

October's Grace

Join Us For

TRUNK or Treat



October 31st
6:00—7:30pm



Candy ≈ Games ≈

Hotdogs ≈ Snacks

SAFE FAMILY FUN!!

Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot
79 Mechanic St. - Bradford
This Year's Theme: **SUPERHEROS**



www.agraceplace.org



www.openarmsbradford.org

For more information on Trunk or Treat, contact Selene Machuga:
selenemachuga@agraceplace.org
CLC: 362-1236

More on Operation Christmas Child

How does it work?

Starting immediately, we are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child from the congregation, Growing with Grace families and staff, and Community Life Center youth to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children overseas.



Chairman **Mary Paterniti** says “Our minimum goal is to fill 50 shoeboxes, but we have more boxes available! International shipping costs only \$9 per box, and if we collect enough to ship up to 50 more, we will!”

From now until the **Packing Dinner Party on Wednesday, November 8**, people may contribute items for the shoeboxes by leaving them in the church office. Monetary donations can be made using blue envelopes and marking them for Operation Christmas Child; the envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or slipped into the bank deposit slot by the church office.

Through the Samaritan’s Purse organization, each shoebox will be given to a boy or girl in three age groups: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Each box includes one “wow” item such as a deflated soccer ball with pump or a stuffed animal; school supplies (on sale now); hygiene items like a toothbrush or a wrapped bar of soap; and other fun toys. A list of suggested items (and no-nos) is available in the Welcome Center.

A FREE soup and sandwich dinner at 6 p.m. November 8 will precede packing which will start at 6:30 p.m. (National Collection Week is Nov. 13-20.)

While attendance at the dinner is not necessary, **Mary** says, “Let’s enjoy being together with folks from all the ministries of Grace and serving others in the joy of Christ’s birth.”

Mary and her committee will have the gifts sorted by gender and age, so people can move in a type of assembly line to pack a box of their choice.

Mary can be reached by phone at 778-5627 or email at marypaterniti@agraceplace.org. Also, questions can be asked of Pastor Patrick or Jackie Streb.

For insight into how a simple thing like a toothbrush or crayons can make a difference to recipients, please check the Facebook page titled Operation Christmas Child or the website at samaritanspurse.org.



More than 60 of our friends, family and neighbors joined together to make the Grace End of Summer Celebration a huge success! Everyone enjoyed a chance to share the food, fun, music and fellowship. A big thank you to all who helped and all who came.

Pastor's Pause

Throughout the month of September we have been talking about congregational revitalization. It's an important topic for many congregations these days – not just ours. The trend in America is lower attendance at most Christian churches.

This past month I've talked about fear. I talked about the following verse:

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

1 John 3:21

It's up to us not to lose heart and to be determined, seeking God's will for our congregation. His good and perfect will is that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

The theme verse for the whole sermon series is:

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

These verses say it all in terms of what we need from Jesus to make this work. He is able to amaze us by what he can do. He can do immeasurably more than we can even imagine. It's all about Jesus and his Church.

If you're reading this newsletter and haven't been in church for a while, now would be a great time to start back. We will be so glad to see you!

Blessings!
Pastor Patrick

Pack It In!

In two different ways, we mean. On **November 8 at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall** there will be a **FREE soup and sandwich meal for the congregation, Growing with Grace families and CLC families before we pack the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child**. At 6:30 p.m., we will break into groups to pack the boxes for children ages 2 to 4, 5-9 or 10-14. For a list of items to donate, check the display in the Welcome Center. Questions? See **Pastor, Mary Paterniti** or **Jackie Streb**.



*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30 NIV)*

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays not
published on-line

MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Gail Reid

Jane Burns

Sent by

Bruce & Chris Schuessler
Ken & Karen Rakieski
Wally & Vicki Sander
Dave & Cheryl Sheneman
Ray & Audrey Eidson
Jim & Virginia Randolph
Bruce & Chris Schuessler
Dave & Jan Swanson
Ethel Burke
Vicki Schreiner

Churches to join for 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

Actors and crew are needed for the December 1, 2 and 3 performances of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a hilarious yet touching tale of what happens when six streetwise siblings hear the Christmas story for the first time as they take over the main roles in a church's annual pageant.

There are speaking roles for 8 boys, 9 girls, 3 adult males and 5 adult females plus extra children as angels. Also needed are help with costumes, make-up, set-building, tickets, refreshments and more.

An ecumenical project sponsored by Hill Memorial United Methodist Church, it is designed to include participants from all local Christian churches. Proceeds will benefit Destinations-Bradford.

