

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

JJGRACE NOTES JJ

May/June 2023 Issue

From the Pastor's Desk......

On April 30, we will honor our long term (50 plus year) members and also have a time of Re-Committing ourselves to the church. When I was thinking of what a "recommitment" would look like and mean...I thought of this "Covenant Prayer" in the Wesleyan Tradition. As you read it...you will see that it basically affirms that the whole wide range of life experiences are OK...as long as it is <u>for and with</u> the Lord. I share this prayer with you...in the hopes that it could be useful to you personally and to us together as Grace UCC. In Christ, Pastor Mark

I am no longer my own, but Yours.

Put me to what You will, place me with whom You will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for You or set aside for You,

Praised for You or criticized for You.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to Your glory & service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

The sign-up sheets for our Greeters/Ushers, Readers and Communion servers are on the tables for May & June. Please look at them after worship service and sign-up for a Sunday or two! If you have not volunteered before, and would like more information, please contact the church office or any board members for further details. We appreciate all who help us during service!

Activities & Fundraising Committee

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. We changed the meeting location from the social hall to the meeting room. We appreciate anyone who can volunteer time to help us support the ministries of the church. Our next meetings are scheduled for May 2nd and June 6th.

Our **third annual sidewalk sales Church yard sale** will be held July 7th and 8th in the social hall. We will begin taking donations at the church the week of June 12th. If you can help us sort and organize, please see Marg Stouffer.



Our condolences to the Fisher Family, as Betty Fisher has recently passed away. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Shirley Stenger, as Shirley has passed away.

Our prayers are with you.

May the *ove* of those around you help you through the days ahead.

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 May 14th & June 11th.

Called to Care Committee

This committee meets quarterly throughout the year. They are trained in caregiving and visitations to help with the pastoral care of our church. Their quarterly meetings are held on Sunday mornings before worship services. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 23, at 8:30am. If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, please contact Rev. Ruzicka or Sydnae Vanner.



Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday, at 9am, in the meeting room. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14. Please contact Rev. Mark, Marg Stouffer, or the church office if you would like further details about this committee.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Chancel Choir

Our beautiful choir sings each week during Sunday service. Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. The banquet will be held on May 17th. This will be the last choir event/practice for the season. The choir will continue performing anthems during Sunday services till May 28. Please see Patty Stepler for any further questions. We thank the choir for a wonderful season!

Consistory Board Meeting

Next board meetings are scheduled for May 21st and June 18th, both beginning at 8:30am in the meeting room. Please keep in touch with board members or church office for any changes in these dates.

Grace Snyder Circle

They are holding their annual Family In Christ Banquet on May 8, in the social hall. There will be no meetings held during the summer months, they will resume in the fall.

Family In Christ Banquet

The Guild is planning their annual banquet on May 8. The banquet is open to men, women, children, family & friends. A catered meal will be held in our social hall, at a cost of \$22.50 per person. Doors open at 6pm, the meal will begin at 6:30pm. Our entertainment for the evening will be a performance by David Reeder. If you haven't made your reservations yet, contact Nancy Myers as soon as possible.

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

We are open Monday & Wednesday, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We accept donations of gently used, clean clothing for infants to adults. Donations can be dropped off at the Closet during their open hours. The Closet will be closed on May 29 for the Memorial Holiday. Please contact Nancy Myers at 717-360-3021 if you have any further questions.

First Saturday Free Community Meal

Free Community Meals are held on the first Saturday of the month, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall.

You can eat-in or request a take-out container.

Menu for May 6:

hot dogs with chili or sauerkraut, apple sauce, chips & bottled water

Menu for April 1:

baked potato bar with fixings, apple sauce & bottled water

If you are homebound church member or in need of a meal delivered, please contact Chet Nye so he can make arrangements.

- * Everyone Welcomed *
- * Donations Appreciated *
 - * Limited Quantities *



We thank everyone for their efforts that made our Spring 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 \$340 to the food pantry at Evangelical Lutheran Church.

GUCC Scholarships:

Our scholarship committee members are reviewing 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.

Municipal Primary Elections

GUCC is one of the facilities that Franklin County uses for voting purposes. The 2023 Municipal primary elections will be held on Tuesday, May 16. The the social hall will be open from 7am to 8pm for those who use this location.

Upcoming Fundraiser

We are preparing for our 3rd Annual <u>Hidden Treasures Yard Sale!!!</u> It will be held Friday, July 7, from 8am to 4pm & Saturday, July 8, from 8am to 2pm. We are accepting donations beginning the week of June 12th Monday through Thursday, from 9:00am till 12noon.

Ideas of things to donate . . .

Decorations

Linens/bedding

Seasonal items

Table cloths/placemats

Kitchen items

Childrens toys

Bath items

Puzzles

Purses/backpacks/luggage

Wall art

Carpet runners

Sports items

Outdoor items (lawn games, camping)

Lamps/lighting

Dish and glassware sets, no odds and ends please.

