



Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
724-339-9661
E-mail: secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Website: gracecommunitypresbyterian.org



J
U
L
Y

2
0
2
6

Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu
pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Secretary: Kellie Newcomb
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Dane Skroupa/Lisa Clark
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:-00am—2:00pm

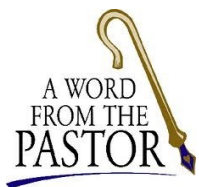
Worship Times:

9:00-9:45am-Kids Sunday School
10:00 am– Worship
11:00 am– Adult Sunday School



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





For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 NRSV).

Dear Grace family, as our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of America’s founding, we have an opportunity to pause with gratitude, humility, and prayer. Anniversaries invite us to remember the courage, sacrifice, and hope that shaped our country, while also reminding us that freedom is a gift to be cherished, protected, and used faithfully.

As Christians, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land: the freedom to worship, to gather, to serve our neighbors, to speak with conviction, and to seek justice and peace. These blessings should never be taken lightly. They were entrusted to us through the labor and sacrifice of many generations, and they call us to live as responsible citizens and faithful disciples.

Yet Scripture reminds us that the freedom we know does not come from any nation, government, or human achievement. Our true freedom comes from Jesus Christ. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Christ sets us free from sin, fear, guilt, despair, and the power of death. This freedom is not merely the ability to do whatever we want; it is the power to become who God created us to be.

Paul’s words in Galatians call us to “stand firm” in this freedom. That means we are not to return to the burdens that Christ has lifted from us. We need not be ruled by fear, bitterness, division, or the need to prove ourselves worthy before God. In Christ, we are forgiven, beloved, and called into a new way of life.

Christian freedom is always joined to love. We are set free not for selfishness, but for service. We are set free to forgive as we have been forgiven, to welcome the stranger, to care for the vulnerable, to speak truth with humility, and to seek the good of our neighbors. When freedom is shaped by love, it becomes a witness to the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, let us give thanks for our country while also praying for it. Let us pray for wisdom for our leaders, friendship in our communities, healing where there is division, and courage to pursue what is just and merciful. Let us remember that our citizenship in this nation is important, but our first allegiance is to Christ, whose love knows no borders and whose grace is offered to all.

May this anniversary become more than a civic milestone. May it be a spiritual invitation—to remember with gratitude, to repent where we have fallen short, to renew our commitment to love God and neighbor, and to live as people whose freedom is rooted in Christ.

So, Grace family, as flags are raised, hymns are sung, celebrations begin, and fireworks light the sky, let us rejoice with thankful hearts. And above all, let us stand firm in the freedom Christ has given us, using that freedom to serve one another in love.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Owar

Happy 4th

Freedom in Christ, Gratitude for Our Nation

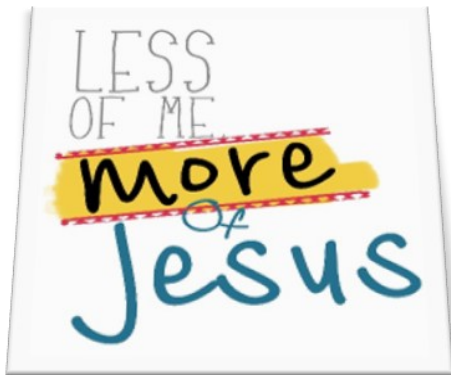
Sermon Titles & Summary—July 2026

This month, we will conclude our journey through Colossians, “Christ Is Enough.” In the last two chapters, Paul dives into the Christian life, devotion to prayer, and being watchful and thankful.

Sunday, July 19th

Colossians 3:1-17 — “Kill the Old, Wear the New”

The Christian life requires putting to death sinful patterns and old identities. Believers are called to put on Christlike character in every relationship.



