

Grace United Methodist Church

Seasons of GRACE!

Fall 2023



From the Pastor's Desk ...

Ever have trouble praying? The church tries very hard to facilitate our connection with God through the Sunday morning worship service, however, through years of listening to the pastor pray some people find their ability to pray diminished. God seems distant. They don't know where to begin when they want to talk with him. If this sounds familiar, then the following is for you.

God seeming distant is a symptom of our lack of contact with him. Think of your friends. Do you have an acquaintance from high school, assuming that was at least 25 years ago, that you haven't talked to since graduation? How would it feel to run into that person again after all these years? It might seem great to see them again, but wouldn't you be at a slight loss for words? So much has happened since high school you may have grown into completely different people than you were back then. Now, granted it may be fun to catch up, but it's going to take some time before you feel comfortable again.

So it is with God. The longer we have been "away" the longer it will take to catch up and feel comfortable again. My advice is to think of prayer as if you were talking to your best friend. It's a way to close up that distant feeling. How do you talk to your friend? Honestly! You're never phony with your best friend,

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127 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, P.O. Box 292, Centre Hall, PA 16828
Phone: 814 364-1701
Email: gumc127@gmail.com
Office hours: 8:00 AM –noon, weekdays

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you tell them exactly what you think with no games. There's none of this, let's see, if I phrase it this way they will take it better, you just say it - the good and the bad. And then you listen to them. You get their reaction and then you respond further. Amazingly, this is called conversation. Prayer is a conversation with God. It's being honest with him, about the good and the bad, talking it out with him, and then listening for his response. And then when we get that response treating it respectfully. Letting it influence us, being vulnerable, if you will. Just like when your friend gives you a response. You listen and you take it seriously. You value what they have to say. Treat God the same way.

Above all, even if talking to God seems strange and foreign, just try it. After all you'd never get reacquainted with your old friend if you never started the conversation. I guarantee after you have tried it a few times you will be amazed at how well it works and horrified at what you've missed out on all these years!



SHOE BOX PACKING PARTY OCTOBER 29TH —AFTER CHURCH SERVICE



Soup/Shoebox packing party- Luncheon will be from 11-12:30 PM (sign up sheet hanging in the hallway) and Shoebox packing will be directly afterwards. So, please come and enjoy fellowship with one another as we prepare the shoe boxes for shipping.

EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GOING STRONG!!



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission

October:

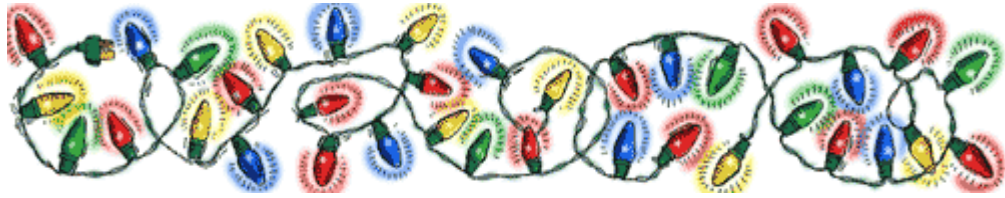
PERSONAL HYGIENE—wrapped bar soap, washcloths

- ◆ Of course, we will accept ANY donations regardless of the monthly highlight category.
- ◆ Donation Box will be placed in the hallway at the back entrance.
- ◆ Reminder—NO liquids, food, weapons or scary/war related items.

November:

MONETARY DONATIONS—to cover processing fees for each box. And/or, a personal card, note, or picture to include in a box from you!

UPCOMING THANKSGIVING
AND
CHRISTMAS TIME EVENTS



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 10TH — THANKSGIVING SERVICE

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 03 HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

DECEMBER 08 TO 10

CHRISTMAS IN CENTRE HALL

DECEMBER 10 LIVE NATIVITY AT GRACE

DECEMBER 24 LESSONS AND CAROLS, 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 24 CANDLELIGHT / COMMUNION
SERVICE, 10:00 PM

HYMN SING

OCTOBER 29TH



A special service is being planned to include hymns requested by the congregation.

Please bring your loudest singing voice and enjoy some musical fellowship!





AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR SANDY ...

**PRAYER GROUP—
EVERY WEDNESDAY, BEGINNING
OCTOBER 18TH
10:00 AM
CHURCH SANCTUARY**

New prayer group will meet each Wednesday morning at 10am in the sanctuary.

For more information please call the church office.



Grace Finance Update

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

It continues to be a challenging year for families, businesses, and churches. All have been impacted by inflation and calls to support our neighbors in the US and worldwide, affected by earthquakes, hunger, and war. If this sounds familiar, it was the opening paragraph of a finance report in 2022: some things never change.

Grace finances continue to be a challenge as well. Year to date expenses total \$177,611 while year to date offerings total \$153,646, and year to date expenses exceed offerings by \$23,965. Should that trend continue for the next three Months, the shortfall for the year will be approximately \$30,000. We continue to fund our day-to-day expenses from reserve funds, and we all know that is not viable in the long term. While giving is up \$15,822 over 2022, expenses have increased by \$10,391 as well. The increases in expenses are spread over many budget categories just, as they are for our personal expenses. The first eight months showed an improving trend as monthly income averaged \$17,000. That changed in September when monthly offerings were only \$8,773. Monthly variations can be significant as members make gifts from retirement accounts; September was a real outlier. Normally year end giving is strong, so it is possible to close the operating deficit.

