

June 2024 Graceful Greetings



June 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Combined Summer Worship Services are at 9:30am



Sunday, June 2—2nd Sunday of Pentecost/Feast of Fools
Sunday, June 9—3rd Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday, June 16—4th Sunday of Pentecost/Father's Day
Sunday, June 23—5th Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday, June 30—6th Sunday of Pentecost

If you are unable to worship with us in person, our worship services can also be found on our website under the "Worship" tab & on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Our summer worship schedule has begun! We will have one combined worship service at 9:30am. This schedule will carry through the summer until the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 8th. Please make plans to join us as often as possible, as we worship together as one family.



Upcoming Community Outreach Events -



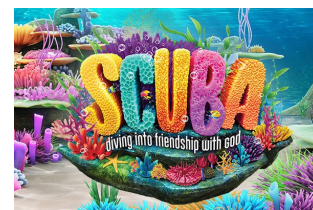
**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

On Sat., June 8th, Grace will be participating in the Chester County PrideFest in Phoenixville. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help set-up, breakdown, +/- or work the booth, a signup genius has been created; call the church office, check your email or contact Danielle Lau for the link.

Meals for St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families: Each year Grace members pick 2 weeks & cook for the families at St. Mary's. If you're interested in cooking a whole meal or part of a meal please reach out to Danielle Lau. Dlau751@gmail.com or 215-908-7446. Our weeks this year are July 8th thru 12th & October 7th thru 11th (Mon. - Fri.)

Join us as we dive deep into friendship with God and have fun with our 2024 VBS theme SCUBA! Sun., June 23—Thurs., June 27, from 6-8pm, for 3 year olds - 6th graders.

We're also looking for volunteers for our PreK & elementary ages from crew leaders to Bible adventures! Please see Kelsey or Julie Boyer (Buckwalter) if you are interested in volunteering!



Our Prayer List Coordinator is Becky Leonard. Becky helps keep our church family connected & growing, through her willingness to take your prayer requests. Please contact Becky or send any prayer requests to her at bellpn@aol.com or you can call the church office at 610-948-3684 and leave a message. Thanks for sharing your joys & concerns and praying for others.

Sisters and Brothers of Grace,

There is nothing quite like the feeling of BEING LEFT OUT.



When a person, or a group, excludes us, judges our warts, scars, and shortcomings as being unacceptable we are changed, even scarred. When we have been dismissed in this way, our ability to hear, grasp, and trust God's love is compromised. Being excluded makes it difficult for us to hope.

Jesus spent much of his earthly ministry going to great lengths to see and acknowledge the most marginalized persons of his day, to give them a way to hope. Jesus made a point of sitting, eating, walking, and talking with the very persons others left out so they were not dismissed.

We have been gifted to do this too. Every time we accept & see another (not having to fix anything) we provide an environment for hope. Each time we give this gift a small new plant may poke its head up through the soil, with the potential to grow larger and deeper.

Belonging matters!

As part of our monthly Council meeting, we reflect on including others. We discuss how Grace might better make space for "others" to belong here. There are no quick and easy, magical ways for this to occur, but important things are seldom quick or easy. We have some ideas. What do you think? Please share your thoughts and ideas with me or with any member of Council. Let's see how God can use us that our human siblings might belong.

Peace in Christ <>< *Pastor Wayne*

YOUTH NEWS

Calling all parents and kids: You are invited to summer programming at Grace!
June - August on the 1st & 3rd Sunday's of the month, from 8:30-9:15am.

Youth are invited to participate in service projects!

Parents, on the 1st Sunday of each month, you're invited to meet with Kelsey in the All-Purpose Room and sit with other parents to talk about the highs & lows of parenting, with a Christian foundation. **Kids will be in the Welcome center doing service work!**

On the 3rd Sunday, we invite parents to serve alongside your kids!

We'll meet on the following dates: June 2nd & 16th (VBS Decorating service projects),
July 7th & 21st, August 4th & 18th



Prek-6th graders are invited to attend SCUBA VBS at Grace, Sun., June 23 - Thurs., June 27, from 6-8pm! Register at this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/5e7978>

We also invite YOU, the congregation, to help with our Operation Kid-to-Kid project, alongside our VBS attendees! Help us raise \$2,500 to build a well for a community that needs access to water through ELCA World Hunger! You can put your donation in the welcome center gallon water jug and watch us reach our goal with the help of those who will attend (and donate) during our VBS! We want to reach our goal by August 1st!

Be on the lookout for one more fundraiser event for the Youth Gathering trip!



From the Deacon's Desk: Who and how are we welcoming?