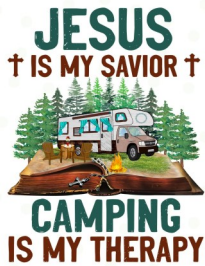
Sunday, July 26th

Colossians 4:1-6 — “Set, Seek and Strive”

A Christian is called to set the mind and heart on what truly matters, choosing a clear direction and spiritual focus. This calling involves continually seeking spiritual fulfillment and striving with commitment and discipline to live out our faith.



Community Events



Vacation Bible School
“Camping with Christ”
July 21st– July 23rd– 6-8pm

A Message from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee wishes to express its deep gratitude for the faithful witness, generosity, and Christian commitment that continue to strengthen the ministry of Grace Church. The way we live, serve, and give today can have a lasting impact on the life of our congregation for many years to come. In addition to our active congregation’s monetary support, your witness and way of life encourage your friends and family to also contribute to our ministry.

Recently, Grace Church has been blessed by generous financial gifts from extended family members connected to our congregation. A gift from Dale Branzet, part of the Markle and Newcomb family, has provided significant support for the maintenance of our scheduled capital improvements. In addition, a meaningful bequest from Ralph Ross will help sustain the ministries of Grace Church and reduce our annual budget deficit for years to come.

These gifts serve as a powerful reminder that faithful stewardship extends beyond the present moment. Our giving is an expression of love and gratitude to God, a commitment to the care of His house, and a tangible way we participate in His mission through the church and in the world.

We encourage all members and friends of Grace Church to continue serving the Lord faithfully, praying for the ongoing mission of our congregation, and supporting the work of the church through tithes and offerings. As we honor God as our provider and sovereign Lord, we live out our faith and help ensure that Grace Church remains a place of worship, ministry, and blessing for generations to come.

Acts 20:35 - In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Ken McGeary’s Memorial Service will be Saturday July 25th at 2pm.

The choir will be singing Ken’s arrangement of “How Great Thou Art” and
“The Lord’s Prayer”

We welcome any and all voices who would like to help us pay tribute to our
“Choir Master”

(we are practicing 9am Sunday mornings and probably 1pm on the 25th)



Deborah Pollick Obituary

Deborah R. Pollick, 74, of Lower Burrell, died on Thursday, June 4, 2026, in her home. She was born in New Kensington on May 24, 1952, to the late Joseph and Gloria J. (Rich) Thomas and was a lifelong resident of Lower Burrell. Mrs. Pollick was a member of Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell. She worked as an x-ray technician for Allegheny Valley Hospital and later in the billing department for Grover and Associates until retiring in 2014. She was a member of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and enjoyed ceramics, puzzles, gardening, watching soap operas, and spending time with her family. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Henry M. Pollick Jr.; two sons, Steven Matthew Pollick (Cindy Christy) and Daniel Ryan Pollick (Lillybet Pena), both of Lower Burrell; two brothers, Mark (Marianne) Thomas of Lower Burrell and Patrick (Lisa) Thomas of Pittsburgh; and sister, Paul Jean Thomas of New Kensington. Friends will be received from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2026, at RUSIEWICZ OF LOWER BURRELL FUNERAL HOME, 3124 Leechburg Road, at Alder St., where funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, by the Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell. www.RusiewiczFH.com.

Dear Grace Community family,

Our family wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during the passing of Debbie. Your kindness has been a true beacon of light for us. With sincere appreciation.

- Duke Pollick and family



Glenn Nordmark Obituary

Glenn Everett Nordmark was born January 12, 1929 in Sioux City, Iowa and grew up in Brookings, South Dakota. He delivered the Saturday Evening Post for years. Since the age of 9, he was associated with the Boy Scout program – receiving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1944. He served as Scoutmaster twice and was currently serving as the Chartered Organization Representative for Cub Scout Pack 556. He graduated from South Dakota State College in 1951 with a BS in Civil Engineering and a commission as a 2nd Lt through the Air Force ROTC program. He was crowned Hobo King of the SDSC homecoming. He joined Masonic Lodge 24 in Brookings, SD. In the military, he served at Wright-Patterson AFB working in weight estimation of aircraft designs. In 1952 he married Mary Lou Scott, a primary teacher in the Dayton schools. He accepted a research assistantship working in structural fatigue at the University of Illinois which awarded him a MS in Civil Engineering in 1955. He worked 37 years at the Alcoa Laboratories, authoring or co-authoring 39 technical papers and co-authored Fatigue Design of Aluminum Components and Structures.

