



Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
2751 Grant Street  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
724-339-9661  
E-mail: [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)  
Website: [gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](http://gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)



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### Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu  
[pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Secretary: Kellie Newcomb  
[secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto: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

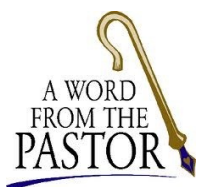
### Worship Times:

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).





*.What holds up the pillars that support the earth?  
Who laid the cornerstone of the world?" Job 38:6 [GNT]*

Dear Grace Family, it's May! May brings new beginnings and renewed life after Easter. Flowers bloom, trees flourish, and the blue sky reflects God's sovereignty.

When the Artemis II astronauts returned to Earth early April, they made history as the first crewed team to travel farther behind the other side of the moon than any human before them. Their experience was beyond expression.

Astronaut Christina Koch described creation as "inescapably, beautifully, dutifully linked" and referred to Earth as a "lifeboat" when she was moved by the sight of the vast darkness of space and the void around it. And once again, she reminded humanity, "You. Are. A. Crew," referring to all people on Earth. That is exactly how God's spectacular creation reveals His wisdom and sovereignty (Genesis 1:1 NKJV).

Speaking of God's mystery of creation, we are reminded of Mothers this month. This Mother's Day, we honor the women who love, nurture, teach, and pray for all humanity on Earth. "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb" says the psalmist (Psalm 139:13-14). Motherhood is a sacred design of God, and every child is a precious gift entrusted to loving hands.

Like God's love, a mother's love is precious, steadfast, and deep (Isaiah 66:13). Just as a mother comforts her child, God comforts us with compassion and tenderness (Isaiah 49:15). This reminds us of the deep bond between mother and child and reveals the depth of a mother's love and the faithfulness of God's love for us.

Motherhood is more than caregiving; it is the process of forming and transforming children into human beings. It involves teaching, nurturing faith, and passing on God's truth (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Her influence shapes generations. Her compassion touches the fainted hearts. She raises leaders, teachers, scientists, astronauts, and more. The world would be crippled and formless without mothers.

*Mothers are God's vessels in the continuation of His loving creation. In the universe, God places spectacular stars and planets that move in mysterious ways without colliding. In a mother's womb, we are knit together in mystery, wonderfully complex, and a beautiful human life emerges.*



So, during this special month, we give thanks to mothers and mother figures including spiritual mothers, mentors, and all who nurture and love children as their own. **May we continue to "Honor her for all that her hands have done and let her works bring her praise" (Proverbs 31:31).**

*Happy Mother's Day!*

*Pastor Owar*

# Sermon Titles & Summary—May 2026

This month, we will be celebrating Pentecost, the day of the Holy Spirit, the day of the birth of the Church, and the season when the Church and the Christian movement moved beyond Jerusalem. We will also honor our mothers and celebrate the love of every woman in our lives.

## Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

### ***Acts 7:55-60— "The Courage to Forgive"***

Stephen's forgiveness was possible because he was full with God's grace. Forgiveness, especially under deep hurt, is beyond human strength. It requires surrender to the power of grace. It can have an impact on those involved, as it did for Saul.

## Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

### ***Isaiah 66:13 — "The Comfort of a Mother's Love"***

The image of a mother comforting her child shows God's care as close, gentle, and emotionally present, not distant or harsh. A mother's comforting love is a mirror of God's own heart, helping us understand His compassion in familiar human terms.

## Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

### ***Acts 1:6-14— "When God Says Wait"***

The disciples wanted immediate answers about restoring the kingdom of Israel, but Jesus redirected their attention and leave things to God. Spiritually, waiting is a season where God prepares hearts before He reveals plans. When God says wait, He invites believers to surrender the desire to manage outcomes and instead trust His authority and wisdom.

## Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

### ***Acts 2:1-21— "A New Beginning"***

A new beginning does not depend on our qualifications but on God's power. Pentecost is more than an event; it signals the arrival of the last days and the beginning of the Spirit-filled age. Believers now live in the era where God's presence is internal, active, and available to every believer.



Dear Pastor Owar and Beloved Members of Grace Community Presbyterian Church

Grace and peace to you all.

It is with a deeply grateful heart that we write to you on behalf of our family. In this season of profound loss, we have been surrounded by a love so tangible, so steady, and so reflective of Christ that it cannot go unspoken. Your presence, your care, and your generosity have carried us in ways that words can scarcely express.

