

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
June 15, 2025



— GATHERING —

Prelude "Sheep May Safely Graze" Bach
Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

***Call To Worship** *Psalm 96:1-4*

Rev. Paul Milz

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise the Lord's name; proclaim the Lord's salvation day after day.

People: **Declare the Lord's glory among the nations, the Lord's marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise.**

***Responsive Reading**

Leader: May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May the Lord send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. May the Lord remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.

People: **May the Lord give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God.**

Leader: May the LORD grant all your requests. Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. The Lord answers him from the heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of the Lord's right hand.

People: **Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. LORD, give victory to us! Answer us when we call!**

***Hymn of Praise**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us "

#688

***Prayer of Confession**

L: The Lord God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. When we confess our sin to the Lord, the Lord forgives us.

All: **Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us, we pray, our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has created in us your holy will. Amen.**

Silent Prayer of Confession...

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: **Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

People: Thanks be to God!

***Passing of the Peace**

L: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. The peace of Christ be with you all.

P: **And also, with you.**

Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.

* Gloria Patri	“Glory Be to the Father”	#813
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.		

Anthem	“With Every Breath”	Chancel Choir
(Words & music by Ken Medema)		

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination
O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scripture	<i>1 John 3:1-7</i>
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Sermon	"Just My Imagination"	The Rev. Dr. Gary W. Filson
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*Hymn of Response	“Amazing Grace”	#343
*Affirmation of Faith		

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor, releasing the captives, teaching by word and deed, blessing the children, healing the sick, binding up the brokenhearted, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, to live as one community. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Sharing Joys and Concerns and The Lord’s Prayer
(debts and debtors)

Call for Tithes and Offerings
Let us remember the words of our Lord, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Offertory	“Marching to Zion”	Childs
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*Doxology	“O Bless the Gifts”	#817
O bless the gifts our hands have brought; And bless the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;		

The rest, O God, is in your hand.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, our offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of Christ’s love for all. **Amen.**

—SENDING —

*Hymn of Dedication	“Be Thou My Vision” (v. 1-3)	#562
*Charge and Benediction		
*Congregational Response	“Be Thou My Vision” (v. 4)	#562
*Postlude	“Fugue on the National Anthem”	Paine

***PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

Bach’s well-known aria “**Sheep May Safely Graze**” is from one of his few secular cantatas. The Hunt Cantata was commissioned by his employer in Weimar, Duke Wilhelm Ernst, as a birthday present to Duke Christian. It was customary to praise the nobles on such an occasion, so we find abundant praises of the Duke in this cantata. “Sheep May Safely Graze” describes how a faithful shepherd (the prince) keeps watch over his flock, governing well and providing peace and harmony. Though secular in its dedication, given Bach’s immersion in church music and teachings, and his own deep faith, it’s not a stretch to see it as a reference to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who watches over His sheep.

We welcome to Grace Church this morning The Rev. Dr. Gary W. Filson. The Reverend Dr. Filson is a retired member of the Presbytery of Redstone, where he serves as Moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission and as a member of the Presbytery’s Council. He is associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Irwin, PA. The Reverend Filson served most of his career in the Presbytery of Monmouth, in central New Jersey, where he was a Church Pastor in Jamesburg and a Stated Clerk. His doctoral thesis is titled: *Gone Fishing: Marketing Faith to Millennials in a Postmodern Era*. The Reverend Filson was a 2023 inductee into the Order of Merlin in the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He lives in Irwin, PA with his wife, Ella and near his son and his daughter and their families.

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

We extend a warm welcome to all worshipping with us today and we hope that you will return. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall following today’s worship service.



Rev. Dr. Ojulu (Pastor Owar) is currently traveling to Ethiopia and will be out of the office for the month of June. If you need pastoral assistance, please call the office at 724-339-9661.

Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The Operation Christmas Child items for the month of June are coloring/activity books. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June 1	June Cicola	June 4	Kellie and Jim Newcomb
June 2	Michael Maddox Pish	June 6	Jackie and Chick Chickerella
June 17	Reitha Bieranoski	June 15	MaryAnn and Lou Walter
June 17	Melissa Gott	June 15	Ryan and Melissa Gott
June 27	Barb McGeary	June 16	Duke and Debbie Pollick
June 28	MaryAnn Walter	June 28	John and June Cicola (50 th)

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.

This Week's Calendar
June 15 - 21, 2025

Today	Deacons	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Father's Day	
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Sewing Group	6:00pm
Wednesday	Rabbits Foot Assoc. Meeting	6:00pm
Thursday	Boy Scouts	6:00pm

Looking Ahead
June 22 - 28, 2025

June 22	Worship	10:00am
	Strawberry Festival	11:00am
June 24	Bible Study	1:00pm
June 26	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
	Ladies' Group	6:30pm
June 28	Knead Café	8:00am

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Secretary:	Cathy Brady secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed:	Bill Ludwig
Organist:	Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer:	Ray Zerjav
Custodian:	John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Reitha Bieranoski
Dave Briscoe
Michael Cochenour

Cheryl Landis
Glenn Nordmark
Sharon Rupert
Todd Taylor
Jack Trinclisti
Steph Tutka
Cathy Vitari

Deacons

Sheri Cieslinski
Kerri Colaianne
Elsie Deem
Lisa Edwards
Heidi Hacker
Linda Johnson
LaVonne Pelisari
Debbie Roskey
Marcia Sackett
Rich Sackett
Dee Shaffer
Shirley Trinclisti
Shirley Wilson