



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

  Grace Notes  

January/ February 2022 Issue

From Pastor Mark's Desk.....

I am writing this article a few days before the New Year. First, I'd like to thank all of the people in the church who helped to make Christmas at Grace a wonderful celebration, especially Susan and Patty and the choir for their work on the Cantata.

As we turn to the New Year, many of us make **New Year Resolutions**. Our Resolutions are kind of like our dreams and hopes for ourselves. I believe it is good to practice discipline and to want to do better in our lives. It's good to have dreams...and it is also good to think of **God's Dreams** for the world...and try to align our lives with them. I think of Jesus' teaching about the "**Kingdom of God**" as being God's Dreams.

As I write these words, I am saddened that we recently lost a great soul in our world, the Bishop Desmond Tutu. I really enjoyed getting to know his story and his joyful way of being. The way he helped the people of South Africa with the **Truth and Reconciliation Process** was definitely God-inspired and God-led. I would comment his book *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*. I have it in my library if you ever want to borrow it!



So, as we begin 2022...here is a quote from that book to get us off to a good start:

“Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end.

I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case.

Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine.

God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now--in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now--through us--because God loves us.”

Praise be to the God of All Our Years! Pastor Mark



From our Consistory President.....

I am thankful for . . .

It is with gratitude and hope for things to come that I send greetings to you and your family as we start the New Year 2022!

It is the time of the year that we look back on the year that has ended. What a busy and productive year it has been! We have been able to worship God in our Church, something I greatly appreciated after having to close our doors at the beginning of the pandemic. We have had Pastor Mark, very dedicated Consistory and Committee chairpersons, and members to guide our efforts. We are truly thankful for these people! We have been able to adjust and continue to provide Grace's Closet, First Saturday Meals, fundraising meals and activities, Bible Studies, our music ministry, and congregational gatherings. We have trained and commissioned our Called to Care team. Thank you all for the support and fellowship we have shared as a congregation and with our community.



We have also completed many projects to maintain the physical building needs at Grace. What began as leaking steam pipes in the downstairs vestibule culminated in the pipes and floor being repaired and new carpeting being laid in that area. The leaking roof was repaired near the bell tower. Then the roof was painted, a job that needs done roughly every 20 years. The ceiling in the vestibule, trim painted, and the carpet on the landings and upper vestibule were completed in time for Christmas services. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents!

2022 promises to be an exciting year as we continue to worship together and serve our community! Old Home Week will be enjoyed in August, and we will start preparing to celebrate our 275th Anniversary in 2023. This year will proceed with the usual meetings and activities required to keep God's church going year to year. If we use our time, talents, and means to reach out God will lead us and bless our efforts.

There are so many things I could add to this letter, but the most important thing is, I AM THANKFUL FOR ALL OF YOU! Let us begin the year in faith and anticipating God's blessings in the New Year. Enjoy and pass them on!

Marg Stouffer
Consistory President

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/>

Activities & Fundraising Committee

Meetings for this committee have been changed to the first Tuesday evening of each month, at 7pm, in the social hall. There will be no meeting in January 2022, our next meeting is scheduled for February 1. We can always use volunteers to help out in many different areas. Please mark your calendar and join us for our next meeting! Everyone is welcomed to attend!

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We have several 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!

Called to Care Committee

Please welcome our new Called to Care commissioned committee members: Kate Kennedy, Lu Miller, Carolyn Shoemaker, Jeff & Marg Stouffer, Sydnae Vanner and Lorna Thomas! They were commissioned on December 12 to help serve the needs of our church. This program is designed by the UCC to help us be better trained in care giving and visitations. Meeting will be held quarterly. This year the meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, in the social hall. The meetings are scheduled for January 11, April 12, July 12 and October 11. These committee members will touch base with Census folks at least once a month. If a need for more training arises, or if others want to join the team, please contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner for more information.

Fundraisers

We are happy to announce the profits we have made through our fundraisers to benefit our church.

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser profits went towards the ministries of our church. After expenses were paid, we earned a profit of \$983. We thank everyone who volunteered their time and made a purchase. We also thank Tracey's Orchard for providing us with the delicious apples at no charge.

Chancel Choir

Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Choir practice normally runs till the end of May. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for practice! Please contact Patty Stepler with any further questions or concerns.

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We are now accepting donations for seasonal items, gently used clothing and household items. We also need volunteers to help sort, tag, greet and keep the downstairs seasonal room clean. If you can help volunteer, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule or contact Nancy Myers for further information.

Prayer Chain

If you are not on our prayer chain, and would like to receive our automated phone messages for prayer needs, please contact church office so we can add you to the list. If anyone would like to request prayers for family or friends, please call us and we will gladly send out the prayer need. You can also express joys, concerns and celebrations through the prayer chain.



Grace Snyder Circle will be holding their annual Pie Sale on February 18. The cost is \$8 per pie. This year we will have cherry & apple pies available. There will be 4 choices available for each flavor: crumb, crumb sugar free, double crust and double crust sugar free. The Guild will be making the pies on February 18th, and they will be available for pick-up the same day between 3 & 6pm (or until all sold out), in the social hall. **Deadline for pre-orders is February 14.** Order forms and boxes to accept orders are located in the front entrance of the church and by the elevator area. A copy of the order form can also be found towards the back of this newsletter. You also drop off orders at the church office, call us, or place your orders in the boxes provided in the vestibule. Payment is due at time of pick. We will accept cash or checks (with valid ID). Checks can be made payable to GUCC. Proceeds benefit the Guild of Grace Snyder Circle. Please call Lorna Thomas or church office for any further details.

First Saturday Free

Community Meal

We are not holding a community meal in January due to the holidays. Our next meal will be on Saturday, February 5, from 11am-1pm. This will be a grab-and-go meal which will include: chicken pot pie, creamy coleslaw, applesauce, and bottled water. Meals can be picked-up by the side entrance near the social hall. Limited quantities will be available.

If you are a homebound church member or in need of a meal delivered, please contact Chet Nye or call Elaine at the church office to make arrangements.

Everyone Welcome. Donations Appreciated.



Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am, in the social hall. Please contact Rev. Mark, or Cathy Keefer for further details about this committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 9th. Everyone is welcome to join us!

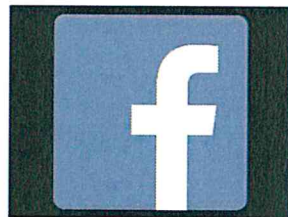
Laundry Love

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. Contact Carolyn Shoemaker with any further questions.

Grace Snyder Circle

Meeting are held on the second Monday of each month, at 1pm, in the social hall. Contact Nancy Myers for further details.

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. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching with us. 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 anytime!

You can 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. You will need your credit card. 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>

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any member news, articles, committee updates or any joys you would like to share with our church family. Deadline to submit articles for our March/April issue of Grace Notes is Tuesday, February 8, at 12 noon. You are welcome to drop off articles at church office or submit through our email.

officegucc@gmail.com



2021 Contribution Reports

If you need a year to date contribution statement for 2021, sign-up sheets are available on the front table in the vestibule. We will have your statements available to be picked up during service on 1/30 (they will be placed in a secure, sealed envelope on the table in the front vestibule), or you can pick them up at the church office, or request them to be mailed. Any requests not picked up by 1/31 will be placed in the mail.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, following worship service. Please submit all your reports to the church office as soon as possible to allow us time to put together the agenda packet. On this day we will also be voting to have Pastor Mark's status changed from Designated Pastor to Settled Pastor, so please plan on attending.

Consistory

Board

Meeting

Next board meeting is scheduled for January 16th, at 8:30am in the social hall. Please keep in touch with board members or church office for any changes due to any inclement weather.

Thank-you Notes

Dear Grace UCC Consistory and Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful mirror and restaurant gift card! Each time I glance in the mirror I see the reflection of Grace Church and your smiling faces, and recall the lovely messages signed on the back. Your thoughtfulness and love is a "gift" I will always treasure. God bless you now and always, Susan Alsip-Lawson

Thank you to the consistory board and all the church members for the surprise mirror and restaurant gift card! The mirror is absolutely beautiful, I'll have to find a special place in my home for it. After the holidays I can relax and enjoy a nice dinner from The Grille at Runways! It was so much appreciated! It's nice to be part of such a great church family! Thank you everyone from the bottom of my heart! Elaine

Grace UCC congregation,
Thank you for the mirror and lovely comments as well as the gift card. It is my pleasure to work with the choir and provide music for the church. Sincerely, Patty Stepler

Thank you note was received from Evangelical Lutheran Church. They greatly appreciated our collection of food donated to their food pantry. Please see their thank you note posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

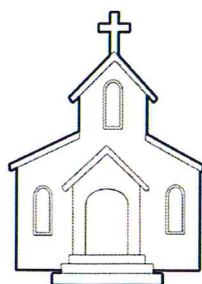
Meritus Pandemic Reflections

Meritus Health is documenting how health care workers are responding to the challenge of the COVID pandemic. The result is Pandemic Reflections, a series of videos featuring everyone from doctors and nurses to chaplains, clerical workers and all the behind-the-scenes staff members who make Meritus work.

Pandemic Reflections is available at:
www.reflections.meritushealth.com, the videos run the gamut of emotions.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8am to 2pm





UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES:

March

Lenten Bible Study
Ash Wednesday
Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale
Scholarship Applications
Easter Flower Orders
One Great Hour of Sharing

April

Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday & Day of Prayer
Easter Sunday

GUCC's financial statement for
4th quarter (October thru December) will be
available in the next newsletter



MEETING MINUTES

Consistory Minutes of Meeting

October 17, 2021

Roll Call: Carolyn Shoemaker, Sydnae Vanner, Chet Nye, Steve Miller, Lu Miller, Pastor Mark Ruzicka, and by telephone Mark Stahl. Absent: Margaret Stouffer, Jeff Stouffer, Larry Stepler

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Steve Miller at 8:32 am.

Devotions: Scripture was read by Pastor Mark Ruzicka.

Work of the church: It was agreed to continue with the current COVID precautions.

Agenda additions and subtractions: None.

Consent Agenda: Motion by C. Shoemaker/ C. Nye to accept the consent agenda passed unanimously.

Information Agenda:

Pastor Mark reported that the couple asking to use the church for a wedding has postponed it until the Fall of 2022. Pastor Mark reminded us that Nov. 28 is the first Sunday of Advent. Decorating of the church will be on Nov. 21 after the service. A light meal will be served after services. Carolyn Shoemaker and Deb Homer will be spearheading the meal. Pastor Mark is asking for December 26 off. We will check with Patty and Susan regarding a service of "Lessons in Carols".

Fundraising: A spaghetti meal will be served on October 23. Tickets are being sold at this time. November 6 is First Saturday Meal. This will be a Thanksgiving meal. Apple dumpling fundraiser will be held on November 19. Orders will be taken with any dumplings left over to be sold at the Christmas Parade the next day.

Activities: Chet reported that Grace's Closet workers have been working diligently in getting the clothing and items reorganized. The tubs that were on the stage have been moved to the seasonal room. At this time the Closet is not taking any new items.

Building and grounds: It was brought to consistory's attention that a new vacuum cleaner is needed in the kitchen area. Carolyn S. and Deb Homer will take the lead on this. The ceiling tile and electric has been completed outside the sanctuary. We have not received the bills for this work yet. The electric work done in the parking lot is completed. The church will pay the bill and be reimbursed by the person who did the damage. Mark's Lawn Care send notice that they will only plow snow in the parking lot. They will no longer do the sidewalk. Steve M reached out to Briar Wingert (who currently does the mowing of the cemetery) to submit a bid to shovel the sidewalks both at the church and at the cemetery. He will also ask to have Ice Melt put down on the sidewalks.

Finance: Grace's Closet will be paying for trash service with money given to the closet from the gentleman who takes the clothing that will not be put out for the next season.

Parking question: We will follow up with Margaret regarding the black SUV.

Grand Point: This is on hold.

Action Agenda:

Parish Nurse: Lorna Thomas and Jan Shafer presented estimates to have a new AED placed outside the sanctuary and to replace the AED currently outside the classrooms in the hallway which is outdated. Ron and Jan Shafer have donated the new AED for outside the sanctuary. A motion by C. Shoemaker/ S. Miller to buy a replacement AED for the one downstairs passed unanimously. There will be training held for administration of the AEDs in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be November 21, 2021 at 8:30 am in the social hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller

Consistory Minutes of Meeting

November 21, 2021

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

Absent: Cathy Keefer

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

Devotions: Scripture was read by Pastor Mark Ruzicka.

Work of the church: It was agreed to continue with the current COVID precautions.

Agenda Additions and Subtractions:

Consent Agenda: A motion to accept the consent agenda by C. Shoemaker/ C. Nye passed unanimously.

Information Agenda:

Pastor Mark: Pastor Mark reminded us that the 275th anniversary of the forming of Grace UCC will be in 2023. It was suggested that a committee be formed to plan for this celebration. Also it was suggested that a committee be formed to celebrate Old Home Week in 2022. It was suggested that the rental fee for use of the social hall be waived for any Old Home Week activities.

Activities and Fundraising committee: They are starting to look into the New Year and plan activities. It was suggested perhaps a musical be planned to benefit the organ fund with possible participants being Cumberland Valley School of Music or perhaps an organ recital.

Building and grounds: The round window above the social hall needs to be scraped and repainted. Bathroom pipes are clogging easily. Signs will be put up to flush toilet paper only. Parking lot wire repair bill was received and paid. When Mr. Schaeffer was contacted about paying we were told to submit it to his insurance company. Margaret will be contacting our insurance company as well as his insurance company. It was suggested that the garages be inspected periodically. Mark S. will speak with the tenant.

