



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

♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪

July/August 2025 Issue

Sunday Worship Service:

9:30am in the Sanctuary

(Or join us on YouTube or Facebook to watch our live-streaming)

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

9am – 12noon

Closed Thursday, July 3

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

8am to 2pm

Close on Thursday, July 3

Grace's Free Closet Hours

Monday & Wednesday

9:30am to 12:30pm

Office Phone: 717-597-2983

Email: gucc128@outlook.com

Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook:

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Summer is a great time to read outside. One of the books that I would challenge you to read this year is called *The Interior Castle* by the Spanish mystic and writer, St. Teresa of Avila.

It was published in 1588 and is considered one of the most important works in the field of Christian mysticism. I have a copy in my office if you want to borrow it (a translation by Mirabai Starr). But, I'm sure you can find it elsewhere.

According to the "bookey" app, this book is a guide of the soul towards union with God.

St. Teresa describes this journey as a castle made of a single diamond or crystal, with different rooms (or mansions) representing different stages of spiritual development. Each mansion represents a level of intimacy with God and serves as a steppingstone for the soul to move closer to the center, which represents divine union.

To whet your appetite, here are a few quotes from the book:

All the beauty of the world and of the stars is nothing compared to the beauty of the soul.

God dwells within you, within every cell of your being.
Seek Him there, in the depths of your own heart.

The soul is like a garden, waiting to be tended and cultivated.
Only through self-reflection and penance can it bloom into its
truest form.

Take solace in the fact that God's love for you is constant,
unwavering, and without conditions. You are always worthy
of His grace.

The soul is like a spark longing to be reunited with the divine
flame. Seek God with all your being and let Him ignite your soul.

The soul is a mirror reflecting the beauty and glory of God.
Polish this mirror through prayer and contemplation.

Enjoy your summer! Pastor Mark



CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

The sign-up sheet for August is now available. We would like to see some new greeter/ushers, communion servers and readers to help us out each week. Contact any board member or church office for further information about volunteering with us.

Social Seniors Group

This is a shared experience of folks from Trinity (State Line), Trinity (Waynesboro), Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro) and now Grace UCC (Greencastle) which meet monthly for fun entertainment and light refreshments. There are no gatherings during the summer months of July or August. They will resume in September.

Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

On the second Sunday of each month, volunteers provide and serve refreshments in the social hall after service. This time allows for conversations and fellowship. To volunteer to provide refreshments, please refer to the sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the front vestibule or contact Carolyn Shoemaker for more information.

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. The next meetings are scheduled for Sunday, July 13 and Sunday, September 28, both starting at 8:30am.

If you would like further information about this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.

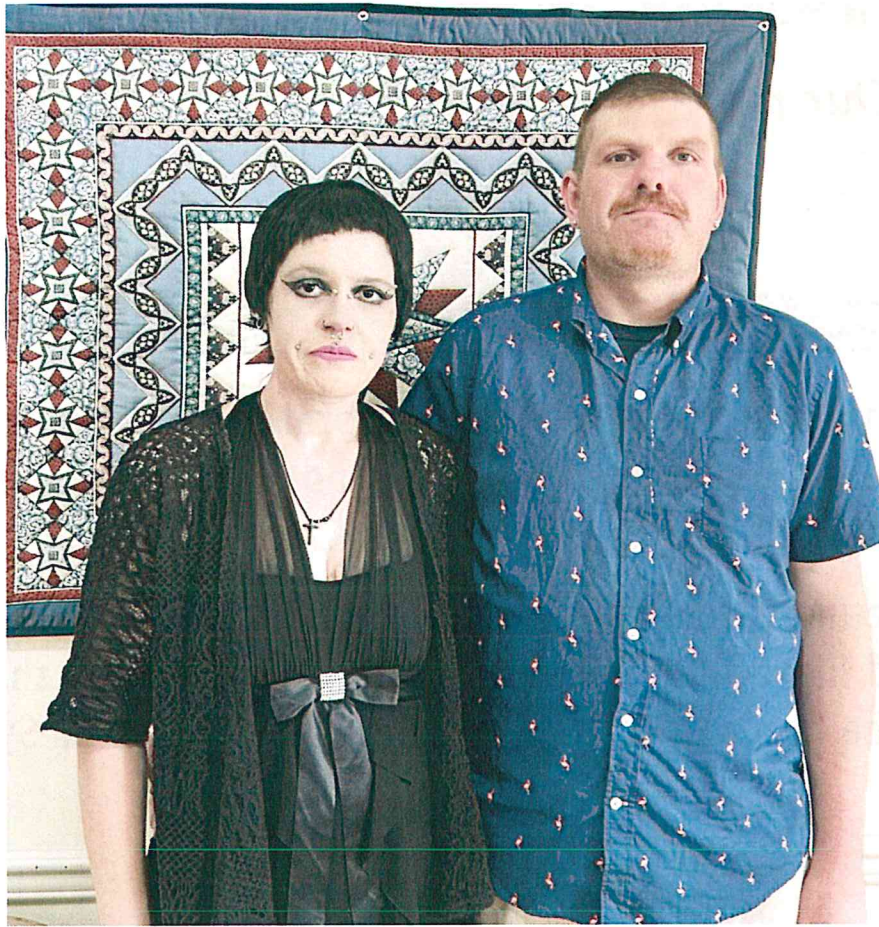
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to announce that we have four new members who officially joined our church family on Sunday, May 11th.

