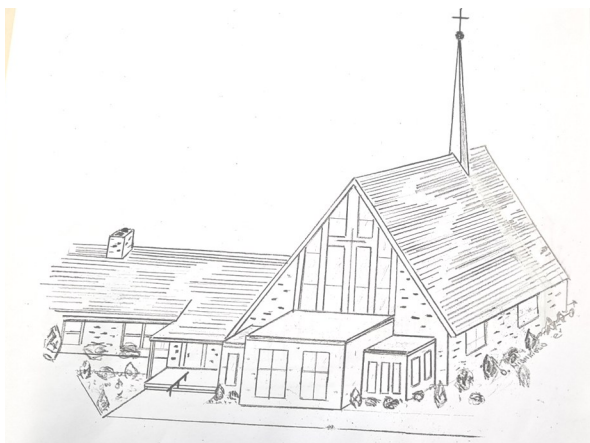




Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
724-339-9661

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



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Our Staff

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

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

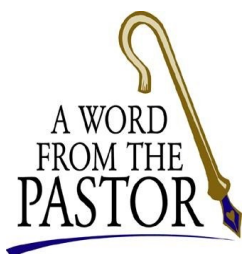
Worship Times:

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



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





When I am with the Jews I seem as one of them so that they will listen to the Gospel and I can win them to Christ. When I am with Gentiles who follow Jewish customs and ceremonies I don't argue, even though I don't agree, because I want to help them. ²¹ When with the heathen I agree with them as much as I can, except of course that I must always do what is right as a Christian. "1 Corinthians 9:19–23

Dear church family, this month I invite us to reflect on the benefit and importance of contextualization of the gospel. Mening, sharing and living the gospel faithfully within the cultures and communities where God has placed us. During a wedding I attended in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, I witnessed American customs, Anyuwaa culture, and Christian tradition woven together in a remarkable way.

The celebration reminded me that the gospel does not erase what is good and meaningful in our cultures; rather, Christ redeems, guides, and gives purpose to the ways we honor family and community.

In Anyuwaa tradition, a wedding is not a ceremony but a journey of families, elders, mothers, bridesmaids, groomsmen, food, gifts, music, blessing, and welcome. I saw these practices adapted within the life of the church and the setting of America. During that wedding, the bride was welcomed, the covenant was blessed in a church, and the community celebrated together—this is contextualization!

This is what the Apostle experienced when he said *"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."* He entered the worlds of others without compromising the gospel. He respected the contexts of others so that Christ could be seen, proclaimed and accepted.

So, Pray that God will help us cherish differences while celebrating unity in Christ. Pray for peace where there is suffering, conflict, and war, including Ukraine, Ethiopia, and the Middle East. Pray for our children, teachers, and families as a new school year begins. Pray that our church will continue sharing the gospel in our community and beyond.

As we begin this new month, may we draw near to God in prayer. May the Lord make us a people who value the unity of the Spirit, and the message of salvation through Christ to everyone who believes. May Christ covers our homes, protect our children, strengthen our church, and teach the world to walk in justice, unity, and peace.

"He is the Rock. His work is perfect.

Everything he does is just and fair.

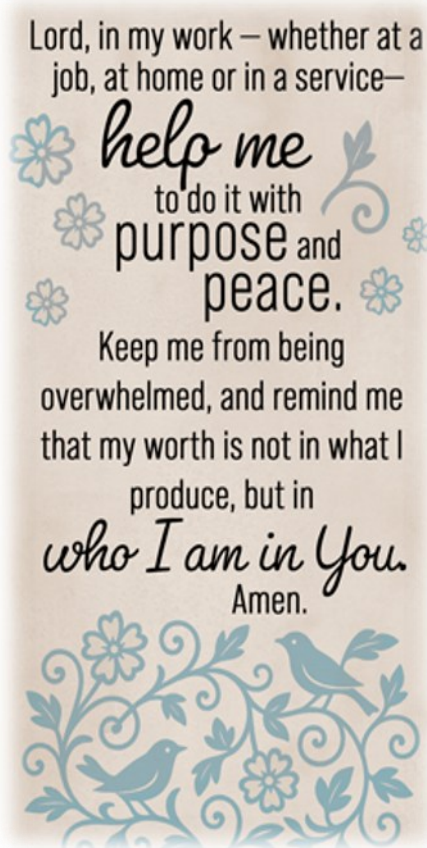
He is faithful, without sin."

