



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

♪♪ GRACE NOTES ♪♪

May – June 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

Grace's Free Closet Hours

Monday & Wednesday

9:30am to 12:30pm

2nd & 4th Saturday each Month, 11:30am-2:30pm

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.....

Dear family in Christ,

This is the time of the year when the weather gets warmer and we all start to think about summer and vacations! I wanted to let you know that my vacation Sundays this year will be: June 28, July 4, and July 12. My twin brother Jay and his family are spending time in Philly for a week of that time. My son Jacob and I are very excited to join them at a World Cup Soccer Match on June 27. We will also be taking some time at Ocean City in MD with the whole family. I plan on helping my daughter Hope move into an apartment in Elizabethtown as she starts her new job at Hershey Hospital. Oh, and let's hope my house repairs will be done by then... so that we can move all our things back into the place and get settled!

On July 4, the Rev Peter Emig will be leading worship. He retired from serving Solomon's UCC in New Franklin for about 40 years.

On June 28 and July 12, a young man named Michael Spielman who is training to be an ordained pastor (a Member in Discernment in our UCC lingo) is going to be preaching. He is currently serving as a chaplain at his place of work, Volvo. He is taking theological classes online. In other words, he is at the beginning of his calling to help and serve God's people. I am serving as a mentor to him.

I hope and pray that this summer will be a refreshing and restoring time for you all.

Pastor Mark

The Mercersburg Association

KEYSTONE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

<https://mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Keystone Conference UCC Disaster Ministries - Seeking Volunteers
2. 50 Days of Easter Food Challenge -
A People at the Table Mission Project for our 1st Annual Meeting
3. Keystone Conference Annual Meeting - June 5-7, Millersville University
4. General Synod Special Meeting - May 9
5. 2026 Keystone Men's Clergy Retreat, October 6-8, Hartman Center, Milroy PA.
6. January 2027 - Keystone Women's Clergy Retreat
7. A lay person from the historic Penn Central Conference is needed to serve for two years on the Keystone Conference Nominating Committee.

SPRING HYBRID MEETING AGENDA

**Sunday May 3, 2026 from 3 - 5 PM
at Grace UCC in Greencastle**

“Coming to the Table”

- **Welcome & Opening Prayer** – *Rev. Donald Funk*

- **Business: 3 – 3:45pm**

Keystone Conference Report – *Rev. Dr. Carrie Call*

Committee on Ministry update – *Rev. Mark Ruzicka*

Approval of Minutes of the 2025 Fall Meeting – *Shirley Keith Knox*

Treasurers’ Report – *Julia Emig*

Vote on Faith United Ickesburg transferring to Central Association
– *Shirley Keith Knox*

- **Nominations** – *Shirley Keith Knox*

Vice-President – volunteer needed

Secretary – *Linda Ritchey*

Committee on Ministry –

Bob Macfarlane, Rev Dani Neff and open position

- **Program: 3:45 – 4:30pm**

Megan Shreve, CEO of South-Central Community Action Program (SCCAP), will speak on food insecurity in our communities.

- **Worship & Communion: 4:30 – 5pm**

Rev. Mark Ruzicka & Rev. Caroline Saxton

SAVE THE DATE

May 13 - Ministerium at First UCC in Carlisle

Topic: Providing Visitations and Pastoral Care in the Church Setting
10am till 12noon

Social Seniors Group

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2PM AT TRINITY UCC IN WAYNESBORO

Deitrich Bonhoeffer famously wrote, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." Below is a message from Pastor Dani Neff who is offering us a way to be "for others" at our **May Social Seniors** gathering.

Trinity, Waynesboro looks forward to welcoming us to their May Social Seniors gathering. In addition to food and fellowship, we will be assembling hygiene kits for Church World Service. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells us that "when you have done it for one of the least these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me. Packing hygiene kits allows us to offer dignity and comfort to individuals in need. We anticipate working together to demonstrate care and support for our community during this initiative.

Additional information from Dani:

"It is my hope that we can assemble **24 kits**. Almost all items in the kits can be purchased at the Dollar Tree but are also available at Dollar General & Walmart. If possible, I would like each church to bring components for each kit. I have divided up the list for us below, but if this would be a hardship for your church or the individuals in your church, please let me know and I will make sure that we have the items so that we can all participate. When purchasing items for the kit, it is very important to get the item exactly how it is listed. Church World Service is specific in their sizing/requests because in their many years of doing this ministry, they have found what works and is best for those who receive the kits.

They are asking Grace UCC & Church of the Apostles to help provide the following donations:

24 fingernail or toenail clippers

(either is acceptable)

24 travel size deodorant sticks

(3.4 ounces or less each, non-aerosol)

24 travel size toothpastes

(3.4 ounces or less, with an expiration date at least one year out)

We encourage everyone to come out, assemble the kits with us, and enjoy light snacks and fellowship. Baskets will be placed in the vestibules on May 3rd and May 10 for your donations.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Dani at revdanineff@gmail.com And again, if obtaining these items presents a hardship. please reach out and we will make it work!

There are no gatherings during the summer months of June or July.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We need additional members to volunteer during Sunday services. Please contact church office or any board member for further details on procedures. Sign-up sheets for June will be out soon.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch meets for fellowship over lunch at 11:30am on the last Tuesday of every month. Everyone is invited to enjoy good food and company.

May 26th – Vinnies on 11 in Marion

June 30th – Parlor House in Waynesboro

(Vinnies was switched to May as they are closed the the last week in June)

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

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 the month at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Their next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd.

Please join them and bring a friend!

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. The season ends in May. Check with Patty for the final rehearsal date. The choir will continue to perform on Sundays through May 24TH, then take a summer break. Contact Patty Stepler for any further questions. We thank the choir for a great season!

General Primary Elections

Grace UCC serves as a voting site for Franklin County. The 2026 general primary elections will take place on Tuesday, May 19. The social hall will be open for voters from 7am to 8pm.

Fundraiser Profits

We are pleased to announce the profits of our Spring Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale which was held in March. We successfully sold 420 sandwiches along with 75 quarts of ham & bean soup and 70 quarts of chicken & rice soup. The profits of \$3219 generated from this fundraiser benefited our church. We extend our gratitude to Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe for donating the sandwich potato rolls and matching that donation. Thank you to our members for providing ingredients and volunteering their time and soup making talents! Additionally, we express our thanks to all who purchased meals in support of our church.

Grace UCC Scholarships:



Six students have been selected for scholarships.
Details will follow soon.

Greencastle Area High School will host its Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 21st, from 9:15am to 10:30am in the auditorium. Grace UCC will present certificates to the winners.

On Educational Sunday, June 14th, Grace will honor recipients during worship. Afterwards, refreshments will be served for them and their families.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures

May/June devotional brochures are available at the front welcome table and in the elevator area. Please pick up a free copy after Sunday worship or stop by the office during the week.

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, May 4th at 7pm in the meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them! For updates on meetings or if you can volunteer for any upcoming fundraisers (such as our Annual Yard Sale in July), please contact Chet Nye or Marg Stouffer.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

Submit your announcements, joys, news, articles, or photos to share with the church family by June 18th for the July/August 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.

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. They have scheduled their quarterly meetings for the rest of this year.

Tuesday, July 21, 1pm

Tuesday, October 20, 1pm

If you would like additional information about joining this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.



Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

This committee collaborates with and supports the pastor in providing meaningful worship, organizing social events, and addressing the needs of the congregation. They meet quarterly on Sunday mornings at 8:30am in the small meeting room. The meetings for the remainder of this year are scheduled as follows:

May 3rd

August 2nd

November 1st

For more information on joining this committee contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.

Consistory Board Meetings

Monthly board meetings take place on Sunday mornings at 8am. Our upcoming meetings will be held on **May 17th and June 21st**. No meetings are held during the summer month of July or August. Impromptu meetings will be called if any issues arise.

