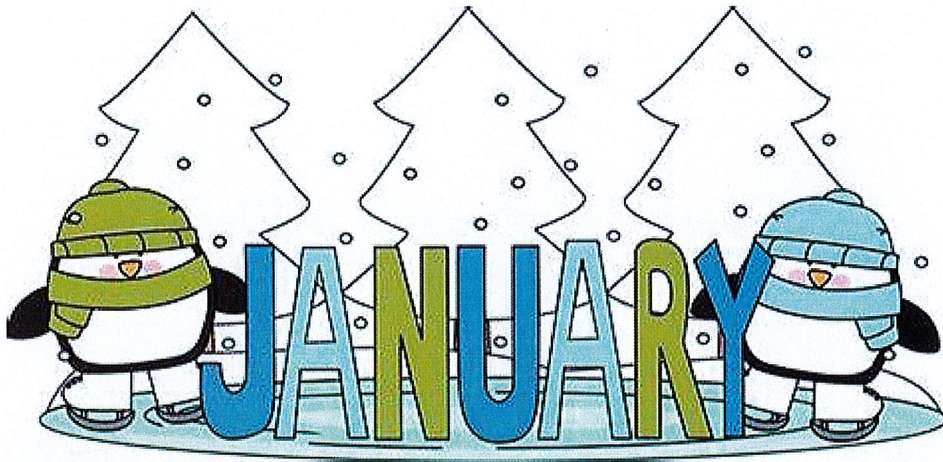


Grace Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)  
2751 Grant Street  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

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# CROSS CURRENTS



# January

## 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 NO Bible Study	3 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00pm CS Den Mtg 6:30pm Ladies Club	5 Office Closed	6  1-4pm Open House for Pastor Owar
7 9am SS 10am Worship/Communion 11ish Congregational Mtg. 6pm Youth Group	8	9 1:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Club	10 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 3:00pm CE Mtg 6:00pm CS Den Mtg	12 Office Closed	13
14 9am SS 9:00am F&N Mtg 10am Worship 6pm Youth Group	15 	16 1:00pm Bible Study	17 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00pm CS Den Mtg 6:30pm Ladies Club	19 Office Closed	20
21 9am SS 10am Worship 11am Deacon's Mtg 6pm Youth Group	22 6:00pm CS Comte Mtg 6:30pm Session Mtg	23 1:00pm Bible Study	24 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal CrossCurrents out in the mail	25 6:00pm Men's Club 6:00pm CS Pack Mtg	26 Office Closed	27
28 9am SS 10am Worship 6pm Youth Group	29	30 1:00pm Bible Study	31 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			

### Coffee Fellowship (Host(s):

January 7 Reitha Bigranoski/Dan & Teresa Howard

January 14 Volunteer(s) Needed

January 21 Volunteer(s) Needed

January 28 Volunteer(s) Needed

### January Greeter(s)

Volunteer(s) Needed

Volunteer(s) Needed

Volunteer(s) Needed

Volunteer(s) Needed

## CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*January 2024*

Dear Grace Church,

I want to thank you for all the gifts and cards that you have given to me, as well as your kind words and the farewell reception. I'm touched by the outpouring of your love and appreciation. It has been a privilege to be part of the Grace Church family for the past 2+ years. My hope and my prayer is that you will continue to be the body of Christ, the Church family and that you will work together, with Pastor Owar, to share God's love and to invite new people (and former members) to join Grace. I will look forward to hearing how God continues to work in your lives and in the life of Grace Church. I'm excited for all that God is going to do at Grace in the coming months and years. My charge to you comes from the book of Hebrews:

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Love is at the center – God's love for us, our love for God and for each other. Worship is essential (meeting together) – make it a priority. Encourage one another – life can be a challenge. We need to support and love each other as we continue to worship and grow.

May God's grace go wherever you go, filling you with love, joy, peace, hope and mercy.

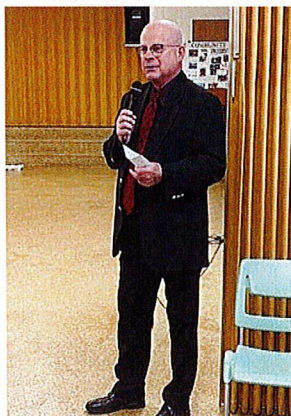
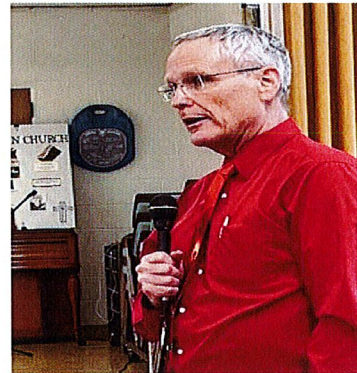
In Christ,

*Doug*

# *Honoring Doug's Spiritual Guidance and Support*



On Sunday, December 17th, we expressed our gratitude, love and appreciation for Doug's 2-year service to our congregation at a special farewell reception. We wish him and Tanya well as Doug begins his interim ministry in Mt. Lebanon on January 1st.