Finance: When updating the policies a question was raised if the treasurer and secretary should be bonded. The conference will be contacted for recommendations. Larry Stepler will be asked about periodic audits with the CPA.

Parish Nurse: Both AEDs are in. One will be in the back of the sanctuary and the other will be in the hallway closer to the social hall.

Parking question: It was decided to do nothing about the black SUV parking along the sidewalk as this is a public thorough way.

Facebook marketplace issue: Someone has hacked into the church's Facebook account and posted items for sale. After receiving monies, the items are never sent to the buyer. This issue has been taken care of by changing the password for the account.

Action Agenda:

We received solicitation to have an industrial appraisal done for insurance. After contacting Bitner/Henry Insurance (our insurance carrier) it was decided this was not necessary. A motion by J. Stouffer/ C. Nye to drop the industrial appraisal passed unanimously.

A handout of Wedding, Social Hall use, Consistory Committees & Members was handed out. A motion by M. Stouffer/ S. Miller to accept the Wedding and Rental guidelines passed unanimously.

Heritage Christmas in Greencastle will be held the first two Fridays of December. The Guild will be handing out candy canes. It was suggested to add the Cantata and Christmas Eve services to the message accompanying the candy canes.

On a motion by S. Vanner/ L. Miller, Pastor Mark was asked to be the settled pastor for Grace UCC, starting 2022, which passed unanimously. This will be brought before the congregation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next meeting December 19, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller





GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE is having their Annual Pie Sale! This year we will have cherry & apple pies available! The cost is \$8 per pie. Payment of cash or check (with photo ID) is due at time of pick-up. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. Fill out form below or contact church office at 717-597-2938, Mon-Thurs, 8-2pm to place your order. Thank you for your support!

BAKED PIE CHOICES:

- Cherry or Apple pies
- Crumb, Double Crust
- Sugar Free Crumb, Sugar Free Double Crust

DEADLINE for orders is Monday, February 14, at 12 noon.

PICK-UP is Friday, February 18, from 3 to 6pm (or until all sold), in the social hall at Grace UCC, 128 E. Baltimore St., Greencastle.

***** (detach and return below to church) *****

GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE PIE ORDER FORM

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Cherry: Crumb____ Double Crust____ Crumb Sugar Free____ Dble Crust Sugar Free____

Apple: Crumb____ Double Crust____ Crumb Sugar Free____ Dble Crust Sugar Free____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



1 New Year's Day!

2 10am Communion Sunday, in the Sanctuary
Communion Servers: Ed & Gladys Doyle
Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Gladys Doyle
Reader: Marg Stouffer
Scriptures: Jer 31:7-14, Eph 1:3-14, Jn 1:1-9
Accepting pie pre-orders starting today

3 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Consistory & Committee reports for December are due to church office

5 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
No Chancel Choir rehearsal tonight

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

9 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Jean Rice
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Isa 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17

- 10** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Guild meeting at 1pm, in social hall
Consistory agenda packets will be sent to board members via email this week, once all reports received
- 11** Called to Care, 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
- 16** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Mark Stahl & Kate Kennedy
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Isa 62:1-5, 1 Cor 12:1-11, Jn 2:1-11
- 17** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 19** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 23** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer
Reader: Tony Homer
Scriptures: Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-31;
and Luke 4:14-21
Annual Congregational Meeting following service
- 24** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

- 26** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 28** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 30** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Jean Rice
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Jer 1:4-10, 1 Cor 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30
- 31** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

February

- 1** Activities/Fundraising Committee, 7pm, in social hall
- 2** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 4** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 5** First Saturday Free Community Meal, take-out only,
11am-1pm
- 6** 10am Communion Sunday, in the Sanctuary
Communion Servers: Nancy Myers & TBA
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Isa 6:1-8, 1 Cor 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Consistory & Committee reports for January are
due to church office

- 8** Deadline to submit newsletter articles for our March/April issue of Grace Notes.
- 9** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 11** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 13** 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Jer 17:5-10, 1 Cor 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day**
Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Guild meeting at 1pm, in the social hall
Consistory agenda packets will be sent to board members via email once all reports received
Deadline for Pie pre-orders at 12 noon today
- 16** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 18** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Pie Sale, 3-6pm (or until all sold), in the social hall
- 20** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Jean Rice & Cathy Keefer
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Gen 45:3-11, 1 Cor 15:35-38, Luke 6:27-38
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

- 23** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 25** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 27** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Jean Rice
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Ex 34:29-35, 2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36
- 28** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 30** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

