



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

♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪

January/February 2026

## *Sunday Worship Service:*

9:30am in the Sanctuary

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

## *Pastor's Office Hours*

Tuesday & Thursday

9am – 12noon

## *Church Office Hours*

Monday – Thursday

8am to 2pm

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## *Grace's Free Closet Hours*

Monday & Wednesday

9:30am to 12:30pm

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each Month, 11:30am-2:30pm

Office Phone: 717-597-2983

Email: [gucc128@outlook.com](mailto:gucc128@outlook.com)

Website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

Facebook:

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC



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

Dear Grace:

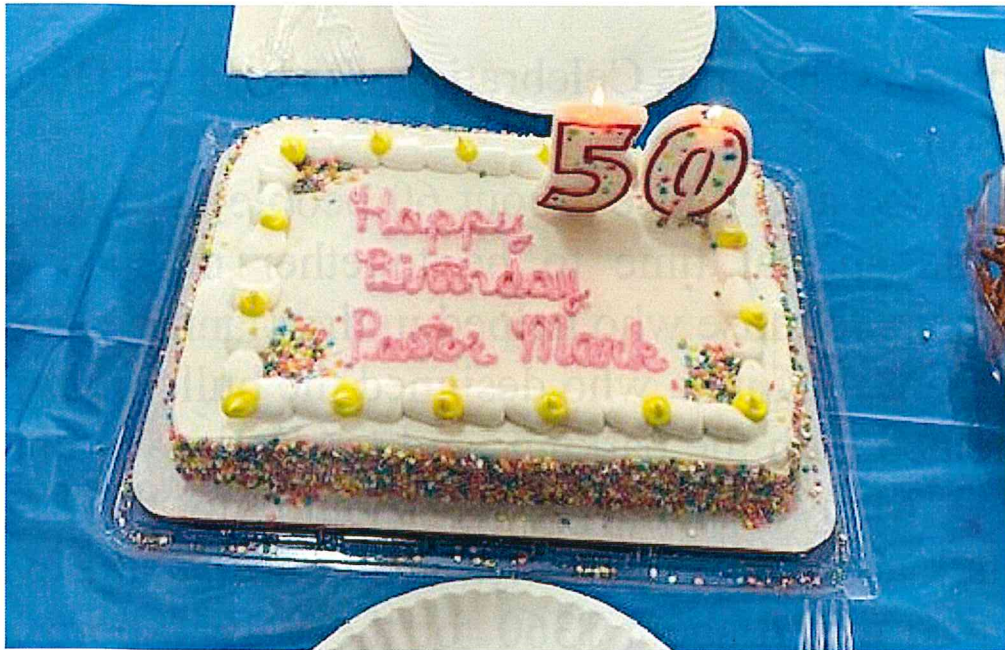
Our Harbaugh Christmas Celebration was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, this past season.

We had a good attendance (about 60 people) and it was a truly worshipful and special time to be together in such a historic building. Thanks to those who helped in the planning: for Jim who played the organ; for Linda who designed the bulletin; for Bob and Dave who helped with the parking; and for Kathy who handed out the bulletins. Many folks said we should do this again next year. Let's talk about that and how we can improve the event in the future. We also raised about \$360 for the Waynesboro Historical Society.





Pastor Mark celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 28<sup>th</sup>! Millie & Chet put together a surprise party for him last week!





# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to announce that we have two new members who officially joined our church family on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**WE WELCOME**

**DARREN VANNOY & KRISTEN LERCH**

They will be having a private family wedding on February 21<sup>st</sup>! Congratulations to them!



## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our congregation's annual business meeting occurred on Sunday, November 9th. Members approved the 2026 budget and voted to reduce consistory terms from four years to three. Patty Stepler and Carolle Patrick were elected to the board serving for 2026–2028.

## **LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

Our **Lenten Book Group** will be starting on **February 18** (Ash Wednesday) at 6pm in the chapel. On Ash Wednesday we will start with a short Imposition of Ashes Service. After that first week, we will meet from 6-7 pm on Wednesday nights through April 1.

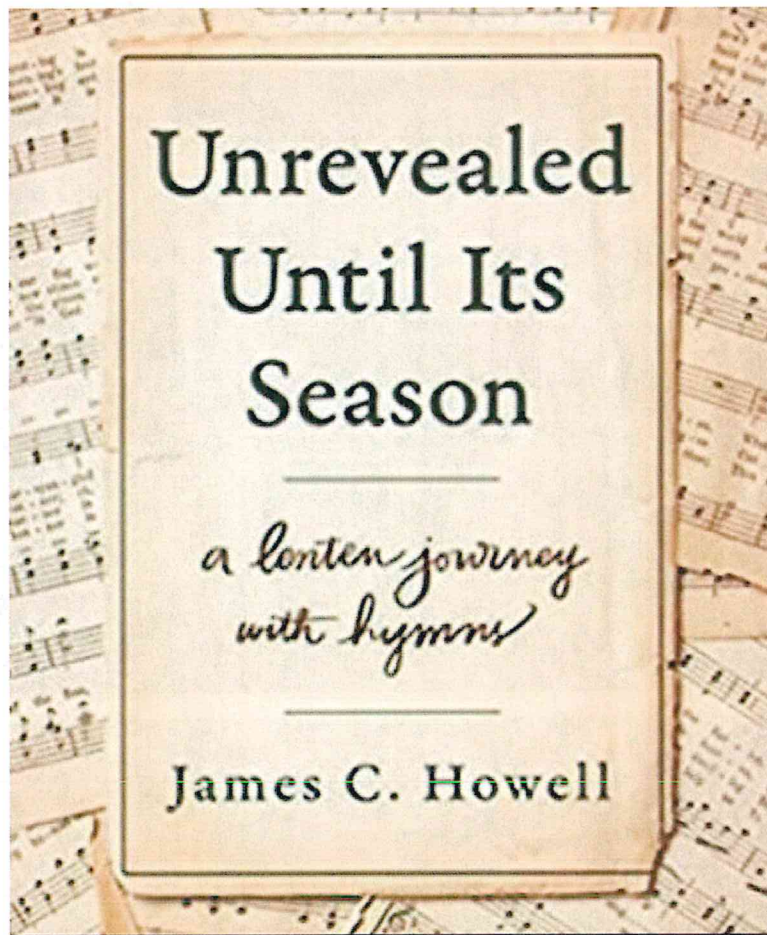
The resource this year will be a book entitled *Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns* by James C. Howell. The author believes in the power of song to teach spiritual truths.

"Hymns embed faith into the marrow of the soul," he writes. In *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, Howell takes us on a 40-day journey through well-loved hymns.

You can purchase the book on Amazon (it is \$14 new, and less if it is used). If you would like the church to purchase it for you, please let Pastor Mark or Elaine (the church secretary) know before February 11<sup>th</sup>.



This is the resource we will  
be using during our Lenten Book Study:



## **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. If you would like 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.



**Photos from First Saturday**  
**Thanksgiving Meal held on November 1, 2025**

*The event was well attended, and the food was delicious and enjoyed by all!*





## **CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:**

We are looking for new volunteers. If you're interested in greeting or ushering, helping with communion, or reading scripture during Sunday worship, please reach out to any board member or contact Elaine at the office for more details.

### **Condolences:**

*Lord, we pray for the family of Edward R. Doyle (husband to Gladys Doyle) who passed away at his home in November of this past year. Heavenly Father, comfort those whom Ed leaves behind on earth and welcome him home. Remind us all...that whether we live or we die...we belong to You, O God. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

*We also pray for the family of Curtis Barnes, as he passed at the end of last year. He was the nephew to Joann Snider and son to the late Ron Barnes'.*

*Please send your prayers of comfort to these families.*

## Social Seniors Group

This is a monthly joint gathering of members from Trinity UCC (State Line), Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro), and Grace UCC. The group meets for enjoyable entertainment and light refreshments at different churches on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Everyone is invited to participate in these activities! Check the bulletin board for locations and topics!

## Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee organizes the 1st Saturday Free Meals as well as other church fundraisers and activities. Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month, from September through June. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm in the meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them! For updates on meetings or questions, please contact Chet Nye or Marg Stouffer.

## 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. They meet every other month. Their next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am, in the small meeting room. If you would like further information about this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.



**Photos of  
our church  
members  
having fun  
handing out  
Halloween  
Treats to the  
community in  
October!**





## **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 April 21st, 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.



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## **Lunch Bunch**

Lunch fellowships are held at 11:30am on the last Tuesday of each month. The group selects the next location after each luncheon, and restaurant details are shared once confirmed. All are welcome to join them for good food and fellowship. Their next luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at Casa Agave, 140 N. Antrim Way in Greencastle. Come out and join them for authentic Mexican cuisine.

For further information, please contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

## **Men's Breakfast & Fellowship**

The men from Grace UCC and Church of the Apostles get together for breakfast on the first Saturday each month at The Velvet Café, in Waynesboro. They will meet at the restaurant at 9am. Next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 7. Join them and bring a friend!



# Chancel Choir

Rehearsals are held on 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.

## Appreciation:

*We thank everyone who volunteered their time to decorate the church for Advent and the Celebration of Christmas. The sanctuary looked beautiful throughout the Advent Season.*

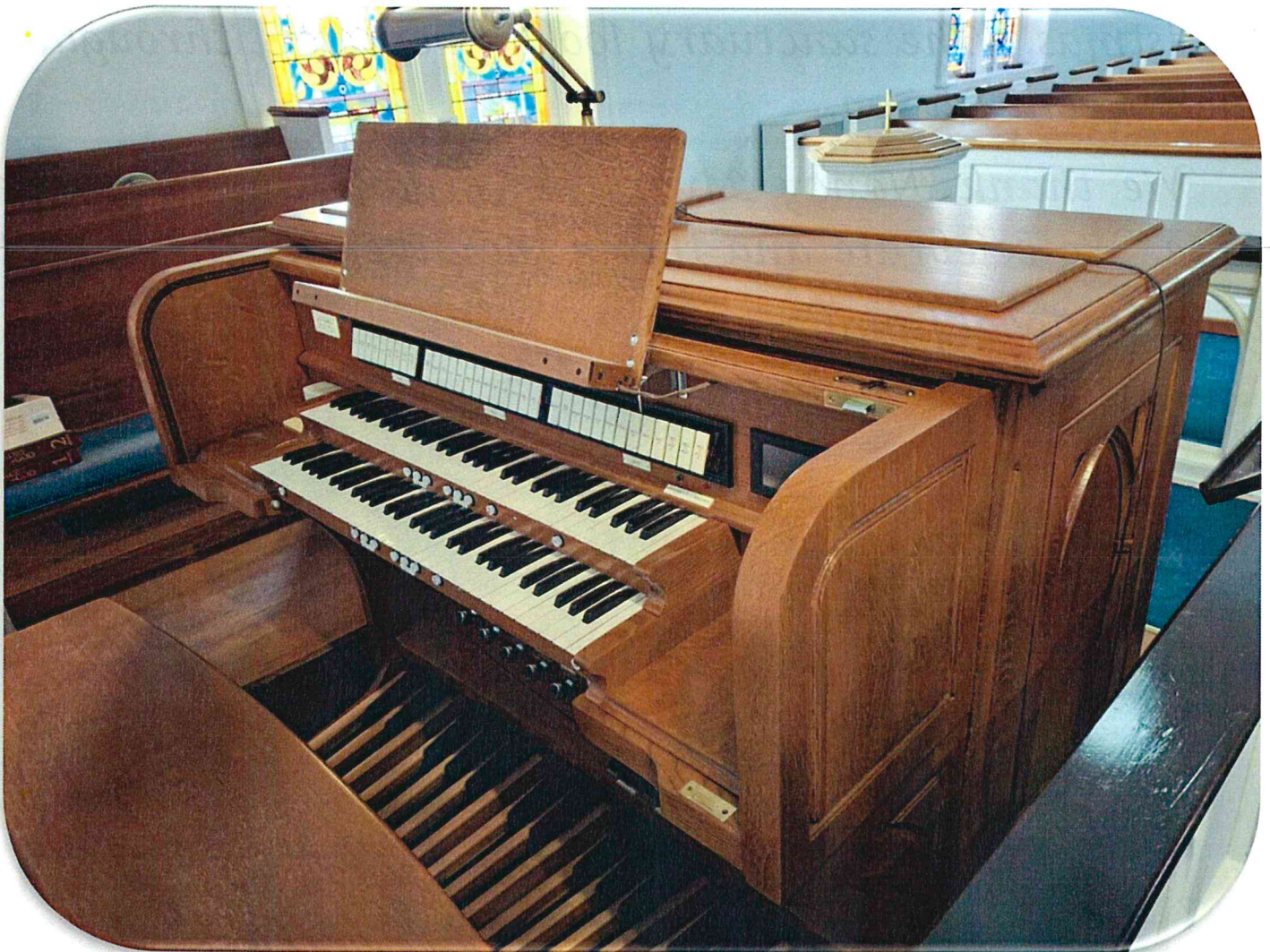
*We thank Nancy Myers for organizing the Angel Tree. We celebrate and thank the givers of the 50 gifts given to local families.*