*Welcome
David & Kathy Fillman*



*Welcome
Melissa & Thomas King*



NEWLYWEDS!

Congratulations to Melissa & Thomas!
They were married on June 13th!
We wish them a happy future together!



Condolences:

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marquita Storms, as she passed on June 2nd, 2025.

She was a wonderful person and will be missed by many.

Our prayers are with Bill and his family.

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 church family. Quarterly meetings are held.

Their next meeting is scheduled for July 15th, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch gatherings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at various local restaurants. Here are the upcoming locations:

Tuesday, July 29, at 11:30am

30 West Family Restaurant
1021 Lincoln Way West, Chambersburg.

Tuesday, August 26, at 11:30am

Stoner's Family Restaurant
615 Wayne Avenue, Chambersburg

Everyone is welcome to join them for food and fellowship.
For further information, contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee is responsible for organizing fundraisers and other church activities. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, except during the summer months.

They have been busy organizing our upcoming 5th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale. We will continue accepting yard donations on Monday, June 30 through Wednesday, July 2, from 9am to 12 noon, in the social hall. If you would like to volunteer to help set up on Monday, July 7 or Tuesday, July 8, please contact Chet Nye or Marg Stouffer.

5th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale!!!

Friday, July 11, from 8am to 4pm
Saturday, July 12, from 8am to 2pm

Rain or Shine!

Sale will be held indoors in our social hall.
We have lots of treasures waiting for you!



Special

Congregational

Meeting

is being held this Sunday, June 29th, following worship service. This meeting is to discuss and vote for approval on our building projects. We hope everyone is available to attend.

Consistory Board Meetings

No board meetings are scheduled during the summer months of July or August. Impromptu meetings will be called if any issues arise.

Board members are always available for any questions or concerns.

Enjoy the summer!

Organ Restoration

We hope to have everything completed by the beginning of August.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship

The men of Grace UCC are invited to join the Church of the Apostles for their monthly breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Their next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, July 5th, followed by Saturday, August 2nd.

Please join them and bring a friend!

Chancel Choir

We thank our choir for sharing their musical talents with us this past season. There are no rehearsals or Sunday choir anthems during the summer months. Rehearsals will resume the first Wednesday after Labor Day weekend. Contact Patty Stepler if you have any questions or would like to join them in September!

Grace Snyder Circle

Meetings are not held during the summer months. They will resume in September. Contact Nancy Myers if you would like to join them in the fall.

APPRECIATION:

*** We thank Nancy Myers and the volunteers who helped put together the Family in Christ Banquet, which was held in May. As always, the food was delicious, and the entertainment was enjoyed by all.

*** We thank Joann Snider for her computer skills in creating the Father's Day candy sleeves, which included a Hershey's chocolate bar, handed out by Grace Snyder Circle Guild to all the men on Father's Day!

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

The Closet provides free clothing to the community for individuals of all ages, from infants to adults. Additionally, other items such as home decor, dishes, glassware, utensils, books, sheets, baby toys, and more are available at no cost. The Closet operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The organization is efficiently managed by dedicated volunteers including Nancy, Chet, Mildred, Pat, Kathy, Tammy and others. Donations are welcomed during operating hours. For inquiries, please contact Nancy Myers.

1st Saturday Free Community Meals

There will be no free meal in July due to it falling over Independence Day Weekend. This gives our volunteers time to spend the holiday with their friends and family.

They are planning a delicious picnic style meal for Saturday, August 2, which will include hot dogs, chips, granola bar and bottled water. Our September 6 meal will include chili dogs, or plain hot dogs, watermelon and bottled water. The meals are served in our social hall, from 11am to 1pm. You're invited to stop by for lunch and bring a friend!

