

Grace Reporter

Grace United Methodist Church



YOU In Ministry

8:30 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

Communion Servers

April 1	Sean & Kim Miller Rich & Peggy Kowalczk
April 8	Sean & Kim Miller Pete & Jean Belski
April 15	Sean & Kim Miller N. Blakeway & Joyce Cherok
April 22	Sean & Kim Miller Rich & Peggy Kowalczk
April 29	Sean & Kim Miller K. Parshall & S. Hixenbaugh

Nursery Helpers

April 1	Jacob Ziolecki
April 8	Kim Miller
April 15	Don Spindler
April 22	Cathie Podroskey
April 29	Kim Miller

10:45 Worship Service

Nursery Helpers

April 1	Paulann Thomas
April 8	Naomi Custer
April 15	Michelle Stepp
April 22	Lydia Custer
April 29	Davis Stepp

Head Usher ~ Wyatt Diethorn

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

April 3	Fellowship Committee
April 4 & 18	Sisters of Grace
April 5	Church Council
April 10	Young at Heart Small Group
	Men of Grace
April 12	United Methodist Women
April 14	Highway Cleanup ~ Lend a hand!
April 16	Staff/Parish Relations Committee
April 17	The King's Book Study
April 19	Sewing for Grace
April 20 & 21	Couples' Retreat
April 26	Trustees
April 27	Food Pantry Delivery
April 28	Food Pantry Distribution



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29 7:00 PM ~ Our Maundy Thursday presentations

Friday, March 30 ~ 7:00PM ~ Tenebrae Service

Saturday, March 31 ~ 5:14PM ~ Evening Worship

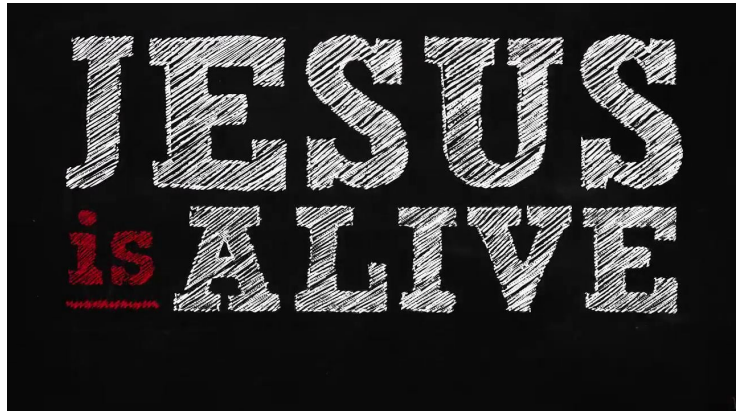
Sunday, April 1 ~ 8:30AM and 10:45AM ~ Easter Worship

Praying For You From The Computer Pastor Ken Custer

Holy Week

What a roller coaster of emotions in just a few days! The week began with anticipation, which soon led to grief and then Sunday morning came and absolute joy. So many emotions in such a short period of time.

Have you ever tried to put yourself in the disciples' sandals during that week? Imagine giving up your way of life and leaving everything you know to travel around



with someone who claimed to be the Son of God—and then backed it all up with teaching like no one had ever heard before and who performed miracle after miracle. He was the most inspiring man who ever lived and you believed he was the long-awaited Messiah. He was going to make everything right in the world. You invested everything in Him. You give three years of your life to follow where he leads and then a day comes when you watch him die by crucifixion.

All the thrill and wonder of being close to Him for so long suddenly leaves you with nothing but shock, grief and utter despair. Yet, before you can really come to grips with such a dreadful experience some women who also followed Him return from the tomb a few days later and claim that Jesus had risen from the dead.

All within a few days.

This year Easter is on April 1st. And it's not an April fool's joke. We have the greatest reason to celebrate and rejoice! It is something that cannot be said of any other religious leader.

Jesus is alive and has conquered death!

Easter is a time to remember where our source of hope is. The tomb is empty. If we set our hearts on the things of this world, we will be on an emotional roller coaster—up one minute and down the next. But the empty tomb reminds us that a better day is coming.