The gospel reading for June 9th (Mark 3:20-35) is a scene where Jesus is confronted by the two groups he belongs to – his family and those who are leaders in his religion. But in the reading, we see Jesus have strong words of rebuke for both of them. In fact, most often in the gospels the people Jesus has the strongest words of condemnation for are the religious leaders. Instead, the people Jesus aligns himself with are the marginalized and the outsiders: the lepers, the poor, the widows, the tax collectors, the prostitutes.

Jesus radically welcomes people who aren't usually welcomed by the mainstream religious leaders. There's a message in this gospel readings for us to caution against deciding for ourselves who is in and who is out. Who is it that we can welcome the way Jesus welcomes? Who is it that we might be excluding without realizing it?

On Sunday, June 8th from 8:30 am to 9:15 am in the parlor, I'll be leading a discussion on radical welcome. How can we welcome those who are different from ourselves with the same love that Jesus would?

I hope you'll join me!

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*

Assisted Listening System Available for Services: Have trouble hearing during services? Please reach out to an Usher when you arrive if you'd like to use an assisted listening device. We have 2 models: a loop around the neck that works directly with most hearing aids; and an over-the-ear speaker. Each has personal volume control.



Greetings,

About this time a year ago, we planted the garden for our 11th season. This morning, Monday, May 13th, the garden was decommissioned! All of the raised beds built by the boy scouts in 2013 had severely rotted. The fence was a mess after a huge branch fell on it last year. We would have faced a major rebuild to make the garden look good again. The future of this space is yet to be determined, but for 11 years it served the community by providing more than a couple thousand pounds of fresh produce to Open Door for distribution.

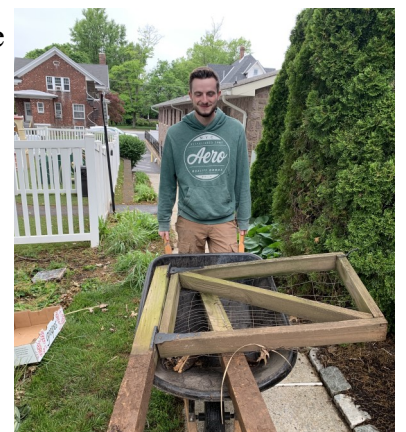
We have had more than 30 congregants who participated in this ministry over the years.



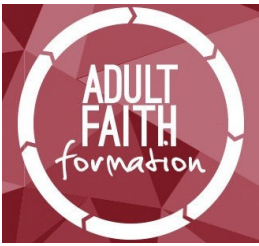
Look at the pictures attached. In what was a fitting end today, Bill Kilcoyne, the young boy who built the garden as his Eagle Badge project, was on campus to repair an air conditioning unit. Where he helped build the raised beds and gate as a youngster, he carried the last boards to the dumpster as a young man.

With gratitude for your contributions to the success of this ministry.

Kurt Meyers



Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Bible Studies: Bible Study groups are breaking for the summer. We'll begin again the week of September 9th.

Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship:

Richard Harshaw's group will continue to meet sporadically in the Choir Room (L04), at 9:15 am over the summer.

Judy Stryker's group is on break for the summer.

Deacon Allison will lead a discussion on the readings for each Sunday, in the Parlor, after the service, beginning June 23rd (except for Sun., July 7th –Fourth of July weekend). This will run through the end of August.

In Addition, there will be three Adult Forums over the summer. We will meet on the 2nd Sunday in June, July & August, before the service, at from 8:30 to 9:15 am in the Parlor (L05). Here's the schedule, including topics:

Sunday, June 9th – How do we welcome those who are different from ourselves?

Sunday, July 14th – How do we have discussions with those who think differently from ourselves?

Sunday, August 11th – TBD

Faith First – Last Wednesday of the Month: Join Deacon Allison this summer on the last Wednesday morning of the month. We'll meet at 8 am, at The Main Street Café, for breakfast & devotions, beginning on June 26th. All are welcome to come and be fed in body and spirit! Mark your calendars! These are our meeting dates:

June 26th, July 31st, (note that this is the 5th Wednesday of July) & August 28th



Morning Grace Devotions: For the time being Morning Grace devotions will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. Look for a return to daily devotions later this summer.



CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS THIS SUMMER

When: 1st Sunday of the Month (June, July & Aug.), around 10:30 (after worship)

Where: In the Welcome Center **What:** Refreshments & Conversation

Why: Fun to visit with each other

How: Bring yourself & if able, bring a snack to share

Sign up on the poster in the 6th Ave. entrance

See you there! **Questions:** Contact Brenda Johnson 610-585-9824

Stay “connected” wherever you go! We’re all over social media!!

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

Email: gracelutrn@verizon.net

YouTube Channel: [gracelutheranroyersford](https://www.youtube.com/gracelutheranroyersford)

Instagram search: [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Twitter search: [@gracelutheran12](https://twitter.com/gracelutheran12)