# ORGAN DEDICATION

We are all thankful for Susan, our organist, and our beautiful, restored organ. We rededicated our refurbished organ on Sunday, November 23rd, as an “instrument of praise” to God.





## **History of the Mollar Organ**

(from our website)

The congregation voted in 1951 to have a new organ installed by the M.P. Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland.

The two manual pipe organ, installed at a cost of \$10, 727.00, was dedicated on November 9, 1953.

In 2025, significant restoration and enhancement work was carried out on the M.P. Moller, Opus 8375 pipe organ. This project was undertaken by Lewis Hitchcock, Inc., operating as Lawless & Associates Pipe Organ Company, Inc., based in Greencastle, PA. The total cost for the refurbishment was \$60,815.75, covering all aspects including organ work, console refinishing, and electrical upgrades. The original tubular-pneumatic combination action of the organ was upgraded with solid state technology, enhancing its reliability and performance. In addition to this major update, the entire organ was rewired, and the console was refinished, restoring its appearance and preserving its historical character. Also, the trompette pipework was cleaned and revoiced, improving its tonal quality and consistency. The organ consists of nine registers, collectively forming a total of nine ranks of pipes housed in the organ chamber. This configuration provides a versatile range of sounds and musical expressions.

# **CONSISTORY BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS**

We congratulate and welcome our new consistory members: Carolle Patrick and Patty Stepler. They were installed as board members during our January 11<sup>th</sup> worship service.

We thank our out-going consistory members, Deb Homer (secretary) and Lorna Thomas (co-president). We appreciated your dedication and service for the past 4 years!

Board meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 8am in the small meeting room, except during the summer.

## **2026 Officers & Board Members:**

President: Mark Stahl

Vice President: Steve Miller

Secretary: Lu Miller

Tim Bryan

Ron Shafer

Barry Shoemaker

Patty Stepler

Carolle Patrick

Treasurer:

Larry Stepler



## **Grace Snyder Circle**

The Guild had a successful 2025 year. They held their annual pie fundraiser, distributed gifts to women on Mother's Day and to men on Father's Day and hosted the longstanding Family in Christ Banquet. Additionally, the Guild contributed to various community projects and provided ongoing support to the church.

After much discussion, the Guild decided to disband and donate their remaining funds to our church for the future boiler replacement.

We thank the Guild for all their time and volunteering over the years; with a special thank you to Nancy Myers for her presidency and leadership over the past many, many years.

