Custodian:	John Baron and Paul Zurich

Bill Ludwig

Bill began serving as the Christian Education Director at Grace Church at the time the world was upside down because of the pandemic. Bill Ludwig is most famous as the producer, director, camera operator, and sound technician for our favorite Pandemic Televangelist Grace Church's very own Pastor Ken Foust during the COVID lockdown. Though that show has ended, and we are now worshipping in our sanctuary.

Bill manages the sanctuary sound system and other electronic media throughout the church. Bill's most recent project is spearheading the installation and operation of the TV screens used in our worship services. He has updated and improved the sound system in Cana Hall screens used in worship outside of the sanctuary.

Bill's official duties as the Director of Christian Education go far beyond just education and touch every age of our congregation. The most obvious programs are the children's Sunday school, the Youth Group and Vacation Bible School. For adults CE includes adult Sunday School, Ladies Group, Men's Group, and Tuesday afternoon Bible Study. The Nursery and Children's Sermons during the Sunday Worship Service are for the very young of our church. Bill has been the force leading community centered events such as the community Christmas and Easter programs and the program supporting the police K-9 program in our community.

Bill's programs have brought new people to our church. His Rummage Sales typically raise around \$2,000 and provide an event for the deacons to raise additional church funds through their bake sales.

Bill and his family are members of Grace Church. His wife Terri, daughter Katie and son Luke have been a part of the Grace Church family and volunteer in many programs of the church. On a volunteer basis, Bill has been an active part of the Property Committee. He has been from the bottom to the top of the church including digging ditch for pipe repair to helping solve the roof leak problem, and many projects in between. Utility savings for the church is a priority in Bill's volunteer efforts. By the way, if you have a property problem to solve, ask Bill about it. He always "knows a guy who can help."

Ken McGeary

It's no wonder that so many members of Grace Church wait until the very end of the postlude to leave the sanctuary. From the first note of the prelude until the end of the postlude, Ken McGeary shares his talents as an expression of his love of Christ and service to the people of faith in Grace Church.

Ken has been serving as the organist and choir director at Grace Church for many years. This year marks the 55th anniversary of Ken's service to God as a church organist.

It's not always been an easy task. During the pandemic, his mission of music was a part of the Sunday services that were streamed into our homes. We will not forget those times when our congregation could not gather together and needed the assurance that we would find a way back into worship in our sanctuary. It may seem like an easy task, but weeks ahead of each service he plans the music to fit the service. It is not an accident that his carefully selected musical selections fit the occasion and the spaces of time for the service to flow smoothly.

The Grace Choir is his pride and joy. Their dedication to enhancing our church service through their practice and talents adds a whole layer of beauty to our Sunday Worship. We all appreciate the choir and the talent it takes from the initial music selection to the last note they sing.

If you have gotten to know Ken, he is not only talented in music, but also a scholar on the subject. His weekly submissions in the Church Bulletin are informative about the composers and their personal journeys in faith behind the music. Those articles add even more depth to the music.

On a personal note, Ken and his wife Barbara are raising their three grandsons Quinn, Liam, and Killian in their New Kensington home and as a part of the Grace Family. When asked what he likes most about Grace Church, Ken said the worship service and the people.

Wendy Stein Clark

Wendy has been serving as Grace Church's secretary for over two years. During that time, she has proven herself to be indispensable in the office, to many of the committees, and to the congregation in general.

When talking to Wendy, she told us "part of my job is to help." When any visitor stops by the office, she always greets them with a friendly hello. Wendy lives in Lower Burrell with her husband Jon, and one of the perks of the job, as she sees it, is that she's able to walk to work. Her two cats miss her when she is working but do reluctantly share Wendy with us.

It's probably not a surprise that Wendy has many friends, and she's also an avid reader. Wendy and any member of the congregation will tell you that she "made us her people." There is no mistaking that to the members of Grace Church, Wendy is "one of our people." When asked what she likes most about her job, her answer is "The people. Everyone is just so nice."

When you come into Wendy Stein's office at Grace Church, you can pretty much hum the theme from the Cheers TV show. She always knows your name, is smiling and seems glad you came. When asked, Wendy will tell you that everyone in the church is "so nice." The truth is that her smile and friendly hello would make it tough to be anything but nice in return.

Her duties touch every activity in the church. She is the first person that almost every visitor would meet when entering our church or calling on the phone during the week. She handles the printing of communications to our members in the weekly bulletin and Cross Currents. Her flare for layout and graphics adds to everything she sends out. Wendy is the Power behind the PowerPoint that runs our video screens in the sanctuary. That program has been a wonderful enhancement to Sunday worship.

Wendy is an indispensable asset. It's not an overstatement to say that Wendy is very important to our entire church family. Wendy is also the key to the transition as Pastor Owar is getting to know us as his congregation.

It was a very busy but wonderful morning at the Knead Cafe. A very special thank you to the January Knead Cafe Team.



Sharon Rupert, Cathy Christoforetti, Heidi & Brian Hacker, Glenn Nordmark, and Sheri Cieslinski

February's Knead Cafe team consists of some truly remarkable volunteers dedicating their time and effort towards a vital community cause.



Glenn Nordmark, Ben Edwards, Lisa Edwards, Sheri Cieslinski, Terri Ludwig, and Stephanie Tutka

Knead Café Teams are needed for Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, April 27. Please consider being a part of one or both of these teams. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board near the restrooms. February 4 was Our Cub Scout Sunday. They meet at our Grace Community Presbyterian Church Lower Burrell. The scouts and their families volunteer to take care of the grounds for us. It's a lot of heavy work including pulling shrubs and hauling trimmings away. A special call out to Grace Church Patriarch Glenn Nordmark pictured in the back row who has worked with the scouts for at least 50 years! Thank you scouts for helping us!





FREE COMMUNITY Easter Event

Saturday, March 30, 2024

11:00am till 1:00pm

Grace Community Presbyterian Church

2751 Grant Street

Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Enjoy the fun. A visit from the Easter Bunny, Short Easter Story, Crafts, Face Painting, Egg Hunt. Ages 10 and under.

For more information call 724-339-9661.



Meet the Easter Bunny



EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Please check the flower(s) you would like, write in the dedication, and sign your name to the order. You can pay by cash or check. Your check should be made out to Grace Community Presbyterian Church and marked "EASTER FLOWERS." Please place your order in the envelopes that will be on the secretary's desk, and deposit in the specially marked basket in the office.

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING FLOWERS IS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024**

Tulips	<input type="checkbox"/> Pink	<input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	\$8.00
Hyacinths	<input type="checkbox"/> Pink	<input type="checkbox"/> Purple	<input type="checkbox"/> White	\$8.00
Daffodils	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow			\$8.00

Dedication

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name _____

Flowers provided by Schnur's Greenhouse in Butler, PA

MARCH

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Estate Sale 8am - Noon
3 9:00-am SS 10am Worship/Communion 6pm Youth Group	4 6pm CS Comte Mtg	5 1:00pm Bible Study	6 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00pm CS Den Mtg 6:30pm Ladies Club	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 9:00-am SS 9am Reach out Mtg. 10am Worship <small>Daylight Saving Time SPRING FORWARD</small>	11 6:30pm Mission Mtg.	12 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Garden Club	13 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 3pm CE Mtg 6:00pm CS Den Mtg	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 9:00-am SS 10am Worship 11am Deacons Mtg 6pm Youth Group	18	19 1:00pm NO Bible Study	20 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal <i>hello Spring</i>	21 6:00pm CS Den Mtg 6:00pm Men's Club 6:30pm Ladies Club	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9:00-am SS 10am Worship 11am Deacons Mtg.	25 6:30pm Session Meeting	26 1:00pm Bible Study	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 6:00pm CS Den Mtg <i>laundry day Friday</i>	29 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Good Friday</i>	30 11am - noon Easter Event
31 9:00-am SS 10am Worship EASTER						

Coffee Fellowship (Host(s):

March 3 Reitha Bigranoski/Dan & Teresa Howard
 March 10 Staff Appreciation
 March 17 Volunteer(s) Needed
 March 24 Volunteer(s) Needed
 March 31 No Coffee Fellowship

March Greeter(s)

Elsie Deem
 Beulah Brown
 Lavonne Pelisari
 Lisa Edwards
 Gary & Judy Barbiaux

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Grace Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
2751 Grant Street
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
New Kensington, PA 15068
PERMIT NO. 221