2026 Officers & Board Members:

President: Mark Stahl

Vice President: Steve Miller

Secretary: Lu Miller

Tim Bryan

Ron Shafer

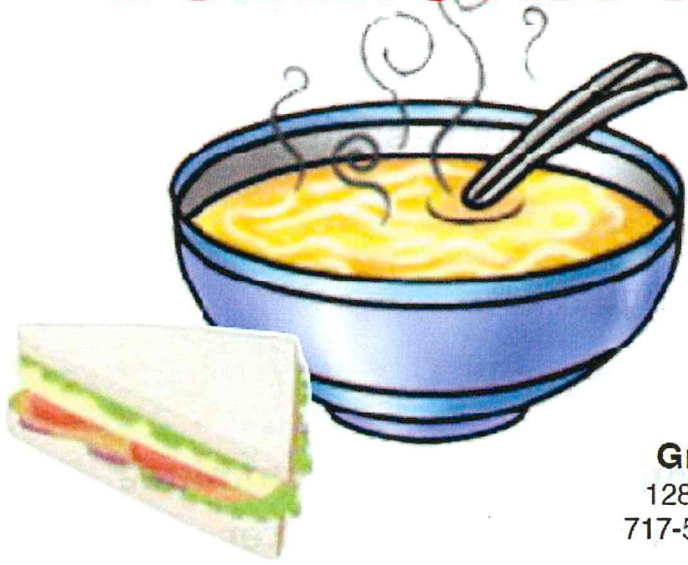
Barry Shoemaker

Patty Stepler

Carolle Patrick

Treasurer: Larry Stepler

1st Saturday **FREE** **COMMUNITY LUNCH**



May 2nd
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MENU:

Turkey Salad Sandwich,
Turkey Noodle Soup,
Cake & Bottled Water

(Limited Quantities)

Grace United Church of Christ
128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225
717-597-2983 www.graceuccgreencastle.com

DONATIONS ACCEPTED. EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT!



Community enjoying lunch at Grace UCC

SIGHT & SOUND MOVIE MATINEE DAY

Ron Shafer has generously offered to host movie matinees in his home in Greencastle. You can find his address in the church directory or call the church office. He has a series of 6 to 7, 2-hour movies from Sight & Sound films. Space is limited to 20 guests; so please sign up on the sheet in the elevator area. The first movie, "Ruth," will be shown on Saturday, May 16th at 2pm.

Upcoming Birthday Wishes

May

- 5/13 - Tom Stine
- 5/17 - Betsy Green
- 5/18 - Roy Thomas
- 5/23 - Joann Snider

June

- 6/12 - Ron Myers
- 6/13 - Stacy Schweitzer
- 6/17 - Kate Kennedy
- 6/17 - Barry Shoemaker
- 6/18 - Lorna Thomas
- 6/19 - Kermit Hicks
- 6/19 - Kristen Vannoy
- 6/21 - Deb Homer
- 6/21 - Rashaw Alston
- 6/22 - Ben Thomas
- 6/26 - Joseph Koons

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/>

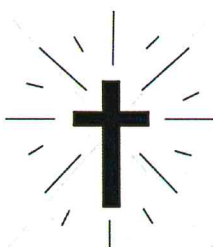
YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

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 the church directory. If anyone has made any recent changes to their phone, address or emails, please contact Elaine in the church office. We will distribute copies once updates are completed.



Penn Central Conference UCC

One Great Hour of Sharing

We express our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to this UCC fund. A total of \$150 was collected during the month of March, which will support ministries in providing health services, education, emergency relief, and many other important initiatives. Special envelopes are available in both vestibule areas, and donations are welcome at any time.

The next mission we help support is

Strengthen The Church Offering

We will receive these offerings in May.

The Holy Spirit gathers us together. From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leader across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a more just world for all. The challenges our congregations face vary:

- Some seek ways to strengthen youth ministry
- Some hope to start new congregations
- Some look for innovative ways to renew existing congregations
- Some need help developing leaders

The giving in your congregation can ensure congregations get the help they need from their conference and the national ministries of the UCC. Together we can answer the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a just world for all.

Upcoming Fundraiser

Our big Annual Yard Sale will be approaching soon (July 10th & 11th)! As you do your summer cleaning, please set aside any articles for our yard sale. We will not be accepting donations of clothing, books, unmatched glasses or dishes (only in sets of 4 or more), or large furniture. Check with us regarding any small pieces of furniture. We will announce when you can start dropping off items (sometime in June).

We also need volunteers to help sort, clean and set up the yard sale items, along with helpers during the sale days.

Please contact Marg Stouffer or Chet Nye with any questions.

Save the dates.....

5th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale!!!

Friday, July 10, from 8am to 4pm
Saturday, July 11, from 8am to 2pm

Rain or Shine!

Sale will be held indoors in our social hall.

