



Grace Community Presbyterian Church
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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
Organist: Dane Skroupa/Lisa Clark
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zurich

Office Hours:

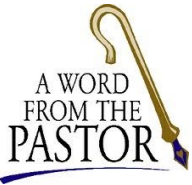
Monday-Thursday
9:-00am—2:00pm

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).



*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. So, the man went where he was sent and washed and came back seeing!”
John 9:6-7*

This passage resonates with Easter, a time of fresh beginnings and renewal. With the arrival of spring, the world around us bursts into life once again, transforming from the bleakness of winter to shades of green. Just as nature regenerates, so too do we find an opportunity to renew our spirits and hold on to the hope of new life that Easter brings.

The story of John reminds us of transformation. Imagine the joy and disbelief the blind man felt when he could finally see the world around him after a life of darkness. Jesus healing him by making mud with saliva may seem strange, but it holds a deep meaning

They said that in ancient Israel, spitting on the ground was forbidden, on Sabbath, because the saliva creates mud, much like God molding human being from dust. The Jews would find a stone or solid surface to spit on if they felt the need to expel saliva, in order to avoid creating mud.

Interestingly, my own Anyuwaa culture shares similar beliefs about saliva as a source of identity, life, and blessing. Due to the belief in its sacredness, young people greet elders not with a handshake but by bowing their heads, inviting the elders to spit a small amount of saliva, which represents wisdom and blessings. They also believe that saliva is a living fluid, like water, through which we live and identify.

So, it is no wonder that medical geniuses have found a way to trace DNA and identify individuals through saliva.

With this miracle, Jesus wanted to show the Pharisees and the Sadducees that He has the power to heal, create, and make whole out of mud. It's about His identity. He not only healed the blind man but also breathed new life into him, as God did in the Genesis .

As we reflect on Easter, let us remember that Jesus was laid in the ground, sent into the mud, only to rise again, conquering death so we could have eternal life. In a way, God spat Him onto the ground to recreate us in our resurrected bodies, making us one with Him (Ephesians 2:5; 1 Peter 1:3).

This season confirms our identity in Christ, offering us hope and the promise of renewal beyond the ground. May this Easter fill your hearts with joy and remind you of the new beginnings that await us all.

Happy Easter!
Peace for the Word!
Pastor Owar



Sermon Titles & Summary—April 2026

The Triumphal entry to the city of Jerusalem, then Passover night, followed by Good Friday, and finally celebrating victory on Easter morning.



Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

John 13:1-17—“Unless I wash you...”

Jesus washes His disciples' feet, demonstrating humility. This act challenges us to embrace a servant's heart and ultimately symbolizes spiritual cleansing, our need to accept God's grace, and seek redemption.

Sunday, April 5th —Happy Easter!

Matthew 28:1-10— “Do Not Be Afraid”

In the moments of fear and uncertainty, the presence of Jesus brings reassurance and hope. The women at the tomb faced a moment of fear, fear of the unknown, fear of loss, and the weight of grief. Yet, in their encounter with the resurrected Christ, their fear was replaced with joy and worship. This illustrates the essence of Easter: the victory over death and the promise of new life.

Sunday, April 12th

John 20:19-31— “Faith Beyond Sight”

Thomas, one of the twelve, was absent during Jesus's first appearance after the resurrection. When he heard about it, he doubted and insisted on touching Him before believing. His reaction is relatable; we all face seasons of doubt and seek signs to confirm our faith. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds and believe, and that invitation extends to each of us today.

Sunday, April 19th

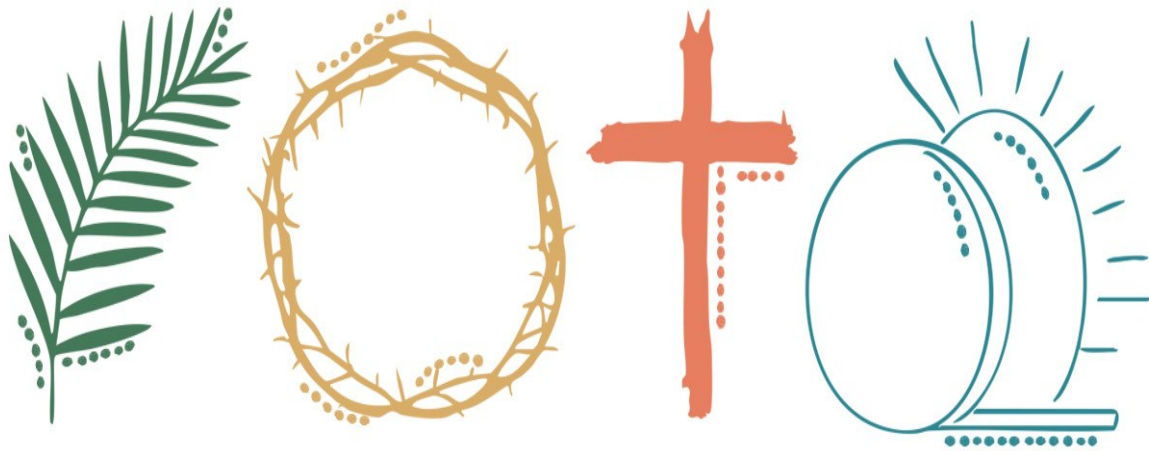
Luke 24:13-35—“ Stay with Us”

Jesus walks alongside the two disciples, even when they did not recognize Him. Their invitation for Him to stay with them because the night was falling challenges us about our need for friendship, care, and fellowship. This text reminds us that Jesus is present in our struggles, often unseen, guiding us toward hope.