Godspeed

Ken

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said . . .” Matthew 28:6

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good . . . Psalm 107:8

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Sending a note to let you know how happy Bucky was when Chris gave him the shawl. He uses it every nite, covers him from head to tow. He has been making afghans for the whole family and friends for years and it was great to have one of his own, made by loving hands as he crocheted for so many with his love. He really is enjoying it and by the way—it's my favorite color.

Love to you all, Bucky (Charles) and Trudy Buckholt

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Dear Grace Church Family,

We praise God for His healing and thank Him for all of you! We have leaned on Him and asked for your prayers so much in 2018. Thank you all for praying, caring and for taking such wonderful care of our little family this year. We are both on the mend, have returned to work and church and feel so thankful to be part of a loving family of God.

Blessings to you all, Wyatt and Jane Diethorn

*For this very reason, make every effort of add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*2 Peter 1:5-8*

## Exploring God's World with Ross Golden

### ACACIA WOOD

Exodus 25:10 *Have them make a chest of acacia wood . . .* 25:13 *Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold . . .* 25:23 *Make a table of acacia wood.* These were the instructions, from God, for the type of wood to use in building the Ark of the Covenant and Altar. What is so special about acacia that God specified its use?

Throughout the world there are about 1,300 species of acacias. Some are trees and some are shrubs. Most acacia is found in the Middle East, Africa, Australia and Hawaii. So being in the Middle East it would be available to the Israelites. Why specify acacia? Well, for one it is about the only tree available in the area where the Ark and Altar were made. To understand why they used acacia let me tell about a local tree that is similar. The scientific name for black locust is pseudoacacia. Pseudoacacia



means not actually, but similar to or like acacia. We know that black locust is very dense, hard, impervious to insects and rot, and the wood is just plain pretty. Here in Pennsylvania we use black locust for fence posts, and at one time they were used as timbers for mines, and anywhere wood would come into contact with water. I have heard that a black locust post will last twice as long as the hole. That is also a description of acacia wood. It is just tough and pretty.

The Ark and the Altar were important items to the Jewish faith and were made to last. Symbolically, acacia is indestructible. At the time of the Ark, the wood was called shittah or shittahz, acacia is the Greek translation. Both acacia and black locust are legumes with means a couple of things.

They are related to peas, peanuts, lentils, soybeans, clover, alfalfa, etc. The roots have nodules that contain nitrogen fixing bacteria. That is the ability to take nitrogen from the air and make it available for plant use in the soil. Legume seeds are contained in a pod which, when ripe, will dehisce and let the seeds fall to the ground.

*1 Chronicles 16:33 Let the trees of the forest sing,  
let them sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.*

## Military Prayer List

**Anderson, Gavin** ~

United States Army National Guard

**Bissiere, Barry** ~ United States Air  
National Guard (recently deployed to Kuwait)

**Lee, Jacob and Kayla (Wadsworth)** ~  
United States Navy

**Levy, Chris** ~ United States Air Force

**Oveson, Clayton and Hannah (Smitley)** ~  
United States Air Force

**Rager, David and Cheyenne** ~  
United States Air Force

**Seder, Luke** ~ United States Air National Guard

**Wonsettler, Christopher J. and Lauren** ~ United States Air Force



**Courage is resistance to fear,  
mastery of fear, not absence  
of fear.**

Mark Twain

## Grace Family Matters

The **Mission** of Twilight Wish is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving seniors through wish granting celebrations that connect generations.

The **Vision** is to make the world a nicer place to age, one wish at a time.

**What Type of Wishes Does Twilight Wish Grant?** Sometimes a wish fulfills an immediate need. Sometimes it is a last wish or a lifelong dream. Large or small, all wishes provide a meaningful, “Thank You” to the senior for a lifetime of service to others.



**Simple Needs/Quality of Life Wishes:** Examples include clothing, wheelchairs / walkers appliances and more!

**“Celebrating a Life” Wishes:** Meaningful and nostalgic wishes granted for hospice patients or recipients with limited life expectancies. These wishes can include family reunions, visits to hometowns, chances to return to a job or career one more time, or a similar wish that validates and brings joy to the recipient.

**“Living Life to the Fullest” Wishes:** Examples include riding on a motorcycle, meeting a celebrity, publishing a book, attending a sporting event or any other amazing life moment wishes!

