

# FEBRUARY Grace

# 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

irritable, and it keeps no record

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! I 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

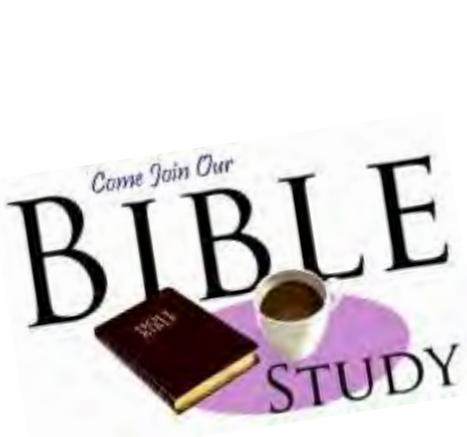
The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on **February 12th** and **February 26th** at 10:30am in the church social hall.

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: 814465-9388



*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](mailto:glmoffice@agraceplace.org) or leave them in***