

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



September/October 2024 Issue

From the Pastor's Desk.....

I decided to have a Sermon Series for September. It is based on the book called *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships* by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan. This book is about helping people in our churches to move past the fear of inviting or sharing our faith with others...and moving toward an active, passionate missionary lifestyle.

The reason I chose this one is because many people are asking how the church can grow in the environment in which we find ourselves these days. One thing that seems true to me is that we can't keep waiting for people to arrive at our doors; that doesn't seem to be working well. The other thing that seems true is that we need help to learn to invite others to worship and church events. The author Bob Farr (a United Methodist Pastor) quotes the statistic that, on average, each Methodist member invites someone to come to worship once every 38 years! We can do better than that!

So, here are the dates and sermon titles of the 4-week series:

September 8

(our combined worship and picnic with Church of the Apostles): "Do You Know Your Own Story?"

September 15: "The Person Behind the Need"

September 22: "Being an Everyday Christian"

September 29: "Are You Prepared?"

I hope you will enjoy the series and that we all learn together how best to steward the church we have been given...and help it to be as healthy and thriving as possible. As the saying goes, "we are stronger together."

In Christ, Pastor Mark

PS: I heard this powerful phrase the other day: If you have ever left your house, you've been on a mission trip!



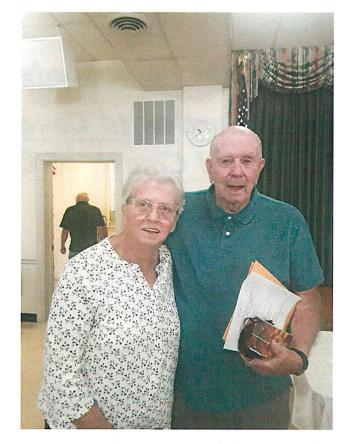


We welcome our newest church members, Tom & Betsy Green and Stacy Schweitzer! We have been seeing their happy smiles during worship and various events. We appreciate their kindness, and we are blessed they have joined our church family! Welcome!

We have added their contact information to our church directly. If anyone needs an updated copy, please contact the church office.



(new member reception)



Welcome Betsy & Tom Green



Cathy Keefer welcomes Stacy Schweitzer

Wednesday Night Book Study Group:

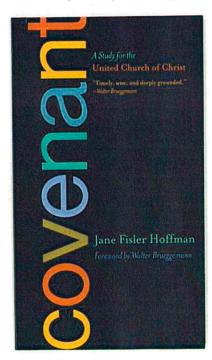
"An Introduction to Covenant and the United Church of Christ"

Beginning on September 11, Pastor Mark will lead a BOOK GROUP on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm in the Chapel. This study is an opportunity to learn about the United Church of Christ.

The group will use JANE FISLER HOFFMAN'S book, COVENANT: A STUDY FOR THE UCC which begins with the UCC pamphlet WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE then moves into the book which contains 3 to 4 page chapters followed by discussion questions for each of the THOUGHT-PROVOKING SESSIONS that explore the concept of covenant as it relates to the Hebrew Testament, Jesus, God, the UCC Heritage, the wider UCC, and more!

The 8-week study will conclude on October 30th.

Call Elaine at the Church Office (717-597-2983) to register and to let us know if you want us to order the Covenant Book (\$8 on Amazon) or see the sign-up sheets in the front vestibule and elevator area. (We already have the pamphlets). Hope to see you there!

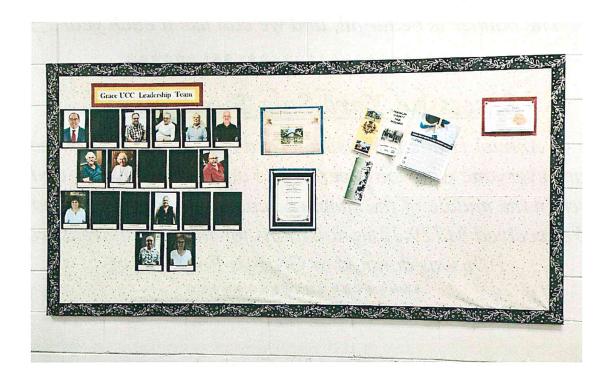


ORGAN FUNDRAISING / REFURBISHING

We reached our goal of \$62,000 for the organ project! We thank everyone for their donations making these repairs possible! The refurbishing of our Moller Organ will begin sometime in 2025, and it will take 3 to 6 months to complete. This two manual pipe organ was GUCC's 3rd Moller Organ which was dedicated in 1953. It uses the church's original 1880 organ pipes. For more organ history check out our website!