**Veterans’ Wishes:** Veterans wishes can fall into any of the three other programs, but we differentiate this program as it gives us the opportunity to thank veterans for what they have done for others over the years and show that we remember and care.

**WHO QUALIFIES FOR A WISH?** Any individual who:

- ✓ Is over the legal age of 65 OR a permanent resident of an eldercare facility
- ✓ Is a legal US citizen
- ✓ Possesses the cognitive, emotional and physical ability to experience the wish
- ✓ Demonstrates financial need (annual income less than 200% of poverty level) or is unable to grant own wish for other than financial reasons
- ✓ Can provide a positive history of giving back to others (through service to our nation, community or family)

For more information or an application, visit [www.twilightwish.org](http://www.twilightwish.org) or contact Cherie Dixon, Twilight Wish Washington County Chapter Director

412.915.1815

[twilightwishwashington@gmail.com](mailto:twilightwishwashington@gmail.com)

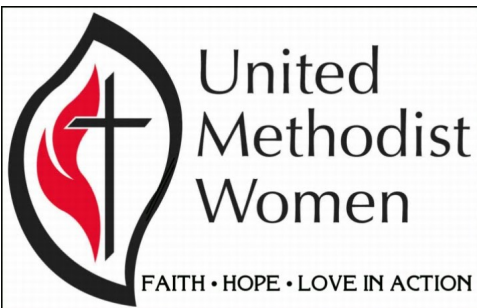
## Grace Family Matters



The Care Team sent six cards to the homebound during the month of February.

We are preparing to send the Easter lilies and cards to the homebound in time for the Easter celebration.

We are always open to new members for the Care Team. Please contact Dave Ziolecki if you are interested.



Grace United Methodist Women met on Thursday, March 8, 2018, in the Newkirk Room. Mary Jane Qualk led our program from the United Methodist Program book. Mary Jane's program was on "Prayer and Self Denial" Those who wanted to participate told what they denied themselves since our last meeting.

There will be five UMW members attending Mission Study Day in Washington, PA. With the help of the congregation, we made 20 hygiene kits. Thank you, congregation! You are always willing to help our mission projects.



Plans are being made for the Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Banquet to be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:15PM in the Fellowship Hall. Dennis Bowman and his puppets will be our entertainment.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018. Cassandra from the City Mission will be our speaker. We will also be making plans to attend the Spring Social on April 28th at Carmichaels United Methodist Church.

All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings at 1PM the second Thursday of the month in the Newkirk Room.

Jean Belski, GUMW President



**April suggested item:  
Paper towels**



## Grace Family Matters

Sewing for Grace will meet on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall from 10AM-2PM. Please bring your sewing machine, sewing supplies and a bagged lunch. If you do not know how to sew, we will teach you how to cut fabric or find something for you to do. All women of the church are invited to attend. Come join the fellowship of women of the church. The dresses that we sent to Haiti are being distributed by the local pastor. Hopefully, he will send pictures for us to share.

For more information look at the church's web page [www.gracecoalcenter.org](http://www.gracecoalcenter.org) "outreach-sewing circle" to see what is needed or call Jean Belski at 724-938-3615.



Grace Fellowship Committee, formerly 50th Anniversary Committee, is about promoting fellowship for all of our congregation here at Grace. We will plan events throughout the year to bring everyone together. Anyone interested in joining our team is welcome to join us for our first meeting on Tuesday,



April 3, 2018 at 6:30PM in the Newkirk Room. If you would be interested in helping with our events, you can circle F on your welcome card or email Kay Sokolosky and Charmaine Sopcak at [gracefellowship18@gmail.com](mailto:gracefellowship18@gmail.com) We look forward to a great year!