## **GRACE'S FREE CLOSET**

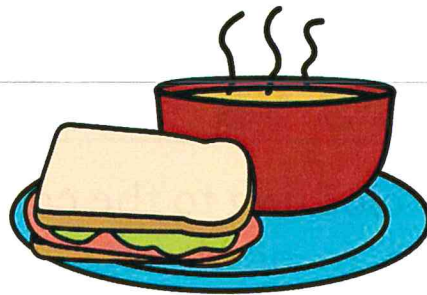
The Closet provides free clothing to the community for individuals of all ages, from infants to adults. Other items such as home decor, dishes, glassware, utensils, books, sheets, baby toys, and more are also available at no cost. The Closet operates through the week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. For those who are unable to visit during the week, they are now open twice a month on Saturday's. They are open from 11:30am to 2:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month. The Closet is efficiently managed by dedicated volunteers including Nancy, Chet, Mildred, Pat, Kathy, Tammy, Shannia and other community members including Janice, Nancy, Angie & Matthew. We thank them all for their time. Donations of clean, smoke-free clothing and miscellaneous items are welcomed during operating hours. In inclement weather, the Closet will be closed if Greencastle Antrim School District is closed or delayed. For further inquiries, please contact Nancy Myers.

## **Inclement Weather**

If Worship Service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page. If you don't have internet access, please contact any of the board members for updates.

## **Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale**

Save the date: *March 12th*! The activities & fundraising committee is organizing our annual spring ham sandwich and soup sale....details coming soon. To volunteer, please contact Cathy Keefer or Marg Stouffer.



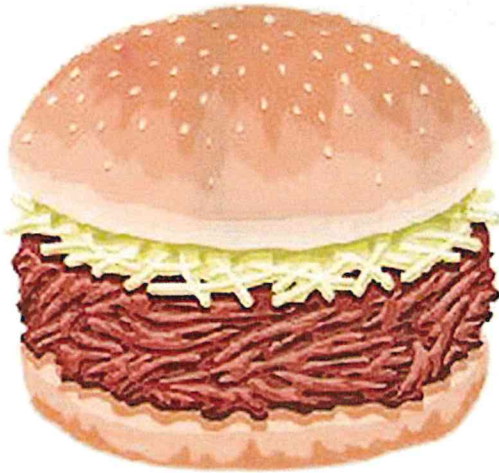
## **PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED**

We are looking for members to help take pictures of our church activities to add to the bulletin boards and newsletters. All you need is a cell phone and the ability to forward photos to our church email. If you are interested, please contact Elaine at the church office for further information. We would like to receive more photos of our activities. Thank you.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Free Community Meal

## FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH



### WHEN

1st Saturday, February 7th  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

### WHAT

Pulled Pork on a Roll, Tater Tots,  
Tomato Sauce, Applesauce  
& Bottled Water  
(Limited Quantities)

### WHERE

Grace United Church of Christ  
128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225

EVERYONE WELCOME!

DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

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## FUNDRAISING PROFITS

**Apple Dumpling Sale** held this past November concluded with success. We extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers for their dedication of time and ingredients, and to Tracey's Orchard for donating the delicious apples. The event achieved net profits totaling \$1,306. We appreciate the continued support for our ministries.

## *Easter Flowers*

Easter Tulips and Lilies will be available to purchase for dedication or honor of your loved ones soon. Details will be shared as they become available.



**Imposition of Ashes** will be held in our Chapel on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm.

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## **Building Updates:**

This past October we had our social hall floor stripped and waxed by a professional cleaner. We appreciate the generous support from Grace Snyder Circle, whose donation funded this service.

Also in October, we had parts of the roof replaced, covering both the replacement of shingles and rubber roofing on the flat sections. We thank Barry Shoemaker for leading this project. We also thank everyone who made donations which helped offset the cost of this project.