The finance committee wanted everyone to be aware of where we are at this time. Please prayerfully consider your year end giving.

Mission giving continues to be a strength of Grace and is something to be celebrated. With ongoing Conference Specials and our monthly missions, Grace ministers to people locally and around the world.

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Looking at where we are financially, the Finance Committee would strongly encourage members to focus on giving to the General Fund through the rest of the year.

The Finance Committee wants to thank each member for your faithfulness in giving as God has blessed you within your life. Please contact me with any questions at chosterman@hotmail.com or my cell 814-880-7957. The latest financials are posted at the bulletin board as you exit the rear of the church. Other members of the Committee are Van Jodon, Randy Montgomery, and Allan Darr.

Chris Hosterman
Finance Committee Chair



Remember ...

Daylight Saving Time Ends!

November 5th, 2023-

Saturday, November 11



Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.”

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Andrew Deardorff 9/02
 Mackenzie Bartlebaugh 9/13
 Wilma Shuey 9/02
 Anne Gaddis 9/15
 Marcie Lynch-Assetta 9/03
 Richard Hedden 9/18
 Jennifer Hawk 9/05
 Thomas Barner 9/19
 Jack Muthersbaugh 9/07
 Linda Hosterman 9/20

ANNIVERSARIES:

Alice & Randy Montgomery 9/06
 Willie & Erskine Cash 9/16
 Jen & Jacob Conklin 9/07
 Brandi & Roy Brodzina 9/21
 Laura & Allan Darr 9/09

Theresa Heiser 9/09
 Clayton Royer 9/20
 Bess Irwin 9/09
 Hanna Kapinus 9/21
 Connie McClenahan 9/09
 Merrilee Barner 9/23
 Gale Marshall 9/24
 Barb Wilkins 9/10
 Thomas Smeltzer 9/24
 Aaron Hawk 9/11
 Connie Gensimore 9/25
 Matthew Musser 9/11
 Angel Musser 9/27
 Joan Clark 9/29
 Dennis Long 9/29
 Randy Gilliland 9/30

Kimberly & Russell Shuey 9/22
 Marian & Russell Smith 9/12
 Tanya & Andrew Verbanec 9/26
 Gloria & Jeff Wert 9/14
 Mary Kay & Wallace Heiser 9/15
 Clarissa Keller & Gabriel Alcorn 9/15



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Bethany Long 10/01

Eileen Booz 10/02

Alice Peters 10/02

Seth Palmer 10/06

Sandra Podgurski 10/09

Susan Hedden 10/10

London Judy 10/10

Doris Smeltzer 10/12

Kalena Smith 10/14

Josh Schubert 10/14

Clinton Judy 10/15

Jarrett Peters 10/19

Shirley Ash 10/20

Renee Verbanec 10/22

Matthew Shuey 10/24

David Shuey 10/24

Stephen Foust 10/26

Gabriel Alcorn 10/27

Jennifer Conklin 10/29

James Shuey 10/31

ANNIVERSARIES:

Susan & Richard Hedden 10/11

Anne & Ed Kapinus 10/15

Mary & Jack Muthersbaugh 10/16

Merrilee & Thomas Barner 10/14

Patti & BT Schwier 10/22

Robin & Tom Deardorff 10/25



Birthdays:

Davey Keller 11/03

William Clark 11/07

Anne Kapinus 11/08

Ruth Meyers 11/08

Nathan Tomrell 11/10

Hunter Tomrell 11/10

Lydia Collison 11/11

James Hedden 11/15

Brenda Heinrichs 11/20

Roy Brodzina 11/20

C. Guy Rudy 11/21

Robin Deardorff 11/23

Tamara Shuey 11/23

Laura Darr 11/28

Rich Hosterman 11/30

Kendra Schriefer 11/30

Anniversaries:

Helen & Josh Schubert 11/11

Ruth & Guy Rudy 11/23

Laurie & Curt Judy-Brown 11/24

Joan & Bill Clark 11/26

PLAYSCHOOL FUND RAISER UPDATE!

The Playschool Committee and Staff would like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who attended the Ice Cream Social last Sunday.

In total we raised \$1,660.00! We are blown away by the generosity! A special Thank You to the Events Committee who put everything together!

FOR SALE

STAIRLIFT—2 Bruno-SRE-2010 Elite straight rail stair-lifts, one for right side and one for left side.

\$1000.00 each

8 ft long, Maximum weight 400 lbs.

Very good condition

Manual included

For more details please call the church for more details—814 364-1701

Trunk or Treat

ALL WELCOME
TO JOIN IN THE FUN!

DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2023

WHERE: ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH, CENTRE HALL

TIME: 6:00—8:00 PM ATTENDEES

*5:30 PM FOR ANYONE PARTICIPATING WITH
CAR TRUNK CANDY DISTRIBUTION.*

If you would like to donate candy for the event, a donation box is in the hallway. Donations are due by October 27th. THANK YOU!!





Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit