



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

♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪

November/December
2022 Issue

From the Pastor's Desk.....

As you probably know by now, I love to read and to learn about new books. I recently came across (and subsequently bought) a book called *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* by Jan Richardson. In it, there are blessings for the seasons of the church year. As the Advent and Christmas approach, I wanted to share with you one such blessing.

It is called "Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light."

You probably remember that Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14). Of course, Jesus himself said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) In this season of worldly darkness, we await the coming afresh of the light of God.

I so look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas Eve, holding our candles close, and singing together...that all is calm and all is bright.

I hope you enjoy this prayer.

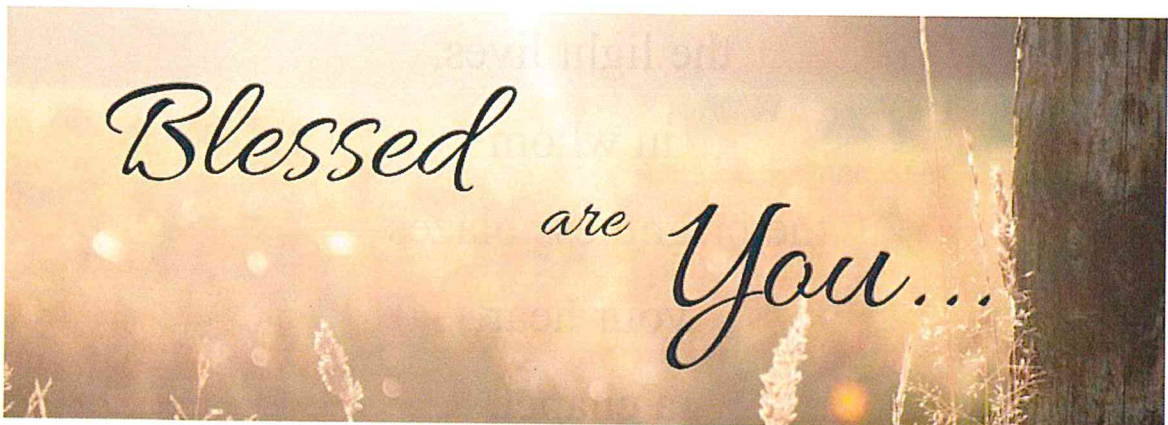
Remember "blessed are you."

Pastor Mark

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,

an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.



Activities & Fundraising Committee

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the social hall at 7pm. We appreciate everyone who can volunteer your time to help us support the ministries of the church. Our next meetings are scheduled for November 1st & December 6th. We need help with our Apple Dumpling Sale and the upcoming First Saturday Free Holiday meals! Please come out and join us or contact Chet for further information.

Called to Care Committee

This committee is trained in care giving and visitations to help us be in better touch to meet the needs of our congregation. We meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10th. Contact Pastor Mark or call the church office for more information about this group.



Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

We enjoy fellowship and refreshments following worship services on the second Sunday of each month.

Join us in the social hall after service on
November 13th, and December 11th.

Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday, at 9am, in the social hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 13th. Please contact Rev. Mark, Cathy Keefer, or church office if you would like further details about this committee. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Grace Snyder Circle

We encourage everyone to come to our guild meetings which are held at 1pm on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 1pm, in the social hall. We miss seeing everyone!

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 2, at 1pm, location to be determined.

Consistory

Board

Meeting

Next board meetings are scheduled for November 20 and December 18, both at 8:30am in the social hall. Please keep in touch with board members or church office for any changes due to upcoming holidays.

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 15, 2023** following worship service. Chairpersons and committee leaders, please start thinking about the annual reports and gather your thoughts and information to submit to the church office at the end of this year.

Chancel Choir

Our beautiful choir sings each week during Sunday services. Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. 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

Starting in November, the Closet will have new Fall/Winter hours. They will be opened on Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We thank everyone for their generous donations. We are in need of gently used, clean, seasonal items for the downstairs room. Donations can be dropped off at the Closet during their open hours. If you would like to volunteer at the Closet, please contact Nancy Myers at 717-360-3021.

Condolences:

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Reverend Ralph S. Geiman. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.



CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We have open spots for Greeters/Ushers, Readers, Communion Servers, and Candle Lighters for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the front vestibule.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

&

CHURCH DECORATING DAY

Following service on November 20th, we will be decorating our church for Advent and the celebration of Christmas! A light meal will be served following worship. Everyone is invited to join us in the joy of decorating and fellowship!



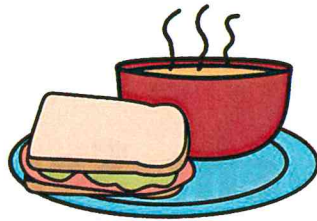
Advent Season

Advent Season will be upon us soon! We need volunteers to light the special advent candles and lead a small reading part during Sunday services from November 27th through December 18th, and on Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, on December 24th. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule if you would like to participate in these special services.



Thank you Everyone!

We thank everyone for their efforts that made our Fall Ham Sandwich & Soup sale a success! We appreciate all our volunteers and everyone who made a purchase to help support the ministries at GUCC! We also thank Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe in Chambersburg for donating the potato sandwich rolls to us! From the proceeds of our sale, we donated \$125 each to the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry and to the food pantry at Evangelical Lutheran Church.



General Elections

GUCC is one of the facilities that Franklin County uses for voting purposes. The 2022 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, and the social hall will be open from 7am to 8pm for those who use this location.

First Saturday Free **Community Meal**

**A Thanksgiving Meal will be provided on
Saturday, November 5, between 11am-1pm**

**Menu includes: turkey, filling gravy,
sweet potatoes, green beans, bottle of water,
and pie for dessert.**

**A Christmas meal will be provided on
Saturday, December 3, between 11am-1pm.**

Menu to be determined.

Meals are Eat-In or Carry-out.

**If you are a homebound church member or feeling
under the weather and need a meal delivered,
please contact Chet Nye to make arrangements.**

*** Everyone Welcome ***

*** Donations Appreciated ***

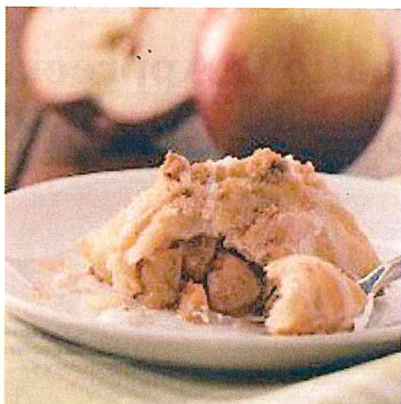
*** Limited Quantities ***



APPLE DUMPLING SALE

Grace United Church of Christ will be holding their annual Apple Dumpling Fundraiser on November 18 & 19. The cost is \$4.50 each. Baked and sugar-free baked dumplings will be available. Order forms and boxes to accept orders can be found on the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator. You can also find an order form towards the back of this newsletter. Deadline to place pre-orders is Monday, November 14, by 12 noon. You can drop off orders at the church office, call us, or place your orders in the boxes that are located by the church entrances.

All pre-orders must be picked-up on Friday, November 18, between 3-6pm, in the social hall. Any extras or orders not picked up will be sold during the morning of the Christmas Parade on November 19, in the front of the church, starting at 8:30am until they are all sold out. Payment is due at time of pick-up. Cash or checks (with photo ID) will be accepted. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. Proceeds benefit our church programs. Call church office or contact Marg Stouffer at (717) 860-7935 with any further questions.



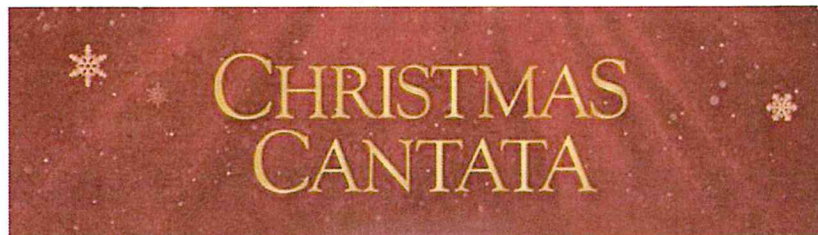
Angel Tree

We plan on having our Angel Tree set up in November. The Angel Tree helps children in our Greencastle community to have a brighter Christmas. The tree will be decorated with numbered Angel ornaments which will include a child's age, gender and gift suggestions listed on the reverse side. Please take an Angel, write your name next to the Angel number you picked (there will be a list near the tree), and start shopping to help a child.

You may wrap your gifts or use decorative bags; just be sure to attach your Angel to the package. The families will then pick-up the gifts before Christmas for their child.

Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions, as she is working with the school district to get a list of children in need, and will advise us of the dates of this special gift giving opportunity.

We thank you personally for helping the Greencastle Community by making the children happy!



We are planning our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 18th, at our 10am worship service. Contact Patty Stepler for further details. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us together as we gather and enjoy this beautiful Cantata service!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Join us for our beautiful Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7pm in the Sanctuary. The sanctuary will be decorated for the celebration of Christmas. Invite family and friends! Poinsettias can be picked up after our service. Have a Blessed Christmas Day!



Christmas Day Worship

There will be no worship service held on Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day. Enjoy this day with your family and friends!
Jesus is the reason for this season!

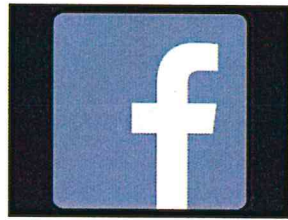


Christmas Poinsettias



If you wish to place a Christmas Poinsettia in dedication or in honor of a loved one, we will be accepting orders during worship service on **November 6, 13, and 20**. The cost is \$10.50 for a 6 1/2" potted red poinsettia (1 plant per pot). An order form can be found towards the back of this newsletter, and additional forms will be available in the vestibule and by the elevator area along with special envelopes. You can place your orders in the collection plates during the above listed services or drop them off at the church office during the week. **Deadline to order is November 21, by 12 noon.** Payment is due at time of ordering. Please make checks payable to Grace UCC. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for dedication during our Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Dec 24. You will be able to pick-up your poinsettias after worship or call the church office at 717-597-2983 to make other arrangements.

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!

Live Streaming of Worship

Live streaming of our services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who are unable to attend worship.

You can find us at:

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



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>

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. We received a total of \$40 for NIN 'Behold' offering during October, which has been sent to Penn Central Conference UCC for their focus on an economic justice through a faith lens.



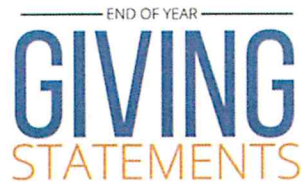
Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund

The United Church of Christ has been caring for active and retired clergy, along with lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years. They provide emergency grants and supplementation of small annuities and health premiums and Christmas thank you gift checks each December to their lower income retirees. **We will be receiving offerings for this Christmas Veterans and Emergency Fund on December 18.** Special Christmas Offering envelopes from the UCC will be available on the front tables in the vestibule and elevator area in the beginning of December.

2023 Boxed Offering Envelopes



Look for your new 2023 offering envelopes toward the end of December. They will be placed on the table in the front of the vestibule when available. They will be labeled with your name and address on the outside of the box. Once received, please verify this information is spelled correctly on the label and discard your old envelopes. Contact church office for any questions.



2022 Contribution Reports

Year to date contribution statements will be available at the end of January. Look for the sign-up sheets in the beginning of January 2023. More details in our next newsletter.

Newsletter Deadline

Do you have anything you would like to share in our next newsletter? Members are welcome to submit any announcements, joys, news, articles or committee updates to share with our church family. **Deadline** to submit articles for our **Jan/Feb issue** of Grace Notes is Tuesday, **December 13**, at 12 noon. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email: gucc128@outlook.com



Member Birthday's

November

11/3 – Gladys Doyle
11/5 – Ruth Kennedy
11/12 – Mark Stahl
11/16 – Shania Hahn
11/19 – Debi Pirtle
11/21 – Betty Fisher
11/24 – Nellie Stahl

December

12/11 – Tina Thomas
12/16 – Carolyn Shoemaker
12/18 – Ron Shafer
12/22 – Tim Bryan



Office Hours

Church Office will be closed on the following days:

November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

December 26 (observed Christmas Day)

January 2 (observed New Year's Day)



UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 15, 2023

Annual Congregational Meeting

February:

Annual Pie Sale

Easter Tulip Orders

Scholarship Applications Available



**MEETING
MINUTES**

CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2022

ROLL CALL: Pastor Mark, Jeff Stouffer, Deb Homer, Larry Stepler, Carolyn Shoemaker, Cathy Keefer Chet Nye. Ron Shaffer and Nancy Myers were invited to attend.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYERS: None as time restraint on guest speaker.

CONSENT AGENDA: These were reviewed by each member on their own time and no motions to pass were not done due to length of security discussion by Curt Wood.

PRESENTATION BY CURT WOOD REGARDING SECURITY IN THE CHURCH

Curt Wood is a member of The Otterbein Church in Waynesboro and he is on the security team there. He spent 29 ½ years as a Hagerstown Police Officer and was kind enough to visit Grace UCC and suggest measures to protect our church family, i.e., be aware with regards to new attendees and anything out of the norm. An enlightening discussion with Curt pursued and numerous suggestions were made with the consideration of a push button either in the pulpit or back at the boards, tighter security measures of the exterior doors, and removal of the front door key from the hook to a hidden location. Further discussion of the development of a safety team will be made at a later date.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Pastor Mark: He stated two new members, Kate Kennedy and Mary Lou Bryan, are being taken in on August 28th with a reception following. The picnic is scheduled for September 11th with worship prior to. He also mentioned that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year and we may want to consider not having a service since we'll have a beautiful Christmas Eve Service.

Fundraising & Activities: Ham sandwich and soup sale is September 15th and the First Saturday Free Community Meal is on October 1.

Building & Grounds: New paint & flooring in men's bathroom and the round parking lot window will be repaired.

Finance Committee: Larry presented a detailed review of the church's assets and expenses. The money in the IMA account was hit due the stock market but is rebounding but is still down about \$29,000.00 for this year. It was noted that utilities costs exceeded 2021 by 29.8%. Savings were made to due insurance change and cemetery care.

ACTION AGENDA: We are to think of new members to come on consistory for 2023 as the annual meeting will be held on January 15, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting is September 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathy Keefer, Secretary

<p style="text-align: center;">Grace United Church of Christ Statement of Financial Income and Expenses 3rd Quarter - July-Sept 2022</p>

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$1,268.59
Income	\$27,249.53
Expense	\$23,648.01
Ending Balance	\$4,870.11

Building/Outreach/Fundraising/Account:

Beginning Balance	\$5,013.47
Income	\$3,799.78
Expense	\$5,064.11
Ending Balance	\$3,749.14

Organ Fund Account:

Beginning Balance	\$41,091.53
Income	\$651.00
Expense	\$3,361.53
Ending Balance	\$38,381.00

German Reformed Cemetery Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,495.30
Income	\$0.00
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** Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, in social hall
- 2** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 5** First Saturday Free Thanksgiving Community Meal
in the social hall, 11-1pm
- 6** 10am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary
Six Word Statement of Faith: Deb Homer
Communion Servers: Nancy Myers & TBA
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & TBA
Reader: Nancy Myers
Scriptures: Hag 1:15b-2:9, 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17,
Luke 20:27-38
Poinsettia orders being accepted during service, you
can place them in offering plate or drop off at office
during the week
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Consistory & Committee Reports Due for month of October
- 8** General Elections, 7am-8pm, in social hall