Some small furniture - please check with Marg.

We are not accepting clothing or books for the sale

PLEASE CLEAN AND MAKE SURE ITEMS ARE IN WORKING ORDER.

We need helpers July 5^{th} and 6^{th} to sort, clean and organize donations. Please sign-up on the form by the elevator and vestibule.

\$5 Bagged Lunches will be available during our Yard Sale days! Lunch will include a pork tenderloin sandwich, bag of chips, brownie, and bottle of water. Meals will be take-out only.



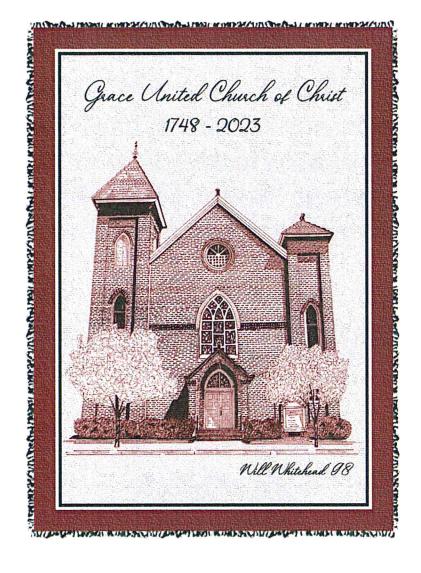
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

We are celebrating 275 years at Grace

In celebration of our 275 years serving the Greencastle community, Pastor Mark, is preaching on the Heidelberg Catechism throughout the year. We had an article about our history and work in the community that was shared in the local papers back in February. We plan on having a presentation in late summer or early fall by Jack Webb. Jack spends a great amount of time researching, restoring, and caring for the German Reformed Cemetery on S. Carlisle Street. He's working on a 2nd edition of his German Reformed Cemetery book. The updated edition will be shared on our website once completed for everyone to enjoy.

On Sunday, September 24, we will have a special worship service, catered dinner, and presentation by Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call. Saturday, December 9 at 4pm, we will have a Holiday Concert. A variety of area musicians will share their talents.

We are selling a commemorative **275**th **Anniversary Throw** to help with the cost of our events. This will have a picture of the church, 275th Anniversary, church name, and the dates 1748 -2023, size 48" x 68", red brick and cream in color, and 2 1/2 ply. A sample is displayed at the church (also pictured on following page). The cost is \$60 each. Order forms are available on the front table in the vestibule and elevator area. Orders with payment can be dropped off at the church office during the week, or see Jan Shafer before or after worship services.



A beautiful oak, engraved wall hanging by Jeff Stouffer will be available through a silent auction. It has the same 275th Anniversary information as stated above for the throw.

We will keep you informed through email and mailings and in the Sunday bulletins. Feel free to ask questions to any of the committee members. Additional information will also be available on our website.

We thank Pastor Mark, Bob Gearhart, Jan Shafer, Nancy Myers, Patty Stepler, Lorna Thomas, Jeff Stouffer, Marg Stouffer(chairperson) for working on all these events.

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.

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

You can find us at:

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

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

Envelope Fundraiser- April 1 through May 31

We are off to a great start with our envelope fundraiser. Here is how it works. In the main hallway, you will find a red display board with envelopes numbered from 1 to 100. All you need to do is choose and remove as many envelopes as you wish. Put a check or cash in the envelope to match the number on the outside of the envelope. Return the envelopes to the church office or place them in the offering plate on Sunday. Please put your name and offering envelope numbers on the backside of your envelopes so your donation can be credited. All envelopes are to be returned by May 31st. Let's continue having fun with choosing your envelopes by picking numbers that have special meanings to you, such as a birthday, anniversary, etc. Contact Marg or church office if you have any questions.

This committee has been working hard planning events throughout 2023 to celebrate our 275 years of serving the Greencastle community. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, at 9am, in the meeting room. Anyone interested in getting more involved is welcome to join us. Contact Marg Stouffer for more information.

Strengthen the Church Offering

Strengthen the Church Offering (STCO) supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfil 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 "On Holy Ground".

STC Offering will be received on Sunday, May 28, 2023.



Member Birthday's

May

5/13 – Tom Stine 5/18 – Roy Thomas 5/23 – Joann Snider 5/26 – Jeff Stouffer

<u>June</u>

6/12 – Ron Myers
6/17 – Kate Kennedy
6/17 - Barry Shoemaker
6/18 – Lorna Thomas
6/19 – Kermit Hicks
6/21 – Deb Homer
6/21 - Rashaw Alston
6/22 – Ben Thomas
6/26 – Joseph Koons

July

We have a very special birthday coming up... Ethel Fisher will turn 100 on July 26!



