

♪♪ Grace Notes ♪♪

May/June 2021 Issue

From the Pastor's Desk.....

May & June Newsletter Article

One good way to grow in our faith is to read books. I like when people create lists of "Books to Read for the Summer." In that style, I will share some of the things I've been reading...and maybe you can share some titles with me. I think reading the book *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton (which we read together during our Wednesday Lenten Bible Study) was informative and well received. I have also started a new habit of going for walks and listening to books on Audible (on my phone). So far this year I have read:

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGee

The Truth at the Heart of the Lie: A Memoir of Faith by James Carroll

About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions by Terence Fretheim

Padre Pio: The True Story by C Bernard Ruffin

Is This Anything? By Jerry Seinfeld

As an illustration of what I gleaned from the book about Padre Pio
(a Roman Catholic Saint), here are a few of my favorite quotes
from him:

“Take God to the sick... it will be worth more than any cure.”

“Come to Christ, where all is love”

“Don’t spend your energies on things that generate worry,
anxiety,
and anguish.

Only one thing is necessary: lift your spirit and love God.”

I hope you all have a great start to the summer and that you can
find a good, engaging book to enjoy outdoors. Pastor Mark



Important Updates at Grace . . .

Several guidelines and updates are coming in the next few weeks. Please read over the below information and mark your calendars.

1. There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, Sunday, May 23rd following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to present information regarding the painting of the sanctuary roof. The work bid is from Dependable Roofing at the cost of \$11,850. We did receive another estimate, but it was almost twice the cost. We need your attendance to vote on this project.
 - Please remember, if you would like your Building Fund envelop offerings to go to this project, please note “Roof Project” on the outside of your envelope.

2. Worship Covid guidelines and worship updates

- We will be continuing to practice safe Covid guidelines including
 - social distancing, providing hand sanitizer, fresh air flow, and wearing masks.

Having said this, we are adjusting mask wearing guidelines to the following:

- Masks are to be worn entering and leaving church as well as any time you are up and moving around the sanctuary.
- When you are seated, you may remove your mask.
- We are recommending you consider wearing your mask the entire time if you have not been vaccinated.

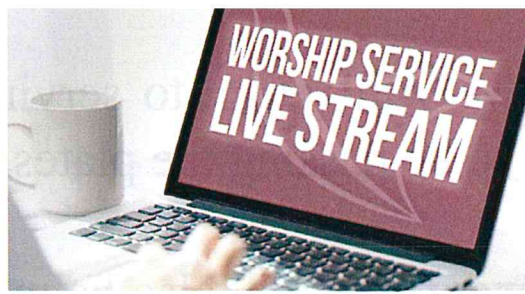
3. As of **May 2nd**, we will return to serving communion in the pews. We will also be passing the plates to collect offering.
4. Our **Outreach programs** will also be making some changes.
- **May 1st, First Saturday Free Community Meal** will be Eat-in or Take out.
 - **May 15th, “Boost your day with Breakfast” fundraiser** will be Eat-in or Take out. We are planning to sell tickets in advance. This will help us plan for the amount of food needed.
 - As of the first full week of May, **Grace’s Closet** will be open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
 - **Laundry Love** will continue not be available at this time due to the tight space at The Laundry Spot. We will revisit this each month as information updates.

We hope and pray that each of you are doing well! If there is anything you need, please feel free to contact Elaine in the office, Pastor Mark, or any member of the Consistory.

Prayers and blessings,

Marg Stouffer





Live Streaming of Worship

Grace United Church of Christ will continue live streaming their worship services. You can access it through our Facebook page, Grace United Church of Christ at:
<https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/>

Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale

Our Ham & Soup Fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped! We are blessed to have such a great community!

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

Beginning the first week in May, Grace's Free Closet will be extending their hours to be open on Fridays. Operating hours will be Monday, Wednesday & Friday, from 9:30am till 12:30 pm. Stop by soon! Please 'like' their Facebook page 'Grace's Closet Greencastle' to keep updated on any changes or contact Nancy Myers with questions or to volunteer!



First Saturday Community Meal

Saturday, May 1 ---- 11AM – 1PM

We are now offering dine-in lunches in our social hall
or you can still pick-up a grab-and-go lunch bag

Menu includes:

Homemade pizza (plain, pepperoni, mushrooms),
veggies with dip, applesauce & bottled water

If you are a homebound church member and would like a
lunch delivered, please contact Chet or call Elaine at the
church office and we will make arrangements.

Everyone Welcome. Donations Appreciated.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We have open spots for Greeters/Ushers, Readers and Communion servers for May and June. Please see the sign-up sheets which are located on the table in the front vestibule.