We hope to have lots of treasures waiting for you!



Church of the Apostles invites us to attend their Summer Concerts, running from June 7th to August 23rd.

Here is the schedule for June!



Sunday Evening Concerts, 6 PM at

THE PAVILION



Church of the Apostles, UCC, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, PA.

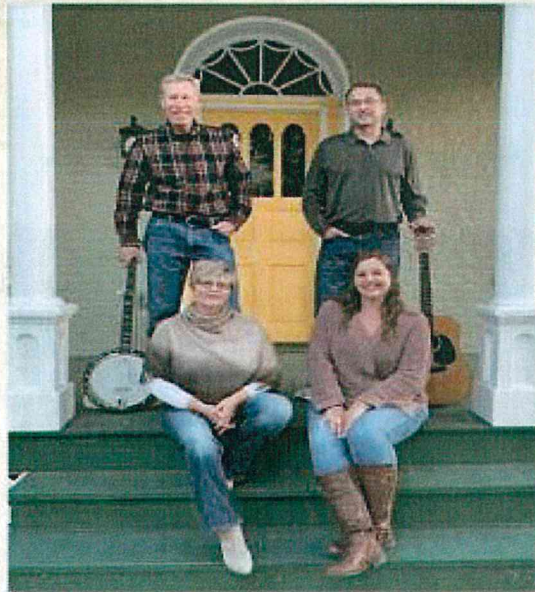
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

Rain or Shine, concerts will be held inside the church building in inclement weather.

JUNE 7

HARMONY HYMNS



Old familiar hymns and folk songs uniquely arranged for vocals, banjo and guitar introduced with song histories and two Christian songs popularized by Allison Krause.

JUNE 21

MOUNTAIN AIR

1st Show



*Guitar, mandolin & vocal harmony.
Acoustic, contemporary, folk,
and pop country music.*

JUNE 28

7 MILE ROAD



*Christian Music including original
songs, contemporary praise songs,
and meaningful folk/rock songs
with a blend of vocal harmonies
and a variety of instruments.*



Consistory Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lu Miller, Steve Miller, Ron Shafer, Pastor Mark, Carolle Patrick, Patty Stepler, Larry Stepler

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read from Psalm 99.

CHURCH WORK:

CONSENT AGENDA: January minutes were approved on a Tim/Patty motion. January's treasurer report was approved on a Carolle/Ron motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Pastor Mark Updated pictures for new consistory members will be taken after the meeting to be put on the bulletin board. Pictures are also needed for the newsletter. Palm Sunday service at 6:30pm will be hosted by GUCC. Carolle and Ron volunteered to be greeters.

Activities and Fundraising Committee: Report was reviewed.

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee: Minutes were reviewed. Book study will start on Feb. 18 and run for 7 weeks. Calendar of Events for 2026 was included in the consistory packet.

Building and Grounds Committee: Updates from Barry

1. Troy Layton replaced the thermostat in Grace's Closet, but it is still acting up. While here Barry asked him about a quote for lights to be placed along Church Alley & parking lot. Troy will be checking with his Dad about a quote.
2. Boiler inspection was completed and still awaiting the new certificate. Elaine will follow up on this.
3. Cleaning of church – Included in the consistory packet was a list of tasks to be done for whoever is hired. Barry will follow up with Ryan regarding insurance and tax forms to be distributed for his work. Barry will also contact the other churches in the area regarding how they pay Ryan for his work and if tax forms are completed. Barry will also contact Bright View Cleaning for a quote.
4. Snow Removal – Barry clarified with Mark's Lawn Care about the needs for future snow removal from the parking lot. There needs to be access to the alley between the 2 garages, and the 4 parking spots that are for The Shoppe and Collect & Consign owners.
5. Finance – Larry reported the ERTC Express is in contact with IRS regarding reimbursement.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION: Pastor Mark will now be making the announcements at the beginning of service. An updated list of 2026 Board Members and Officers were distributed and to be added to the consistory binders with the correction of Patty Stepler's telephone number being 717-372-2636.