A question-and-answer session will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 5 at Hill Memorial, 44 Kennedy St. Tryouts will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. October 12 and again from 10 a.m. to noon October 14, also at Hill Memorial.

For further information, people may contact Nanci Garris by email at nkgarris1@gmail.com or phone at 362-6190; Diane Arnett at laffingone@gmail.com or 362-4935; or the Rev. Jay Tennies, Hill Memorial pastor at revjenn@gmail.com or 362-4375.



ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lynda Krakat &
Virginia Randolph

ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct. 1 -
Oct. 8 -
Oct. 15 -
Oct. 22 -
Oct. 29 -

Thank You

We received the following note in the mail:

"The family of Emma 'Jane' Burns appreciates your thoughtfulness and caring. We enjoyed the minister's sermon and the wonderful food the ladies served us. Thanks again, we were able to relax a moment and have some time together."

Sincerely,
Sharon Nuzzo and the Entire Family of Emma 'Jane' Burns

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting is **TUESDAY, October 10th at 7:00pm** in the Social Hall. Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome to attend the monthly Council Meetings! There is also a suggestion box in the Welcome Center.



Please remember our shut-ins

Pastor and the deacons try to ensure that each person gets visitation and Communion at least once a month. BUT, a card, a phone call or a brief visit brightens the day for our brothers and sisters who can no longer attend services regularly. Cards and a list of our shut-ins are available in the Social Hall.

Debbie Kelly
The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St.

Donna Lannen
24 Shep Run Road
331-9270

Earl McCool
The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St.

Evgeniy and The Soap

My mother abandoned me at birth so I grew up in an orphanage until I was adopted in 2004 at age 14. At the orphanage, located in part of the former Soviet Union, we didn't have a lot of things—including showers or bathtubs. Instead, they put us on a school bus once a month and drove us to the public bath house in a small city of 10,000 people. The 120 kids in the orphanage were divided by age group for the event. In my group of 30 kids, we shared one bar of soap.

At age 12, I received my shoebox wrapped in blue Christmas paper. There was a slinky and some small plastic rubber balls in it, and a nice white washcloth, too. Looking at the washcloth, I thought: What is this? I had no idea how to use it. But, best of all, there was a bar of scented soap. It smelled wonderful! That was so special because the soap we had in the orphanage was odorless.

“Best of all, there was a bar of scented soap.”

At the orphanage, we had to hide everything that was precious to us because it could get stolen by older kids. So I gave an older friend my bar of soap and asked her to keep it for me. I never took it to the public bath because it probably wouldn't have survived.

She hid the soap until about a year after I received my shoebox. At that time, showers were built in the orphanage—our first two for 120 kids. It was, however, about another six months before the showers actually began working properly. One Sunday after they finally started functioning, I asked my friend for the bar of soap.

Another friend and I went and begged the security guard to open the showers up for us so we could use them. He was kind. He opened the locked showers because I told him I had this soap. That was the first time I used it. Then I put it back in the white box, closed it, and gave it to my older friend again for safe keeping. I only used it a couple more times before I left the orphanage.

“It was precious. I'd never had my own bar of soap.”

That bar of soap was a present that I'd never had before. It was precious. It was my own. I specifically remember that I didn't want anyone else to use it. I'd never had my own bar of soap.

I became a Christian about a year and a half to two years after my brothers and I were adopted. When we learned English and were able to communicate with our parents, they shared the Gospel with us. Growing up within the Orthodox church, we knew of Jesus as God. But, we were not taught about having a personal relationship with Him. My parents told us we could have a relationship with Jesus. We could talk with him in prayer. My brother accepted Christ right after that and I later followed.

Today, I work for a pharmaceutical company in Texas that makes eye care products. I am also a photographer in my spare time. Looking back, I realize that my shoebox gave me a sense of hope. It showed me that someone really cared enough to pack this gift and send it to me.

“My shoebox gave me a sense of hope.”

To the person that packed my shoebox, I say, “Thank you! You gave me something small, but it was so significant!” Now as I pack shoeboxes, every one contains a bar of scented soap just like the one I received and a washcloth. I want the child to experience what I experienced. I want them to know that there's someone who cares for them. Most of all, I want them to know God loves them.

--- From “Shoebox Stories” on the Samaritan's Purse website

Growing with Grace August 2017 Update



⌘ **WE HAVE FOUND A DIRECTOR!!!** Keelan Miller accepted the position and began work on September 5th. She is excited to rejoin the GwG family, and help the program to grow and meet its full potential. Laci will be with her in the office during the transition process, and is excited to take the lead teacher position in the one year old classroom.