The Presbyterian Church was an important part of his entire life as he was a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and served many terms as ruling elder at Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell. To improve his speaking abilities, he joined the Toastmaster organization first at college and later at Alcoa Laboratories. His wife got him into working at the election polls and he was later elected to be Judge of Election. He worked on all of the houses constructed by the New Kensington chapter of Habitat for Humanity. For 28 years he volunteered to prepare taxes in the AARP Tax Aide program and served as District Coordinator for many years. He delivered meals for the Meals on Wheels program. He was an officer in the Allegheny Philatelic and Numismatic Society. He volunteered at The Knead Café. He was a Master Mason of Lodge 24, Brookings, SD.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou Scott Nordmark, his parents, Klas and Laura Nordmark and sister, Marilyn Nordmark Cresap. He is survived by three sons, Bruce of Uniontown, PA, Craig (Gloria) of Eureka, CA and Scott D. (Leigh Ann) of Lebanon, TN, grandsons Brian Leighow, Scott W. Nordmark, Corey Nordmark, Noah Nordmark, granddaughter Edra Hileman, five great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Tribute to Glenn Nordmark- (Margie Bistline)

When I think about our friend and tried to make sense of all that he went through during the past nearly a year, I turned to Scripture to find some answers. Here are my results in the search: The most helpful answers came from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Chapter 1:21- "For me to live in Christ and to die is gain." Chapter 2:7- "He (Jesus) made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of bondservant and coming in the likeness of man. If we are to strive to grow more like Christ in this life, we are to become selfless servants." Chapter 3:20-21- "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also wait eagerly for the Savior—who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body." Psalm 116:15 tells us "Precious in the night of the Lord is the death of His saints" and Proverbs 4:7-8 reminds us that if we prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her and she will honor you. She will place a lovely crown on your head. She will present you with a wonderful crown.

As precious as the Scouts Silver Beaver Award was to Glenn for his 87 years of service to them, his reunion with the living Savior is even more precious than any earthly reward. Anytime a Bible study was offered in the church, Glenn was in attendance no matter who was leading it. During the last days Walt was able to be home with me, he was attempting to stand up in the bathroom and leaned heavily on the tissue holder and it ripped from the wall and crumbled the plaster. The next Sunday I was leading the Sunday School class and mentioned my concern for it's repair. Then I admitted it was an insignificant concern when compared to the kidnapping of a bus load of school girls being kidnapped and trafficked in Africa, bringing down my personal concern. The next day, Glenn appeared at my door with his tools and supplies and fixed my wall. That convinced me that not only did Glenn listen closely to every word spoken, he quickly found ways to help. So it is with God— even our minor problems matter to Him and He will answer.

In Scripture, it tells us that we must follow Jesus' example of humility and servanthood if we wish to emulate Him. Glenn was a servant to many in his time on earth. He made sure to serve as a Bell ringer for the Salvation Army in winter weather, he served frequently at the Knead Café, made repairs to the church building, was an active hands on participant for Habitat for Humanity and worked tirelessly for the Boy Scouts to sow seeds of honesty and good works and reliable leadership. He was fully engaged with VBS and gave a lifetime of service to the Mission Committee. All the while he made sure to expose his sons and their families to exciting travel adventures. His presence as a greeter before service was constant.