ACTION AGENDA:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50am with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be March 15, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller, Secretary

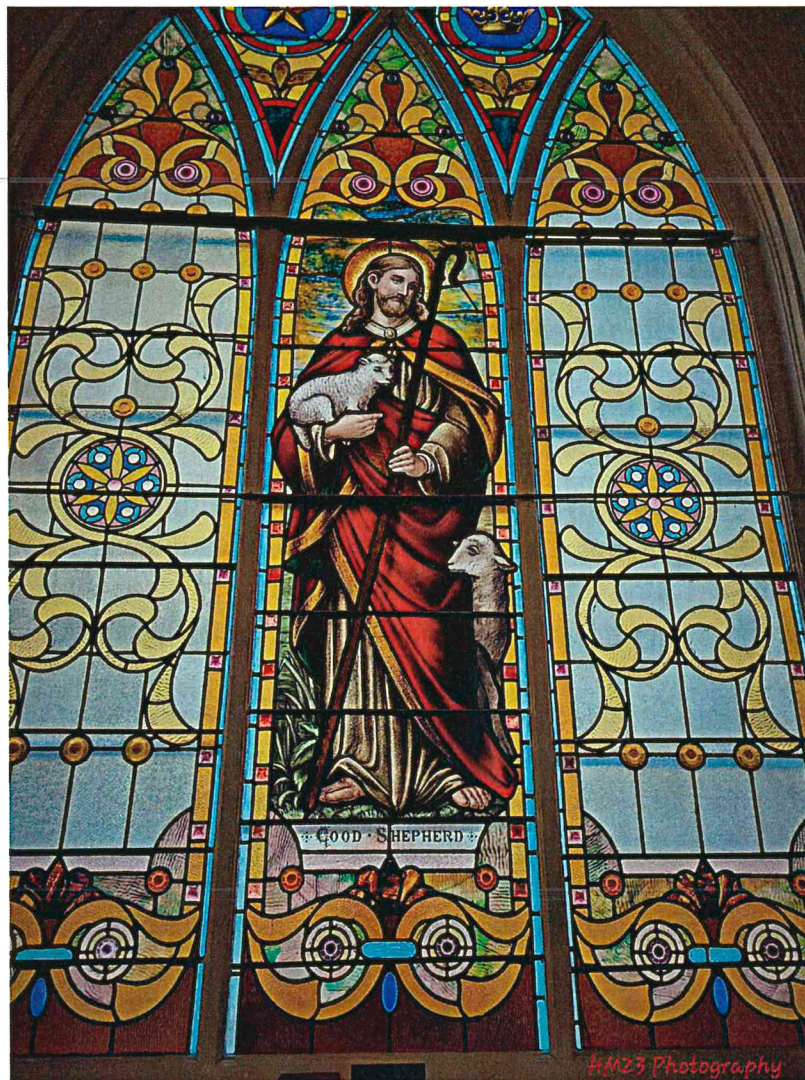


Photo taken by HMZ3 Photography by Marty Zimmerman

Consistory Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2026

Meeting called to order by Vice President Steve Miller at 8:05 am.

ROLL CALL: Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lu Miller, Steve Miller, Pastor Mark, Carolle Patrick, Patty Stepler and Larry Stepler

Absent: Mark Stahl, Ron Shafer

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read from Psalm 100.

CHURCH WORK:

CONSENT AGENDA: February minutes were approved on a Tim/Patty motion. February's treasurer report was approved on a Patty/Barry motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Pastor Mark: Deb Pirtle is asking to have her membership transferred to Church of Brethren. Transfer and removal from membership role was approved on a Lu/Barry motion. Anointing and healing service will be on March 22. Church of the Apostles will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on March 22. Community Palm Sunday service will be held at GUCC at 6:30pm. Carolle and Ron as well as The Homer family will be greeters. Church of the Apostles will be holding 9 summer concert series again this summer on Sundays at 6pm in their pavilion. Pastor Mark will be conducting services at Heritage Hills today at 2pm.

Activities and Fundraising Committee: Report was reviewed and approved on a Carolle/Patty motion.