— Deuteronomy 32:4

Pastor Owar

Sermon Titles & Summary—September 2026

In September, we continue through Ordinary Time with scriptures that exhort us, stir us to prayer, reach out, and guide us on our journey of faith.



Sunday, September 6th, 2026

Genesis 45:1-8 — *“Through the Rough”*

We may not fully comprehend God's actions, but Joseph's life shows God's presence, sovereignty, and forgiveness. Joseph's story points to Jesus. The beloved Son sent by the Father, rejected by His own, placed in a pit, but raised up by God to bring hope of salvation and life to those lost in the pits of darkness.

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

— [Joshua 10:10-12](#) — *“Claiming Your Promise”*

Most people would have chosen the safe prairie, the quiet valley, the place where the battles were already won. But Caleb wanted more than ease; he wanted proof that God still keeps His word. At eighty-five, he stepped forward and said, “I am still standing on what God said forty-five years ago. Give me the mountain” he claimed it. What mountain are you willing to take on?

Sunday, September 20th 2026

[Matthew 9:9](#) — *“Follow Me”*

Jesus said, “Follow me.” Here, our Lord does not call us to blind obedience, but to experiential following—one that leads to knowing his presence, spending time with him, being fully seen, and not turning away. This kind of knowing grows through history, proximity, depth, and the revelation of one life to another. Thinking about God is not the same as following and knowing God, just as reading about space is not the same as traveling through it. True following leads to knowing, experience, history, and encounter.

Sunday, September 27th

Numbers 20:1-8 — *“Take Your Staff”*

This passage reminds us that our needs and grief often blind us to the miracle within reach. God told Moses, “Take the staff” and “speak to the Rock.” The staff was a reminder of God's presence, power, and faithfulness. What is in your hand? Take it, speak to what seems impossible, and trust God to bring the supply.



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 begin Sunday morning practices on September 13th at 9am. Please join us!!



2026 Outdoor Worship



On Sunday, August 23rd, our congregation gathered at the Lower Burrell for a wonderful morning of worship, fellowship and a shared meal.

A special **thank you to Linda and Lee Johnson** for making this gathering possible. We enjoyed lots of delicious food, great conversation, and the joy of being together as a church family on such a beautiful Sunday morning.

What a blessing it was to worship, share, and fellowship together!



Grace Church will host its first ever **Vendor Fair** on **Saturday, November 7th from 10 am – 3 pm.** 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.

The attached flyer is being advertised in the area, feel free to share. If you or someone you know would like to rent a table and have any questions, please contact Valerie or see Kellie at the office. We need helpers on the day of the Vendor Fair – please see Valerie or see Kellie at the office. Please also consider providing an already-assembled gift basket or new items to include in a gift basket. We hope to have 30 baskets/large items for the raffle. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry!

Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies! Our goal this year is to pack 300 shoeboxes. Keep an eye out for end of summer clearance on **outdoor toys**. We also need **girls brushes or hair accessories and toys**. 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. We plan on having the packing party will be Sunday, November 15th, right after coffee fellowship. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



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!



In Remembrance...



Joseph R. Bieranoski, 74, of Allegheny Twp., died Thursday July 30, 2026 in UPMC St. Margaret Hospital, Pittsburgh. He was born in Natrona Heights on April 9, 1952 to the late John and Valeria Stanoski Bieranoski and was a life long resident of Allegheny Twp.

Mr. Bieranoski was a member of Grace Community Church, Lower Burrell and worked as a machinist for Braeburn Alloy Steel for 43 years until retiring in 2016. He was a member of the Pollock Lodge No. 502 Free and Accepted Masons as well as the Pittsburgh Syria Shriners Motor Corps. He was a drummer playing in Las Vegas as well as many local bands in the 60's and 70's, most recently he played in Together Now. He also enjoyed fishing and gardening.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years Reith Koprivnikar Bieranoski, daughter Pamela (Matthew) Derby of Lower Burrell, son Nicholas (Katie) Bieranoski of New Kensington, granddaughter Amelia Bieranoski, and brother John Bieranoski of Allegheny Twp.