**Glenn Nordmark submitted the following book report(s):**

In the Grip of Grace  
by Max Lucado

Referencing the book of Romans, Lucado addresses the question Paul basically asked, Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us? The three parts of Lucado's book are: What a Mess, What a God and What a Difference. He invites you to walk on the heights of God's mercy.



We would like to thank those that hosted coffee fellowship and to our greeters for the month of December. Margie Bistline, Beulah Brown, Cindy Irvin, Elsie Deem, and Terri Ludwig. Again, thank you so much for volunteering for coffee fellowship and being a greeter each Sunday.

*Thank You!*

- ♪ To the choir for their hard work in preparing the Cantata and Christmas music
- ♪ To the staff for their support of the choir
- ♪ To the congregation for their support of the choir ministry and to those that gave gifts to my family and me (some anonymously).

*Ken McGearry*

**Join the GCPC Chancel Choir**



- ♪ Open to members and friends of Grace
- ♪ Join with people who want to praise God thru music
- ♪ Wednesdays at 7:00pm

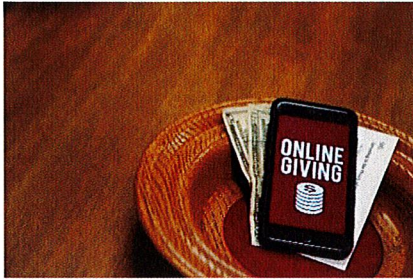
If you are interested, please call 724-339-9661 or email [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)



**9:40am Sunday Greeters Needed**

Church greeters are very essential for our church. A greeter spreads hospitality throughout our church as part of an effective first impression. Please consider volunteering to be a 9:40am Sunday Greeter.

Did you know you can give Grace Church via your online banking account? Follow the following set-up instructions for most banks. Consult your bank if it is different than below.



- \*Go to your online banking tab
- \*Pay Bills
- \*Add a Company or Person
- \*Type "Grace Community Presbyterian Church" as the Company or Person Name
- \*Enter Address: 2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
- \*Enter Phone Number 724-339-9661
- \*Save

*You are now ready to enter your contribution amount and the date to send it to the church just like if paying your electric or gas bill online.*

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



January 01	Cheryl Landis	January 21	Cindy & Randy Daughtry
January 01	Connie Markle		
January 5	Melody Highfield		
January 10	Rich Sackett		
January 17	Debbie Acre		
January 26	Bill Ludwig		

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.

### 2024 Offering Envelopes

#### Offering Envelopes

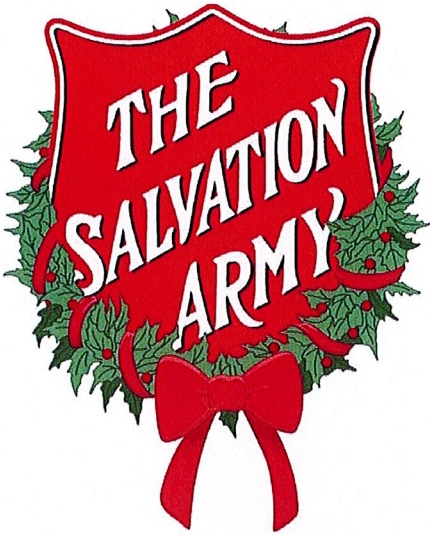


The 2024 Offering Envelopes are on the table, in the narthex, just to the right of the old entrance. Please pick up your envelopes. Those who have checks sent *from the bank*, please leave your box on the table and Ray will keep it in the office so that your checks can be recorded properly.

**Please note - many of the numbers have changed. Make sure you look for the box with your name. Don't automatically take the same number you have always had!**



We plan to print an updated membership directory in February. If you have made any changes to your home and/or email address, phone number, etc. please contact the office at 724-339-9661 or send us an email to [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org) with your changes.



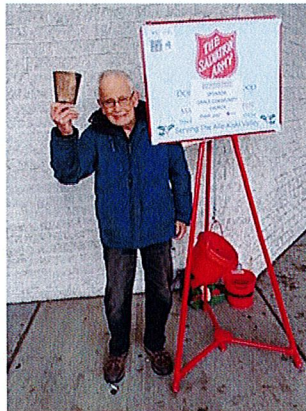
If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers.

On Saturday, December 2 members of our Grace Church family engaged in community mission work while supporting the Salvation Army's efforts to provide for our community's people in need. Thank you, Glenn Normark, for organizing this important mission project.

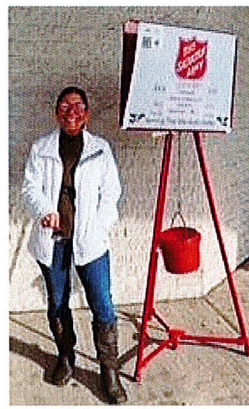
Thank you to our Bell Ringers. Their efforts brought in a total of \$453.00.



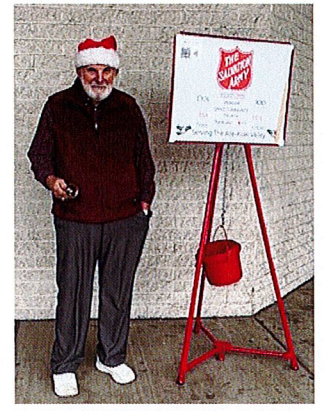
Cathy Vitari



Glen Nordmark



Terri Ludwig



John Irvin



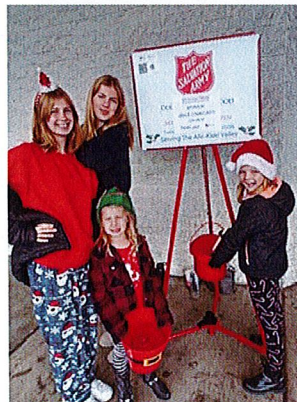
Ellis Fulton



Brian & Heidi Hacker



Arch & Bonnie Carroll



Andi, Lilli, Ellie and Zoe Householder

# Bringing Christmas joy to the Knead Cafe



## December Knead Cafe Team

Brian and Heidi Hacker, Terri Ludwig, and Sheri Cieslinski.

Not Pictured: Ben Edwards

Knead Cafe Teams are needed for Saturday, January 27th and Saturday, February 24th. The hours are roughly 8:15 AM to 12:15 AM. Please consider being a part of one or both of these teams. You will find the experience to be both fun and rewarding. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board near the restrooms.

*“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” —  
Martin Luther King,*

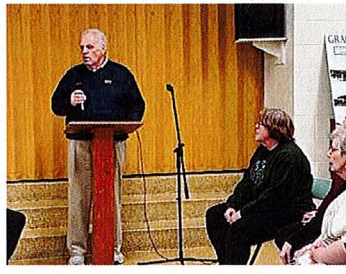


# Christmas Dinner

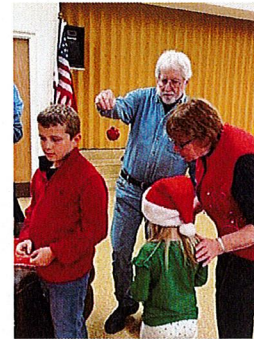
Nearly 100 people kicked off the advent season at our annual Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 3rd. The energy in Cana Hall was incredible! A very special thank you to the donation of funds for the ham and Michael Cochenour for hosting the trivia game.

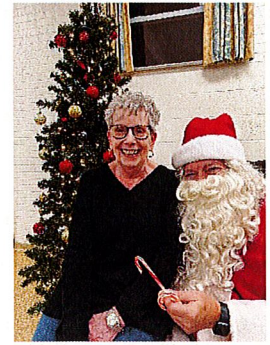
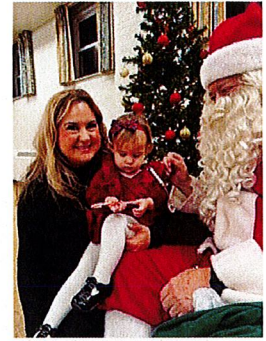
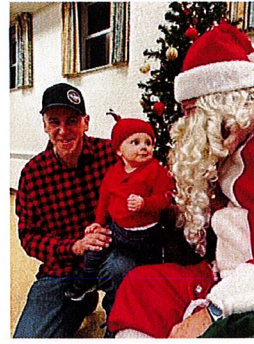
As always, Santa Dan was a hit.

Michael was the MC for the men vs lady's trivia game. The ladies were victorious.

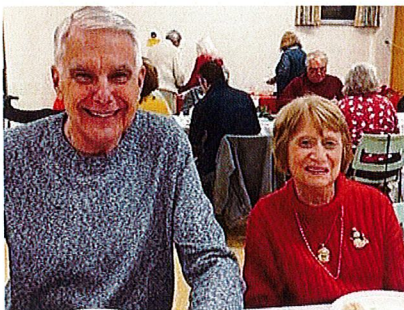


After the Christmas ornament relay, the ornaments were used to decorate Santa's Christmas tree.





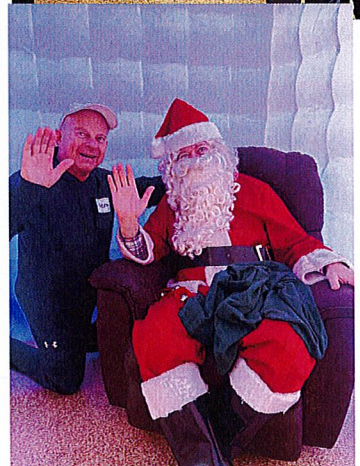
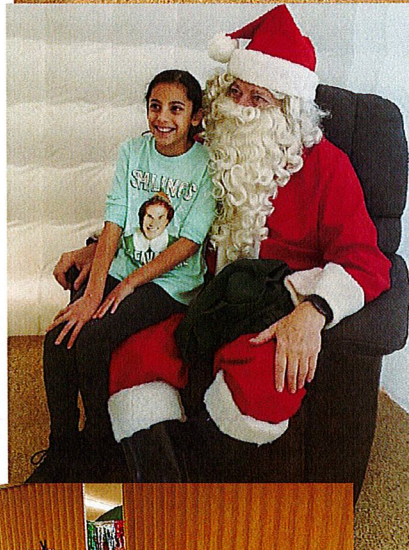
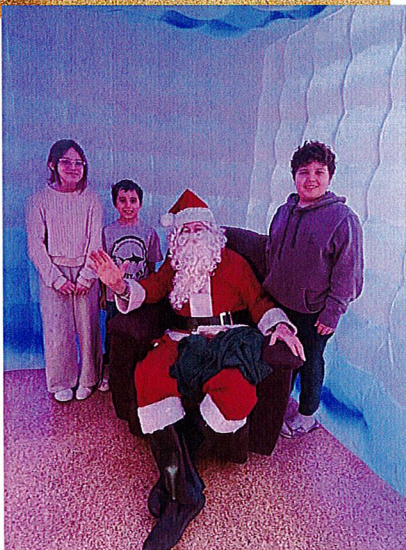
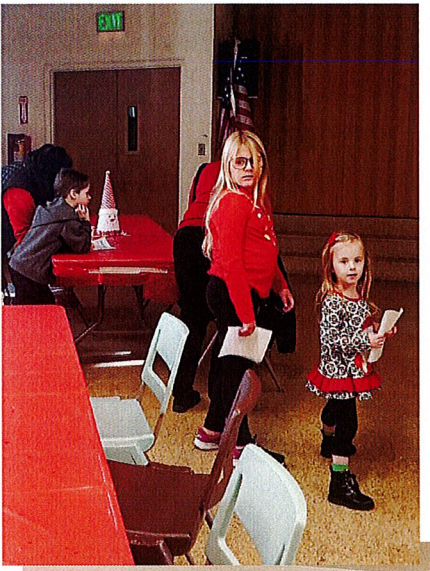
Of course, Santa made an appearance!



## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 16

What a wonderful day of celebrating Christmas with children at Grace Community Church! The place was filled with smiling children and their parents. There were over 60 youth enjoying the activities like decorating cookies, Christmas temporary tattoos, crafts, treats, letters to Santa and pictures with him. Church members from the youngest to the oldest ... And the most recent to join to the longest time members were together showing why the word "Community" is in the name of our church! Special thanks to Bill Ludwig and the dozens of volunteers who made this happen. It was a wonderful time.







Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on January 7, for the purpose of acting on the call of The Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu to be the called pastor of Grace Community Presbyterian Church. Be watching the bulletin, Grace Good News, and CrossCurrents for announcements of other activities that weekend, so that we may get to know Pastor Owar.

Skip Noftzger, the Executive Presbyter / Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery, will be the Bridge Pastor at Grace Church, providing pastoral care and leadership during January and February, in anticipation of Pastor Owar Ojulu beginning his ministry at Grace Church, on March 1, 2024. Skip plans to be in the office Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

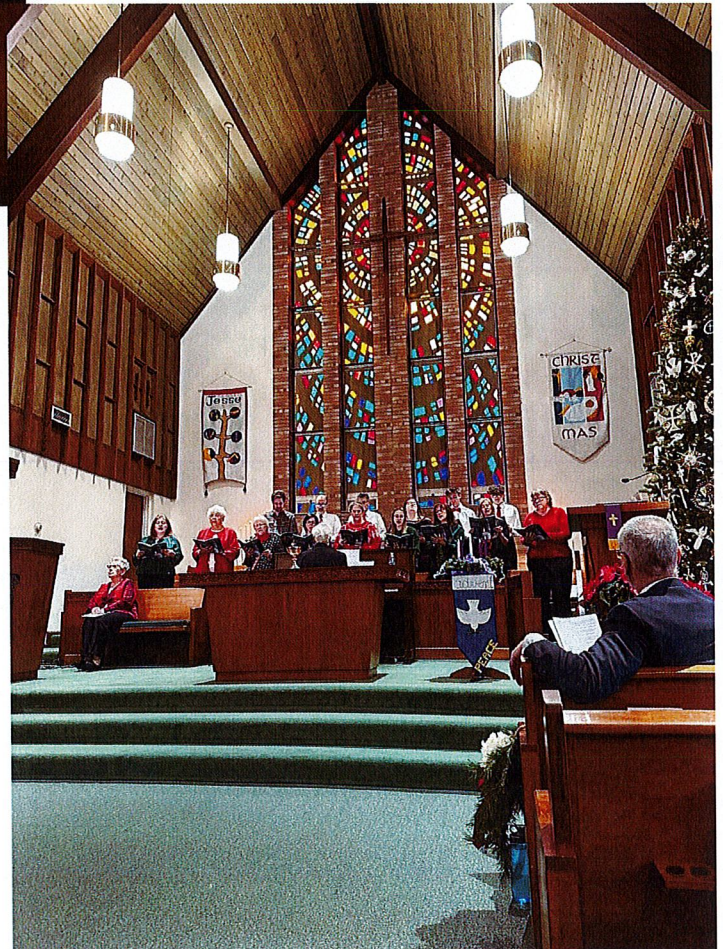
Contact Information for Skip Noftzger: 724-833-0340 or [executive@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org)

## NO JANUARY GRACE HIGHLIGHTS

### Updates from Session

Since Session did not meet in the month of December, we do not have any Grace Highlights.

Thank you to Ken, Cathy, Arch and our talented choir for presenting the Cantata Sunday morning. December 24. What a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!





GRACE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
2751 Grant Street  
Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania 15068-2522  
Telephone: (724) 339-9661

December 18, 2023

Grace Church family,

On January 7, 2024, the Pastor Nominating Committee will present to the Grace Church Congregation its candidate to be the next pastor of Grace Church. The Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu will be delivering the message during the worship service. At the conclusion of the service, a congregational meeting will be held in which the congregation will vote to accept this candidate.

We are so pleased and excited to be able to present Pastor Owar to you. We first became acquainted with him at the beginning of October when he self-referred himself to us, meaning he found our position opening and he felt called to respond. From the beginning, we realized how special he is. Owar came to the United States in 2008 from Ethiopia. He received a Bachelor of Biblical Theology in 2007; he attended Dubuque Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity in 2012; and he received his Doctor of Ministry in 2018 from Sioux Falls Seminary. He served in ministry in Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota before he was called to the Ebensburg and Colver churches in Redstone Presbytery. He has served there for four years. He is the Chairman of the Mission Committee in Redstone Presbytery, and his colleagues have said that he is truly a man of God and a joy to work with. Owar is married to his wife Apay, and they have 5 children, ages ranging from 22 years to 2-1/2 years.

We are very excited for all of you to meet Pastor Owar. We will be having an open house meet-and-greet on Saturday, January 6, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Cana Hall. We encourage all of you to stop in that afternoon and enjoy light refreshments as you meet Pastor Owar and members of his family. So please mark these dates on your calendars:

<b>Saturday, January 6</b>	Open House for Pastor Owar
<b>Sunday, January 7</b>	Pastor Owar offering the sermon during worship Congregational meeting following the service

When you meet Pastor Owar, you will see why we believe that he has been sent by God to Grace Church and why we believe that he is the future of our church.

In Christ,

*Cathy*  
Cathy Brady  
For the Pastor Nominating Committee