# **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. 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/>

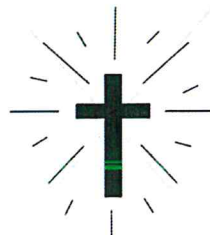
YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

## **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>

## **Church Directory Update**

We are working on updating our church directory. If anyone has made recent changes to their phone, address or emails, please contact Elaine in the church office. Once all updates are completed, we will send out new copies to everyone.



# **GUCC Scholarships**



Scholarship applications will be available soon. We offer three different scholarships. Applications need to be returned to the church office by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our scholarship committee will review all submitted applications and the chosen recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lorna Thomas if you have any questions.

- **Kathryn Didier Scholarship** is open to members of GUCC who are pursuing higher education, and to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors who plan on enrolling in college.
- **Julie M. Bodes Scholarship** is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC who are planning on majoring in business education or computer science fields.
- **Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship** is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster (now part of the Moravian University).



## **2025 Contribution Statements**

If you require a copy of your contribution statement for tax purposes, please reach out to Elaine at the church office.



# **Thank you from Penn Central** **Conference UCC**

**The Conference Center thanks us for our support. This past year we were able to send them the following donations:**

**One Great Hour of Sharing: \$30**

**Strengthen the Church Offering: \$45**

**Neighbors in Need: \$70**

**Texas Flood Relief Fund: \$30**

**The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross: \$80**



**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the next special mission offering of the United Church of Christ which we will be accepting during the month of March.**

# What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world.

OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by natural disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

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Each year, OGHS is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee. In addition to posters, brochures, and interactive media, the Committee commissions a Planning and Resource Guide that contains a variety of resources and activities for pastors and church leaders to use as they promote and receive the offering.

In the United Church of Christ, the Global H.O.P.E. team oversees the distribution of the offering. You can learn more about this team at [www.ucc.org/global-hope](http://www.ucc.org/global-hope).

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing for over 75 years. You continue to embody a love offering to the world.



# Member Birthday's

## February

2/2 - Erma Foley

2/4 - Margaret Stouffer

2/25 - Kathy Fillman

## March

3/1 - Susan Alsip-Lawson

3/1 - Kendra Koons

3/4 - David Fillman

3/11 - Robin Stahl

3/17 - Darlene Bitner

3/24 - Chet Nye

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## Newsletters

Please submit any announcements, joys, news, articles, or photos to share with the congregation for our next issue of Grace Notes. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email of [gucc128@outlook.com](mailto:gucc128@outlook.com) Thank you.



## MEETING MINUTES

### CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 19, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

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

**DEVOTIONS:** Pastor Mark read Psalm 121.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** September minutes were approved on a Lorna/Deb motion, and the Treasurer's report was approved on a Tim/Barry motion.

#### INFORMATION AGENDA:

##### Pastor Mark:

1. Today is Friend Sunday, members were encouraged to bring a friend to worship today.
2. Local News 1 website is \$4.99 a month approved on a Ron/Tim motion. We might want to pass flyers out to generate articles.

##### Building and Grounds Committee:

1. The roof installation is to start soon. Barry reported that Dependable Roofing was here and repaired some spots that were very bad and with the rain coming the roof might leak.
2. The Guild is going to pay for the social hall floor to be stripped and waxed, it will cost \$825 and T&B Cleaning is doing it.
3. Steve reported that we can get Bright Spot internet and phone for \$264 a month and Comcast is charging us \$345 a month.
4. Repairs that needed to be done to elevator that inspector found are being done on Tuesday Oct. 21



5. Mark's Lawn Care Proposal for snow removal services was approved on a Lu/Tim motion.
6. Chet is interested in painting the garage, we decided maybe this could be a spring project.

#### Activities and Fundraising Committee:

1. Apple Dumpling Sale is Nov 21 & 22. Lorna has a list of ingredients for people to sign up for donations.

#### Finance Committee

1. Larry reported the ERTC paid us \$1100.
2. We are applying for Grants for use as emergency funding.
3. Had to take \$36,000 from our assets to pay for new roof.
4. Budget was approved with adjustments as needed on a Tim/Ron motion.

#### ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Pads for AE machine are back ordered, there is none in the US, they have chip that is coming from China
2. Newsletters are coming out every 2 months with weekly announcements on the website.
3. Ushers and Greeters are needed; more members need to volunteer.
4. Reception of New Members: Darren Vannoy and Kristen Lerch . Their upcoming wedding is Feb 21.

Adjourned meeting at 8:55am with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be on November 16, 2025 @8:00 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

## CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES for NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:03 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

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

**DEVOTIONS:** Steve Miller read Psalm 100.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** October minutes were approved on a Lu/Tim motion, and the Treasurer's report was approved on a Ron/Mark motion.

### INFORMATION AGENDA:

Pastor Mark was on vacation so no reports from him.

#### Building and Grounds Committee:

7. The roof repairs are finished but checking on a plastic ridge on part of it.
8. Social Hall floor is cleaned and waxed, looks great.
9. Steve is working on updates for Internet and phone.
10. Nancy Myers has been working on getting a permit to put a 10'x10' shed on parking lot for Grace's closet to put tubs of out of season clothes in.

#### Finance Committee

5. Larry has put in for a Grant through Conference should hear by end of November,

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

5. We have received Pads for AE machine.
6. Doyle family requested to use the social hall on November 23 for Ed's celebration of life. Larry will open and close church.
7. Ushers and Greeters are needed; more members need to volunteer.

Adjourned meeting at 8:51 a.m. with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be on December 21, 2025 @8:00 a.m.

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary



## CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES for DECEMBER 21, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

**ROLL CALL:** Lorna Thomas, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lu Miller and Steve Miller. Pastor Mark was also present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** There was not a copy of November minutes, so no minutes approved. Treasurer's report was approved on a Lu Miller/Tim Bryan motion.

### INFORMATION AGENDA:

#### Pastor Mark

1. Installation of new Consistory members is on January 11, 2026.
2. He has a book for Lent Bible study.
3. Elaine has requested to take laptop computer home in bad weather so she can work at home.
4. Pastor Mark has scheduled vacation for January 25, 26, & 29.

#### Building and Grounds Committee:

11. There needs to be lighting along N. Church Alley & parking lot; Barry looking into this.
12. Shed for Grace's Closet has been placed.

#### Finance Committee

6. Larry said the church insurance covers new shed for Grace's Closet.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

8. Lutheran Church has given First Saturday donation of \$365.
9. Steve says the trash needs to be emptied and the bathrooms need cleaned more often. Pastor Mark is going to get the name of person that cleans Church of Apostles in Waynesboro.
10. Steve is still working with Comcast on internet speed.

Adjourned meeting at 8:56 a.m. with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be on January 18, 2026 @8:00 a.m.

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

**Grace United Church of Christ**  
**4th Quarterly Statement**  
**Financial Income and Expense Report**  
**October through December 2025**

*General Operating Account:*

Beginning Balance	\$3,884.23
Income	\$81,503.00
Expense	\$81,053.74
Ending Balance	\$4,333.49

*Building & Grounds Maintenance Account:*

Beginning Balance	\$29,934.19
Income	\$1,185.00
Expense	\$10,752.22
Ending Balance	\$20,366.97

*Organ/Memorial/Trust Account:*

Beginning Balance	\$25,297.97
Income	\$403.27
Expense	\$19,668.82
Ending Balance	\$6,032.42

*Special Account (Outreach/Other Non-Operating Funds)*

Beginning Balance	\$10,268.47
Income	\$2,427.79
Expense	\$8,624.69
Ending Balance	\$4,071.57





MARCH:

PALM SUNDAY, WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30AM AND  
WE ARE HOSTING A GREENCASTLE COMMUNITY SERVICE AT 6:30PM

APRIL:

MAUNDY THURSDAY WILL BE HELD AT GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AT 7PM  
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30AM