Friends will be received Sunday from 2-4 & 6-8 PM at THE RUSIEWICZ OF LOWER BURRELL FUNERAL HOME, 3124 Leechburg Rd. at Alder St. where funeral services will be held Monday at 11 AM by The Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu. Burial will be private in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations made in his name to Grace Community Church, 2751 Grant St, Lower Burrell, 15068. www.RusiewiczFH.com



Mary Ann (McLaughlin) Love, 99, of Lower Burrell passed away peacefully on Monday August 3, 2026. She was born in Butler to the late Leo and Cecile (King) McLaughlin. She graduated from Butler High School where she met the love of her life, William "Sam" Love. They met on the set of Magnificent Obsession, their senior year school play. Mary Ann was a prompter and Sam played Dr. Malcolm Pyle. They shared a grin over a teacher's strange disciplinary antics, showing they shared the same sense of humor. After graduating, they had their first date on New Year's Eve seeing the Bob Hope film The Paleface and then attended a dance. Both always admitted they fell in love that night. Mary Ann graduated from Cedar Crest College with a BS in Education. She was a longtime deacon at Grace Community Presbyterian Church. She was a dedicated

volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She had a great love of traveling, which led her going to all 50 states. Her international travels also provided opportunities to add to her extensive foreign doll collection. Her family will remember her devotion as a mother and grandmother, her witty sayings, her ability to sing, her love for Betty Boop, but most of all her love for her family. In addition to her parents, Mary Ann was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 69 years William "Sam" Love, son-in-law David Lamanna, Loyal (Unkee) King and Sara (Aunt Sara) King. She is survived by her devoted children, Suzanne (Chuck) Painter, of Franklin, TN, Daniel Love, of Cheney, WA, Maureen Lamanna, of Sarver and Sharon (Brian) Yangula, of Milesburg, PA; her six grandchildren, Nicholas (Kara) Painter, Andrea Painter, Ashley Lamanna, Shannon Lamanna, Samuel Yangula and Kyle Yangula; she also has her first great-grandchild on the way. Family and friends will be received on FRIDAY from noon until the time of service at 2 p.m. at the Frank F. Gigler Funeral Home, Inc., Robert P. Karish, Supervisor, 2877 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, PA Internment to follow in Greenwood Memorial

In Remembrance...



Ann Bayruns Obituary

Ann Smith Bayruns of Springdale passed away on August 8, 2026 at the age of 93. She was the daughter of Catharine and Willis Smith. She was preceded in death by her husband Col. Paul Bayruns and her daughter JB Ward. She is survived by her daughter, Cathy Vitari (John), three grandchildren: Lauren Stine, Kyle Stine and Ryan Hoplamazian (Kelsey Draper) and two great grandchildren, Brayden and Amara. She was born in Lexington KY on March 11, 1933. She was a homemaker, school secretary, kindergarten aid, clerk, a realtor. She did volunteer work with the Red Cross, Suicide Prevention Hotline. She is a founding member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Huntsville AL where she served on vestry, altar guild, nursery and as a lay reader and lay eucharistic minister. She loved nature and her family. She loved to laugh.

Ann moved from Huntsville in 2019 to be close to Cathy. Ann loved her second church family at Grace Presbyterian Church and she loved the residents and staff at the Villages of Harmar. She had warmth for people and a contagious smile. She will be missed by all who knew her. A funeral service celebrating her life will be on Monday August 17 at 10 am at Grace Community Presbyterian Church, 2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068, followed by a light lunch. A second service with interment of her ashes will be held on Saturday, September 5 at 1pm at St Thomas Episcopal Church, 12200 Bailey Cove Road, Huntsville AL 35803.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Save the Whales at savethewhales.org or American Red Cross at redcross.org.





Get to Know.....

Lee Johnson

Name: Lee Johnson

Nickname: "Leroy"

Family Members: Linda (Wife), Erika Rusek (Daughter),
Jodi Johnson (Daughter)

Number of Years w/Grace Church: 46 years

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: Families & Friendship

Occupation and/or Retired from: Retired from A.T.I.