Sunday, April 26th

Psalms 100— “From Grumbling to Gratitude”

Psalms 100 invites us to acknowledge the importance of our attitude toward God's presence in our lives.



A lot can happen in
seven days.

This year, Holy Week comes sooner than last year. So please join us as we consciously observe “Holy Week,” a time for discussion, and see ourselves with Jesus in the days leading to Good Friday. We will be showing three episodes from “The Chosen,” Season 5, from Monday, March 30 to Wednesday, April 1, 2026, and then we will meet with the larger church on Thursday evening to share love on Maundy Thursday.

When: Monday, March 30, to Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM in the library

RECIPE OF THE MONTH– Sour Cream Noodle Bake– Sue Pish

1 lb. ground beef	1 T. butter
1 t. salt- (put in less)	1/8 t. pepper
1/4 t. garlic salt	2 c. tomato sauce
1 lb. farfalle pasta	1 c. cottage cheese
1 c. sour cream	1/4 c. sliced green onions
1 c. grated cheddar cheese	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sauté the beef in the butter and season with salt, pepper and garlic salt. Drain. Add the tomato sauce and simmer 5 minutes. (For the tomato sauce, I use Hunt's garlic spaghetti sauce in the can. You can use any you like). Cook and drain the noodles. Add the cottage cheese, sour cream and green onions to the noodles. Layer in a 2 quart casserole dish starting with the noodles and ending with the meat sauce. Sprinkle the cheddar cheese on top and bake for 20-25 minutes. Serves 6-8

Session Meeting Highlights

Session Highlights– March 23, 2026

- Finance committee reports that giving is approximately 5% below expected budgeted income. We are thankful to all who give to Grace for your continued support of our church.
- Session approves the Statistical Report that is sent to Redstone and the Louisville offices of the PCUSA.
- Worship Committee reported that January communion was served to 70 and 57 received communion in February.
- Session approved to have Dane Skroupa fill the position of music director for March 1 through May 31, 2026 during our search for new music director.
- Session approved to lease space to Head Start program beginning April 1, 2026
- Session approves VBS for the week of July 20.
- Session approved Property the bid to repave parking lot this summer.

Things I think about

The Battle of Waterloo and Easter

By "I do not know"

As the Battle of Waterloo pitted Napoleon against Wellington just outside Brussels. Wellington had a signal man stationed in a steeple in a local church to relay messages back to Brussels.

Easter morning 3 days after Good Friday where Jesus's body was laid in the tomb. Those 3 days were one of the most tragic mourning for the followers of Christ Jesus.

Toward the end of the battle the field was in a fog of smoke. The message from the steeple was "Wellington defeated ..."

The message on Good Friday was "Jesus was dead...."

Finally, the smoke cleared and the complete message could be read "Wellington defeated the enemy!"

Easter morning the message was clear, "Jesus was dead but has risen, He has risen indeed!"

Liturgist Schedule– April

April 5 (Easter)– Cathy Brady

April 12– Rev. Paul Milz

April 19 – La Vonne Pelisari

April 26 – Michael Cochenour

Children’s Message Schedule

April 26– Terri Ludwig



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.

Easter Sunday Worship Services

6:30am– Sunrise Service– Greenwood Cemetery– bring a lawn chair and appropriate weather attire.

10:00am– Worship Service



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 2—Jackie Chickerella
April 5— BeenyJwok Ojulu
April 9— Joe Bieranoski
April 25— Terri Ludwig

April 4— Rich Artman
April 8— Grant Claypool
April 22— Michelle Claypool
April 28— Pat Cochran

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE

Choir Appreciation Sunday
April 26th— after Worship



Community Events

Mark your calendars for the Free Children's Easter Event— Saturday, April 4th!!! (volunteer sign up sheet in narthex)- all hands welcome!!



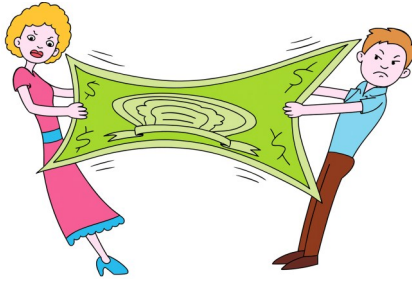
Semi Annual Rummage Sale

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



Our “Bowling for Blessings” Bowlers

Pastor Owar, Ammani, Steve, Dee, Todd, MarJwok and Val triumphally bowled for the Allegheny Valley Association's event on March 1st. to support the AVACs programs in the local area.



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!

Meals for Kids Packing– Puckety Church

April 9th at 1:30pm

April 23rd at 1:30pm

Grace Church Members are Awesome!!!

