



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
Organist: TBA
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zurich

Office Hours:

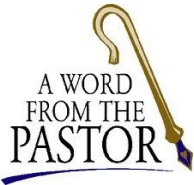
Monday-Thursday
9:-00am—2:00pm

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).



Have pity upon me and take away the awful stain of my transgressions. Wash me, cleanse me from this guilt. Let me be pure again. For I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night. Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires.
Ps. 51 [TLB]

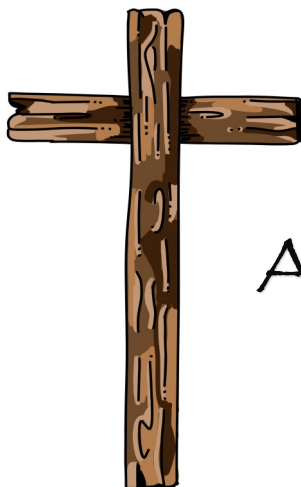
Growing up, we lived on the bank of the Opëno/Baro River. March brought the peak of the heat in lowland of Gambella, Ethiopia and what we used to do was swim—swim and swim—to help cool our bodies. We would immerse ourselves in the water so many times that, at some point, we forget to scrub our bodies thoroughly. When we came home, the elders would spot stains on our skin and send us back to the river to clean up properly. In most cases, our parents would come down to the river at the end of the day to help us wash our bodies. Conversely, when the rains arrived late in April and the cold set in, no one would want to go to the river. Every evening, you would see some children being dragged into the river to take a bath, while others would run away from their parents, refusing to go take a bath.

In the spiritual realm, we can become accustomed to our regular spiritual practices or make our own efforts to get clean with other meanness. We forget that, like us as children, our attempts at self-cleansing can sometimes be futile, like chasing after the wind. Or often we refused to approach God or attempt to runaway from Him.

The Lenten season reminds us of who we truly are and makes us conscious of our journey toward spiritual renewal. “If we claim to be Christians, we must be like Christ,” said John Stott. Many of us are aware of the problem of identity theft. Identity theft occurs when your identity is compromised and someone claims to be you by hijacking information that represents your identity.

Identity theft can also happen in the spiritual realm. Sin distorts our desires, and the devil seeks to steal our identity to kill and destroy our spirits and relationship with God. However, Christ presents us with a way to restore our identity (John 10:10). Like the Psalmists, we, too, must ask the Lord this season: “Wash me, cleanse me from this guilt, make be see my true identity. Let me be pure again,” asking God to rebuild our relationship by creating a new and clean heart—one that seeks God and is filled with pure thoughts and right desires. The remedy for reclaiming your identity is to acknowledge your sins, sincerely repent of your old path, and walk in Christlikeness (Micah 6:8).

Pastor Owar



A Season of Reflection and **Renewal**



Sermon Titles & summary—March 2026

In March, we journey through Lent, reflecting on our walk with God as we accompany Jesus to Jerusalem, where He triumphantly enters the city to fulfill the promises of the law and the prophets.

Sunday, March 1st

Luke 9:51-54— "Set Your Face to Jerusalem"

In this passage, Jesus demonstrates His determination to go to Jerusalem, despite the challenges ahead, to fulfilling His mission. It emphasizes His focus on suffering and sacrifice, leading to His crucifixion, which is central to our faith, trust, and commitment to follow Him and continue His mission on Earth.

Sunday, March 8th

Matthew 9:57-62— "Will You Follow?"

As Jesus continues to set His face toward Jerusalem, Matthew 9:57-62 challenges those who desire to follow Jesus but often make excuses that reveal where their priorities and commitments lie. Following Jesus demands radical life changes and sacrifices; letting go of security, relationships, and personal plans.



Sunday, March 15th

John 4:1-41— "The Gift of the Living Water"

This passage invites us to consider our own spiritual thirst and the lengths we go to seek fulfillment. It challenges us to break down barriers in our interactions and to share the love of Christ with those around us. True relationship with Christ brings endless satisfaction and peace sourcing from the loving Well of God.