Favorite Meal: All Seafood

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: Cheese, Fruit,
English Muffins

Favorite Type of Vacation: Golfing in Myrtle Beach; also cruises

Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Golfing

People Would Be Surprised to Know: That I'm very easy to get
along with

Always Wanted to: Play Golf at Pebble Beach

What Makes My Heart Smile: Being around my family and
Friends at Holiday time.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September 5– Shirley Trinclisti
- Woody Woodhall

September 8– Jeff Speer
- Paige Newcomb

September 16– Bob Brady

September 22– Andi Householder

September 30– Merle Brown

- Killian Matarrese

Sept 13– Steph & Tom Tutka

Sept 27– Beulah & Merle Brown

Sept 29– Rich & Darlene Artman

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August 24, 2026

Highlights from the August 24, 2026, Session Meeting:

Greg Costanzo will be taken into membership at Grace Church on Sunday, September 6, 2026, and his wife Krista will be reunified with Grace Church on the same day.

Dane Skroupa has been contracted for two additional months – September and October – as the search for an Organist/Choir Director continues.

Additional chairs will be purchased for the new round tables in Cana Hall. This will make a total of 100 new chairs.

The Mission Committee reported that planning continues for the Vendor Fair to be held at Grace Church on Saturday, November 7, 2026

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a Touch-A-Truck Event in early October in conjunction the Lower Burrell police and fire department, Kiski Valley ambulance and possibly Life Flight.

The Reachout Committee is purchasing T-shirts for volunteers at Knead Café, identifying them as members of Grace Church.



"It is said that the heart of a volunteer is not measured by its size, but by the depth of its commitment to making a difference in the lives of others."

On Saturday, August 22nd, **Stephanie, Karen, Kellie, Connie and Sharon** volunteered at **Knead Cafe**, giving their time to help make a difference in our community.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be **Saturday, September 26th**.

November 7th (OCC Vendor Fair) will be here before you know it. Does anyone have a good Sloppy Joe recipe?

Also if anyone has (used) Thanksgiving, Fall or Christmas greeting cards that you would like to donate. We will just be using the front cover (cutting off the "writing part") for "Welcome Shopping Bags" for our customers. Please see Val Lester or Kellie.

Things I Think About—Michael Cochenour

I live in Melwood Manor in Allegheny Township. A great neighborhood. Many of Grace Church members are living in this neighborhood, The Cochenours, 2 Briscoe families, Ruperts, Ludwigs, 2 Landis families and moved but not forgotten Paul and Judy Sulitzs! I tell my wife I am going for a walk, when I return a common response usually is who did you see, what is new in the neighborhood. Well, ask that to me this week and the answer is "I'll tell you what's new!" I'll answer that question later; I have been thinking about what makes a good neighbor. Which brought me to Googling "What makes a neighbor according to the Bible". Which was not surprising, it brought me to the Good Samaritan.

A neighbor is anyone that God has put in our path. But to be a "Good Neighbor" you should do what is right and expecting no reward for your action. It involves kindness maybe forgiveness, including all even if you know not the recipient of your action.

The answer to the question my wife would ask, what is new in the neighborhood? Mr. Ralph Ross was a neighbor living in Melwood Manor. Did I ever cross paths with Mr. Ross? Did he give money to Grace Church because of someone at Grace Church? We need to stop asking those questions and instead ask ourselves are we being a good neighbor whoever God has put in our path. Like the Good Samaritan may "we always go and do likewise."

Liturgist Schedule— September

Sept. 6	Cathy Brady
Sept. 13	Pat Briscoe
Sept. 20	Terri Ludwig
Sept. 27	Rev. Paul Milz

Children's Message Schedule

September 13—Terri Ludwig

September 27 – Brian Hacker



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Joe Bieranoski passed away on July 30th. Please remember Reitha, Pam and Nick as they grieve.
- Mary Ann Love passed away on August 3rd. Please remember Maureen, Sharon, Suzanne and Dan as they grieve their mom.
- Ann Bayruns (Cathy Vitari's mom) passed away on August 8th. Please remember Cathy and family as they grieve.



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.