

LOVE

is patient and kind.

LOVE

is not jealous
or boastful
or proud or rude.

It does not
demand its own
way. It is not
irritable, and it
keeps no record
of being wronged.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Pondering Along the Way

I am not a Puppet!

Sometimes when making a phone call, one hears a recording “Press 8 to say that I am not a robot.” The same might be said in life. Jesus came to earth so that we might declare “I am not a robot.” Or in Pinocchio’s case “I am not a puppet.”

Do you remember the story of Pinocchio, beyond his nose growing longer each time he lied? Pinocchio, the wooden puppet of Geppetto longed to be a real boy. One night, his wish was granted. Then, on his way to school, he was lured away by a wily fox who promised his stardom as a “live puppet without strings.” Pinocchio finds himself locked up and enslaved by the fox. Pinocchio is freed by his friend, only to be lured again to “Pleasure Island” where he can “live free.”

There he learns that his new life of “freedom” turns him into a donkey. The moral of the story is that what looks like freedom will often lead us into slavery and death. Pinocchio wanted to be a real boy, but each decision he made diminished him and led to bondage.

This is the picture of sin. Each time we commit a sin, we are diminished and held captive as a slave. A slave! The Bible uses the strongest, most offensive word to describe the power of sin, because sin is offensive. It is offensive to us, to life itself and most of all our sin offends God.

In 1979, Bob Dylan released a song titled “Gotta Serve Somebody.” In the song, he sings about how we are designed to serve someone greater than ourselves. We are hard wired this way. Should we resist to serve God, the desire does not go away, we just end up serving a harsher master such as pride, hate selfishness, greed, deception, lust and the list goes on. All of these enslave us and steal the breath of life away from us. We end up surrendering our lives to powers that have no love for us.

There is however a choice. Paul writes “you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” (Romans 6:18)

For some hearing this, it may not sound like much of a choice. No matter what we do, we end up a slave. However, the difference between being a slave to sin and a slave to righteousness is the difference between choosing life or death. We are slaves who are free. Serving Christ as His disciple carries a yoke with it but one that is light and one that offers rest and freedom to our soul. There is true freedom in serving the one who gave up His life for you.

Thinking back to Pinocchio, our strings have been cut and we are free to be a real person, one who chooses to love and serve the one who gave Himself up for us on the cross. We are not a robot nor a puppet, we are children of our Father.

Very shortly, we will be entering the season of Lent. During this time, take some moments to ask yourself, “What does it mean or look like in my life to say, “I am not a puppet! am a servant of Jesus.”

Pastor Barry

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD SERIES

There are four books in the New Testament that are one chapter long. Short and to the point, like a Postcard!

They are often overlooked. Yet, they hold teachings that are vital to the Church and to our day to day lives. Come and study and grow with us as we explore these

“Postcards of the New Testament”

beginning February 1st, 2026.

- ♦ **Philemon**
- ♦ **II John**
- ♦ **III John**
- ♦ **Jude**



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on **February 12th** and **February 26th** at 10:30am in the church social hall.

We are studying "Women of the Old Testament" - learning basic lessons in each of their lives. The consistency of cause and effect, their amazing freedom to act and they were ordinary women. That God recorded their stories for our learning reveals what He considers important.

These are single lessons so you can join at any time. Bring a friend and enjoy learning along with the fellowship with sisters in Christ.

For more information please contact:

Vicki Sander: 814-465-3137 or Laura Keesler: 814-465-9388



*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)*

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Ray Eidson

Betty Gallmann

Luca Abrams

Shirley Vandekken
John DeGolier

Sent By

Jim & Mary Paterniti
Janice Swanson
Jim & Mary Paterniti
Janice Swanson
Janet Cleveland
Carol Gallmann & Family
Bruce & Chris Schuessler
Jeffery & Stacy Brandes
Joan & Dale Ludwick
Michael & Amy Hunt
Brian & Deborah Brandes
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Jim & Mary Paterniti
Janice Swanson
Ken & Karen Rakieski
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Rick & Kay Wheaton

FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

CHURCH COUNTERS:

Laura Keesler
Nina Lau

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Wendy Wright
Kathy Verbocy

READER:

Gayle Gallmann

PRAYERS:

Vicki Sander

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**Birthdays not
published on-line.**



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.

