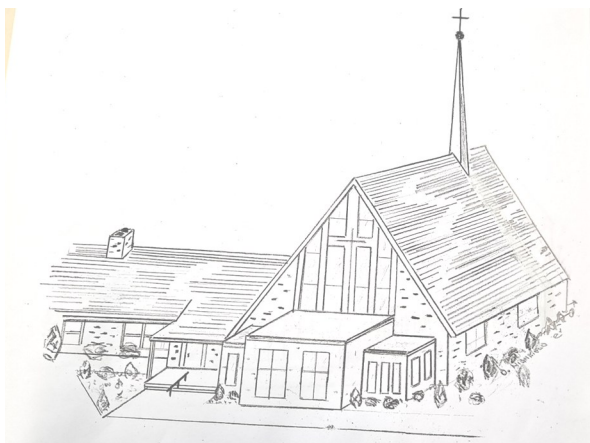




Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
724-339-9661

E-mail: secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Website: gracecommunitypresbyterian.org



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Our Staff

Pastor:

Secretary: Kellie Newcomb

secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig

Interim Organist: Dane Skroupa/Lisa Clark

Treasurer: Ray Zerjav

Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zurich

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:-00am—2:00pm

Worship Times:

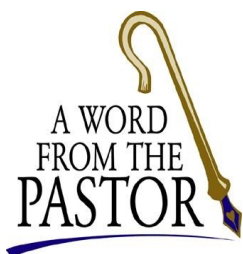
9:00-9:45am-Kids Sunday School

10:00 am—Worship



11:00 am—Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall (downstairs) every Sunday (unless otherwise stated).



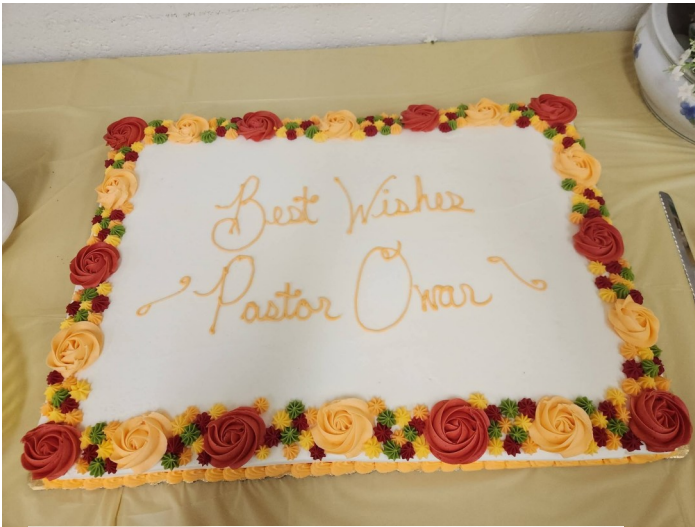


“I Am Hurt, I Am Moving, God Is Good”

Dear Grace Family, As I prepare to leave Grace Church, I find myself carrying many memories, prayers, and emotions. I have been asking God what final word I might share with you in this farewell devotion. On the evening of Sunday, September 13, after a long day and while sitting with Margie Bistline watching the Green Bay Packers vs. the Vikings, I unexpectedly found myself watching a 60 Minutes story about a U.S. Air Force officer known as “Bravo,” who survived after his aircraft was shot down over Iran and described his survival as a modern-day miracle. What stayed with me most was the simple message he sent while injured and still trying to survive: “I am hurt. I am moving. God is good.” Those words have been echoing in my heart because they feel honest to this season. Saying goodbye is not easy. There is gratitude, but there is also ache. There is hope, but there is also the tenderness that comes when people we love begin a new chapter. Still, those words remind me that pain and grievance does not have the final word. God is still present, still merciful, and still good. In many ways, that Bravo testimony speaks to all of us. We each know what it means to be hurt by loss, change, disappointment, uncertainty, or weariness, emotional and spiritual depletions. Yet by the grace of God, we keep moving. We keep praying, serving, forgiving, worshiping, and trusting. Like the Apostle Paul wrote, we may be “struck down but not destroyed.” Our hope is not in our own strength, but in the faithful love of Christ who walks with us and lifts us up. As I look back on my time with you, I give thanks for the many ways God’s goodness has been visible in this congregation. I have seen it in your prayers, your kindness, your service, and your love for one another. I have seen it in handshakes and hugs after worship, in quiet acts of care, and in the faithfulness of people who love the Lord and love this church. As you continue forward, I pray that you will carry these words with you: “I am hurt. I am moving. God is good.” When days are joyful, may you give thanks. When days are heavy, may you keep moving by faith. And when you think of the road we have walked together, I hope you will remember not only the challenges, but also the grace, laughter, ministry, and love that God has allowed us to share. With hope in Christ, I bless you and entrust you to the goodness of God. You will remain in my prayers, and I will always be thankful for the privilege of walking with you the past season. Amen.