*** Everyone Welcomed ***

*** Donations Appreciated ***

*** Limited Quantities ***

Events During Old Home Week

Grace United Church of Christ will be hosting "Reminiscing" sessions during Old Home Week this year.

Sessions will be held in the Social Hall on the following dates & times:

August 4th @ 1pm & 2pm
August 5th @ 10am & 11am
August 6th @ 1pm & 2 pm

You will find further information
in the Old Home Week program booklet.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures

The Upper Room is a daily devotional booklet published six times a year, offering daily prayers to support your devotional practice. Written by readers and others who share their faith experiences, these booklets are available for anyone seeking to deepen their faith. We still have some July/August issues in the front vestibule and elevator area available. Pick up a free copy after Sunday worship or visit the church office during the week.

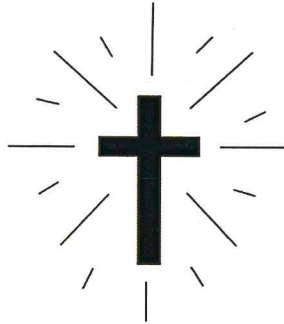
Annual Church Picnic

Combined Worship Service and Church Picnic with Church of the Apostles is being planned for Sunday, September 7th, in their pavilion.



Church Directory

Recent updates have been made to our church directories. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office. If you are not listed, and would like to be included, please contact Elaine in the office.



EDUCATIONAL SUNDAY:



We are pleased to announce that two graduates from Greencastle High School have been awarded the Kathryn Didier Scholarships, each valued at \$1000. Pastor Mark presented them with certificates on May 22nd during the GAHS awards ceremony; and we honored them on Educational Sunday during worship service on June 1st. The loose change offering collected on Educational Sunday, amounting to \$195, has been donated to our education fund.

We congratulate Caitlynn Russell and Morgan Kline! Caitlynn, also known as "Gracie," will be attending the University of Pittsburgh. She is pursuing a major in the medical field. Her parents are Katie Russell and the late Keith Russell. Morgan will be attending Bloomsburg University, majoring in Nursing. Her parents are David and Michelle Kline.



Morgan Kline (left)
Gracie Russell (right)

Greencastle-Antrim H.S. Class of 2025!
Congratulations!

Facebook & YouTube



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. You can also watch us on our YouTube Channel. This is a great way to stay connected with everyone!

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

GUCC Website

Church updates, scholarship applications, newsletters and weekly worship programs can be downloaded from our website anytime! Donations can also be made through our website.
<https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

Newsletter Deadline

Submit your announcements, joys, news, articles, or photos to share with the church family by August 14th for the Sept/Oct issue of Grace Notes. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email of gucc128@outlook.com Thank you.

Penn Central Conference UCC

We thank you for helping support the UCC. We received \$10 towards "One Great Hour Of Sharing" UCC offering, and \$25 towards "Strengthen the Church" UCC offering during the month of June.

The next UCC mission we help support is "Neighbors In Need". This offering 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. We will be accepting these offerings in October.



Member Birthday's

July

7/11 – Mary Frances Myers
7/12 – Clarisse Hicks
7/18 – Bill Storms
7/25 – Earl Bodes
7/25 – Nancy Myers
7/26 – Ethel Fisher
7/28 – Faye Baker
7/28 – Nancy Stine
7/29 – DeBorah Alston

August

8/11 - Emory Stahl
8/26 – Roger Stahl
8/31 – Pat Zimmerman

SPECIAL MUSIC SPONSORSHIP

We still have opportunities if anyone would like to sponsor special music in July or August. When our choir isn't singing, it would be great to have some special music. In the past, we have worked with the Cumberland Valley School of Music as a clearing house for musicians. We are offering the congregation the ability to sponsor Special Music in honor or memory of someone, or it could be a way to celebrate a wedding anniversary or birth of a grandchild, or special occasion. To sponsor a musician for a Sunday service, you can work with Pastor Mark to discuss what you would like (what kind of instruments or singers), what date, and the cost. Please express your interest to Pastor Mark or call Elaine at the church office so that we can get started on this exciting new initiative.





MEETING MINUTES

CONSISTORY MEETING

March 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. by President Mark Stahl.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Steve Miller, Lu Miller, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Pastor Mark and Larry Stepler, Treasurer, and Lorna Thomas was absent.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Psalms 16.

CONSENT AGENDA: The February minutes were approved with on a Tim/Lue motion.

1. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Ron/Barry motion. The consistory would like to have maintenance contracts and repairs as separate line items on Budget statement.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising – We served 54 meals at First Saturday Meal and had \$214 in donations. The April meal will be pot roast. The soup from soup and sandwich sale received lots of good compliments.