Pastor Owar, we will never forget your presence with me in Ken's hospital room. In those quiet, heavy moments, when uncertainty filled the air and hearts felt overwhelmed, you sat beside me- not only as a pastor, but as a shepherd, a comforter, and a faithful servant of God. Your prayers, your calm spirit, and your willingness to simply be present brought a peace that can only come from the Lord. In those moments, we were reminded of the promise found in Psalm 34:18- that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted. Through you, we felt that nearness and experienced His comfort.

As we have walked through the days following Ken's passing, the love of this congregation has surrounded our family in countless ways. The meals that were prepared and shared were more than simple provisions-they were expressions of compassion, reminders that we are not alone, and evidence of a church that truly lives out its calling. In your care, we saw the truth of Galatians 6:2 lived out, as you helped carry our burdens with quiet service and generous hearts.

We are also deeply grateful for the financial support extended to our family during this time. Your generosity has lifted practical burdens and allowed us the space to grieve without added strain. It reflects the spirit of Acts 2:44-45, a community united in care, giving freely to meet the needs of others. This is not simply Scripture you read- it is Scripture you live, and we have been blessed beyond measure because of it.

Ken loved this church deeply. His devotion to Grace Community Presbyterian Church was evident in the way he faithfully served as organist, offering his time, his talent, and his heart in worship. Music was not simply something he did- it was an expression of his faith and his love for the Lord. He found great joy in being part of each service, contributing to worship, and lifting hearts toward God through music. The organ was his ministry, and this church was truly his home.

Each time he sat at the organ, he lived out the call of Psalm 100:2- to worship the Lord with gladness. It was his privilege and his joy to serve in that way, and he treasured every moment he spent among you.

In the love and support you have shown, we see that same heart of worship and service continuing through each of you. You have honored Ken not only with your words, but with your actions- by surrounding our family with care, lifting us in prayer, and walking beside us through this difficult time. In doing so, you have faithfully lived out the command of Christ in John 13: 34-35, loving one another in a way that reflects Him to the world.

During a time when grief could have felt isolating, you created community. When sorrow felt overwhelming, you brought light. When we felt weak, you strengthened us through your kindness, your presence, and your unwavering faith. Through your care, we have experienced the comfort described in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4- the compassion of God made visible through His people.

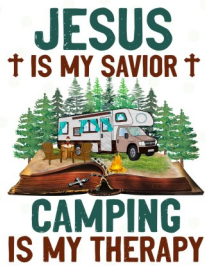
Thank you- for your prayers, your generosity, and your love. Thank you for being the body of Christ in action. Thank you for honoring Ken's life, his service, and his devotion to this church.

May God richly bless each of you for the ways you have blessed our family. May He continue to strengthen Grace Community Presbyterian Church as a place of refuge, compassion, and faithful service.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,

Barb and Family

# Community Events



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

## Staff Appreciation– Sunday– March 22nd

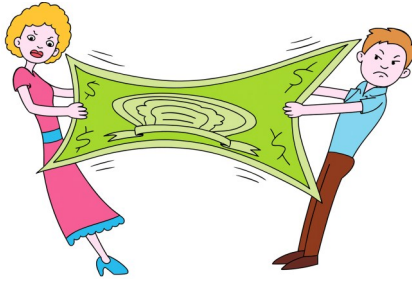


Bill, Ray, Pastor Owar, Kellie, Dane

## Semi Annual Rummage Sale

Date not yet determined but still collecting– keep bringing in your Treasures!!





The shoebox item of the month is toothbrushes, washcloths, and hair accessories for girls. If you like to **stretch your dollar** - here are some good deals:

- Washcloths are typically sold in 18-packs at Walmart for \$4.88 or less - - that's less than 30 cents per washcloth
- FRESHMINT toothbrushes sold on Amazon are 23 cents each on sale right now (box of 144), and they come INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
- MEDLINE adult combs 9" are 24 cents each (box of 144) on Amazon
- FUMETE ball pumps (we give one with every soccer or playground ball) are 94 cents each (box of 100) on Amazon
- Coloring books for \$1 each at Dollar General are still the best deal we can find (adult coloring books cost more, but are great in girls 10-14 shoeboxes)

Expect Easter stuffed animals to go on sale for \$1.50 (larger) or \$0.50 (smaller) starting the day after Easter at Dollar General and Walmart

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

The "Get-to-Know" Feature was very popular when first introduced but I'm getting low on "material"(a few left to go). You'll find the form on the table in the narthex.

