

Grace United Church of Christ
128 E. Baltimore Street
P.O. Box 448
Greencastle, PA 17225

♪♪ Grace Notes ♪♪

Sept/Oct 2021 Issue

From the Pastor's Desk.....

It's Fall 2021 and things are happening again!

Starting on September 8, **Wednesday nights** will be very active at Grace UCC.

From 6-6:30 pm, we will have **Called to Care Team** Training in the Social Hall. *Called to Care* is a program designed by the UCC to help us be *better trained* in care giving and visitations. It is also a way for the church to be *better organized* to meet the needs of the congregation as they arise.

From 6:30-7:10 pm there will be a **Bible Study** in the Chapel. The resource we will use is called *Mark: 20 Studies for Individuals or Groups* and is written by N.T. Wright and it is part of the "N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides." On Sundays in this church season, we will have readings from the Gospel of Mark, so this engagement with the texts will be very helpful for everyone. The book can be purchased new on Amazon for about \$10.

In both of these activities, we will go through October....and then re-evaluate how to move forward after that. Please let the church office know you are interested or sign up on a Sunday morning. Invite a friend and you know you will have someone to sit with!

In Christ, Pastor Mark Ruzicka

Live Streaming of Worship



Live streaming of our services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would like to watch from the comfort of your home.

Please comment 'hello' so we know you are watching along with us!

You can find us at:

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

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome our newest church members, Ron & Jan Shafer! We have been seeing their happy smiles during worship and while volunteering for various fundraisers. We appreciate their kindness and we are blessed to have them in our GUCC family! Welcome!



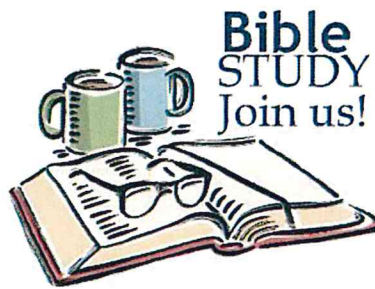
Annual Church Picnic

Our church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 12, at the Jerome King Playground, under the Nelson Pavilion, which is located near the band shell. Worship services will be held outdoors in the pavilion area starting at 10am, followed by food and fellowship time. We will be ordering fried chicken from Martin's costing \$4 per person. Church will supply drinks, plates, plasticware, napkins and cups. Please see the sign-up sheets located in the vestibule and elevator area to let us know who will be attending and to add your favorite covered dish to share. Marg will be collecting payments after worship service on Sunday, August 29 and September 5, or you can drop off payments at the church office during the week.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs!



FALL BIBLE STUDY



8 Week Fall Bible Study will begin after Labor Day, starting on September 8 through October 27, from 6:30-7:10pm, in the Chapel. The resource we will use is called *Mark: 20 Studies for Individuals or Groups* and is written by N.T. Wright and it is part of the "N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides." The book can be purchased new on Amazon for about \$10. Everyone welcome to join us! Invite a friend!

Activities & Fundraising Committee

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 7pm, in the social hall. (Please note the change of date.)
Everyone is welcome to attend!

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

Grace's Free Closet needs volunteers! Help is needed to sort, tag, greet and help monitor and clean the downstairs room. The Closet is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule if you can offer any free time. Please see Nancy Myers if you have any questions.

Called to Care Committee

Starting on September 8, Wednesday evenings, for 8 weeks we will be holding Called to Care Team Training in the social hall, from 6 to 6:30pm. The program is designed by the UCC to help us be better trained in care giving and visitations. It is also a great way for us to be better organized to meet the needs of the congregation as they arise. Contact Pastor Mark or call church office if you have any further questions.
Everyone welcome to join us!

Chancel Choir

Choir rehearsals are starting back up after Labor Day. Our first practice will be held September 8, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Rehearsals will continue on Wednesday evenings through the season. We welcome any new members who would like to join us! Contact Patty Stepler for any questions.

Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am, in the social hall. There will be no meeting in September, as we are having our church picnic on that date. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 10.

Church Weeding

We could use a few more volunteers to help us weed the flower beds till the end of the Fall season. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule. We thank everyone who has been helping us through the summer months!

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We have open spots for Greeters/Ushers, Readers and Communion servers for the upcoming weeks. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the front vestibule. Please help us out and sign-up for a Sunday or two!

We also need volunteers to learn how to operate the camera to live stream our services on Facebook. Contact Steve Miller to learn more.

First Saturday Community Meal



There will be no meal held in September as this first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend. Our next free community meal will be held on October 2nd.

Laundry Love

Still delayed due to close inside proximity. Contact Carolyn Shoemaker with any further questions.