Sunday, March 22nd

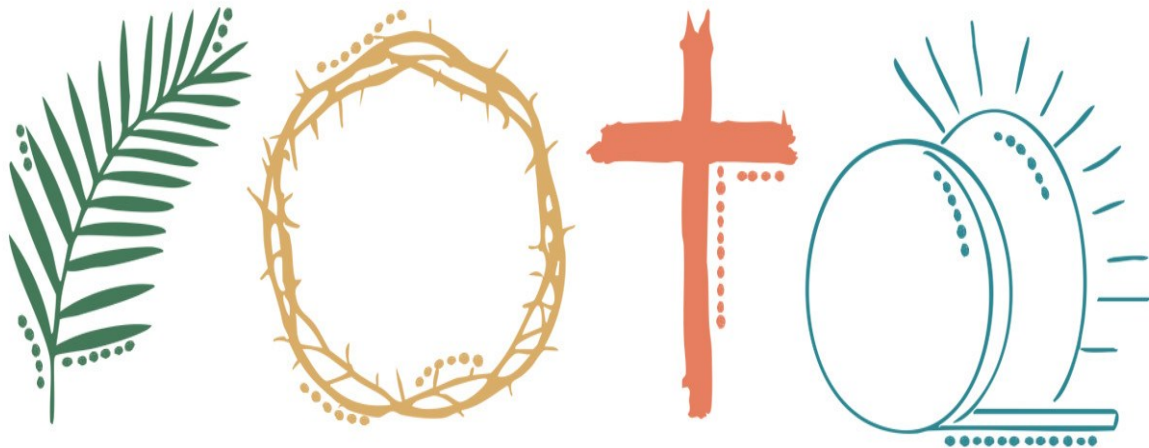
John 9:1-12— "While on the Move"

John 9:1-12 prompts us to reflect on our own blindness, whether it be spiritual, emotional, or relational, and encourages us to seek healing Christ brings. In recognizing our limitations, we can find hope and be empowered to share our own stories of redemption. It reminds us that, even while on the move, Jesus sees us and provides the healing and grace we need for our faith journey toward our Jerusalem.

Sunday, March 29th

Mark 11:1-11— "While in Jerusalem: The Sound of the Crowd"

The triumphal entry! Today we focus on the sound of the crowd, who finally received Jesus in his final



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

Chicken Pie

(Winner of Gold Medal or Pillsbury Bake Off 1968 or 69 (submitted by Linda Johnson))

Crust: 1 stick butter, 1 tsp. Italian seasoning, 1 tsp. salt, 1 egg, 1 C flour, 1 C Sour Cream, 1 tsp baking powder. Spread in a 9" greased pie pan. Push the edges higher than the bottom.

Filling: 2 T. butter to saute 1/2 cup each of onion, celery, small carrots sliced, red and green pepper mixed (or some jarred pimentos), maybe some mushrooms. Add 1 can cream of chicken soup (undiluted), 2 cups cooked chicken or turkey.

Spread Chicken mix the pie pan over the batter. Sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 mins. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Session Meeting Highlights

Session Highlights February 15, 2026

Session cancelled their February 23rd meeting and next Session meeting will be March 23, 2026.

At a Special Session meeting on Sunday February 15, Session approved that the Personnel and Worship Committees begin working on a job description for organist and choir director position.

Session approved the replacement of 2 older furnaces, Property Committee received funds from a member of Grace to cover costs.

Things I Think About

The word cooperate has two o's. Long o and short o. Two o's, two sounds, one important word.

James 2: 20-21 Faith and Action

Michael Cochenour

Clerk of Session

Liturgist Schedule– March

March 1– Cheryl Landis

March 8– Cathy Brady

March 15– Terri Ludwig

March 22– Rev. Paul Milz

March 29- (Palm Sunday)-
Stephanie Tutka

Children's Sermon Schedule

March 8– Michael Cochenour

March 22– Elsie Deem



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.