# Library News

Aubrie Newcomb will be taking over the operation of the Adult and Children's Libraries. She has quite a task in front of her but with the help of Alice Atkinson, she feels confident. Library news will be a monthly article in Cross Currents. If you'd like to review a book, please let the office know.

## Bible Study

Pat Briscoe has agreed to continue the Tuesday Bible Study. This will continue to meet in the Library at 1:00 every Tuesday (unless otherwise stated). Many thanks to Pat.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Annual Strawberry Festival!!

Sunday, June 14th.

Details to follow at a later date.





## Get to Know.....

### Alma Woodhall

- Name:** Alma Woodhall
- Nickname:** "Lu" or "Alma Lu"
- Family Members:** Husband: Woody, Children: Belinda, E. Scott, Brian, Scott
- Number of Years w/Grace Church:** 24 years
- Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church:** Friendliness of members
- Occupation and/or Retired from:** Retired 1996 from Westinghouse Electric, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh as a secretary.
- Favorite Meal:** Anything Italian
- 3 Items Always in your Refrigerator:** 2% milk, bread, eggs
- Pet(s), Names, etc:** Matt Dillon, tuxedo cat, rescued from local shelter in 2020. He is in charge of our home.
- Favorite Type of Vacation:** Caribbean Cruises when we were younger. Camping (or Glamping) in Cook Forest now.
- Favorite Hobby or Recreation:** Watching my flowers & tomatoes grow outdoors, exercise, listening to music of all kinds.
- People Would Be Surprised to Know:** Have been YMCA member since 2005 and do 6 classes per week),
- Hidden Talent:** Woody tells me I make the best lemon meringue pie for his birthday
- Always Wanted to:** Play the piano and/or sing
- What Makes My Heart Smile:** Babies, small animals, seeing old friends, making people laugh

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Lori G.– Lori finished her radiation treatments and now is “healing” and on immunotherapy. Lori has an amazing attitude/faith!!
- Family of Ken McGeary– Grieving
- Glenn N.– Glenn is back at Hempfield Manor Rehab, 1118 Woodward Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 . Room 36.
- Artmans– Rich is currently at The Willows receiving rehab therapy and Darlene’s mother passed away on April 14th.
- Jackie & Chick—Chick is doing better (almost back to normal  
(oh boy!!))

\* If you have a prayer request for this newsletter, please let the secretary know. Thank You



### Upcoming Events

#### \*Scholarship Golf Outing

May 18, 2026

Latrobe Country Club

2026 Camp brochure now in  
Church Office!!

## Memorial Donations– 1st quarter

In memory of Dale Craig- \$365

In memory of Ken McGeary- \$100

## **CHILD OF MY CHILD**

(I wrote this after Zachary was born in 1987- June Haser- long time church member)

Today I looked at yesterday  
And caught a glimpse of tomorrow  
All wrapped up in a blanket of blue  
Marked for happiness and sometimes sorrow.

I remembered the honey-sweet joy  
of my own bouncing baby boy  
The times when I held him high  
Urging him to touch the sky!

I thought about our long-ago talks,  
that took place, mostly, on brisk walks.  
About how “wiggly, squiggly grand  
it feels to hold a frog in your hand!”

And “whether the cat, that rascally fellow  
ever really played the cello?”  
And, “are you scared when Daddy yells boo?”  
“Is it alright to cry if you really have to?”

There was laughter back then  
that lifted my heart and made my spirit soar,  
bubbles of mirth in the mists of time  
that burst and are no more.

Now, two adults meet and greet  
each other with a kiss,  
But still that little boy I miss,  
that is so say, I did miss him,  
until today  
when the child of my child came to stay.

Looking at Zachary George I see  
His Daddy peeking back at me  
In that round cherubic face  
Rests the past thru God’s good grace.

In the twinkle of his eye  
I glimpse tomorrows standing by  
But, Oh, I’m thankful for today,  
Once again a child at play!!

The “Get-to-Know” Feature was very popular when first introduced but I’m getting low on “material”(a few left to go). You’ll find the form on the table in the narthex.



I am sure everyone is looking forward to the bright sunshine and colorful spring! As we transition from spring to warmth of summer, I pray that all your vacation plans come smoothly and bring you joy and relaxation.

### **~On the side of my family~**

1. MarJwok went on a college visit on April 24, 2026, to see if she could fit in for a pre-law degree at Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA
2. Ammanuel graduates from St. Francis in Loretto, PA, on May 9, 2026.
3. Ojha plans to resume college in the fall.
4. Bo is finishing 4th grade and preparing for middle school. next year
5. Beenye is ready for kindergarten.
6. Apay (my wife) is still hanging in there, and thank you for your prayers. We are thinking of traveling to Mayo Clinic in early July to see if they can provide a diagnosis for what Apay has been battling since 2024.
7. We are hoping to put our home on the market in June, and we ask that you continue praying for God’s guidance in this process.

### **~Vacation Plans~**

I will be taking one week off from the last Sunday in May (May 31, 2026) through the first week of June, returning on Communion Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Pastor Owar, Apay, and Family

## **RECIPE OF THE MONTH– Caramel Corn- (originally from Shirley Richey)**

Here's one ya'll have been clamoring for:

1 bag Snyders Hull Less Popcorn  
1 c. brown sugar  
1/2 c. butter  
1/4 c. Karo syrup  
1/4 tsp. baking soda

Place popcorn in deep baking pan. Melt sugar, butter and Karo together. Bring to a boil and boil for 5 minutes– stirring constantly. Add baking soda and pour over popcorn and stir well. Bake 250 degrees for 1 hour stirring every 15 minutes.

**I dare you to eat just one handful!!!**

**After a number of requests from Sunday's Choir Appreciation Brunch, a second recipe!!**

### **Sharon's Oven French Toast**

1 loaf French bread, broken into bite size pieces  
6 eggs  
1 ½ cups milk  
1 ½ cups half & half  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/8 tsp nutmeg  
1/8 tsp cinnamon

Topping: ½ cup melted butter  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
2 Tablespoons dark corn syrup  
1 cup chopped pecans

Spray a 9 X 13 baking dish with Pam. Fill with bread. Mix together eggs, milk, half & half, vanilla, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Pour mixture over bread. Refrigerate overnight covered. Mix topping and spread evenly over top of bread. Bake about 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Let stand 5 minutes before serving

### Liturgist Schedule– May

May 3– Cathy Brady  
May 10– Elsie Deem  
May 17 – La Vonne Pelisari  
May 24– Michael Cochenour  
May 31– Pat Briscoe

### Children’s Message Schedule

May 10-Linda Johnson  
May 24– Michael Cochenour



### Sunday Morning Greeters

(sign up sheet located outside the church office)

It’s always so nice to be greeted with a smile!!



### Coffee Fellowship

(sign up sheet located outside the church office)

Our church’s middle name is “Community” and coffee fellowship is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with our church family.

There is usually treats available in the freezer and the coffee/tea is easy to make.



### 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.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

May 2– Darlene Artman

May 3– Luke Ludwig

May 4– Alma Woodhall

May 14– Bill Deem

May 14– Owar Ojulu

May 17– Lilly Householder

May 21– Ojha Ojha

May 24– Kathy Dolon

May 3– Jack & Shirley Trinclisti

May 10– Bill & Elsie Deem

May 24– Rich & Marcia Sackett

## Session Meeting Highlights

- Kellie Newcomb will be on vacation May 18-21
- Clerk of Session took Membership Session Minutes to Presbytery to be approved for 2025
- Motion to approve Ray Zergev to be Treasurer June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027
- Rev. Dean Byrom will fill the pulpit on May 31, 2025 while Rev. Owar will be on vacation.
- Worship committee reviewed status of our organist search, encourage all members to share information for organist on their Facebook page.
- Our work with Meals for Children is over for this school year, will resume in the fall of 2026
- CE reports that 79 children participated in the Easter event
- VBS will be held the week of July 20, evening program.
- Reminder to the congregation that be aware that parking lot will be repaved in 2 parts weather permitting.

### Things I Think About

You sometimes need umph to get to Triumph

Corinthians 2:14 Triumph is both spiritual and visible expression of God's power.