New Church Bulletin Board

You will find a <u>new bulletin board</u> located in the lower hallway, just outside Pastor Mark's office. We are placing pictures of our GUCC leadership team on the board so you can get to know them; plus, you will find information about our upcoming events, fundraisers, bible studies, church or community news and more, so be sure to check the board often. Thank you to Marg for putting this together for us!





Good News: Social Seniors is being restarted this Fall!

In the past, this was a gathering of folks from Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Trinity (State Line), and Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro). Currently, we are including folks from Grace UCC (in Greencastle). We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at one of our different churches. Generally, we meet at 2pm for fellowship, have some snacks, and then enjoy a different program each month. On September 11th, we will be meeting at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro and the program will be "having fun with games." If you are a senior, consider coming...it should be great!

Appreciation

We thank our First Saturday Free Meal Committee for donating funds to cover the cost of our new yard sale banner. The banner is beautiful, and we can use it each year!

Successful Yard Sale Fundraising

Our 4th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale was a great success.

We thank everyone who volunteered and donated their time and items.

Even in the middle of the summer heat we had a great turnout!

We received \$1729.22 in donations for the hidden treasures.

10% was donated to Grace's Free Closet.

<u>Wi-Fi Password:</u> If you need our Wi-Fi guest password to access the internet during church services, please see any of our ushers and they will gladly provide you with this information.



Bill Storms & Emory Stahl just celebrated their 90th birthdays in August. They thank everyone for their cards and birthday wishes. They appreciated everyone who was able to join them in their celebrations as they shared cake and ice cream. It really made their day as they enjoyed the fellowship!





Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic

Please be sure you sign-up for our combined outdoor worship and picnic so we get a head count for how much chicken to order! Sign-up sheets are located in the front vestibule and elevator area or give Elaine a call at the office, and she will mark you down! Thank you!



Everyone is Invited.....

The Mercersburg Association

of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ and

the congregation of

Church of the Apostles

invite you to the Service of Installation on behalf of

the Rev. Mark Ruzicka

September 22, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary of Church of the Apostles 336 Barnett Ave Waynesboro, PA 17268

Clergy are invited to robe and process; the color of the day is red.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

Our volunteer spots have been filled for September and October. We appreciate and thank all our volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a greeter/usher, reader or communion server, please contact any board member or church office for further information. Thank you!!

Laundry Love

The committee is planning some dates for the fall. We will keep you posted. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee helps plan our fundraisers and other ministries of our church. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, except for the summer months. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3rd, at 7pm, in the meeting room. We would love to have some new volunteers join us! Please contact Chet or Marg if you would like further information about volunteering! Thank you.

Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

This is a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy good conversations and fellowship in our social hall following worship service. We will not be holding refreshments in September, instead, we are holding our combined outdoor service and picnic at the Church of the Apostles on September 8th. We will be back in our social hall on October 13th. Please contact Carolyn Shoemaker if you can volunteer to provide and serve the monthly refreshments.

Called to Care Committee

This committee helps with the pastoral care of our members. They have been trained in caregiving and visitations to help meet the needs of our members. This group meets quarterly. The next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, October 24, from 3-4pm, in the meeting room. If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, please contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.



Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

This committee works with and supports the pastor to provide meaningful worship, social events, and meet the needs of the congregation. Meetings are held by-monthly or as needed. If you would like further information about this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 6th, at 8:30am, in the meeting room. If you would like more information about joining this committee, please contact Marg Stouffer.

Lunch Bunch

This group meets monthly at various local restaurants to enjoy fellowship and lunch. They meet on the last Tuesday of each month, at different restaurants chosen by the group, at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to join the Lunch Bunch. If you would like further information, please contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

Chancel Choir

Choir practice will begin after Labor Day. Our first rehearsal for the season will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to join us! We would love to see some new choir members! Contact Patty, our choir director, for any further questions. Looking forward to another great year of beautiful singing!

Consistory Board Meeting

We hope everyone had a great summer! Our next board meeting is scheduled for September 15th, at 8 am, in the meeting room. Meetings will now continue on a monthly basis. We are missing some consistory books (binders). If any of our prior board members still have these binders sitting at home, please return them to the church office. Thank you.

Grace Snyder Circle: As the summer is ending, the Guild will be meeting on a monthly basis again. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9th, at 1pm, in the meeting room. We would love to have some new members joining us! If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Myers.

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET: Grace's Closet is open twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday's from 9:30am till 12:30pm. They will be closed the first two weeks in September to change over from summer to fall items. They need plastic grocery bags. They have placed a green box in the hallway by the church office so you can drop off your plastic bags anytime you are visiting the church. You can also drop off clothing donations in this box. We appreciate everyone's continued support and donations! Please reach out to Nancy Myers if you have any further questions or want to volunteer your time during the week to help us!

We invite everyone to join us during our <u>First Saturday Free</u> <u>Community Meals</u>! Please contact Chet if you are interested in volunteering to help serve our community. Thank you!

