

MERRY AND BRIGHT GATHERING

Christmas Dinner

Join us for an evening of laughter,
good company and holiday spirit.

Delicious meal, Entertainment from The Butler Symphony.

Santa and heartwarming moments await.

December 7th at 5:00 PM

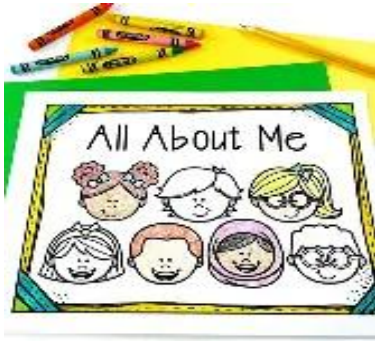
Ham, rolls, beverages and table settings will be provided.

Please bring a covered dish that will serve at least 12 people.

Please use the tear off below to indicate your attendance or contact Kellie
in the church office at 724-339-9661.

Family Name _____ Number Attending _____

We will be providing (Circle One): Salad Vegetable Dessert



Get to Know

Paige Newcomb

Name:	Paige Elyse Newcomb
Family Members:	Aubrie(sister), Kellie(mom), Jim(dad), Connie(grandma), Deb(aunt)
Number of Years at Grace Church:	31 years
Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church:	How much everyone cares about each other.
Occupation and/or Retired From:	Freelance Video Editor- KDKA TV
Favorite Meal:	Roast
3 Items always in your refrigerator:	Cucumbers, Eggs, Fruit
Favorite Type of Vacation:	Beach or some skating competition
Favorite Hobby or Recreation:	Figure skating
People Would be Surprised to Know:	I took dance lessons for years before starting to skate
Hidden Talent:	Photography
Always Wanted to:	Go overseas
What Makes My Heart Smile:	Friends, skating, animals, seeing kids of this church run around having fun.



20 Days of Joy

PRIZE PACKAGE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Support our mission to provide nutritious community meals
for our neighbors and those in need.

\$20 per ticket gets you 20 Chances to win!
One drawing every day!

DECEMBER 1ST - 20TH

Learn more, see the list of prize packages and buy tickets at
www.kneadcommunitycafe.org/20-days-of-joy



Jazzercise Classes (as of 11-14-25) New customers get **one free week of unlimited classes**- no strings attached.

Monday 5:00pm

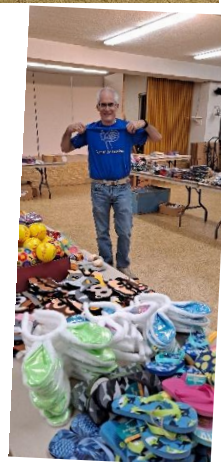
Tuesday 8:00am 4:00pm

Wednesday 5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am 4:00pm

Saturday 8:30am

457 Boxes Filled!!



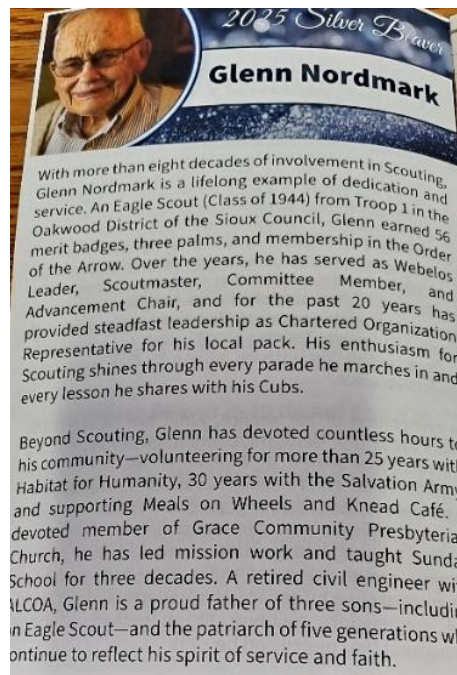
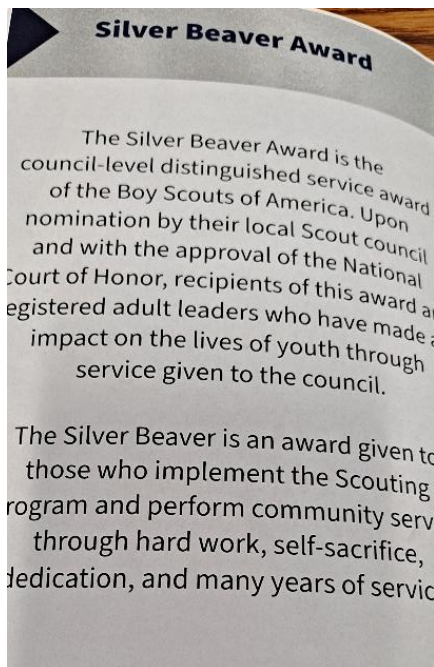


