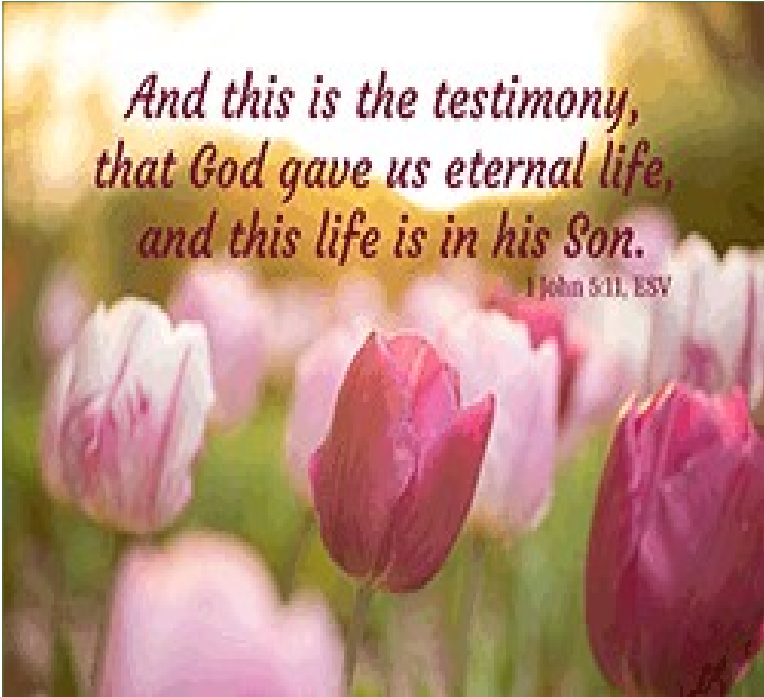


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*And this is the testimony,
that God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.*

1 John 5:11, ESV



PASTOR SANDY KRAFT

April 28, 2024

127 S. Pennsylvania Avenue

Centre Hall, PA 16828



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



WE GATHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

PRELUDE—

CENTERING WORDS—1 John 4, John 15

Connected to Christ through the power of love, we become the presence of God for the world.

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

+CALL TO WORSHIP—

L: Jesus is the real vine, and we are the branches. Unless we stay connected we will wither and dry up.

P: Come, let us worship God, the gardener who cares for the vine and the branches!

+OPENING PRAYER:

God of all seasons, we know that in springtime our gardens need tending; we come to you that we might be pruned in order to bear fruits of the spirit that will bring a mighty harvest for your kingdom. We know that without you we can do nothing, so keep us close to you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

+HYMN— Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, page 384 UMH

FIRST SCRIPTURE—1 John 4:7-21

PRAYER

+HYMN—Sweet Hour of Prayer, page 496 UMH

SECOND SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-8

THE MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Love is of God!

P: Therefore, friends, let us love one another.

L: God is love; if we know God, we love as God loves us.

**P: God's divine love was revealed through God's Son,
Jesus Christ.**

L: God loves us and wants us to abide in that love.

**P: If we love one another, God lives in us and God's love
is perfected in us.**

L: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

P: We love because God first loved us.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord of the vineyard, we wish to be healthy branches bearing much fruit, but we resist the pruning that would insure a bountiful harvest. Remove from us, we pray, the suckers that would sap our strength. Keep us united to you that we may not be led astray by false promises that bear no fruit for your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Confession and Words of Assurance

MISSION MOMENTS —Operation Christmas Child,
Kelly Wian

OFFERING AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

We offer all of ourselves to God: prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. May we rejoice that we co-create with God and are God's instruments in this world.

+**THE DOXOLOGY**—page 94

+**CLOSING HYMN**—I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, page
#2153 TFWS

+**BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

On a sad note ...

Pastor Deb's husband Gary passed away Monday, April 22, 2024. There will be a Celebration of Life Memorial Service on Saturday, May 4th at 10:30 at:

Middlesex United Methodist Church
118 N. Middlesex Rd.
Carlisle, PA 17013
(light lunch to follow)

Pastor Deb's home address: 120 N. Middlesex Rd.
Carlisle, PA 17013

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor: Sandy Kraft
Liturgist: Kelly Wian
Acolyte: Anthony McClenahan
Greeters: Bess and Jim Irwin
Organist: Aimee Gahagen

Media Technicians: Jeremy Peters and Jack Oakes

PARTICIPATING IN NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE

May 05, 2024

Liturgist: Matt Powell
Acolyte: Jason Deitrich
Greeters: Willie and Erskine Cash

Church Checker: Wally Heiser—April 22 to May 05

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:

04/07/24 Jim Shuey—requested by Carolyn Foust; Kandie

04/14/24 nothing requested

04/21/24 The family and friends of Gary Dailey; Richard Ripo; Elaine Burn in hospice care for cancer—requested by Elaine Horner

Please refer to prayer cards in your pews to submit a name

Our homebound friends ...

Barbara Barnaby

Pete Burnett

Bertha Cassidy

Lou Cole

Fred Johnson

Barbara Koll

Elise Nestlerode

Ruth Rudy

Evelyn Yost



- May 11 Grace Ladies Banquet, 6:30 PM, Ash Hall—for
 more information see back page
- June 02 The church service will return to its summer
 schedule and begin at 9:00 AM.



**A special thank you to
Page and Preston Gaddis
for planting the many
tulips on the corner!
Check it out!!**

From the Finance Committee and Trustees. -

The oil heating boiler in the church parsonage needs to be replaced before next winter. Although there s money in the budget for maintenance, this is a large one-time expense at around \$6100. If you are able, please consider a gift for this project in addition to your regular giving. **All checks should be marked “Boiler” in the memo line.** Updates on progress will be provided weekly. Thank to everyone for their faithful giving!

Collecting items for Mission Central Care Kits

This year we are collecting items for Care Kits for Mission Central. You are invited as a Church to collect items and have your pastor or lay delegate bring them to Annual Conference. There will be a place in the Grand Ballroom at the Genetti to drop off donations as well as assemble kits from the collected items.

State College is asked to bring:

Bath size bar soap (2.5oz and larger- no Dove, Ivory, or Lisa Brands) and adult toothbrushes (sealed in their individual packaging)

There are 593 United Methodist Churches in the Susquehanna Conference. Our goal is to bring enough supplies to make 1000 kits so that as a Conference we can be a blessing to others.



Samaritan's Purse - 2024

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission

April—Ball (all types ...soccer, kick, tennis, beach, bouncy, hand air pumps, small frisbee

May—Flashlights with extra batteries, binoculars, compass, small fishing kits, small sewing kits, tools, nails.

Questions? Please contact Kelly Wian directly or the church office.

Thank you!



YMCA OF CENTRE COUNTY— ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS

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: FOOD PANTRY MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



April—cake mixes
May—kitchen garbage bags
Thank you!



ALL INVITED

PLEASE COMPLETE THE BELOW FORM AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE. RESERVATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE, 814/364-1701, PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE MAY 5TH.

DETACH-----

NAME: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____