With Ken McGeary's sudden passing, Grace Church Members stepped up to the plate to assist the McGeary family. A substantial (ask Kellie for amount) donation was given to Ken's family.

Ken is smiling !



Charter
Member

#6

“His master replied, ‘Well
done, good and faithful
servant!’”

-Matthew 25: 23

Russell “Dale” Craig Sr. 93, of Lower Burrell, died Monday, March 2, 2026, in his home. He was born in New Kensington on November 18, 1932, to the late Russell G. and Mary M. Shoup Craig and had been a resident of Lower Burrell since 1941.

Mr. Craig was an Army veteran of the Korean War, where he was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the 330th Recon Co. He worked as a bus driver for the Allegheny County Port Authority for 33 years, retiring in 1993. He had also worked for PPG in Creighton. He was a charter member of Grace Community Church in Lower Burrell, where he and his wife, Priscilla, were the first couple to be married. He was also a member of the 7th Street Sportsman’s Club, the Lower Burrell American Legion 868, and the Lower Burrell Moose 53. He enjoyed golfing, baseball, softball, carpentry, picnics with his family, and was especially proud of the fact that he built his own house.

He is survived by his son, Michael T. Craig of Lower Burrell; two daughters, Vicki L. (Russell Vogt) Craig of Gilpin Twp. and Kathy (Ed Clark) Craig of Lower Burrell; six grandchildren, Tony (Samantha Burford) Spiering, Josh (Brandy) Spiering, Landon Martinkovich, Aaron Martinkovich, Sarah (Rafael Tavarez) Craig, and Melissa Wyland; great grandchildren Kelsi Spiering, Carter and Nora Spiering, Bailey Craig, and Knox Tavarez; brother in law Tom (Maggie) Davis; niece and nephew Kristen (Allan) Beattie and Matt Davis; and great niece and nephew Allan and Paige Beattie.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Priscilla Joy Davis Craig, on February 12, 2021, and his son, Russell Dale Craig Jr., on January 27, 2014.

Private arrangements and interment in Greenwood Mausoleum, by THE RUSIEWICZ FAMILY OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS, ARNOLD & LOWER BURRELL. www.RusiewiczFH.com In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations made in his name to Grace Community Church, 2751 Grant St., Lower Burrell, PA 15068.



Get to Know.....

William Woodhall

Name: William Woodhall

Nickname: "Woody"

Family Members: Wife: Alma, Children: Belinda,
E.Scott, Brian, Scott

Number of Years w/Grace Church: 24 years

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: The nicest people!!

Occupation and/or Retired from: Tree trimmer for Duquesne Light

Favorite Meal: Turkey and dressing

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: 2% milk, bread, eggs

Favorite Type of Vacation: Cruise– Beach-Camping

Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Fishing, car cruises, swimming,
boating

People Would Be Surprised to Know: I was a certified scuba diver

Hidden Talent: Good all around household handyman.

Always Wanted to: Play the banjo

What Makes My Heart Smile: A well maintained vintage car.

FREE

PRE-K PROGRAMS

COMING SOON TO LOWER BURRELL!

- FREE Breakfast and Lunch
- Monday - Friday
- 5.5 hours per day
- Ages 3-5 yrs

2751 Grant St
Lower Burrell Pa
(Located in Grace
Community Presbyterian

Connect with us:



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Head Start center programs are financed by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services and by special funds allocated by Pennsylvania Legislators through the PA Department of Education. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Lori G.– Lori finished her radiation treatments and now is “healing” and on immunotherapy.
 - Family of Ken McGeary– Ken went home to Heaven Feb. 10th.-We received a lovely letter from Ken’s sister Marilyn. It is 3 pages long so if you’d like to read it; it is on my desk.
 - Glenn N.– Glenn is back at Hempfield Manor Rehab, 1118 Woodward Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 . Room 39. He had another set back–double pneumonia.
 - Artmans– Rich is currently at The Willows receiving rehab therapy and Darlene needs continued prayer.
- * If you have a prayer request for this newsletter, please let the secretary know. Thank You



Upcoming Events

Printscape Arena at Southpointe

***Camp Visit Day**

April 18, 2026

10am-2pm

***Scholarship Golf Outing**

May 18, 2026

Latrobe Country Club

2026 Camp brochure now in
Church Office!!

The Cub Scout Pack, which we support, marched in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick’s Day parade on Saturday, March 14th. Carley Baker, the scout leader, had a “Glenn head” made and her son carried in the parade. Glenn was in another parade!! We know he would have been there if he could.



🌿 Praying Through Holy Week 🌿

As we journey through Lent, let us seek the face of God together during this sacred Holy Week. In case you cannot make it to the evening “The Chosen” program, I warmly invite you to join me for a day of reflection

🕒 One Hour of Prayer 🕒

📅 Monday, March 30th – Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

🕒 12:00-1:00 PM

📍 Library of our church

During this hour, we will meditate and lift up our prayers for our congregation, our neighbors, our country, and our world. Let us come together in faith and community as we deepen our relationship with God and one

A time to connect spiritually and support one another in prayer. Your presence will make this time even more special. Looking forward to seeing you here!