*Tw'as the night after packing, and all through the place,
The church buzzed with joy, God's love on each face.
The ribbons were tied, the labels stuck tight,
Each gift prayed over – a beautiful sight.
The toys and toothbrushes tucked in with care,
With prayers for the children whose joy they'd soon share.
The laughter was gentle, the hearts full of grace,
As Christ's love was shining all over this space.
Each box was a message wrapped in a bright hue,
Saying "Jesus loves you – and we do too",
Though oceans and borders will keep us apart,
Our prayers go along with each box from the heart.
So we rest now in peace, our mission complete,
With tired hands folded and joy bittersweet.
For we've given our time, our love and our best
And trust God to handle all of the rest!**

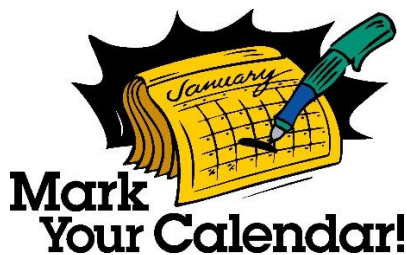
With your hard work, Grace Church provided 457 shoeboxes to children around the world, with a total of 1883 shoeboxes leaving for Greensburg. **Thank you for all you did to support this mission!**



**taken from Operation Christmas Child Project Leaders Facebook*



Our #1 Boy Scout Receives Honor



Someone has a milestone birthday January 1st. Connie Markle will turn 90 years young and we want to celebrate! Please join us for coffee fellowship after worship on January 4th as we celebrate Mom's birthday.

- Connie's Family

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FREE COMMUNITY



Santa Claus will be there!!

- 🎄 Arts & Crafts 🎄 Letter to Santa
- 👤 Cookie Decorating 👤 Story Time and more
- 🎄 Cookies and drinks will be provided 👤

Saturday, December 20
11am -1:00pm



Promise House News

November Promise House Dinner Served 6 adults and 14 children

We provided turkey pot pie, apple sauce, sliced bread
2 cakes and a cookie tray for dessert.

We were blessed to have a 20 pound turkey donated!

Next meal is Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Donations of food, desserts or time are welcome!



Message from the Property Committee

We are in the final stages of getting a new roof covering the entire area of Grace Church, new sanctuary, old sanctuary and the roof covering the offices in between. This has been a long and tedious process which started with \$500 in September 2022 with a “let’s see what a new roof would cost and how do we start a campaign?” With generous donations, the fund grew to \$23,861 by January 2025. Then great things started to happen. Thanks to Bill Ludwig, he found out that covid funds were still available. Working with ADP and the IRS, we were awarded \$36,000. (of which \$3,500 was used for three new computers for the church, netting \$32,556). In March 2025, the midsection of our roof was damaged during a wind and hail storm. We received \$45,334 from insurance. In the last two weeks, additional donations have been pledged /received for a total roof fund of approximately \$117,751. Keep in mind that there was not an active fund drive asking all members for donations, no fund raisers, nor any bank loans. Grace Presbyterian Church is truly blessed. Thank you to all donors for helping with project.

Property has two more major projects to consider. Two of our furnaces which heat the old sanctuary and youth center were inspected and have considerable corrosion on connections. This does pose a safety risk. Also, the parking lot needs to be prepped, resealed and line marked.

Keep the faith, pray to God that we may continue the maintenance of God’s House.

Property Committee

November Session Highlights

1. Approved Baptism for Gianna Ames for November 30.
2. Reminder that Communion for December will be on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent.
3. Rev. Ellie Johnson-Kelly will be guest pastor on December 7th in context with Stewardship “God’s Legacy” being the focus.
4. Deacons and Session held a joint meeting on November 16.
5. Approved to hold Christmas Eve service at 7:30pm.
6. Congregational meeting on January 11 to approve the church’s budget for 2026.
7. From Christian Education approved a Children’s Christmas program for December 20th
8. From Worship Committee, Children’s Service during worship will begin on December 14.
9. Reminder that all gifts from “Amy’s Tree” need to be at Grace by December 14.
10. Session approved Reach-Out request to have a Chicken Pie dinner on Feb. 22, 2026.
11. No Session meeting in December 2025, next meeting January 26, 2026

Things I think about:

At church camp the attendees volunteer for various jobs. One of those jobs was to clean the latrine. When asked by the camp counselor why the camper never volunteered for latrine chores?

He replied, “I am converted but not converted that far!!!!”

Is that the same with us, are we not all in, does our faith go so far!

Colossians 3: 23 Mathew 5: 16 *James 2: 17



“At that time I will bring to the throne the true Son of David, and he shall rule justly. In that day the people of Judah and Jerusalem shall live in safety and their motto will be, “The Lord is our righteousness!” (Jeremiah 33:14-16 TLB)

Dear Christian Friends,

It feels like just yesterday we welcomed the new year, and here we are in December, preparing to usher in 2026. Despite the many challenges we may have faced throughout the year, we remain grateful for God’s unwavering love and kindness.