Building and Grounds Committee: Updates from Barry

1. Troy Layton replaced the replacement thermostat and relay in Grace's Closet. Still pending a quote for lights to be placed along Church Alley & parking lot.
2. Boiler inspection was completed and the new certificate is posted near the boiler, and a copy is in the church office files.
3. Cleaning of church – Barry and Tim met with Grant Bennett from Bright View Cleaning. He quoted \$135 per cleaning. Barry will clarify some issues and will send an email to consistory members for a vote to approve his services. This was approved on a Steve/Tim motion.
4. The floor in the family bathroom is lifting. Mark Stahl will follow up on this for replacement.
5. The carpet at the elevator entrance on the second floor, outside the sanctuary, needs replacement. This carpet also goes down the side stairs. Mark Stahl will follow up on this project.
6. Mark Semler, who rents the small garage, may be moving out. The garage will then be available for rent. The Consignment Shoppe expressed past interested in renting it.

7. The alarm system shows that the smoke detector in the rectory needs attention. Elaine will be instructed to call the security company to look at it.

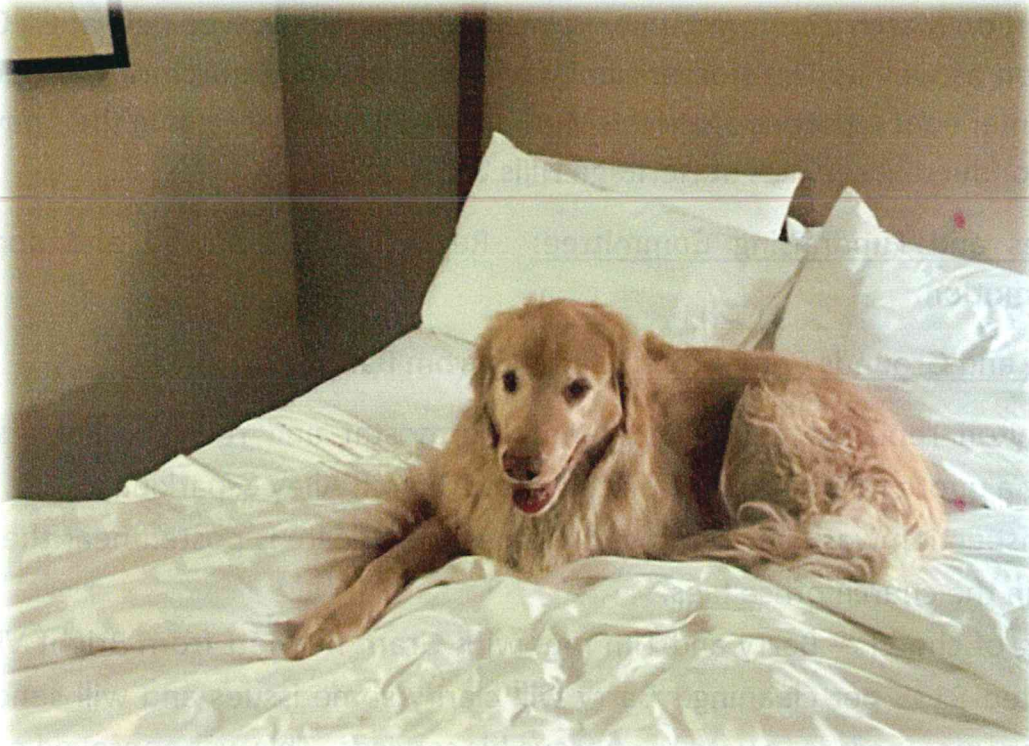
ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

ACTION AGENDA:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40am with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be April 19, 2026, at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted, Lu Miller, Secretary



Deluca – Pastor's Buddy

**Grace United Church of Christ
Financial Statement
Income and Expense Balances
for March 2026**

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$4,931.67
Income	\$15,740.96
Expense	\$18,674.57
Ending Balance	\$1,998.06

Building & Grounds Maintenance Account:

Beginning Balance	\$29,854.39
Income	\$95.00
Expense	\$21,000.00
Ending Balance	\$8,949.39

Organ/Memorial/Trust Account:

Beginning Balance	\$11,873.52
Income	\$9,107.05
Expense	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$20,980.57

Special Account (Outreach/Other Non-Operating Funds)

Beginning Balance	\$2,884.59
Income	\$12,358.00
Expense	\$3,768.08
Ending Balance	\$11,474.51



JUNE:

- RECEIVING YARD SALE DONATIONS TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH

JULY:

ANNUAL CHURCH YARD SALE

SEPTEMBER

FALL BOOK/BIBLE STUDY

HAM SANDWICH & SOUP SALE

CHURCH PICNIC AT CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES