



Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7

Dear Grace Family,

As we conclude our study of the Book of Joshua, we see how Joshua led the Israelites through valleys, rivers, and moments of doubt, all while maintaining their commitment. Likewise, the Lord Christ, our new Joshua, continues to guide us through the challenges and crises in our lives as we navigate our faith and spiritual life in the wilderness of the 21st century.

This is the reason behind Paul's encouragement to the Philippians. He wanted them to immerse themselves in joy—not in things, occasions, or people, but in the Lord. This is because the joy that descends from above is rich and limitless. Was Paul suggesting that as Christians we should live without worries? Of course not. Paul knew, as he himself was in a Roman prison cell, that there is something beyond our dark days; there is joy beyond suffering, strength beyond fear, and hope that surpasses confusion. He wanted them to be joyful "always" because we are limited, and our time on earth is short. We live here temporarily and should be mindful of how we spend our precious time—because "the Lord is near!" Christ is coming, and beyond our worries, he brings hope, joy, love, and peace.

As such, this reminds us that life is lived in anticipation—we live in joy as we await the advent or coming of Christ Jesus. If we do so, we can never lose hope and joy but can await His appearance patiently, hopefully, and graciously. Christian joy is a delight, and there is elation to be found in Christ and in the presence of God during our weary times. We are asked to draw near and surrender ourselves to God in the season of Advent, where we anticipate the coming of the Redeemer, our city of refuge, as symbolized by Joshua's cities of refuge in ancient Israel (Joshua 20). As you celebrate Thanksgiving and welcome Advent this month, remember that the Lord comes to you as:"

"Bezer"—*Fortress for the weak*

"Golan"—*Refuge in times of trouble*

"Hebron"—*Friend of the sinners*

"Kadesh"—*The Holy One of God*

"Ramoth"—*Exalted in the highest*

"Shechem"—*Mighty shoulder*

As Paul urged the Philippians, may we too rejoice and keep rejoicing in our sufferings, drawing near to God in prayer and meditation during this season of Advent. Remember that our joy is "independent of all things on earth because it has its source in the continual presence of Christ." William Barclay. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Pastor Owar

PIVOT POINTS

"I wish I had more control of my life," my friend said. "I feel so anxious. I make decisions constantly in my life, but I have no idea how they will turn out. I wish I could see the future. Life feels so...risky."

My friend was facing a "pivot point" in life. She was just offered her dream job. She would need to move to a new city. But on the same day, she got a call from her mother telling her she had been diagnosed with a challenging health condition. She was in a tough bind.

Each of us faces pivot points that change everything suddenly in our lives. Simple phrases redefine our whole reality... We can look back on our lives and see moments where our decisions set us on certain paths that determine the

conditions for the next set of decisions. Some of our

choices bring us regret and some great joy. All of them teach us. So much of our lives are changing right now. That has always been true, but the safety nets that we use to protect us from the impacts of change are crumbling around us - job security, housing security, health security, family security.

Life does indeed feel risky. It's why I'm grateful to be a person of faith. Romans 14:8 says, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." No matter what the "pivot" brings, we are not alone. We are not abandoned. We should not be afraid.

Good theology is rooted in the conviction that, on the whole, all things are at work for our well-being. Of course, that does not mean that bad things don't happen. But I believe that the long arc of the universe bends towards love, justice, healing, and peace. That impulse is built into the very source code of life. While bad things may happen, I trust that the flow of life is ultimately working for the common good.

Pivot points are part of life. They are the moments that define us, strengthen us, change us. Perhaps we should welcome that.

Embrace the pivot - God will meet you there.

~ Rev. Cameron Trimble

We'd like to share our recent trip to Minnesota, where we celebrated a reunion and a traditional wedding ceremony for Apay's half-sister's stepson. We were grateful to be a part of this special occasion.

Mooy, Ngethu, Ochang, Apay and Owar



Ochang Omand & Ngethu Cham





This offering which is given to charities especially appealing to women-was handled by the Women's Association for many years. Jane Runyan and Margie Bistline kept the association going for many years.

The offering will be collected the week before Thanksgiving (Nov. 16th). The Thank Offering envelopes will be in the pews for your offering.

Glenn Nordmark



News from the Foust family!!

Will and Jada are expecting a baby in February and grandparents-to-be Barb and Ken Foust would like you to join the family in celebration. An open house will be held in Cana Hall on Saturday, November 29th from 1 to 3, and you are cordially invited. No gifts are necessary, only your presence and prayers. RSVPs are appreciated and can be made by phone or text to 724-882-1277 or by email at kfoust676@comcast.net

How about.....

I love that Grace Church is a "family". Us gals and guys love to chat, hug and send cards. Would you be interested in a lunch bunch once a month? How about a "card club". Have your own foursome or play with a group in a rotating fashion.

Linda Johnson is waiting to hear your responses.

724- 882-4194 or 724-339-1405 (linda.johnson4194@gmail.com)



Get to Know . . .

Elsie Deem

Name:	Elsie Louise Reese Deem
Family Members:	Husband Bill; Kids- Sarah, Kat & Kyle
Number of Years at Grace Church:	46 years
Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church:	The people with whom I worship and serve God. When I think back through the years of the friends I have made here, the committed teachers who taught my kids, the study groups that enriched my spiritual understanding, the wise leaders who guided our church through challenges, the mission-focused drivers, the faces of selfless givers of time and talents and wisdom and support and comfort, I am certain that God brought Bill and me here to Grace Church.
Occupation and/or Retired From:	Siemens, (Retired Project Controller)
Favorite Meal:	Christmas Cookies (Trust me. It can be a meal)
3 Items always in your refrigerator:	Eggs, Greek yogurt, hot sauce
Favorite Type of Vacation:	Exploring new places
Favorite Hobby or Recreation:	Road trips, gardening, sewing
People Would be Surprised to Know:	I am a certified Public Weighmaster (a.k.a. Truck Scale Operator)
Hidden Talent:	The ability to donate blood
Always Wanted to:	Fly
What Makes My Heart Smile:	Children

November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00pm – 3:30pm- Boy Scouts Bike Rodeo-pkg lot
2 10:00am- Worship 11:00am-Adult Sunday School	3	4 1:00pm-Bible Study	5 7:00- Choir Practice	6 6:00pm-Boy Scouts 6:30- Ladies Group	7	8 8am- 12pm Rummage Sale * (Tentative)
9 9am-Reach Out Meeting 10am-Worship 11am-Adult Sunday School	10	11 1:00pm-Bible Study 6:00pm- Garden Club	12 10-Packing Party Prep 7:00-Choir Practice	13 6:00pm-Boy Scouts	14 OCC Set Up	15 OCC Set Up
16 10-Worship 11:00-Deacons 11am-Adult Sunday School Packing Party	17 OCC Drop off 1:00-Sewing Group	18 OCC Drop off 1:00pm-Bible Study	19 OCC Drop off 7:00-Choir Practice	20 OCC Drop off 6:00pm-Boy Scouts 6:30- Ladies Group	21 OCC Drop off	22 OCC Drop off 8am-Knead Café'
23 10am- Worship 11am-Adult Sunday School OCC Drop off	24 OCC Drop off 6:30-Session	25	26 9:00 am-Cross Currents 7:00pm-Choir Practice	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29 Foust Open House Reception
30 10am-Worship 11am-Adult Sunday School						



Reach Out Committee Upcoming Event:

Mark your calendars for Christmas Dinner- Sunday- December 7, 2025 at 5:00PM



Mission Committee News:

October Promise House

Pot Roast, roll and butter and dessert.

We served 12 adults and 15 children

November dinner will be Wednesday, November 19, 2025

If you would like to help prepare the meal or provide dessert please contact
Stephanie Tutka 724-448-0973

October 27 Session Meeting Highlights

1. Stewardship and Finance and Property reviewed all information that concerns the replacement of the roof. There will be a Congregational Meeting on November 9 for final approval.
2. Session reminded all that packing the boxes for Operation Christmas Child will be on November 16.
3. Session approved to have a "Souper Bowl" event with proceeds going to Knead Café.
4. Session approved to move December 7 Communion to November 30 the first Sunday of Advent
5. Session and Deacons will meet on November 16 for a combined meeting to discuss issues that affect and reflect the Church.
6. Session approved Reach-Out Committee to hold Christmas dinner on December 7.

Things I tend to over think!

Music is just math that decided to have feelings!

Psalms 71: 23

Psalms 95: 1



Thank you Grace Church family for the **Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction** held October 25th. Including the cash 'n carry the day after, the dinner brought in a record \$3,671 for Operation Christmas Child. That's enough to process 367 shoeboxes! Many from the community attended; about half of the silent auction winners were not congregation members. Thank you to all who helped and supported this event! A special thank you also to the Burrell High School National Honor Society members who helped serve the meal.

Upcoming OCC events are listed below. **The shoebox packing party is Sunday, Nov. 16th at 6 PM.** Please come for this joyous event where we pack the shoeboxes for children around the world. Feel free to invite friends to participate and learn about the mission. There are also a couple of events where we will be preparing for the packing party in the week prior.

Wednesday, 11/12 at 10 AM (Cana Hall)	"Let's Get It Together" organization of shoebox items
Friday 11/14 at 10 AM (Cana Hall)	Set-up for Packing Party
Sunday 11/16, 6-8 PM (Cana Hall)	OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY!!
Monday 11/17 - Monday 11/24	Grace Church serves as a Drop-off Location for OCC
Sunday 11/23 at 2 PM	Load the truck or trailer with shoebox cartons

After the shoeboxes are packed, Grace Church will serve as a drop-off location for shoeboxes during **NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK, November 17 – 24**. A signup sheet has been posted outside the office. Please consider volunteering to receive shoeboxes from our community – no prior experience is necessary! Hours are listed below:

We will be loading the truck/trailer on Sunday, 11/23 at 2 pm, for delivery to Greensburg and will need some help moving the cartons onto the truck/trailer. **We are an older congregation, so any strong young helpers would be needed and a big help!**

Drop-Off Center Hours	
Monday, 11/17	5:30-8 pm
Tuesday, 11/18	11-1 & 5:30-8 pm
Wednesday, 11/19	11-1 & 5:30-8 pm
Thursday, 11/20	5:30-8 pm
Friday, 11/21	5:30-8 pm
Saturday, 11/22	12 – 3 pm
Sunday, 11/23	12 -2 pm
Monday, 11/25	10 – 12 am

For transporting the cartons to Greensburg, we are in need of:

A box truck with a ramp (U-Haul, approx \$150 plus gas)

Two enclosed 10 ft. trailers (Lesters can tow one of them) -OR-

A single large enclosed trailer (16-20 ft) and a truck that can tow it.

If anyone is willing provide transportation options listed above, please reach out to Steve Lester at (412) 251-1207.

Finally, Samaritan's Purse invites selected volunteers to participate on shoebox distribution trips. In October, we were fortunate to hear from one of those participants in an email. Please see the inspiring email and photos!

Good Afternoon

I am sorry for the delay in sending these.

I had the privilege of delivering Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to Ecuador back in March.

As I was delivering, I came across some of your shoeboxes.

I thought you would like a picture of where they were delivered.

These particular pictures were taken in Quero, Ecuador.

Sincerely,

Dawn Voysey