We also need volunteers to help run the camera during service to live stream our worship on Facebook. It's easy to learn! Please see Steve Miller for further information.

Upcoming Fundraiser

Our Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser is scheduled for May 15, from 7am till 10:30am. It will be Eat-in or Take-out. We are selling tickets in advance to help us plan for the amount of food needed. Contact Chet Nye or church office or see Tammy Hockenberry in the social hall after worship service to get your tickets!



Grace United Church of Christ

BOOST-YOUR-DAY
Breakfast
MAY 15th

Scrambled Eggs * Pancakes
Hash browns * Bacon * Sausage
Biscuits and Sausage Gravy
Orange and Apple juice * Coffee

7:00am - 10:30am

Adults: \$8.00 Youths (6-12): \$5.00
Children (5 & under): FREE

Call church office for tickets at 717-597-2983

Grace United Church of Christ * 128 E. Baltimore St.
www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Laundry Love

Due to the tight space at The Laundry Spot, we continue not to be available at this time. We will revisit this each month as information updates. We hope to re-open soon. Contact Carolyn Shoemaker with any further questions.

Coffee & Refreshments

Postponed till further notice

Single Ladies Luncheon

Postponed till further notice

Chancel Choir

Please join us for choir practice on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. As the choir is singing their weekly anthems, we ask that the congregation please sit back a few pews from the front so everyone can be safely distanced from the choir while they perform. Our last choir rehearsal of the season is scheduled for May 19, and the last Sunday the choir will be singing anthems is May 23. Please contact Patty with any further questions or concerns.

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am, in the social hall. Meeting for May has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on June 13. We will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Please contact Rev. Mark or Cathy Keefer for further information. You are welcome to join us!

GUCC Scholarships:

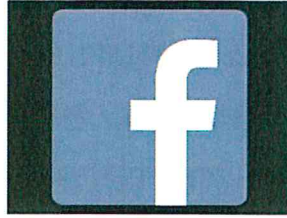
Our scholarship committee will be reviewing all the applications that were received. The recipients will be announced in the future. Educational Sunday is scheduled for June 13th. Any questions, please see Lorna Thomas.

Church Weeding

It's that time of year again that we will need your help in weeding the front flower beds of the church. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the table in the front vestibule!



Facebook



If you have access to Facebook, please 'like' our page, Grace United Church of Christ, it will help keep you updated on events and changes. If you are out of town, or want to watch our worship service from the comfort of your home, please gather on our Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings for a live stream of our service. This is a great way to stay connected with everyone!

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/>

GUCC Website

Our weekly worship programs along with our newsletters can be downloaded from our website at anytime!

You can also make donations through our website. Just click on any DONATE button, use drop down box to choose where you would like your donation to be used. Once you submit any contributions, you will receive an email receipt for your tax purposes. Any questions, please contact Kate Kennedy or Elaine at the church office. You can find our website at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

Municipal Primary Elections

GUCC is one of the facilities that Franklin County uses for voting purposes. The 2021 Municipal primary elections will be held on Tuesday, May 18, and the social hall will be open from 7am to 8pm for those who use this location.

Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. The theme for this year is "Renew".

We will be receiving STC Offering on Sunday, May 23, 2021.



WOMEN IN CHRIST BANQUET

The Mother/Daughter Banquet has changed their name to Women In Christ. It is for everyone whether you have a daughter or not. Just bring your Aunt, Neighbor, Friend, Grandmother or even Great Grandmother, all women welcome. At our banquet we like to have 3 things, good fellowship, lots of fun and of course good food, which we don't have to prepare. Please sign up to come and by the way you do not have to be a member of the Grace Snyder Circle, it is for all the ladies in our church family and friends and relatives.

The date for this is May 10th and we will eat at 6:30 p.m. Cost will be \$15.00 for adults, \$7.50 for children ages 3 – 10 and 3 years and under are free. You can register each Sundays on May 5th and May 9th. In the board room or by calling the office or Nancy Myers at 717-360-3021. This year we are featuring Dave Besecker for our enjoyment.

So sign up, bring a friend or neighbor and have an enjoyable time.

NAME: _____

Total **ADULTS** coming _____

Total **CHILDREN** coming _____

\$15.00 for adults ---- **\$7.50** for children (3-10)---- under 3
FREE

Information Update and Directory

We are still in the process of contacting those who haven't turned in your updated information sheet for our new directory. Once completed you will receive a copy of our new directory. This will help each of us to stay connected and support our church family. Contact Cathy Keefer or call the church office for further details.



July 9th & 10th

Sidewalk Sale Days, Yard Sale and Lunches

We are hoping to be open both days if we have enough volunteers. Start putting aside your donations for our church yard sale. We will not be taking clothes or books for the yard sale; but Grace's Closet will gladly accept them. We will be accepting yard donations towards the end of June. More information to come.



Consistory Minutes of Meeting

February 21, 2021

Roll Call: Margaret Stouffer, Jeff Stouffer, Mark Stahl, Sydnae Vanner, Carolyn Shoemaker, Steve Miller, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer, Chet Nye, Pastor Mark Ruzicka, Larry Stepler

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Stouffer at 8:30am.

Prayer was given by Pastor Ruzicka.

Welcome to new consistory members, Cathy Keefer and Chet Nye.

Work of the church: We have resumed in person services as well as the choir anthem following social distancing and use of masks plus hand sanitizer.

Agenda Additions: Additions to the Information Agenda include the Church Directory and Lenten Activities.

Consent Agenda: Motion by C. Shoemaker/S. Vanner to accept the consent agenda with one correction to the 1/26/21 minutes, to add to the cemetery fund explanation the upkeep of the cemetery, passed unanimously.

Information Agenda:

1. The committees and chairpersons paper handed out at last meeting was approved.
2. Activities Committee: They will be very busy in the coming months. March 6 First Saturday Meal; April 15, ham sandwich and soup sale; May 15, breakfast buffet fundraiser; July 9 and 10 Sidewalk Sales Days Yard Sale. Next meeting March 1.
3. Building and Grounds Report: Carpet replacement is completed and fire extinguisher inspection completed. The water leak around the range hood in the kitchen will be looked at as soon as possible. This was delayed due to the weather. The elevator contract with Kone was discussed. It was submitted for a 3 year term. Discussion included putting an alert/reminder to review the contract in Sept/Oct 2023. It was also suggested that a list/logbook be made to review contracts/agreements yearly.
4. Parsonage Payment Plan: The second payment was received as well as a picture of the signed contract. Larry will continue to urge Mike Evans and Brenda Clark to return to original signed contract as they have not done so. Communication with Nora Faust by Larry Stepler with what has been happening was not helpful.
5. Finance Committee: Motion by C. Shoemaker/C. Nye to accept the Kone Elevator contract passed unanimously. The electronic sign permission was denied by the city. There was discussion for use of the sign that was used on the float for previous Old Home Week parade. The hot water heater has been turned off during times the church is not in use. Jeff will be doing some "insurance shopping" to see if there is a more reasonable rate.
6. Homebound Outreach: A list of Shut Ins/Homebound members was distributed. Sydnae will coordinate making phone calls and reaching out to these members.

7. Lenten Activities: Electronics have been placed in the sanctuary for use during the Lenten Bible Study.
8. Church Directory: Cathy distributed forms for completion to update the church directory.
9. Chet and Mildred are planning on coming in to clean the kitchen and bathrooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 am with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be March 21, 2021 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller

Special Consistory Meeting

February 28, 2021

Roll Call: Margaret Stouffer, Steve Miller, Lu Miller, Jeff Stouffer, Mark Stahl, Sydnae Vanner, Carolyn Shoemaker, Cathy Keefer, Chet Nye, Mark Ruzicka

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Stouffer.

A motion by C. Shoemaker/ L. Miller to keep the slate of officers the same as last year, President Margaret Stouffer, Vice President Steve Miller, Secretary Lu Miller, was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller

Consistory Minutes of Meeting

March 21, 2021

Roll Call: Margaret Stouffer, Jeff Stouffer, Steve Miller, Mark Stahl, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer, Chet Nye, Pastor Mark Ruzicka, Larry Stepler

Absent: Sydnae Vanner, Carolyn Shoemaker

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by President Margaret Stouffer.

Devotions were given by Pastor Ruzicka.

Work of the Church: Reopening of all bathrooms to occur.

Agenda Additions and Subtractions: None.

Consent Agenda: On a M. Stahl/C. Nye motion the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Information Agenda:

Activities Committee: Ham Sandwich and Soup sale April 15. Breakfast Buffet May 15. There was some discussion possibly making this an inside event. Final decision will be announced at the April consistory meeting. Sidewalk Sales Days Yard Sale, July 9 and 10.

Building and Grounds: We are awaiting a new invoice for Kone elevator service. Urinal in the men's restroom is leaking. Eberly's will be contacted to repair this. Roof repair – Dependable roofing will be contacted as to when they will start the repair. Discussion was held regarding financing the painting of the metal roof over the sanctuary, possibly a fundraising campaign using the building fund envelopes. Repair money for the bell tower roof and ceiling has already been set aside. Parking lot. Margaret and Jeff will speak with the owners asking about their liability insurance for any of their customer incidents that may occur in the parking lot.