Finance Committee – We are spending over \$500 a month more than last year and taking in less offerings. We knew this would happen with more employee salaries to pay. We are taking it out of our Morgan Stanley investments.

Building and Grounds –

1. Since Premier HVAC took over Leckron's our quote for the year is \$1239/yr.
2. The women's restroom will be painted soon, Grace's Closet and the Guild are going to pay for this.
3. Steve and Mark are going to redo the small bathroom in the front hallway. Tim will look into getting a new toilet.

Worship & Spiritual Committee:

1. Pastor Mark handed out a schedule for Easter services at Grace church.

Adjourned meeting with Lord's Prayer at 8:50.

Next meeting - April 27, 2025.

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

CONSISTORY MEETING

April 27, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:09 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, and Pastor Mark were present. Lu Miller, Steve Miller and Treasurer Larry Stepler were absent.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Psalms 150.

CONSENT AGENDA:

2. The March minutes were approved on a Tim/Ron motion.
3. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Tim/ Ron motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising –

1. We served 63 meals at First Saturday Meal and had \$186.00 in donations. May and June's menus are planned. No First Saturday Meal in July and August.
2. Grace's Closet received some new clothes from Walmart, busy sorting them out.
3. Next big fundraiser is our indoor yard sale.

Finance Committee –

1. Organ has been taken for repair and a hymnal bracket was taken to match stain for organ.

2. The need for a Damp-chaser in Sanctuary was discussed. It was decided to do this because of the temperature and humidity change in there. On a Deb/ Ron motion, it passed that this should be done. Susan and Dwayne would like to pay for this as a donation to church. Thank you, Susan and Dwayne.
3. This year we had 16 applicants for scholarships! We can only give two \$1000.00 scholarships, because our investments have taken a down turn.

Building and Grounds –

4. Tim and Barry went up on the roof to check damage from storm. If we file insurance claim, we have a \$60,000.00 deductible. They think we will need a new rubber roof; insurance person is coming to look at it.
5. Mark is still working on getting the women's rest room painted.
6. Barry will set up and take down voting booths for election on May 20th.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

2. The first Thursday of May is National Day of Prayer. There is a service at Presbyterian church.
3. Pastor Mark will be away June 15th, he will let us know who will be here in his place.
4. May 11th is new members Sunday. We are welcoming 4 new members, Dave and Kathy Fillman, Melissa Krockner and Thomas King.

Adjourned meeting with Lord's Prayer at 8:57am.

Next meeting – May 18, 2025.

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

CONSISTORY MEETING

May 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:01 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, and Pastor Mark, Lue Miller, and Steve Miller were present. Treasurer Larry Stepler was absent.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read Psalms 96.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. The April minutes were approved with on a Tim/Lue motion.
2. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Lorna/ Steve motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

1. Pastor Mark will be on vacation June 12th to June 29th, supply ministers have been set up to fill the Sundays he is away.
2. Special music on July 13th is a harpist, and July 27th is a country Gospel band.
3. Summer picnic is September 10th @10:30 at the Church of Apostles in Waynesboro.

Activities/Fundraising

1. We served 59 meals at First Saturday Meal and had \$126.00 in donations. June's menu is ham or turkey hoagie, chips pie and water. No First Saturday meal for July because of church yard sale.
2. Next big fundraiser is our indoor yard sale on July 11&12.

Finance Committee –

1. .

Building and Grounds Committee:

1. There was a lengthy discussion on the roof repair estimate and our insurance policy to cover the cost because it was storm damage. The roofing proposal is attached. Sterve and Barry are looking into the insurance.
2. The air conditioners in Social Hall are not working they are too old to repair so we are getting 2 quotes on having them replaced.

Worship and spiritual Life Committee:

1. Marg's report is attached
2. This year's scholarship recipients for this year will be in worship with us on June 1st

Additional Topics for Discussion:

1. Sanctuary and social hall use for Melissa Krocker & Tom King were approved .
2. Lorna will open church and Mark will make sure it is locked up.

Adjourned meeting with Lord's Prayer at 9.:01.

Next meeting – May 15, 2025.

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

GUCC's financial statement for
2nd quarter (April thru June) will be
available in the next newsletter

Newsletter Calendar of Events

The monthly dates will no longer be listed, as they are already included in all the articles. The Sunday announcements and weekly prayer emails highlight events and happenings within that week, and the community bulletin board will be kept updated. Any questions about dates or times, please contact the church office or any of the committee members for further details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Bible Study

Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale

Combined Church Picnic with Church of the Apostles

OCTOBER

Receiving "Neighbors in Need" UCC Offering