This year, our transition into the Advent Season coincides with the lectionary reading from the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah, a voice of hope amidst despair, prophesied the restoration of Judah during a time of great turmoil and uncertainty, during the dark days of the Babylonian invasion. For forty-one years, he urged the people of Israel to return to their covenant with God, warning them of the impending invasion and the consequences of their actions.

As the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and Jeremiah's hometown of Anathoth fell under occupation, hope seemed distant, dreams of peace felt unattainable, and life appeared bleak. Yet amid this chaos, Jeremiah received a vision of hope—a promise that Judah would be saved and that Jerusalem would live in safety. God would restore their fortunes through the promised son from the line of King David.

This messianic prophecy foretells the coming of the Messiah and speaks to us today. Like the Israelites, we too find ourselves in periods of waiting and uncertainty. Yet, despite the challenges, we are encouraged to hold fast to the belief that hope must endure. *As such, time of advent invites us to look beyond our immediate circumstances and to reflect on the anticipated coming of Christ.* It encourages us to embrace patience, even when the promise seems distant. As theologian Charles B. Cousar articulated, Advent is not simply about optimism, but recognizing the hopeful expectation of God fulfilling promises and **transforming despair into renewal.**

As we celebrate Advent, let us carry the promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in our hearts—both for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters in Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, Eritrea, South Sudan, and beyond, who yearn for peace and freedom. Let us pray for God's intervention in their struggles.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with hope and God’s presence in your lives!

In Christ’s love

Pastor Owar



I hope this note finds you well and filled with the blessings of our Lord. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering prayers and support during this transition in our lives. Your encouragement has been a source of strength as we continue to navigate this change.

I am pleased to share some positive news: the roof of our home has been successfully replaced, thanks to our Session and all those who contributed to making this happen. This is a crucial step forward, and ***I am genuinely thankful for every effort that has been extended towards this goal.***

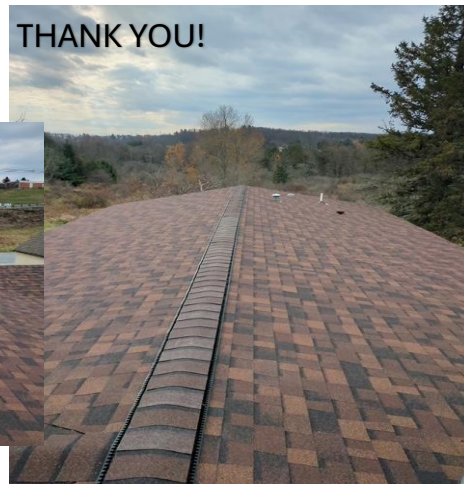
While we rejoice in this progress, there are still several interior and exterior elements that require attention before we can fully prepare the house for the market. The journey has been challenging, and **I sincerely apologize** for the delays in my relocation to the Lower Burrell community. Various factors have contributed to this extended timeline, including health and financial constraints in our family and want to assure you that I recognize the importance of living among you as your pastor.

As we move forward, *I humbly request your continued patience and prayers.* It is my hope that once the remaining work is completed, the house will sell swiftly and allow us to fulfill our commitment to being an active part of the Grace community.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding. Together, we will overcome these challenges and continue to grow in our faith and fellowship. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if there's anything I can do to support you in return.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Owar, Apay and children



Dear Grace Church family,

We will receive The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley as our guest preacher on December 7th, 2025. Rev. Johns-Kelley serves as the Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, covering the Allegheny and Chesapeake regions. And when she is with us on the first Sunday of December, Ellie will speak on **"God's Legacy of Love."** Please see more about Rev. Johns-Kelley below.

BIO for the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley

The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley serves as the Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation covering the Allegheny and Chesapeake Region. She works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship and endowment committees.

"Building on relationships and resourcing churches to help them increase funding for their ministry are my top priorities," said Ellie. "I want to help others realize the vast amount of resources available through the Foundation and work in collaboration with other agencies of the PC(USA)."

Prior to joining the Foundation in 2013, Ellie served nearly four years as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Warren, Pennsylvania. Previously, she served as Director of the Summer Youth Institute and Assistant Director of Admissions at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A member of the Presbytery of West Virginia, Ellie serves on the Synod of the Trinity Stated Clerk Nominating Committee. Over the last twenty-five years, Ellie was active in the Presbytery of Lake Erie, most recently serving as Co-Moderator of the Administrative Committee and President of the Trustees. In addition, she served the larger church in a number of capacities including the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, Regional Resource Person for the Theological Education Fund in the Synod of the Trinity, the synod's Campus Ministry Task Force and as a synod commissioner.

Ellie received a Bachelor of Science in biology at Muskingum College and a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She resides on a farm in Carmichaels, PA with husband Dr. Eric Kelley and two daughters.

The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley
Ministry Relations Officer
Presbyterian Foundation
855-251-8212