Pastor Owar Ojulu

Pastor Owar's Farewell Luncheon— September 20, 2026



September 20th, we bade farewell to Pastor Owar and his family. We extend our deepest gratitude for his ministry and service among us.

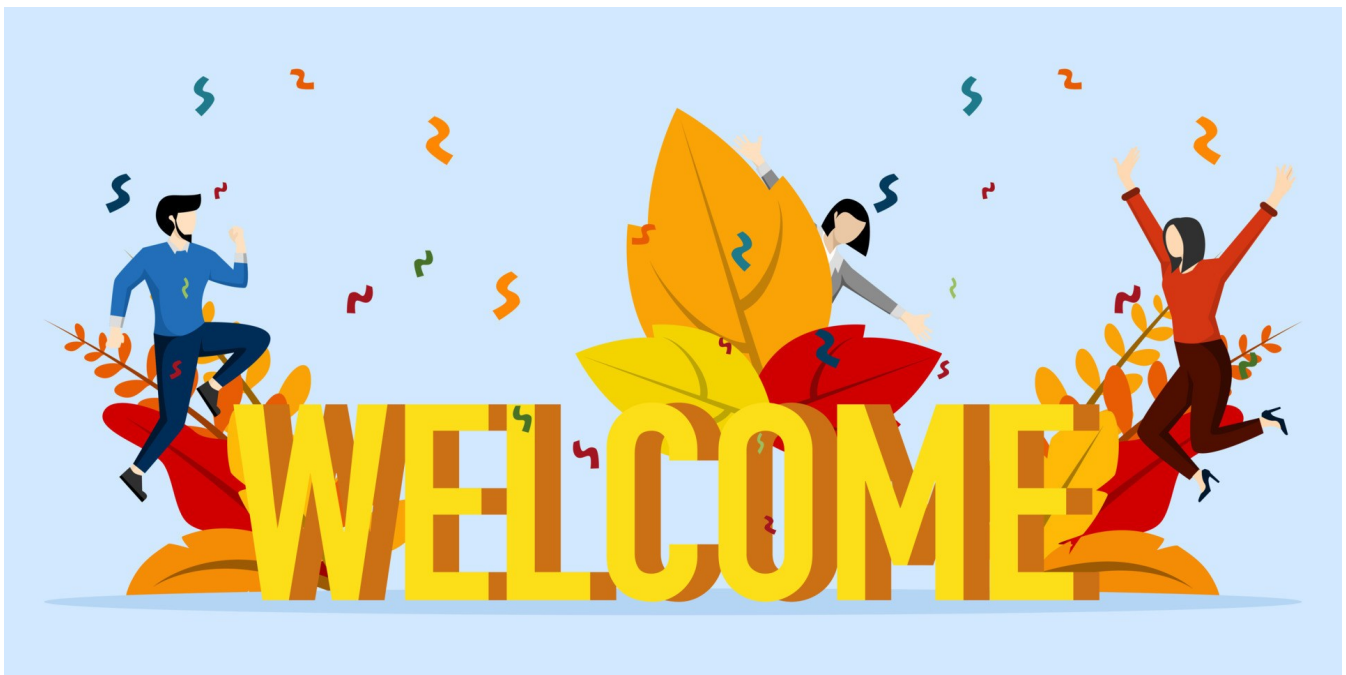
As they follow the Lord's calling into this next chapter, we pray for God's abundant grace, peace and blessing to rest upon him, his wife, and their children.

We pray for the Lord to guide their steps and watch over them in the days ahead.

Welcome Krista & Greg!!!