⌘ A huge **THANK YOU** to **Laci Wyant** for her hard work and dedication to GwG and for fulfilling all of the administrative needs of the program. Without **Laci**, Growing with Grace would have suffered tremendously and the parents and staff commend her for her gifts to the program.

⌘ Summer school has ended, though many of our school age children are still attending before care, and have the great opportunity in our program to catch the bus to their schools.

⌘ We welcome back our regular school year staff, who are all excited and energized to begin the new year. Our shared goal as a staff is to again fill each classroom!

⌘ The parking lot re-paving was a beautiful addition to our facility. We have had a lot of positive feedback from our families about how little of a disruption the process was.



⌘ Thank you to the Council, we are grateful for your continued support.



Ministry Moments

Check out what God is doing through October's ministry highlight, **The Community Life Center**. Through **Connections**, **Crosswalk**, **WHAM!**, **Bible Quizzing**, **The Breakfast Club** and **Girl's Study Group**, we are transforming lives by bringing young people closer to Jesus Christ. (Luke 2:52) *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor of God and men."* This verse describes Jesus' life from the time He was a teenager until He started His ministry at about age 30. The verse tells us that Jesus grew mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. Therefore our goal at the CLC is to help youth grow in these four areas. Through relationships and a healthy environment, we help the youth of the community grow as whole persons. Here are just a few testimonies from young people at the CLC.



Kayla: *"In all honesty, since I have been going to WHAM!, my whole life has changed. I have been able to get through hard times a lot easier. When I am getting bullied, I have found other ways out. Now instead of self-harm, I draw and listen to music. I have been saving and helping people more. I have had a lot of joy brought into my life. Thank you everyone that has become my friend. All of you have helped me see life through a whole other view, and I am so thankful to have each of you in my life."*

Bri: *"I got to tell you Wham! and Crosswalk have helped me through a lot thanks to the CLC leaders. Although I'm not completely healed, I know it's hard to be alone. I'm a lot happier when I'm around someone else and these people are like my family, my other half. I love everyone who's been there for me and continues to be in my life. Hope WHAM! is fun tonight and everyone has a good day."*

Name withheld: *"When I first moved here, I felt alone and had no real friends. My brother told me to go down to the CLC. There I made new friends. I see these friends as angels from God, because if not for them, I would have committed suicide. They saved my life."*

And lastly a young man, now of adult age, communicated to a CLC leader how thankful he was for his time spent at the CLC while growing up. He said that the CLC helped keep him off the streets, away from drugs and other unproductive activities. This young man stated he was now doing well, holding down a job, and he believed the CLC played a role in his success.

As God continues to open up opportunities for us to have a powerful impact on our community through our CLC, we invite you to play a part in this awesome ministry by volunteering some time, sharing your talents or by providing supplies, snacks or breakfast items. Thank you for your continued support of our CLC and the young people we serve. Also, a big **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers who give of their time: **Jim Machuga & Selene Machuga, Brandon Baney, Jill Taylor, Mike & Kathy Verbocy, Dave Arnett, Jackie Streb, Karen Rakieski, Vicki Sander, Andrew Dexter, Menton Harding, Tori, Cody, Jacob & Destiny.**

First WHAM! meeting for



the 2017-18 school year



Church Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday - 7:30am to 1:30pm



**Grace
Lutheran
Church**

Rev. Patrick J. Cox, Pastor

331-0074

Lisa Cox

779-1783

(alternate phone number for Pastor)

79 Mechanic Street
Bradford, PA 16701

(814) 362-3244

Fax (814) 362-6085

Community Life Center

(814) 362-1236

Growing with Grace

Christian Preschool

814-362-(GROW) 4769

glmoffice@agraceplace.org

www.agraceplace.org

Join Us For Worship!

Friday

6:30pm Crosswalk

Youth Worship

Saturday

5:15pm Praise Team

Sunday

9:00am Praise Team

11:15am Blended

Family Education

10:15am

***We're On
The Web!***

www.agraceplace.org

***Like us on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Ministries &
Growing with Grace
Christian Preschool***

**CURRENT AND
UPCOMING EVENTS
AT GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

October 24 - 27

***Growing with Grace
Scholastic Book Fair***

6:30am-5:00pm

October 31

Trunk or Treat

6:00 - 7:30pm



The Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions for newsletters can be left for the newsletter team in the church office. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please e-mail them to: newsletter@agraceplace.org or leave them in the church office.