

**GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



Pastor Sandy Kraft

March 15, 2026

127 S. Pennsylvania Avenue

Centre Hall, PA 16828



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 15, 2026

10:00 AM

4th Sunday in Lent



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLORIFIED

PRELUDE—Here I Am To Worship

CENTERING WORDS—Psalm 130

In the quiet, we wait for you, O God. We hope for your transforming love. In the darkness of despair, we trust that you are here.

NOTE: If you are able, please stand where this symbol appears +

CALL TO WORSHIP—

L: The Lord is our Shepherd.

P: Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd.

L: Our Shepherd knows us and calls us by name.

P: We follow him because we know his voice.

L: Our Shepherd is completely trustworthy.

P: He leads us to that which makes for abundant life.

L: Verdant pastures, refreshing water and safe shelter. These are the gifts of our Shepherd.

P: In trust, we follow our shepherd.

L: In peace, we rest secure.

P: In joy and thankfulness, we celebrate our Shepherd's goodness.

All: The Lord is our Shepherd. Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER—

In these familiar words, O God, speak to us once again of the mystery of your grace and joy. Remind us that we are not alone, for we have a Shepherd who continually watches over us, eager to give us all we need for our own flourishing and the flourishing of the entire human community. Quicken our hearts and minds, that we might respond to your invitation to peace and abundance. For the sake of Christ, our Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

+HYMN—Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

FIRST SCRIPTURE—1 Samuel 16:1-13

PRAYER

+**HYMN**—Shine Jesus Shine

SECOND SCRIPTURE—Psalm 23

THE MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and discipline are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess it in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION—

O Lord, our God, we have pledged ourselves to follow in the Master's footsteps, but time and again we have stumbled; blinded by the cares and concerns of this world we have failed to trust the Good Shepherd. Extend your strong hand and lift us up, Lord. We have wandered so far from your will. Incline us by the pressure of your will to return to our spiritual home. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Confession and Words of Assurance

OFFERING—Gratitude

+CLOSING HYMN—Days of Elijah

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE—May You Run and Not Be Weary

Portions of the liturgy have come from: Lectionary Worship Aids, Series VI. Copyright © 2001

by CSS Publishing Company, Inc. Used by permission.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Leader: Sandy Kraft

Liturgist: Page Gaddis

Acolyte: Jason Deitrich

Pianist: Aimee Gahagen

Greeters: Gale Marshall and Audrey Oakes

Glorified members: Alice Peters, Page Gaddis, Van Jodon, Brad Gensimore, Randy Montgomery, Jeremy Peters and Jack Oakes

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE—March 22

Liturgist: Matt Powell

Acolyte: Lincoln Evans

Greeters/ Sandy Confer and Cindy Kellander

Bell Ringer: Page Gaddis

Church Checker: Page Gaddis—March 09 to March 22

CHURCH AND PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Sandy's cell phone: (570) 575-8225

Email: skraft@susumc.org

Church office phone number: 814-364-1701

Church office email address: gumc127@gmail.com



Please keep all members, family, and friends in your thoughts and prayers, especially those listed below:

02/22/26—Mindy Fultz and Kristen Cowher—both struggling with cancer and subsequent treatments, requested by Dan Gensimore.

03/01/26—Susan Romanini-severe back pain, requested by Merrilee Barner

03//08/26—Family and friends of Donna Coursen

To request a name, please refer to the prayer request cards located in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate. Or, call/email the church office. Thank you.

Please keep our homebound friends in your thoughts and prayers!

Bertha Cassidy

Lou Cole

Liz Fink

Evelyn Yost

Note: addresses available in the directory, or contact the church office.

A graphic with the word "Announcements" written in a white, cursive font across a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of green, yellow, and red.

03/15/26—Operation Christmas Child Meeting, 2:00 P.M.

03/15/26—Deadline for Easter flower orders

03/21/26—King of Kings, Blanchard Church of Christ and dinner at the Hublersburg Inn, more information to follow.

03/21/26—Celebration of Laity, Mount Nittany Methodist Church, 10:00 A.M.

03/28/26—Easter Egg Hunt at Grace / Crafts, 9:00 A.M.