In Memory of Ken McGeary

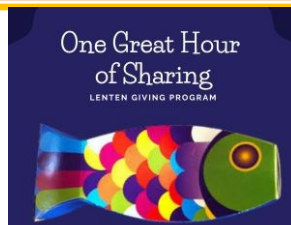
Anyone who truly knew Ken McGeary recognized that his focus and priorities were on his service to the Lord through music and his family. Ken is now living with the Lord and his family must go forward without him. We, as Ken's church family want to honor Ken's dedication to his family. If you would like to make a donation to assist the McGeary family at this challenging time in their lives, there is a box on my desk marked "McGeary Family". If you wish to write a check, make it to Grace Church with McGeary Family in the memo line. We will collect for a few weeks (until March 8th) and then the church treasurer will write one check to Barb.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2	Alice Atkinson	March 13	Bonnie Carroll
March 5	Dave Highfield	March 18	Stephanie Tutka
March 11	Ann Bayruns	March 30	Wendy Aurednik
March 11	Katie Sevic (Ludwig)		

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

The fish banks will be distributed on Sunday February 22nd and typically are collected on Palm Sunday.

Help make this offering more personal. Names submitted for Fish Banks— **Gracie and Freddie- Please FEED Gracie/Freddie everyday!!**.

Community Events

Mark your calendars for the Free
Children's Easter Event– Saturday,
April 4th!!!



Semi Annual Rummage Sale

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



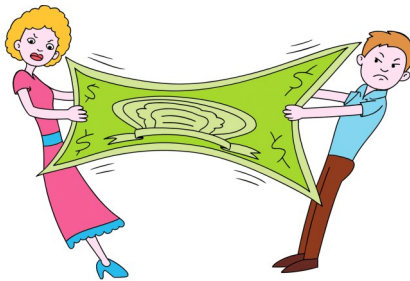
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Our Spring **pizza, pie and hoagie** fundraiser kicks off this Lenten season. The pies will be frozen from Nappie's (a great opportunity to fill your freezer for Easter dinner or summer events)! The hoagies and pizzas are from Marianna's, which is a Delgrosso company - they are packed with toppings in separate bags, to keep them fresh. The pizzas are fresh, but can be frozen and saved for later.

Please return your **prepaid** orders to the church by **Monday, MARCH 16**. We can accept cash and checks made payable to Grace Church and please be sure your name and phone number are on the order form. You may mail your order OR if you'd prefer, place your order in the box on the table in the Narthex as you enter the church.

When you return to the church to pick up your order on **Saturday, MARCH 28 from 11 AM – 2 PM**, we will provide drive-through service. **When arriving to the parking lot to pick up your order**, please use the third driveway into the lot and create a large circle to the Narthex entrance to the building. There, someone will ask your name, locate your order, then deliver to your vehicle. Thank you!



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!

Sub Descriptions

Italian	Peppered ham, capicola ham, genoa salami, pepperoni, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mild pepper rings, Italian dressing
Roast Beef	Roast beef, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, horseradish sauce, Italian dressing
Turkey	Roasted turkey breast, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, mayonnaise, Italian dressing
Traditional	Imported ham, Genoa salami, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mild pepper rings, Italian dressing
Smoked Ham & Cheddar	Smoked ham, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mild pepper rings, sweet & sassy mayo
Ham & Swiss	Virginia baked ham, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, horseradish sauce, Italian dressing
Ham Club	Cooked sliced bacon, imported ham, Virginia baked ham, American cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickles, sweet & sassy mayo
Sweet Lebanon Bologna	Double smoked sweet Lebanon bologna, American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mild pepper rings, pickles, sweet & sassy mayo
All American	Cooked salami, ham, bologna, American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, Italian dressing
Three Cheese	Provolone, American, and Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions, mild pepper rings, pickles, Italian dressing

PIZZA, PIE, & HOAGIE FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM			
Orders are due to church no later than Monday, March 16th			
Name:	Phone Number:		
Delivery Date: Saturday, March 28, 11:00 - 2:00 PM (Pickup at Grace Church Parking Lot)			
<i>Pies are frozen. Thank you for your support!</i>			
VARIETY	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
APPLE PIE 10"		\$ 14.00	
PEACH PIE 10"		\$ 15.00	
CHERRY PIE 10"		\$ 15.00	
VERY BERRY PIE 10"		\$ 17.00	
CHOCOLATE SILK CREAM PIE 9"		\$ 11.00	
		TOTAL:	
VARIETY	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
ITALIAN HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
ALL AMERICAN HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
HAM & SWISS HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
SWEET LEBANON BOLOGNA		\$ 10.00	
HAM CLUB HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
ROAST BEEF HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
SMOKED HAM & CHEDDAR HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
TURKEY HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
TRADITIONAL HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
THREE CHEESE HOAGIE		\$ 10.00	
PEPPERONI PIZZA		\$ 10.00	
WHITE PIZZA		\$ 10.00	
CHEESE PIZZA		\$ 10.00	
		TOTAL:	
GRAND TOTAL:			



Get to Know.....