We are delighted to welcome Krista Peterson and Greg Costanzo as the newest members during worship on Sunday, September 6th, but they have already made a wonderful impact on our congregation. Since beginning to regularly attend worship around Easter, Krista has eagerly embraced opportunities to serve, joining the Reach Out Committee and becoming a regular volunteer at Knead Cafe. Greg has also shared his beautiful gift of music with us, blessing our congregation by playing the piano and singing a solo during worship. Their willingness to jump in, serve, and share their God-given gifts is truly inspiring. We are grateful to have Krista and Greg as part of our church family and cannot wait to see the difference their love, talents and involvement will make in the ministry and accomplishments of Grace Church. We are blessed to have them with us and look forward to all that lies ahead.



Community Events



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Saturday, November 7th–

Vendor/Craft Fair to benefit Operation

**Christmas Child-(Basket Raffle, Cookies,
Grab N Go Food, 50/50)**



Come Shop and Support a Great Cause!!!!

Do you like to Praise God with a gift of song?

We welcome and encourage you to become a choir member. No musicality needed, just a desire to praise the Lord through song.

We also have a blast together!!

We practice Sunday mornings on the stage in Cana Hall at 9am. Please join us!!





Our Thanks to This Week's Sponsor



**GRACE COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Thursday, September 10th, 2026

5:30 pm-6:30 pm

1011 Barnes Street, New Kensington

**Distribution begins at the front area until it is gone.
Start time may begin earlier with inclement weather.

Sharing God's Love Through the Knead Cafe

Grace Church continues to put faith into action by reaching out to those in need within our community. Through Knead Cafe's Grab & Go meal program, 320 meals were distributed to food-challenged individuals. Providing not only nourishing food by also a reminder that they are cared for and valued.

The Knead Cafe is dedicated to providing meals to our community through meals the third Thursday of each month. At its heart, the Knead Cafe is a truly Christian-based outreach ministry, committed to bringing God's love, compassion, and hope to everyone in the community.

This Thursday, June Cicola, Connie Markle, Kellie Newcomb, and Deb Roskey generously volunteered their time to help distribute the 320 meals. Their willingness to serve is a wonderful example of how small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others

We are grateful for these dedicated volunteers and for everyone who helps make the Knead Cafe ministry possible. **Together, we are not simply providing a meal—we are sharing God's love, one person at a time.**



Our first vendor fair is taking shape! So far, 23 vendors have signed up, and eight spaces are remaining. We will have area vendors set up throughout the church, a basket raffle, grab 'n go food for purchase, and a 50/50 auction. It will be a great time for all! Proceeds will go towards shoebox processing. Planned food offerings include soup, pierogies, sloppy joes, hot dogs, and cookies.

Please also consider providing an already-assembled gift basket or new items to include in the basket raffle. We hope to have 30 baskets/large items for the raffle. Please bring gift baskets to the Conference room (the room after the Children's Library on right) by Sunday, November 1st.

As we near our packing party, we are still in need of **toys for all age groups (nothing liquid, or war related)**. If you find any remaining deals on school supplies, we can still use **markers**. This year, we will have our packing party right after coffee fellowship on Sunday, November 15th. As always, if you'd like to have someone else do the shopping, you can donate to Grace Church with "OCC" in the memo line.

Last year, the Burrell High School honor society supported Operation Christmas Child by packing shoeboxes and volunteering at church events. This year, two Burrell clubs will be filling shoeboxes and raising money for processing. Grace Church will be donating shoeboxes for them to fill. Last year they filled 24, and this year they hope to do 62! What a wonderful partnership we have developed.

As we get closer to National Collection week, please read the story of Angelita (next page), who was transformed by a shoebox gift. Keep her in mind as we finish packing our shoeboxes. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Upcoming Events

Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 7th from 10 am – 3 pm

Packing party on Sunday, November 15th 11:30 am – 1 pm

AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX GIFT STARTED GOD'S TRANSFORMATION OF A GIRL'S LIFE IN GUATEMALA.



Angelita, 13, didn't want to attend an Operation Christmas Child outreach event at her church in San Pedro las Huertas, Guatemala. She didn't realize that God would use the occasion to begin transforming her troubled life through a gift-filled shoebox.

Angelita thought she was too old to attend the celebration and didn't want to be around a bunch of kids. Her younger brother, Giovany, begged to go, but there was no one to take him. Angelita's mom worked and her dad had long ago abandoned the family.