Coffee & Refreshments

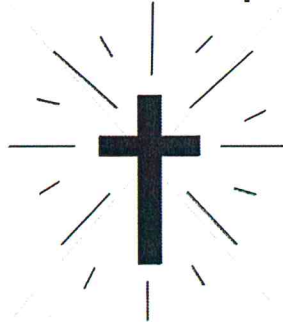
Postponed till further notice

Single Ladies Luncheon

Postponed till further notice

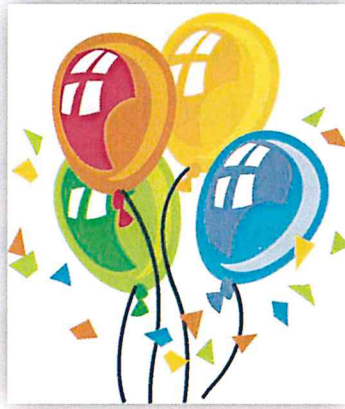
Church Directory Update

Directories are now available for all our members who gave approval to have their information printed in our updated membership directory. This is a great way for all our members to keep connected with one another. If you haven't received your copy, please contact church office to make pick-up arrangements.



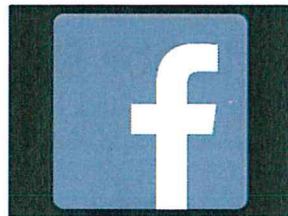
Shut-In Birthday's

Francis (Pickel) Diehl will be celebrating her 99th birthday on September 5th.



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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!

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 with this new donate button, please contact Kate Kennedy or Elaine in the church office.

You can find us at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

Office Hours

Church Office will be Closed on Monday, September 6
for Labor Day!



New One-Way Entrance



There is a new traffic pattern at our church. North Church Lane is now a one-way lane, entering from E. Baltimore Street and exiting onto E. Madison Street. Pine Lane (the alley behind the back side of our church) is still open for both directions. We have opened our parking lot up between the garages, so you will now have the option to enter and exit our lot from Pine Lane. Just use caution, as Pine Lane is not wide enough for two vehicles to pass at the same time.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any member news or committee updates you would like to share with our church family. Deadline to submit articles for our Nov/Dec issue of Grace Notes is Tuesday, October 12, at 12 noon. You are welcome to drop off articles at church office or submit through our email.

officegucc@gmail.com

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is the UCC's annual offering which supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. **NIN** helps make a just world for all possible, and for this to occur, they need your support. We will be receiving **NIN** offering on Sunday, October 3, during service. Special offering envelopes with additional information will be set out on the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area as they become available.



Consistory Minutes of Meeting

May 16, 2021

Roll Call: Margaret Stouffer, Jeff Stouffer, Mark Stahl, Chet Nye, Sydnae Vanner, Larry Stepler, Carolyn Shoemaker, & Cathy Keefer

Absent: Pastor Mark, Lu & Steve Miller

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

Devotions were given by Jeff Stouffer.

Work of the Church:

Agenda Additions & Subtractions: Correction to the minutes are – add Sydnae Vanner to the roll call for the April 18th meeting...sorry Sydnae!!! Also, corrected Pastor Mark's spelling of last name to Ruzicka...sorry Pastor Mark!!!!

Consent Agenda was approved unanimously after above corrections noted.

Information Agenda:

Marg noted the Boro has approached her regarding renting Grace's Social Hall for their meetings the first Monday of the month if additional space is needed. They will contact her if they want to use the room & they will set up the tables and chairs themselves.

Activities Committee: Laundry Love is still delayed due to close proximity. Chet reported the ham sandwich and soup sale was profitable making \$1033.00 & a donation of \$100.00 to the Food Pantry at the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Considering increasing the prices. Breakfast Fundraiser revealed 72 meals being served with 22 walk-ins. Yard Sale is slated for July 9th & 10th. To begin bringing in treasures on June 15th for the sale. Marg has been in touch with Chris. Chris & Melissa (owners of next door businesses) regarding this fundraiser & parking. Chet will obtain the yard sale permit from Boro Hall.

Building & Grounds: Congregational Meeting on the slate for May 23rd to vote on roof work. Mark pointed out the roof at the Bell tower is fixed as is the refrigerator. He also said there are dates on the walls in the Bell Tower (2001 Bonded Applicators done the work, 1983, 1957, 1930) of when the roof had been repaired. It looks like it will be an every 20 year project. Jeff has touched up painting on the molding at the elevator. Steve has run cables to the social hall for WiFi to accommodate the Boro for their meetings and the cost was adjusted showing a minimal increase. Mark added that he is waiting on a quote from Eagle Construction for repairing the ceiling in the vestibule as well as one from John Lehman.

Jeff pointed out that West Penn Power prices have increased as well as gas prices going up 26%. He suggested turning off the hot water heater and gas line to the stove when not in use & this will be done. Additionally, consistory approved 2 new hearing devices (currently have 4) from Sunrise Computers at the cost of \$240.00 which donations of \$140 were made to help cover.

Parsonage Payment Plan: with Brenda Clark & Mike. May payment is in the bank via Pay Pal. The March payment still has not been received & Mike filed a request to have it traced. Larry will request documentation again.

Finance Committee: Larry reported that up to May 15th offerings have increased 34% over last year. Finances are on track and we have not had to take money from of investments to pay expenses. Regarding the reimbursement from Hylant (Workman's Comp) and Insurance Board for Parsonage, Jeff & Margaret will check with Elaine to get clarification of the refunds of the cancellation for the parsonage insurance & the Hylant plan.

Guest Pastors for July: Are arranged for every Sunday in July when Pastor Mark is on vacation. The Pastors are staff of the Conference and will be paid by the Conference. Consideration is being given to present each Pastor with a gift card as well.

Church Picnic is scheduled for September 12th and Carolyn will reserve pavilion via Jody Bittner.

By a motion by Mark, a second by Carolyn and a unanimous vote, it was decided to not meet in June or July unless an emergency meeting is needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 after the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting August 15th, 2021

Respectfully submitted by the Assistant to the Secretary,

Cathy Keefer

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 23, 2021

At 11 o'clock on Sunday, May 23, 2021, a special congregational meeting was held to vote on the painting of the roof over the sanctuary. Dependable Roofing gave a bid of \$11,500.00. It included power washing and applying two coats of paint. The last time this was done was in 2001 by Bonded Applicators and according to the "writing on the wall in the bell tower", this task is done approximately every 20 years.

There was vote taken of the 32 members present and the vote was unanimous to go ahead and complete this project. Mark Stahl will contact Dependable Roofing to get on the schedule to get the job completed as soon as possible.

Respectively submitted by the Secretary's Assistant,

Cathy Keefer

URGENT CONSISTORY MEETING

AUGUST 1, 2021 AFTER SERVICE

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Mark, Marg & Jeff Stouffer, Sydnae Vanner, Mark Stahl, Carolyn Shoemaker, Cathy Keefer, Larry Stepler, & Chet Nye (Lu and Steve Miller attended via cell phone)

Topics of Urgency:

1. Discuss the use of Grace's Social Hall for Grand Point's Youth Ministry
2. Vote on repairing of the ceiling at the entrance to the sanctuary

Marg opened the meeting to explain the recent contact made by Grand Point to possibly use our Social Hall on Sunday's for their Youth Ministry. There were many questions and concerns voiced and a meeting was scheduled to meet with their leaders on Wednesday, August 4 at 3:30. Marg, Sydnae and Carolyn agreed to meet with them to address our questions and concerns. A decision will pursue at an Emergent Consistory Meeting to be held at 6:30 that evening to review and vote on this matter.

Estimates for the ceiling at the entrance to the sanctuary are as follows:

Artisan Drywall - \$12,240.00

Mount Taber (John Lehman) – Drywall, lights, dispose of old tile - \$6575.00

Drop Ceiling, lights, dispose of old tile - \$5700.00

After discussion, Marg made a motion to go with the drop ceiling by Mount Taber, Sydnae seconded, and the motion carried with an unanimous vote. Mark will contact John Lehman to get on their schedule to have completed ASAP.

Emergent Consistory Meeting – August 4, 2021 at 6:30

Respectively submitted by the Secretary's Assistant,

Cathy Keefer

EMERGENT CONSISTORY MEETING

August 4, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Mark, Marg & Jeff Stouffer, Sydnae Vanner, Carolyn Shoemaker, Mark Stahl, & Cathy Keefer (Lu & Steve Miller attended via cell phone)

Marg opened the meeting at 6:30 and reviewed the discussion she, Sydnae, and Carolyn had with the Youth Leaders from Grand Point regarding their interest in using Grace's Social Hall to build their Youth Ministry in the Greencastle area. They will be having adult services at B Street restaurant.