Parsonage Payment Plan: Payment for the month of March has not been received. Larry has been in touch with Mike Evans. Larry will encourage electronic transfer of funds for future payments or to go to the website to make payments. As of March 21, 2021 we have not received a paper signed contract from Brenda Clark and Mike Evans, only a picture of their signatures. This picture does not have the Grace UCC signatures on it. It was decided that if we do not receive the signed contract by the end of March, they will be contacted again.

Finance Committee: KONE elevator contract invoice should be received in the next few days. Meetings will be set up with 3 different insurance companies to review the church insurance. It was decided to do these on March 22 and March 23, two on Monday and one on Tuesday with a vote taken on Tuesday as to which insurance company to go with.

Homebound Outreach: Sydnae have given lists of members to call. Progress is being made on the project.

Guest Pastors: Pastor Mark will contact Carrie and the conference to seek help in getting supply ministers for the month of July.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2021 at 8:30 am in the Social Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Lu Miller

ADDENDUM: Meetings were held with Bitner-Henry Insurance, Bell Insurance and AFS Insurance on March 22 and 23. It was decided by a 8-2 vote to go with Bitner-Henry Insurance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Grace United Church of Christ Statement of Financial Income and Expenses 1st Quarter Ending: March 2021</p>

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$15,293.58
Income	\$24,053.01
Expense	\$33,770.06
Ending Balance	\$5,576.53

Building/Outreach/Fundraising/Grants Account:

Beginning Balance	\$20,394.42
Income	\$4,544.41
Expense	\$289.96
Ending Balance	\$24,648.87

Organ Fund Account:

Beginning Balance	\$5,813.59
Income	\$750.14
Expense	\$256.00
Ending Balance	\$6,307.73

German Reformed Cemetery Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,300.00
Income	\$0.00
Expense	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,300.00

* Please contact Church office if you would like a detailed report of the income and expense statement. Thank you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Please contact committee members, board members or church office for any questions or updates about any items listed below.)



- 1** First Saturday Free Meal, 11am-1pm, social hall
- 2** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary
Communion Servers: TBA
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40, I Jn 4:7-21, Jn 15:1-8
We will return to serving communion in the pews and passing the plates to collect offering.
- 3** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Activities/Fundraising Committee, 7pm, social hall
Consistory & Committee Reports for April are due
- 5** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

9 Happy Mother's Day

10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48, 1 Jn 5:1-6, Jn 15:9-17

10 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

Consistory Agenda packets will be sent to board members this week via email.

Women In Christ Banquet, 6:30pm, in the social hall.

12 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

14 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

15 "Boost you day with Breakfast" Fundraiser, social hall, from 7am till 10:30am

16 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall

10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: Deb & Tony Homer

Reader: Tony Homer

Scriptures: Acts 1:15-17 & 21-26, 1 Jn 5:9-13, Jn 17:6-19

17 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

18 Municipal Primary Elections, 7am-8pm, social hall

- 19** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir last rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 23** Strengthen the Church Offering (STCO) being received during service.
Final day Chancel Choir will be performing weekly anthems for the season.
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, Rom 8:22-27, Jn 15:26-27 & 16:4b-15
Congregational Meeting following worship
- 24** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 26** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 28** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 30** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: Steve Miller
Scriptures: Isa 6:1-8 & Ps 29, Rom 8:12-17, Jn 3:1-17
- 31 Memorial Day**
Grace's Free Closet closed for the holiday.



- 2** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 4** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 5** First Saturday Free Meal, 11am-1pm, social hall
- 6** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary
Communion Servers: TBA
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: Deb Homer
Scriptures: 1 Sam 8:4-11, 16-20 & Ps 20,
2 Cor 4:13-5:1, Mk 3:20-35
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Activities/Fundraising Committee, 7pm, social hall
Consistory & Committee reports for May are due
- 9** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 10** Deadline to submit articles for July/August newsletter
- 11** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

13 Educational Sunday

9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall

10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: 1 Sam 15:34-16:13 & Ps 20,
2 Cor 5:6-10 & 14-17, Mk 4:26-34

14 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

Consistory agenda packets will be emailed this week

16 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

18 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

20 Happy Father's Day

8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall

10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: 1 Sam 17:32-49 & Ps 9:9-20,
2 Cor 6:1-13, Mk 4:35:41

21 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

23 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

25 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

27 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner
Reader: Patty Stepler
Scriptures: 1 Sam 1:1 & 17-27 & Ps 130,
2 Cor 8:7-15, Mk 5:21-43

28 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

30 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