- 9** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 13** 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Six Word Statement of Faith: TBA
Greeters/Ushers: Sydnae Vanner & Jim Thomas
Reader: Patty Stepler
Scriptures: Isa 65:17-25, 2 Thess 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19
Poinsettia orders being accepted during service, you
can place them in offering plate
Refreshments & Fellowship held in the social hall after service
- 14** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Deadline for Apple Dumpling Orders, due by 12 noon
Grace Synder Circle, 1pm, in the social hall
- 16** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 18** Apple Dumpling Sale, pick-up from social hall, 3-6pm
- 19** Apple Dumpling Sale, extras being sold in front of
church starting at 8:30am till sold out
- 20** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in the social hall
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Six Word Statement of Faith: TBA
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Jer 23:1-6, Col 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43
Poinsettia orders being accepted during service, you
can place them in offering plate
Annual Luncheon and Christmas Decorating after service

- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Deadline for Poinsettia orders. Drop off all orders with payment to church office by 12 noon today
- 23** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 24 Thanksgiving Day**
Church Office Closed for the holiday
- 27** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
First Sunday of Advent – We light the Hope candle
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & TBA
Reader: Nancy Myers
Advent Candle Lighter: TBA
Advent Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:36-44
- 28** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 30** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary



- 3** First Saturday Free Holiday Meal, 11-1pm, social hall

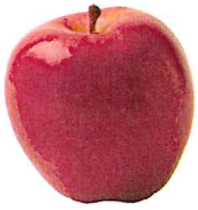
- 4** 10am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary
Second Sunday of Advent – We light Peace candle
Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker
Reader: Patty Stepler
Advent Candle Lighter: Carolyn Shoemaker
Advent Reader: Nancy Myers
Communion Servers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker
Scriptures: Isa 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-13, Matt 3:1-12
- 5** Consistory & Committee Reports due for November
- 6** Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, in social hall
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 11** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Third Sunday of Advent – We light the Joy candle
Guest Preacher: Pastor Carole Kipe
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer
Reader: Tony Homer
Advent Candle Lighter: Deb Homer
Advent Reader: Tony Homer
Scriptures: Isa 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matt 11:2-11
Refreshments & Fellowship following worship in the social hall
- 12** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Grace Snyder Circle Christmas Party, 1pm, location TBA
- 13** **Deadline to submit newsletter articles** for our
Jan/Feb issue of Grace Notes

- 14** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 18** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall
10am Cantata Service, in the Sanctuary
Fourth Sunday of Advent – We light the Love candle
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Advent Candle Lighter: TBA
Advent Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Isa 7:10-16, Rom 1:1-7, Matt 1:18-25
- 19** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 24** 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve – We light the candle of Christ
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Advent Candle Lighter: Patty Stepler
Advent Reader: Patty Stepler and/or Mckynzie Cannon
Scriptures: Isa 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14
Poinsettias on display are dedicated to our loved ones and
can be picked up following worship
- 25 Christmas Day – No Worship Services**
- 26** Church Office Closed
Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

28 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

31 New Year's Eve





GRACE UCC

Apple Dumpling Orders

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Enter number of dumplings you would like to order:

_____ Baked

_____ Baked, Sugar-Free

Cost is **\$4.50 per dumpling**. Payment of cash or check (with photo ID) is due at time of pick-up. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC.

Deadline for pre-orders is **Monday, November 14, 2022** at 12 noon.

Pick-up for ***ALL pre-orders*** is **Friday, November 18**, between 3 & 6pm, in the Social Hall at Grace United Church of Christ, 128 E. Baltimore St., Greencastle. **Extras will be sold** during the morning of the Christmas Parade, on **November 19**, in the front of the church, starting at 8:30am till they are all sold out.

Proceeds benefit church programs. *Any Questions?* Contact the church office at (717) 597-2983 or Marg Stouffer at (717) 860-7935.

2022 Poinsettia Order Form



Anyone wishing to place a Poinsettia in dedication to a loved one needs to fill out this form. Place orders in offering plate (with envelope provided) during service on November 6, 13, 20 or return to church office by 12 noon on Nov 21. Please **PRINT**. Payment is due with your order.

6 ½" Red Poinsettia Cost: \$10.50 each

I would like to order _____ Poinsettia(s)

Name of Family Dedication is from: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS NOVEMBER 21, 2022 @ 12 NOON

Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC

*May your
Christmas be
bright & merry,
and
may you be blessed,
happy,
and healthy
in 2023!*