03/29/26—Palm Sunday Brunch, immediately following the service, Ash Hall

04/12/26—Donut Sunday, 8:30-9:45 A.M., Ash Hall

09/16/26—Sight and Sound Theater, “Joshua”, 3:00 P.M. ticket price is \$85.00. More details to follow.



March 20th





From the Finance Committee ...

“Praise God!” was how our report began in early 2025 and is appropriate again in 2026. In 2024 we were able to pay our operating expenses and in 2025 budget offerings exceeded expenses by 5.6%. It has been some time since we have experienced that, and we thank God for it. As we celebrate, keep in mind that over several years we have experienced significant shortfalls and we need to recover from them. And of course, inflation has been an issue and Grace operating expenses are increasing yearly. We are diligent in managing expenses to minimize budget increases.

A recent giving trend has been large donations made as Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA retirement accounts. Those donations are a big part of our positive financial trend. Large donations are one of those “blessing and concern” kind of things, as assuming they will continue is uncertain.

Donations for January 2026 were very strong, so we are again off to a good start. We will update you about our fiscal status mid-year. The finance committee thanks God for the faithful giving of the members of the Grace United Methodist family.

We want to remind you that current financial reports are provided on the bulletin board at the rear entrance of the sanctuary or you can request a copy from Chris Hosterman at chosterman@hotmail.com.

Security Concern

The Trustees have a group of “Church Checkers” that come to the church, at the end of each day, to be sure the doors are locked and everything is ok. Keeping the doors locked at night is especially important with the preschool program operating in the basement. Cassandra has found the back door unlocked on several occasions. The doors need to be locked at night for the safety of the children in Cassandra’s care as well as preventing theft. The Trustee checkers are going to be extra diligent when doing their nightly check. For everyone else who has a key, please make sure that any door you unlock is locked as you leave the building. We strongly encourage everyone, if they unlock a door to gain access, that they immediately lock the door before entering the building. This is especially important if you come to the church after the Trustee checker has already been there. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.





DONUT SUNDAY'S

April 12th

8:30 A.M. — 9:45 A.M.

Ash Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

MARCH 29TH

Immediately following the church service,

Sign up sheet being passed around.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

REMINDER:

**There is no Children's Sunday School
the 3rd Sunday of every month!**



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

ST. LUKE CHURCH

7:00 P.M.

SERVICES ARE NOW THROUGH MARCH 25TH

EASTER FLOWER SALE

Order forms available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Order deadline is Sunday March 15th



Saturday, March 28th — 9:00 A.M.

Crafts after the Egg Hunt!

Please help us ...we are asking folks to take eggs home, fill with candy and return to the tubs provided in the hall.



YMCA OF CENTRE COUNTY BACKPACK WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

Each Friday afternoon during the school year, participating students receive a backpack containing meals and snacks to take home with them for weekend. On Monday, students return their empty backpack to the school so it can be refilled for the following weekend. Examples of food students receive include: cereal, soup, tuna, spaghetti, crackers, fruits, and more.

The YMCA works closely with local schools to distribute information to students/parents qualifying for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program. Parents interested in enrolling their child/children complete a brief, confidential application and permission form. No child is turned away from this program. More information can be obtained by contacting your child's school.



REMINDER—The Food Pantry crew meets every third Tuesday of the month.



March —Tooth brushes and paste

April—Household cleaners



MARCH REQUESTS:

Musical instruments: harmonica, shakers, small plastic flutes, etc.; Yo-Yos, small size Etch-A-Sketch, Slinky, action figures, balls and other small toys

APRIL REQUESTS:

Cards, puzzles, small games, marbles dice, Legos, Matchbox cars, etc.

ALL YEAR:

Monetary donations (must notate Operation Christmas Child-**OCC** on the memo line of the check), empty shoeboxes, old clean T-shirts to be made into jump ropes (stained is fine, but no tears)

NOTE:

All donations accepted regardless of the monthly category. Donation Box is located inside the back entrance door (bottom of steps).

Reminder: NO used items, liquids or soap, food/seeds, weapons or scary/war related items.

Questions? Please contact Coordinator Kelly Wian (call/text 814-360-0257), or the church office. Thank you!