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 July/Aug issue of Grace Notes is Thursday, June 15th, at 12 noon. You are welcome to drop off articles at church office or submit through our email at: gucc128@outlook.com

Office Hours

Mon-Thur 8am-2pm Church Office will be closed on Memorial Day – May 29





UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES:

July 7 & 8:

3rd Annual Hidden Treasures Church Yard Sale & Bagged Lunches

Summer or Early Fall:

Presentation by Jack Webb on German Reformed Cemetery

Sept:

Church Picnic
Special Worship Service – 9/24
Silent Auction of Commemorative Oak Plaque
Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale

Nov:

Annual Apple Dumpling Sale



CONSISTORY MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Cathy Keefer.

ROLL CALL: Cathy Keefer, Carolyn Shoemaker, Pastor Mark, Lorna Thomas, Tim Bryan, Chet Nye, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, and guest Mark Stahl.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Psalm 139.

CHURCH WORK: Cathy welcomed new members Tim Bryan and Ron Shafer.

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from January Consistory meeting, special Consistory meeting after Congregational meeting and Treasurer's report were approved unanimously on a Carolyn / Tim motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

<u>Activities/Fundraising</u> – Chet reported ham sandwich soup sale coming up March 9th. Since Chet will be busy with Mildred's recovery from surgery, Carolyn, Cathy and Lorna will be in charge of First Saturday meal in March.

<u>Building and Grounds</u> – Mark reported that insurance company did a walk through the church and found these things that must be fixed by May 3, 2023:

- 1. Repair gutter downspout on the left side to prevent water damage to the left side of building. Checking if we can take gutter out high so water doesn't run down next to building.
- 2. Push Matic breaker protection needs up dated, Mark is checking on this.
- 3. Roof shingles are lifted and missing, need to get contractor to make repairs.
- 4. Roofing shingles show signs of deterioration and slight curling, also need contractor to make repairs.

If someone sees repairs that need to be done, please tell someone on the committee, so repairs can be made.

Finance Committee -

- 1. The decision was made to continue having Elaine, Larry and Jeff endorse checks.
- 2. The decision was made to add monthly tithes in bulletin along with weekly tithes, as some members make monthly tithes instead of weekly tithes.
- 3. Mike Evans has emailed Larry that the \$200 a month repayment will start back up on March 15.

<u>Worship and Spiritual Life</u> – Lenten Bible Study will begin Wednesday February 22, with a meal starting at 5:30. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew.

Lenten Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes will start at 6:00, then Bible Study.

Easter Sunrise Service to be held at church cemetery on South Carlisle Street, with breakfast to follow at church.

Update on 275th plans, article to come out in Tuesday's Echo Pilot, Record Herald and Public Opinion.

April 30th Recommitment and Recognition of 50+ years members.

Checking on YouTube subscription and summer worship music.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

- 1. Reports are due by Monday before the next Consistory meeting so Elaine can get packets together.
- 2. The "Parking for church only" sign was removed. The business owner who pays us for use of parking lot said her customers didn't want to use parking lot.
- 3. Received a letter from UV Stems regarding weekly alter flowers. Decided to keep using silk flowers and asking if Guild would be interested in redoing some of the older arrangements.
- 4. Consistory meeting moved to smaller room to avoid heating Social Hall.
- 5. Talk to Steve about streaming services.
- 6. Trying to get a new light configuration for the pulpit. The clip light poses a problem when people are walking up there.

7. Need a list of committees and chairs to be distributed to Consistory members.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting - March 19, 2023, at 8:30

Respectively Submitted by Deborah Homer, Secretary

CONSISTORY MEETING

MARCH 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Cathy Keefer.

ROLL CALL: Cathy Keefer, Carolyn Shoemaker, Pastor Mark Ruzicka, Lorna Thomas, Tim Bryan, Chet Nye, Ron Shafer and Deb Homer, guest Jeff Stouffer.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Psalm 34 and gave a short prayer.

CHURCH WORK:

CONSENT AGENDA: February meeting minutes were reviewed and change made to explain parking lot. They are not paying rent the money is to be used for parking lot repair. Minutes and Treasurer's where approved on a Ron/Chet motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising Committee: — Chet thanked everyone for help with First Saturday meal and soup/sandwich sale. Soup/ sandwich sale made \$3500.00, with 10% of that going to food pantry in Lutheran Church. April first Saturday lunch will be breakfast for lunch, May is hot dogs and June is a baked potato bar.

<u>Scholarship Committee:</u> – Lorna reported that none of the scholarship applications have come back yet, they usually come in near the end of the time which is April 1st.