1st Saturday FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH

September 7th 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Menu:

Spaghetti, Toss Salad, Brownies & Bottled Water (Limited Quantities)

Grace United Church of Christ

128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225 717-597-2983 <u>www.graceuccgreencastle.com</u>



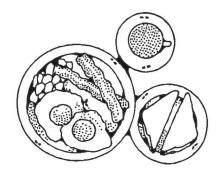
ALL WELCOME! DONATIONS ACCEPTED. EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT!



Men's Morning Fellowship

Gentlemen, you are invited to attend a morning of fellowship and food on **Saturday**, **October 12**th **at 8:30 AM** in the church Social Hall.

A breakfast buffet will be provided including a breakfast casserole, sausage gravy, meats, fruit, and baked goods to name a few.



<u>Please</u> mark your calendar and bring a friend, family member or neighbor.

Sign-up sheets will be out toward the end of September.

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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

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures
September/October issues are now available. Please pick up your free copy after worship service or stop by the church office during the week.

Hoss's Fundraiser



We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Chambersburg to raise money for our church. Please consider visiting Hoss's Restaurant on **September 14**, anytime during their operating hours of 11am-9pm. They are located at 20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg. GUCC will receive 20%-25% payout based on food sales (pre-tax food and beverage sales). This is a one-day event scheduled only at the Chambersburg restaurant. Gift card purchases will not be included as part of the food sale totals. For GUCC to get food sale credits, you **must bring the coupon** they have provided us. One coupon is good for one table. You will find the coupons attached to our weekly announcements and extras can be found on our new community bulletin board! Please help by passing along coupons to your family, friends and neighbors. Please contact Cathy Keefer or the church office if you have any questions. Thank you!

Newsletter Deadline

All members are invited to submit any announcements, joys, news, articles or photos that you would like to share with the church family. Deadline to submit items for our November/December issue of Grace Notes is October 17th. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email at: gucc28@outlook.com

Facebook & Live Streaming



If you have access to Facebook, please 'like' our page, Grace United Church of Christ, it will help keep you updated on events and stay connected with the church. 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 9:30am 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! Here's the link to our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/ Coming soon we will also be live streaming on YouTube. We will announce the YouTube channel once it's set up.

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 6, 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.

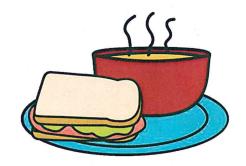


OCTOBER Fundraiser

Fall Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale

Our activities & fundraising committee is preparing for our fall ham sandwich & soup sale in October! We will be selling delicious ham sandwiches made with Martin Potato Sandwich Rolls, and homemade soups. This year we are offering three soup choices: Chicken Noodle, Chicken Rice or Ham & Bean. The sandwiches cost \$4.50 each, soups are \$4.50 per pint or \$9 per quart. The ham sandwiches and soups will be available for pick up on <u>October 3</u>, between 11am – 1pm, and 4pm to 6pm, in the social hall. Order forms and boxes to place your orders will be located in the front vestibule and elevator area, or you can drop off orders at the church office. All pre-orders must be turned in by September 26. Payment will be due at time of pick-up. Cash or checks (with valid ID) will be accepted. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. We will need helpers to make the ham sandwiches in the morning of October 3 and helpers to put the orders together. If you can volunteer your time to help us or have any further questions, please contact Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer or call the church office.





Member Birthday's

<u>September</u>

9/1 – Bob Gearhart 9/9 – Larry Stepler 9/12 – Jim Thomas 9/15 – Duane Lawson 9/29 – Tom Green

October

10/9 – Patty Stepler
10/9 – Jack Shoemaker
10/9 – Doll Koons
10/12 – Elaine Scheffer
10/14 – Teresa Myers
10/17 – Christopher Wilhide
10/23 – Ed Doyle
10/25 – Larry Burger
10/31 – Tammy Hockenberry





We thank everyone for upkeeping the cemetery over the summer! You all did a beautiful job!

Weekly Worship Hours: Sunday, 9:30AM

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9am-12noon

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8am-2pm

(Closed on Labor Day – September 2)





CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. by President Mark Stahl.

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

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Mark 4, Jesus' sense of meaning and purpose.

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from May Consistory meeting were approved unanimously on a Cathy/Ron motion. Larry was absent but sent a report. \$15,000 was transfer from IMA to help pay Pastor Mark's salary. Money put into a 6 month CD at 5% interest. Treasurer's report was approved on a Ron/Cathy motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising -

- 1. First Saturday Meal paid for Pastor Mark's new computer. Pastor Mark was very appreciative.
- 2. Chet reported that items can be brought in for our Yard Sale which is July 12th and 13th.
- 3. Cathy reported that 3 soups are being considered for the next ham sandwich sale.