### FELLOWSHIP HALL USE ON SATURDAYS

With the introduction of Saturday Evening Worship at 5:14PM, please be aware that any use of the Fellowship Hall on Saturdays must be concluded by 4:00PM

PSALM  
18:16

**HE** REACHED DOWN  
FROM **HEAVEN**  
AND RESCUED ME;  
HE DREW ME OUT OF  
**DEEP WATERS.**

## Grace Family Matters

Couples! Join Kit and Karen Carson for a special time of reconnecting with your spouse! Kit and Karen are hosting a day and a half retreat in-house at Grace on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21. The event is based on Mark Gungor's *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* DVD series. Mark is one of the most sought after international speakers on marriage and family. His candid and comedic approach uses unforgettable illustrations and the power of laughter to teach proven principles that are guaranteed to strengthen any marriage; his take on marriage issues is refreshingly free of both churchy and psychological lingo. "Our secular culture over-romanticizes marriage and our Christian culture over-spiritualizes it. The reality is that relationships between men and women are very down to earth," Mark comments. "*Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* is about helping couples get it right, get along, have fun and achieve a successful marriage."



Why a laughter approach? For one simple reason: to overcome the male objection to a seminar. Let's be honest, a marriage seminar isn't the first thing a guy thinks of when he thinks of "a fun way to spend the weekend." We get that . . . Familiar with the fact that women are usually much more open to discussing marital problems than their spouses, *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* is designed with an element of humor that appeals to couples, but is especially well-received by men.



The Penny Pail Mission Project for March/April will support the Kairos Prison Ministry.

The January/February mission to the California UMC Good Eats program totaled \$271.50.

Thanks for your support of this mission!



It is not too early to register your kids/grandkids for summer camp. A few brochures are on the table in the Narthex or can be accessed at [www.wpaumc.org/camping](http://www.wpaumc.org/camping)

Don't forget, Grace Church will pay 50% of each actively attending child/youth's tuition up to \$200. There are also camperships available if needed.

## Classified Advertising

### LAWN CARE

Hometown Lawn Care ~ Josh Davis  
Fully Insured ~ Free estimates  
724-986-9768

### CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Christian Counseling Associates of Western PA  
724-396-1510 ~ [ccawp.com](http://ccawp.com)

### COMPUTER REPAIR

Charles E. Hines ~ Owner  
Fully Insured ~ Virus Removal ~ Hardware/  
Software Installation ~ PC Tuneup  
724-884-5164 ~ [cehines@windstream.net](mailto:cehines@windstream.net)

### COUNSELING SERVICES

Virginia Spindler Counseling ~ Ginny Spindler  
609 Broad Avenue, Belle Vernon PA 15012  
724-469-0196 ~ [vspindler@vspindlercounseling.com](mailto:vspindler@vspindlercounseling.com)

### MUSIC STORE

From The Top Music Shop  
Instrument Sales, Service, Rentals & Music Instruction  
Band/Orchestra Rentals  
442 West Main Street, Monongahela PA 15063  
724-258-6002  
[www.fttmusic.com](http://www.fttmusic.com)

### QUALITY PLASTERING

Fanala Plastering  
Over 25 years ~ Fully insured  
1283 Route 481, Charleroi PA 15022  
724-747-4373  
[fanalaplastering@comcast.net](mailto:fanalaplastering@comcast.net)

### PROFESSIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

All Heart Photo & Video  
Keren Galis and Dana Slavic  
Wedding Videography & Photography  
724-562-4587  
[www.allheartphotovideo.com](http://www.allheartphotovideo.com)

### NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

ReLiv Independent Distributor ~ Sherry Cramer  
724-239-4508

### CLASSIC ITALIAN BAKERY

Giavanna's Cakes & Pastries  
Scratch baking ~ Pick up or delivery  
JoAnne Nagy, Licensed Food Service Manager  
724-809-3512  
[giavannascakesandpastries@gmail.com](mailto:giavannascakesandpastries@gmail.com)  
[www.giavannascp.com](http://www.giavannascp.com)

### HOME, AUTO, BUSINESS, LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE

Greater Pittsburgh Insurance Consultants  
Kathy Keller and Kim Hrubes  
724-483-1690  
[www.greaterpittsburghinsurance.com](http://www.greaterpittsburghinsurance.com)

### CLEANING SERVICE

Grace Custodian Paula Pivarnik  
General Cleaning ~ Walls ~  
Stripping/Waxing Floors  
724-797-4543

## Classified Advertising

### ALPACA PRODUCTS

Rustic Rail Alpacas ~ Jim and Diane Ord  
526 Clover Hill Road, Coal Center PA 15423

724-938-0516 ~ 724-470-8812

### HANDCRAFTED WOOD TOYS

Uncle Pete's Wood Toys ~ Pete Belski  
355 Pike Run Drive, Daisytown PA 15427

724-938-9615

### CANDLES & HOME FRAGRANCE

Pink Zebra Consultant Kathleen Miller  
Sprinkles, Candles, Reed Diffusers, Soaps & Lotions

724-632-2237 ~ [www.pinkzebrahome.com/](http://www.pinkzebrahome.com/)  
[kathleen7miller](mailto:kathleen7miller)

### PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Qualk Photography ~ Jen Qualk  
Specializing in outdoor photography

724-809-8157 ~ [www.qualkphotography.com](http://www.qualkphotography.com)

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### AUTO BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING

Robison Auto Body ~ Gordon Robison  
231 Fox Stop Road, Charleroi PA 15022

724-489-9733

### RUSTIC HOME DÉCOR AND ACCESSORIES

Heather Anne Heitz | TheHaberdasheryShop.Etsy.com  
[haberdasheryshopservice@gmail.com](mailto:haberdasheryshopservice@gmail.com)

Rustic Christmas Décor ~ Twine Garland ~  
Personalized Christmas Ornaments ~  
Hand Knit Chunky Heirloom Stockings ~  
Rustic Home Décor ~ Unique Accessories

### CUSTOMIZED WEDDING GUEST BOOKS & ALBUMS

Calligraphed Epistle wedding guest books and albums are far more than the predictable; they house the memories, pictures and keepsakes from your wedding day and life. Created in the spirit of paying homage to vintage treasures, they are an alternative to the generic cookie cutter guest book.

Heather Anne Heitz |  
[thecalligraphedepistle@gmail.com](mailto:thecalligraphedepistle@gmail.com)

[CalligraphedEpistle.com](http://CalligraphedEpistle.com)

[CalligraphedEpistle.Etsy.com](http://CalligraphedEpistle.Etsy.com)

*If you have a business or service to offer send name and contact information along with a brief description of your service to*

***[newsletter@gracecoalcenter.org](mailto:newsletter@gracecoalcenter.org)***

*for inclusion in the next issue of  
Grace Reporter.*

# Grace United Methodist Church

## Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

420 California Drive  
Coal Center, PA 15423

724-330-5350

### Pastor Ken Custer

724-330-5503 ~ kscuster@zoominternet.net

### Sheldon Barnette ~ Assistant to the Pastor

724-216-4319 ~ sheldonbarnette@gmail.com

### Chris Merashoff ~ Office Manager

724-330-5350  
office@gracecoalcenter.org

#### Music & Drama Ministry

##### Todd Reagan

724-628-4957  
maynardtoearth@aol.com

#### Church Council Chairperson

##### Rick Thomas

724-970-0292  
rthomas.ssa@gmail.com

#### Staff Parish Relations Chair

##### John Heitz

724-249-4151  
jtheitz@comcast.net

#### Finance Committee Chair

##### Jim Short

724-258-9353

#### Board of Trustees Chair

##### Phil Riel

724-970-9016  
priel295@gmail.com

#### Care Committee Chair

##### David Ziolecki

724-330-5266  
davidziolecki@gmail.com

#### United Methodist Women

##### President ~ Jean Belski

724-938-9615  
jb11848@zoominternet.net

#### Youth Group Coordinators

##### Clyde Qualk, Jr.

724-809-1925  
qualk@zoominternet.net

#### Fellowship Committee Chair

##### Kay Sokolosky

724-239-3449  
gracefellowship18@gmail.com

#### Lay Leaders

##### Mary Jane Qualk

724-938-3648  
cmjqualk@zoominternet.net

##### Ginny Spindler

724-469-0196  
ginspin7@comcast.net

##### Ryan Brouzakis

412-926-9235



### WORSHIP

#### Sunday Morning

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

#### Saturday Evening

5:14 p.m.

*For information on our worship services,  
please contact Chris at 724.330.5350 or go to  
[www.gracecoalcenter.org](http://www.gracecoalcenter.org)*

### **Wednesday Nights at Grace!**

Our mid-week fellowship  
and education opportunity!

5:30 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m.