Building and Grounds -

1. Tim reported on the asbestos removal estimates, Conservative Environmental Services, Inc. bid was \$11,985, and Baxter Environmental Group, Inc. bid was \$7,452. It was decided on a Lorna /Chet motion to accept Baxter Environmental Group proposal to remove asbestos from the basement and janitor's closet. Larry is working on where the money is coming from to fund this project; \$2,484 is needed as down payment and \$4,968 at completion. We need

to clean out those areas before work can be done. Work to start April 17, 2023 and will take five days to complete. Grace's Closet will be closed and we need to make arrangements for Elaine that week. We will let The Shop and the Consignment Shop know and they can make decision on their businesses. The air will be filtered before it is released outside.

- 2. Mark is still working on Push Matic breaker protection system.
- 3. Getting 2 proposals to complete work on garages and spouting so action was tabled until next month.
- 4. Maintenance contracts for HVAC system from Premier HVAC and Leckron's Comfort Solutions are being looked at and we will discuss next month.
- 5. Tim and Barry are looking into new faucet for kitchen, as it is leaking.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

- 1. Talk to Steve about getting a list of everyone who has keys and codes to church and office.
- 2. Carolyn and Sydnae had meeting about Laundry Love and are hoping to start April 11th, with doing one month on Tuesday evening and the next month Thursday morning for three hours. We are giving everyone the same amount, \$12 in a baggie.
- 3. Would like the heat turned on in bathrooms for Sunday morning service. Tim is looking into getting programmable thermostats.
- 4. Trinity Security wants to talk to us about installing cameras for security. We feel we don't need any at this time and can't afford it right now.
- 5. Possible review of guidelines for use of church for members and nonmembers was tabled at this time.
- 6. Talk to Elaine and Kate about getting website updated.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:32 with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting - April 16, 2023 at 8:30

Respectively Submitted by Deborah Homer, Secretary

Grace United Church of Christ Quarterly Statement of Financial Income and Expense Report 1st Quarter - Jan to March 2023

<u>General</u>	Operating	Account:
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General Operating Account.						
Beginning Balance	\$3,809.43					
Income	\$28,267.57					
Expense	\$31,797.81					
Ending Balance	\$279.19					
Building Management Account:						
Beginning Balance	\$3,448.94					
Income	\$20,051.05					
Expense	\$13,416.69					
Ending Balance	\$10,083.30					
ber						
<u>Organ/Memorial</u> ,	/Trust Account:					
Organ/Memorial, Beginning Balance	<u>/Trust Account:</u> \$47,568.57					
Beginning Balance	\$47,568.57					
Beginning Balance Income	\$47,568.57 \$53,823.08					
Beginning Balance Income Expense	\$47,568.57 \$53,823.08 \$51,531.32 \$49,860.33					
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance	\$47,568.57 \$53,823.08 \$51,531.32 \$49,860.33					
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance Special Account (Outreach/O	\$47,568.57 \$53,823.08 \$51,531.32 \$49,860.33 ther Non-Operating Funds)					
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance Special Account (Outreach/O Beginning Balance	\$47,568.57 \$53,823.08 \$51,531.32 \$49,860.33 ther Non-Operating Funds) \$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.)



- Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm 1
- Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, social hall 2
- Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm 3 Chancel choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 1st Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall 6
- 9am 275th Anniversary Planning Committee, meeting room 7 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Communion Servers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:20-23, Matthew 25:32-46

- Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm 8 Family In Christ Banquet, meal served at 6:30pm
- 10 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary

14 Happy Mother's Day

9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee Mtg, social hall 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13, Genesis 1:1-5

Refreshments & Fellowship after service in social hall

- **15** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Consistory reports for April due to church office
- 16 Municipal Primary Elections, 7am-8pm, social hall
- 17 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir banquet, 7:15pm, location TBD
- 21 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in the meeting room 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Genesis 26:3-4, Matthew 9:1-17

- 22 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 24 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 28 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Daniel 12, Philippians 1:18-26 & 3:12-4:1 Strengthen the Church Offering being received today

29 Memorial Day Grace's Free Closet & Church office is closed for the holiday



- 3 1st Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall
- **4** 10am Worship with communion, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Communion Servers: TBA

Scriptures: Acts 16:16-40, 1 John 2:1-2

- **5** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 6 Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, social hall
- **7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- **11** Educational Sunday

10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Galatians 5:16-26, John 15:1-22

Refreshments & Fellowship after service in social hall

- 12 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Consistory Reports for May due to church office Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- **13** Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 14 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- **15** Deadline for Newsletter articles for the July/Aug issue Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- **18** Happy Father's Day

8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in meeting room 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Hebrews 10:1-18, 1 Peter 1:17-25

- **19** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- **20** Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 21 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance

- **22** Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 25 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary

Guest Preacher: TBA Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Exodus 2, Romans 6:1-14

- 26 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 27 Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 28 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
 Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance
- 29 Accepting yard sale donations, from 9-12noon, by social hall entrance