Issues addressed:

1. Grand Point agreed to an alternative space (Little Chapel or meeting room) in the event that Grace needed the Social Hall
2. Wi-Fi or other technology is not needed. They will provide their own TV, etc.
3. Youth would be ages K thru 5th grade (approximately 10 to 15 children)

4. Supervision would be two adults which includes a Security Guard. Parents would drop their child off at the side door and be escorted inside by the Security Guard.
5. Parking would be in the B Street parking lot across Baltimore Street
6. Grand Point would use our tables and chairs and arrange to their needs
7. No snacks provided or no need to use the kitchen
8. They will not be using the piano
9. Grand Point will provide a copy of their liability insurance
10. A schedule will be provided for usage with begin date to be August 8th for staff only and full launch of services to begin September 19th at 9 am and 11 am.
11. Rental would be \$100.00 per Sunday and to be paid monthly at the first of the month.
12. Timeframe of usage is uncertain at this time but could be up to a year
13. A schedule would need worked out by Grace for opening and closing of the church after Grand Point's services.

Discussion transpired by the Consistory Members and Marg made a motion to agree to accommodate Grand Point, Jeff seconded, and all in attendance voted in favor. Marg penned an agreement and will present to their leaders on Sunday, August 8th. We decided to do occasional reviews to ascertain things were working out for both parties.

Additionally, the decision was made to inform the congregation via phone message of this upcoming venture and Marg will compose and have Elaine complete the recording on Thursday and to have any questions answered after Worship on Sunday, August 8th.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary's Assistant,

Cathy Keefer

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

August 8, 2021

A brief meeting was held after Worship for any questions regarding Grand Point's use of the Social Hall for their Youth Ministry and there were no questions or concerns from the congregation.

HOWEVER, Marg informed the congregation that she received a call left by voice mail on Friday, August 6th, from Jess, the leader of the Youth Ministry, that they wish to postpone the rental of the Social Hall at this time. Their reasoning was that they wanted to get a feel for the number of children that would be attending and to be sure they had enough volunteers. To be continued.....

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary's Assistant,

Cathy Keefer

<p style="text-align: center;">Grace United Church of Christ Statement of Financial Income and Expenses 2nd Quarter - April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021</p>

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$5,576.53
Income	\$90,255.01
Expense	\$90,311.75
Ending Balance	\$5,519.79

Building/Outreach/Fundraising/Grants Account:

Beginning Balance	\$24,648.87
Income	\$61,509.37
Expense	\$2,710.04
Ending Balance	\$83,448.20

Organ Fund Account:

Beginning Balance	\$6,307.73
Income	\$450.16
Expense	(\$0.00)
Ending Balance	\$6,757.89

German Reformed Cemetery Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,300.00
Income	\$195.30
Expense	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,495.30

* 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** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 3** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 5** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary
Communion Servers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: Steven Miller
Scriptures: Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Ps 125
James 2:1-10, 14-17 and Mk 7:24-37
- 6** Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Grace's Free Closet Closed for Labor Day
- 7** Activities/Fundraising Committee, 7pm, social hall
Consistory Committee Reports Due for August
- 8** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

- 10** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 12** Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic, 10am,
King Jerome Playground, Nelson Pavilion, near
band shell.
Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Gladys Doyle
Scripture: James 3:1-12 (no reader needed)
- 13** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
Consistory agenda packets will be sent to board
members via email this week
- 15** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 17** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 19** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in meeting room
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer
Reader: Tony Homer
Scriptures: Prov 31:10-31, Ps 1
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a and Mk 9:30-37
- 20** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 22** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

- 24** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 26** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10: 9:20-22, Ps 124
James 5:13-20 and Mk 9:38-50
- 27** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 29** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary



- 1** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 2** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm

- 3** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary
Receiving Neighbors in Need Offering
Communion Servers: TBA
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: Patty Stepler
Scriptures: Job 1:1, 2:1-10, Ps 26
Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mk 10:2-16
- 4** Consistory Committee Reports Due for September
Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Activities/Fundraising Committee, 7pm, social hall
- 6** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 8** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 10** 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Ps 22:1-5
Heb 4:12-16 and Mk 10:17-31
- 11** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
Consistory agenda packets will be sent to board members via email this week
- 12** Deadline to submit articles for July/August issue of our newsletter, Grace Notes

- 13** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 15** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 17** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer
Reader: Deb Homer
Scriptures: Job 38:1-7, (34-41), Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35
Heb 5:1-10 and Mk 10:35-45
- 18** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 20** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 22** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 24** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Ps 34:1-8
Heb 7:23-28 and Mk 10:46-52
- 25** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

- 27** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Called to Care Training, 6-6:30pm, social hall
Bible Study, 6:30-7:10pm, Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 29** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 31** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: Patty Stepler
Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-18, Ps 146
Heb 9:11-14 and Mk 12:28-34