Karen Legters

Name: Karen Legters

Family Members: Chris, Courtney(Murphy), Kyle, Cody(Alayna) and Kira

Number of Years w/Grace Church: 28 years

Favorite thing(s) about Grace Church: The people and coming to Grace makes me feel at peace.

Occupation and/or Retired from: Kindergarten teacher at Kiski School District.

Favorite Meal: Pasta

3 Items Always in your Refrigerator: Fairlife(chocolate), eggs, OJ

Pets: Milo— our mini Goldendoodle

Favorite Type of Vacation: Beach or anywhere my family goes with me.

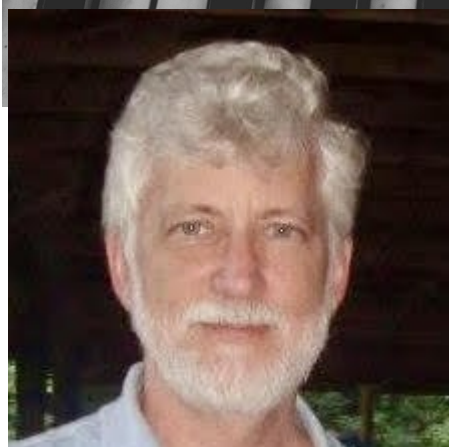
Favorite Hobby or Recreation: Walking (4 miles/day), Reading

People Would Be Surprised to Know: I was born in a car on the way to the hospital.

Hidden Talent: Perseverance— I've walked 3-4 miles a day since June 2020.

Always Wanted to: Vacation in Hawaii

What Makes My Heart Smile: Having my children all under the same roof.



Official Obituary of

Kenneth W. McGeary

September 10, 1952 ~ February 10, 2026 (age 73)

Kenneth McGeary Obituary

Kenneth William McGeary, beloved husband, father, musician, and lifelong learner, passed away on February 10, 2026, in his home surrounded by family. Ken was born on September 10, 1952, in Philadelphia, PA. He was the son of Dr. Lester E. McGeary and Dorothy (Server) McGeary, who nurtured in him a deep love of learning, music, and service that would shape his entire life.

He was the devoted husband of Barbara (Fuhrer) McGeary, to whom he was married for more than 51 years. Their marriage was marked by love, faith, and shared devotion to family. Together they raised five children: Timothy (Andrea), Andrew, Ceridwen, Cameron, and Bethan, who preceded him in death and remained forever in his heart, and he was blessed to have 11 grandchildren: Andrew Jr., Amelia, Olivia, Tayte, Quintin, Liam, Danyka, Dietrich, Dariyelle, Killian, Dakaray. Ken is also survived by his siblings: Margaret (Peg) McGeary, Dr. James McGeary (Shelly), Marilyn Redhair (Michael), and David McGeary (Carmita), with whom he shared lifelong bonds of family, faith, and traditions.

A gifted musician and scholar, Ken attended Carnegie Mellon University, where he earned undergraduate degrees in music performance and music education, followed by a Master's of Fine Arts in organ performance. Music was not only his profession but his calling. He had a deep passion for the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, especially Bach's organ works, preludes, fugues and cantatas, which he studied, performed, and cherished throughout his life. Ken began his ministry as a church organist at just 15 years old. For the past 58 years, he faithfully served as the music director and organist at Grace Community Church in Lower Burrell, Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, United Presbyterian Church in New Kensington, Bakerstown Methodist Church, First Baptist Church New Kensington, and Union Baptist Church in Arnold. He found great joy in sharing his love of music with others and inviting audiences into its beauty and depth, by composing, arranging and performing organ recitals and organ-piano duets with fellow musicians, including his sister, Marilyn.

Outside of his service to God with his music, Ken had a long career with Giant Eagle as a systems analyst, where he applied his analytical mind, reliability, and quiet dedication. Ken was an avid reader of Civil War history, always eager to explore the past and understand the stories and leaders that shaped the nation. He cherished his Welsh heritage and its culture, taking pride in its history, music, and traditions. He delighted in playing games with family and friends, moments often marked by laughter and his dry, witty sense of humor, which endeared him to all who knew him. He took up Tae Kwon Do later in life with one of his grandsons, nearly earning a black belt at the age of 67 — a testament to his discipline, perseverance, and dedication to his family.

Above all else, Ken will be remembered for his faith in God, his intellect, his devotion to family, his love of music, and his steady, thoughtful presence in the lives of those who knew him. His legacy lives on in the music he shared, the faith he embodied, the heritage he honored, the laughter he inspired, and the family he loved so deeply.

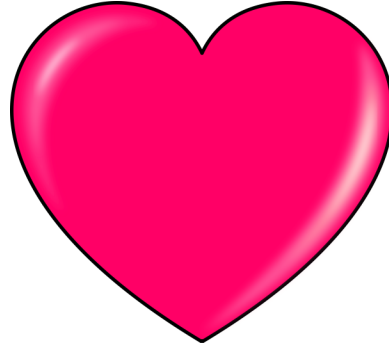
A memorial service is being planned for July 25, 2026. Further details will be shared by his family. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Ken McGeary to either: Redeemer Lutheran School Pittsburgh (to support Quintin, Liam, and Killian) 700 Idaho Ave. Verona, PA 15147 412-793-5884

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

Calon Lan

“Calon Lan” is a Welsh phrase meaning “a pure heart”. The song is sung at rugby games in Wales. Rev. Owar used Psalm 51:10 during our Lenten breakfast. “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

I don't ask for a luxurious life,
The world's gold or its fine pearls.
I ask for a happy heart,
An honest heart, a pure heart.



*A pure heart full of goodness
Is purer than the pretty lily
None but a pure heart can sing
Sing in the day and sing in the night*

If I wish for worldly wealth
It would quickly go to seed
The riches of a virtuous, pure heart
Will bear eternal profit

Evening and morning, my wish
Rising to heaven on the wing of song
For God, for the sake of my Savior
To give me a pure heart.

Open your computer, go to YouTube, type in Calon Lon, click on boy Welsh Choir. You won't understand a single word but listening to the voices you'll understand the message.

Submitted by Michael Cochenour— In memory of Ken McGeary who lived every day with a “pure heart”.

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
- Glenn N.— Glenn had a set back this week and is in UPMC-Mercy
- Sellari Family— Doris’s daughter in law Cyndy (Gary’s wife) passed away last week.
- Kedzierski Family— Henry’s sister passed away last week.



* If you have a prayer request for this newsletter, please let the secretary know. Thank You



Upcoming Events

***PSC Skates**

March 22, 2026

2—4pm

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!!



What to Give Up:

A Lenten Reflection

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism—become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement—be full of hope.

Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred—return good for evil.

Give up negativism—be positive.

Give up anger—be more patient.

Give up pettiness—become mature.

Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Give up jealousy—pray for trust.

Give up gossiping—control your tongue.

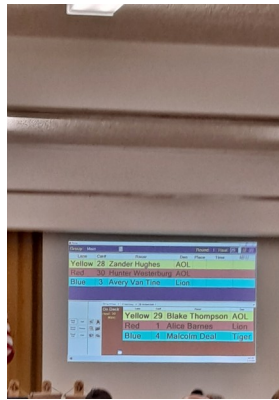
Give up sin—turn to virtue.

Give up giving up—hang in there!

Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Saturday, February 14th



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Projected Scoring by Racer

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The Cub Scout troop which we sponsor had a Pinewood Derby race here on Saturday, February 14th. There were 30 kids registered to race. The set up was quite interesting— they had 3 cars race at a time— each kid got 9 runs to achieve their best score.

🌿 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!