Building and Grounds –

- 1. Barry reported Comfort Solutions were here to repair air conditioners.
- 2. The family rest room door handle has been replaced.
- 3. Tim reported that Beaver Mechanical was to repair the boiler and replace some values.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

1. Lorna is hunting anyone that has the blue Consistory notebooks.

Other Pertinent Topics:

- 1. The Church of the Apostles invited us to a combined worship service and picnic on September 8, 2024, and they would like our choir to sing. We agreed this would be a good way to get to know the congregation.
- 2. We have some people interested in becoming new members of our church. Pastor Mark suggested we have a meet and greet with them to tell them the story of our church.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25am with The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – September 15, 2024, at 8:00

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

Grace United Church of Christ 2nd Quarterly Statement Financial Income and Expense Report April - June 2024

<u>General</u>	Operating Account:
Beginning Balance	\$3,497.06
Income	\$22,562.39
Expense	\$24,752.91
Ending Balance	\$1,306.54
<u>Building & Grou</u>	unds Maintenance Account:
Beginning Balance	\$17,002.93
Income	\$8,945.00
Expense	\$5,648.70
Ending Balance	\$20,299.23
<u>Organ/Me</u>	emorial/Trust Account:
Organ/Me Beginning Balance	emorial/Trust Account: \$47,161.23
Beginning Balance	\$47,161.23
Beginning Balance Income	\$47,161.23 \$112,362.48
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance	\$47,161.23 \$112,362.48 \$143,281.98
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance	\$47,161.23 \$112,362.48 \$143,281.98 \$16,241.73
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance Special Account (Outro	\$47,161.23 \$112,362.48 \$143,281.98 \$16,241.73 each/Other Non-Operating Funds)
Beginning Balance Income Expense Ending Balance Special Account (Outro	\$47,161.23 \$112,362.48 \$143,281.98 \$16,241.73 each/Other Non-Operating Funds) \$5,616.41

^{*} 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 Communion Worship Service, 9:30am Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
- 2 Labor Day Office & Grace's Free Closet Closed
- 3 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, meeting room
- **4** Grace's Free Closet Closed Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- **5** Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- 7 First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11am-1pm, social hall
- 8 Combined Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic being held at the Pavilion at the Church of the Apostles, at 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, service begins at 10:30am, followed by a covered dish picnic at 12 noon!
- **9** Grace's Free Closet Closed Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
- **10** Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- 11 Grace's Free Closet Closed Social Seniors, 2pm, at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- **12** Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon

- 14 Hoss's Fundraiser 11am to 9pm at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, 20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg Be sure to bring your coupon!
- 15 Consistory Board Meeting, 8am, in the meeting room Worship Service, 9:30am Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
- 16 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm
- 17 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- 18 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 19 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- Worship Service, 9:30am
 Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
 Installation Service for Pastor Mark, 3pm, at the Church of the Apostles, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro
- 23 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm
- 24 Pastor's office hours, 9am-11am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, meeting at local restaurant TBD
- 25 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- **26** Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Deadline for Ham Sandwich & Soup Orders
- 29 Worship Service, 9:30am Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA Deadline for Ham Sandwich & Soup Orders
- 30 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm



- 1 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, meeting room
- 2 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 3 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale, 11am-1pm and 4-6pm, social hall
- **5** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11am-1pm, social hall
- 6 National Church Music Appreciation Day Worship & Spiritual Life Committee Meeting, 8:30am, meeting room Communion Worship Service, 9:30am Receiving Neighbors in Need Offering during service Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
- 7 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm
- 8 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- **9** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 10 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- 12 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am, social hall
- Worship Service, 9:30am
 Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
 Refreshments & Fellowship following service, social hall
- 14 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
- 15 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon

- 16 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 17 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Deadline to submit articles for Nov/Dec issue of Grace Notes
- 20 Consistory Board Meeting, 8:30am, meeting room Worship Service, 9:30am Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
- 21 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm
- 22 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon
- 23 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 24 Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon Called to Care Committee Meeting, 3-4pm, meeting room
- 27 Toten Fest Worship Service, 9:30am Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers, Reader: TBA
- 28 Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm
- 29 Pastor's office hours, 9am-11am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, meeting at local restaurant TBD
- **30** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am till 12:30pm Book Study Group, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- **31** Pastor's office hours, 9am-12noon





UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES:

NOVEMBEr:

ANNUAL LUNCHEON & CHURCH DECORATING DAY

APPLE DUMPLING FUNDRAISER

ADVENT SEASON BEGINS

ANGEL TREE

POINSETTIA ORDERS

December:

CHRISTMAS CANTATA SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS
UCC CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OFFERING BEING RECEIVED