Marsha Denning
354 Interstate Pkwy.
Bradford, PA 16701
814-596-7250

Judy Signor
28 Brookline Ct
Bradford, PA 16701
814-779-1066

Donna Lannen
BEH 100 St. Francis Dr.
Room #309A
Bradford, PA 16701
814-598-7130

Debbie Kelly
The Pavilion at BRMC
200 Pleasant St. #224
Bradford, PA 16701

Betty Jean Austin
Chapel Ridge 414A
100 St. Francis Dr.
Bradford, PA 16701

Marianne Feldhaus
2 Bushnell St., Apt. 105
Bradford, PA 16701
585-981-6344

Jim & Virginia Randolph
Bradford Manor
50 Langmaid Lane
Bradford, Pa 16701
814-368-3444

Bob Kelly
138 Prospect Street
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-9884

Glenn Bunce
2 South Ave., Apt. 307
Bradford, PA 16701
814-363-3166

Gifts of Grace Gift Card Program



Order with payment must be
Submitted by **11AM** on the
FIRST Sunday of each month.

NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER

February 1st, 2026

**New participants: Tops Friendly
Markets and Big Lots!**

Questions? See Jackie Streb



FYI

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is
Brenda Alviti: 814-558-1829

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting will be at 6:30pm
February 10th, 2026 in the church social hall.

Please remember that the Congregation
is always welcome!



Deacon's Meeting

The next Deacon's meeting will be at 6:00pm
March 4th, 2026 in the
church social hall.

RECYCLING

Keep saving your nickel cans and nickel
plastic bottles! Please leave them in
the church social hall for pick-up. Thank you!
Remember: ***“With God all things are possible.”***



Deadlines for Weekly Slides, Bulletin Items

Just a reminder that the deadline to have items
placed in the weekly bulletin is Wednesday
morning and the deadline for slides is
Thursday morning. Please write
the information in the manner you would
like the church secretary to print it.

Altar Flowers

You may sign up for Altar Flowers on
the chart posted in the Social Hall.
This can be in memory of a loved one or
friend or to commemorate a special event.
To make a donation you may use one of
the envelopes in the Welcome Center and
place in the collection plate, the safe or
call the Church Office at 814-362-3244.



CLC NEWS

WELCOME THE NEW CLC DIRECTOR

Hi! My name is Johnna Watters. I am blessed to introduce myself as your new CLC Director! A little about myself to help us get to know each other... I am 35 years young, I grew up in the south of Bradford, in a little town called Kersey, PA.

I started my education at Saint Boniface Elementary school where I first was introduced to Jesus. I graduated from Saint Mary's Area High School in 2009.

I come from a big family where you don't ask for seconds at the dinner table! I have 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 1 brother in-law, a beautiful daughter, Gianna, a wonderful husband named Marcus, 15 nieces and nephews, and 2 fur-babies; Mia and Moonlight. I moved to Bradford a little over 3 years ago and I was ready to make this place my new home.

My husband and I bought our first home together and have been married ever since 2023. During the summertime you can find me at the Allegany State Park quite often with my family enjoying Quaker and Redhouse Lake on our kayaks, or up on the trails with our dogs exploring God's creation. I also enjoy traveling, but mostly I enjoy the time I am cuddled up on the couch drinking a hot cup of cocoa with my family watching a good comedy.

I am excited to get to know and serve each and every one of you. I have some fantastic ideas for some new activities planned for 2026!





Grace Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor
Barry J. Keurulainen

**79 Mechanic Street
Bradford, PA 16701
(814) 362-3244
Fax (814) 362-6085**

**Community Life Center
(814) 362-1236**

**glmoffice@agraceplace.org
www.agraceplace.org**

Join Us For Worship!

**Sunday
10:00am Blended
9:00am Family Education**

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

***www.agraceplace.org
Like us on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Ministries
(Live Streaming
Sundays 10am)***

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**February 10th
Council Meeting 6pm**

**February 12th & 26th
Women's Bible Study 10:30am**

**February 14th
Valentine's Day**

**February 16th
President's Day**

**February 18th
Ash Wednesday**

**February 28th
Lion's Club Food Auction at CLC at
4pm**



OFFICE HOURS:
Monday: 10am-2pm
Tuesday: 10am-2pm
Thursday: 10am-2pm
Friday: 10am-2pm

The Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter is published monthly. 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: glmoffice@agraceplace.org or leave them in