Why did he have to suffer so long before his journey home? Anyone who visited him can testify that he was concerned and caring for each visitor, that he never once complained about his situation, and was more concerned for the church and it's people, particularly the Mission Committee. He was tirelessly giving his energy for anything that served others. Let us all follow his example, caring more for others than for ourselves. He has now received his crown of glory and has no doubt cast it at the feet of our Savior.



Get to Know.....

Chris Legters

Name: Chris Legters

Nickname: Legs

Family Members: Karen, Courtney, Kyle, Cody, Kira

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: The friendliness and community

Occupation and/or Retired from: Retired middle school math teacher for 34 years

Favorite Meal: Anything someone else cooks for me.

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: Milk, OJ, Chocolate Milk

Pet(s), Names, etc: Milo (miniature golden doodle)

Favorite Type of Vacation: One with the family (usually beach or hiking)

Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Sports– running, hiking, golf, basketball. Singing– barbershop and choir in the past.

People Would Be Surprised to Know: I'm the shortest in my family (except for my mom)

Hidden Talent: Flower Arrangements

Always Wanted to: Go white water rafting

What Makes My Heart Smile: Coaching sports and seeing kids achieve more than they thought possible and being together with my whole family.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Debbie Pollick went home to Heaven on June 4th. Please keep Duke, Daniel and Steven in your prayers as they grieve.
 - Glenn Nordmark went home to Heaven on June 14th. Please keep Glenn's family in your prayers as they grieve.
 - Pat Cochran fell and injured her shoulder— she is staying with her son and daughter in law. Cards can be sent to: 847 Hawk Valley Drive, Leechburg, PA 15656
- * If you have a prayer request for this newsletter, please let the secretary know. Thank You



Retirement has come to our members:

Brian Hacker retired from the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Karen Legters retired as a long time Kindergarten teacher.

Kyle Deem is retiring after a lifelong service to our country as a helicopter rescue pilot and commander of Moody Air Force Base in Georgia.



ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT !!!

Liturgist Schedule– July

July 5– Stephanie Tutka
July 12– Rev. Paul Milz
July 19– LaVonne Pelisari
July 26– Michael Cochenour

Children’s Message Schedule

July 12– Terri Ludwig
July 26– Linda Johnson

RECIPE OF THE MONTH– Apple Pizza (Lori Kreigel’s)-submitted by Linda Johnson

Crust: 2 2/3 cups flour

1 cup Crisco

1 tsp salt

7-8 TBSP warm water

Press onto a greased round pizza pan

Peel & slice apples with 1/2 cup sugar and 2 tsp. cinnamon

Topping:

1 1/2 cup flour

1 cup sugar

2 sticks oleo

Drop in chunks over apples

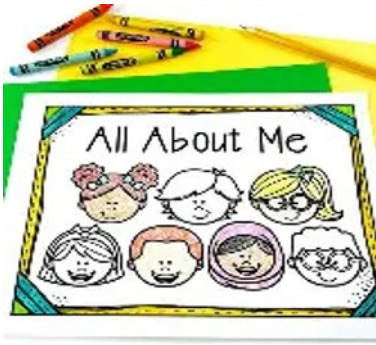
Bake 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes

TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHILDREN’S LIBRARY.
DEE SHAFFER COVERED THE WINDOW CUSHIONS–
IT IS ADORABLE!!



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.



Get to Know

Name:

Nickname:

Family Members:

Number of Years at Grace Church:

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church:

Occupation and/or Retired From:

Favorite Meal:

3 Items always in your refrigerator:

Pet(s), Names, etc.

Favorite Type of Vacation:

Favorite Hobby or Recreation:

People Would be Surprised to Know:

Hidden Talent:

Always Wanted to:

What Makes My Heart Smile:



JULY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

July 3– Karen Legters
July 4– Lee Johnson
July 7– Sharon Rupert
July 22– Jennifer Beck
July 31– Paul Zunich

July 17– Owar and Apay Ojulu
July 30– Dave and Melody Highfield

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY USA!!!

