

# GRACEPOINT CHURCH

## Church Profile

### Who We Are Now

**Congregation:** GracePoint Church of Ephrata has a strong core of committed, mature Christ followers who grieve the sudden loss of our pastor of 23 years. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in March 2021 and died in August. His ministry provided strong teaching and stable leadership. The congregation has also coped with the challenges of the COVID epidemic since 2020. From March 8, 2020 until March 28, 2021 we exclusively live streamed our services. Beginning in September, the church called a full time Interim Pastor through the agency of Interim Pastor Ministries. He is leading the congregation through the process of assessing our strengths, weaknesses and calling our next lead pastor.

The church was organized on October 5, 1947 as First Baptist Church of Ephrata, affiliated with the Baptist General Conference (now called Converge). The church name changed to GracePoint in 2015. Currently we have 69 members. Our average worship attendance was 142 prior to COVID. During COVID we chose not to meet for a year out of an abundance of caution. After reopening on Palm Sunday of 2021 our Sunday morning worship service attendance has averaged 74 and is gradually growing. The congregation is composed primarily of seniors and young families with children and youth. During Covid we began livestreaming our services and have continued to do so since restarting in person worship.

**Facilities:** The current worship facility with a seating capacity of 250 was built in 1951. A Christian Education wing was added in 1965, with a second added in 1983. The entire church building has been remodeled and upgraded several times. The church offices are housed in a newly remodeled building adjacent to the church. There is ample off-street parking as well as a small, remodeled youth house which is currently unoccupied. In 2007 we purchased a 9+ acre parcel of land for future development at another location.

**Finances:** The current budget is \$250,000. 16% of the budget goes toward the support of nine individual missionary families as well as Child Evangelism Fellowship, short term mission projects, and other programs. 70% goes toward office/church management, 9% for operations, and 5% for Church ministries. Our giving for our fiscal 2020-2021 year was \$249,097.

**Ministries:** We currently minister to about 20 children through children's church and approximately 30 children in our AWANA program. We have a dozen people who have been trained as caregivers through the Stephen's Ministry. Life Groups meet weekly to share a meal, pray for one another, and study God's Word.

### What We Value

We believe in the inerrancy of the Word of God; that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and that no repentance, feelings, good resolutions, sincere effort or submission to rules can add to the finished work of Christ. We believe in a pretribulational rapture of the church. Please reference our Affirmation of Faith.

We are passionate about our mission of pointing people to Christ as the only means of salvation and the example for us to obediently follow. As God enables us we will **GROW** in Christlikeness, **REACH**

others with the Good news of salvation, **ADORE** and worship God with awe and reverence, **CONNECT** with one another through loving deeds of kindness, and become **EQUIPPED** to serve the Lord through the cultivation and exercise of our spiritual gifts (**G-R-A-C-E**).

We cherish strong expositional teaching/preaching, and value contemporary style worship, led by our talented worship team. Authentic and participatory worship is very important to GracePoint. Since returning from the pandemic, the worship team has been steadily growing, adding both instrumentalists and vocalists. This winter we moved from analog to a digital sound console and during the same time the sound and computer teams have also grown.

Missions are an important part of GracePoint. Through its GO Team (Global Outreach), we support a variety of outreach ministries at home and abroad, including church planters and Bible translators. We also have a relationship with three churches in China and every few years we send or receive a delegation from our sister churches with coordination from the GO Team. We love our brothers and sisters in China!

## What We Believe God is Calling us to Become

We believe that God is calling us to be more outward focused. We are aware that we must be more engaged with the unchurched, unbelieving people in our community through acts of service, compassion, and the verbal witness to God's love.

We believe God is calling us to rebuild a ministry including youth and high school programs for youth from our congregation and from the Ephrata community. We have a number of teachers and people involved in the local schools that attend our church. Youth are very important to our congregation and we want to provide them with solid discipleship before they leave home.

We believe that to grow our ministries, more people need to be mobilized to join the ministries of the church. We are already seeing this in some areas of the church, but it needs to be across the church at large. We believe that God is calling us to empower younger men to assume Elder leadership for the coming season of our church's ministry. Several younger men are currently being discipled towards this goal.

We believe that God wants us to focus on discipling the body beyond the Sunday morning worship service. This could mean growing life groups, or restarting adult Bible fellowship groups on Sunday morning. We want to get deeper into the Word in smaller groups and grow our relationships with each other.

We believe that God wants us to further expand our mission outreach by finding and supporting another church planting missionary.

We believe that when God wills we will be able to develop the new property which is in a highly visible area in our city. In the year leading up to the pandemic, our steering committee was in meetings with an architect - planning and drafting up plans for new facilities.