ALTHOUGH SHE INITIALLY ONLY WENT TO THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD OUTREACH EVENT FOR HER BROTHER'S SAKE, ANGELITA REJOICED OVER GIFTS IN HER OWN SHOEBOX AND HOW KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TRANSFORMED HER LIFE!

"My mom told me I had to take him, but I didn't want to," she said. "And I didn't want to hear anything about the Lord."

A LIFE OF DARKNESS

Although Angelita grew up attending church and believed "that God was good and could solve all of our problems," the void left by her absentee father was just too big of a hole to fill. "I would cry for my father. I felt empty and lonely," she said. "My group of friends felt the same way. Life didn't make sense. I started drinking and using drugs. It initially felt good but then they made me feel worse. I felt like I was worth nothing."

Angelita also dealt with reoccurring dark dreams that fueled her destructive behavior. She began to believe that she wouldn't live to see her 15th birthday.

Guatemala is home to ancient Mayan ruins, breathtaking volcanic landscapes, pristine rainforests, and picturesque towns. But also residing throughout the country are pockets that are far more sinister where witchcraft is all too common. "There is witchcraft in this area. It is very real," Angelita said. "My family has been a target of it."

Marta, Angelita's mother, was initially unaware of her daughter's struggles. She knew Angelita was becoming more angry and rebellious, but she didn't realize the full extent of her problems until one day she received a call from Angelita's school. "She had taken some pills and passed out," Marta said. "She then started skipping school and going to a park with her friends who were also drinking and doing drugs."

Marta began praying for her daughter and asked their pastor and his wife to also pray for her. During a visit, the couple invited Angelita and Giovany to attend an Operation Christmas Child outreach event at church.

A SURPRISING GIFT

Although Angelita didn't want to go to the festivities, she reluctantly took her brother and was surprised by what she encountered. Middle schoolers like herself welcomed her, and the event was upbeat and fun. But what most amazed her was receiving a gift-filled shoebox.

"I was surprised to receive a gift," she said. "When I opened my box and looked inside, I didn't feel alone anymore. I felt appreciated and thought that maybe God did love me."

Of all the goodies she received, including a notebook, stuffed animal, and a sewing kit, her favorite was several colorful bracelets.

"She kept showing off the bracelets," Marta said. "Her face would just light up. It was then that she started to believe that her heavenly Father loved her. He gives good gifts."

Angelita and Giovany were invited to attend The Greatest Journey discipleship course. During the classes, Angelita began to become more interested in God and soon realized how much Jesus loved her. She then readily gave her life to Christ. She soon stopped hanging around her previous friends and stopped drinking and doing drugs—and the distributing dreams disappeared.

"I am overjoyed to see my daughter so happy," Marta said. **"God bless the people who pack shoeboxes. Thank you for your great hearts in sending a gift to someone you don't know. It fills children's hearts with happiness."** I've seen it in their faces. I've seen it in Angelita's face."

NEVER ALONE

Angelita's life has been totally transformed by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. "I've learned that God never forsakes us. Sometimes we turn our backs on Him, but He never turns His back on us," she said. "I now never feel alone. Jesus saved me from many things. Thanks to Him I am still alive. He is the One who can fill any void."



HOLIDAY VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR



Grace Community Presbyterian Church

Join us for a festive day of Holiday shopping, food, raffles, and community fun!



Saturday, November 7, 2026



Grace Community Presbyterian Church



Time: 10 am – 3 pm



Address: 2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA (ample parking available)



Shop Local for the Holidays!

Browse a variety of local vendors for Holiday gifts and homemade crafts.

Event Highlights



Holiday Shopping with Local Vendors



Basket Raffle (You need not be present to win)



50/50 Auction



Grab 'N Go Food (Sandwiches, soups, chips, drinks and cookies available for purchase)

Proceeds Benefit Operation Christmas Child



Help us share the joy of Christmas with children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. All proceeds will go towards providing gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world.

Vendors Wanted!

Reserve your space and showcase your products at our holiday event. \$ 40 / Indoor space 8' x 10', table & 2 chairs provided (limited number available) or \$30 if you provide your own table. Vendors will be approved based upon product type. Payment due upon approval – no refunds. Space is not guaranteed until payment is received.

Contact us:



Phone: 724-339-9661 (9 am – 2 pm Mon-Thurs)



Email: secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org



Web: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Come Celebrate the Season With Us!

Shop • Support a Great Cause • Enjoy Christmas Fellowship

🌲 We look forward to seeing you there! 🌲



Get to Know.....

Kellie Newcomb

Name: Kellie Newcomb

Family Members: Jim (husband), Aubrie (daughter), Paige (daughter), Connie Markle (mom), Debbie Roskey (aunt)

Number of Years w/Grace Church: 64 years

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: Family atmosphere— We take care of each other as a “Community”

Occupation and/or Retired from: I have worked in many industries – retail, insurance, freight, academia, pharmacy to name a few— currently Grace Church secretary.

Favorite Meal: Anything I don’t have to cook or clean up.

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: milk, shredded cheese, a pitcher of sun tea

Favorite Type of Vacation: Anyplace in our RV— 6 more states to go (currently stored in Myrtle Beach)

Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Zigsaw Puzzles (my dad got me hooked)

People Would Be Surprised to Know: My middle name is Lloydale – I was named after my grandpa Lloyd and my uncle Dale. Aubrie’s middle name is Maeann— my mom, Connie Mae and Jim’s mom, Maxine Ann. Also Marsha Sackett was my babysitter.

Always Wanted to: Be a Rockette but my legs aren’t long enough

What Makes My Heart Smile: laughing babies and my girls happy

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study

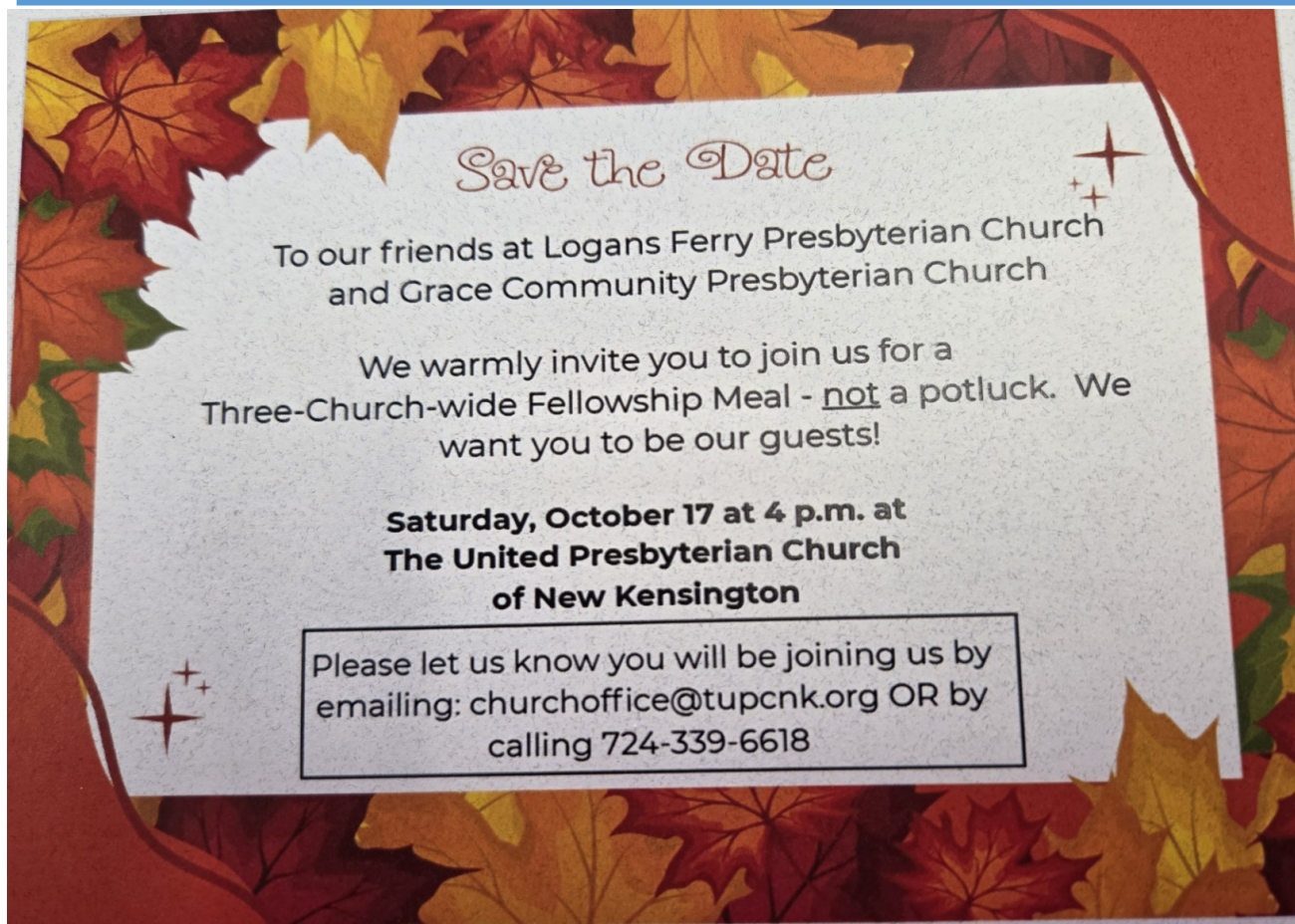
Pat Briscoe is leading a Bible Study every Tuesday at 1:00pm in the Library.



Hello friends! We are so excited to welcome you for food and friendship at our church in October (see invitation). As I mentioned when I delivered the invitations to your congregation, there are no gimmicks here; unlike other cards you receive in the mail, we're not going to lure you with a meal then make you listen to some sort of spiel on investing, or senior living, or even a presentation on Leviticus! In fact, we don't want anything but your presence and the opportunity for members of our congregations to enjoy a delicious meal, conversation, and time spent with one another. That will be MORE than enough, and it will indeed be a blessing.

Please be certain to let us know you'll be coming, either by using the sign-up sheet in your Narthex, letting Cathy Brady know, or by contacting our church at 724-339-6618. We look forward to seeing you.

Contact Cathy Brady at 412-841-4904 or email catbrad2850@gmail.com to make your reservation.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

October 4–	Kellie Newcomb	Oct 5–	Carl & Kathy Dolon
October 16–	Chris Legters	Oct 8–	Bill & Terri Ludwig
October 18–	Brandon Daughtry	Oct 12–	Steve & Valerie Lester
	Zoe Householder		
October 19–	Cindy Daughtry		
October 25–	Paul Berggren		
October 27–	Apay Ojulu		

Recipe of the Month

Paddy Burkes Pepper Soup

½ cup (1 stick) unsalted Kerrygold Irish butter	2/3 cup half and half
4 bell peppers (a combination of red, yellow, and orange), seeded, deribbed, and diced	1 TBSP minced fresh basil
1 red onion, chopped	1 TBSP minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 cup all-purpose flour (I use cornstarch)	Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste
6 cups vegetable stock	

In a stockpot or large saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the peppers and onion and cook, covered, stirring once or twice, for 5-7 minutes or until the vegetables are tender but not browned. Stir in the flour (corn starch) until blended with the vegetables. Add the stock or broth, a cup at a time, stirring after each addition to blend with the flour (corn starch) and vegetables. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 50-60 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and let cool for 10 minutes.

Working in batches, transfer the mixture to a food processor and puree until smooth. (I use an immersion blender). Return the soup to the pot, whisk in the half and half and season with the basil, parsley, salt and pepper. Simmer until heated through.



This thank you is long over due, but I would like to thank the members of Grace Church for their love, prayers and cards shone to my family in the loss of my husband, Joe. This is truly a church that cares for each other and looks out for one another. From Pamela and Nicholas and myself, THANK YOU for your love and support.

The Bieranoski Family

The “Get to Know” feature has been great, but I’m down to one more. Come on people, the sheets are on the table in the narthex. Tell us something about you that we would never guess!

DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO
NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I
WILL STRENGTHEN YOU; I WILL SURELY
HELP YOU; I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY
RIGHT HAND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- ISAIAH 41:10



Liturgist Schedule– October

Oct 4	Stephanie Tutka
Oct 11	Rev. Paul Milz
Oct 18	LaVonne Pelisari
Oct 26	Michael Cochenour

Children's Message Schedule

October 11– Linda Johnson
October 25- Michael Cochenour



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Darlene Artman when she receives a liver transplant and recovery.
- Our church and church leaders as we transition into a new phase in Grace Community Church's life.



Altar Flowers

Do you miss fresh flowers in the sanctuary? If you wish to purchase altar flowers, the sign-up calendar and order forms are on the bulletin board outside the church office. They are \$60 for 2 arrangements and provided by "Just for You" Florists.