



Days of Grace

August 2025 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am
Worship Services @ 10:00 am

AUGUST

6th - Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

8th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 pm

16th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)

19th - Skill Swap @ 1:00 PM

31st - Food and Fellowship Sunday and/or Blessing of the Backpacks

SEPTEMBER

3rd & 17th - Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

12th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 pm

*Please
Join Us*

August 31, 2025

"5th Sundays are Special at Grace"

We will enjoy worship outside in the parking lot (weather permitting) at 10am, with a continental breakfast potluck and Blessings of the Backpacks and Briefcases. Please join us with your lawn chair in the parking lot as we welcome our neighbors and friends for worship and fellowship.



Dear Grace UCC Members and Friends,

This summer has certainly been a strange one, weather-wise. We usually look forward to sunny days and warm breezes, but instead we've had a mix of record-setting rain and extreme heat, with lingering humidity.

Isn't life like that sometimes? We look forward to joy and relaxation—only to find ourselves facing unexpected challenges and roadblocks instead. The seasons of our lives don't always happen the way we've imagined.

Yet, even in the most unsettled or uncertain times, God is there in our lives. God is there in midst of the too-much rain and the not-enough rest, in the sweltering heat of our schedules, and the surprise storms in our lives. God walks beside us through it all.

As we move toward August and prepare for a busy autumn, let's pause and remember that our faith isn't there only in the sunny days of our lives. Our faith is there in the days that test our patience and stretch our limits.

Whether this summer has been restful or rushed, joyful or difficult, know that you are not alone. You are part of our church community that cares for you and more importantly, you are held in the presence of God, who never lets go.

As we look ahead to all that autumn will bring, I'm excited for our opportunities to offer outreach to our neighbors and community. August 31st is our next "5th Sundays Are Special at Grace". We will worship outside in the parking lot (weather permitting) and offer a continental breakfast and Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases for the upcoming school year. These new opportunities, renewed energy, and new beginnings will help us step into the next season with our eyes open and our hearts softened in anticipation. God is still at work in and through Grace Church, and I am so grateful to be on this journey with you.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Amy



SKILL SWAP

Our third Summer Skills Swap will be held on Tuesday August 19 at 1pm. We will create an art project and then learn how to digitally capture our creation and share with others.



Fifth Sundays are Special at Grace!

Join us on August 31st for “5th Sundays are Special at Grace”. We will enjoy worship outside in the parking lot (weather permitting) at 10am, with a continental breakfast potluck and Blessings of the Backpacks and Briefcases. Please join us with your lawn chair in the parking lot as we welcome our neighbors and friends for worship and fellowship.

Our first “5th Sundays are Special at Grace” offered an opportunity to go out into our neighborhood. Just as Jesus called his disciples to go out offer Peace to each house, we, too, created Peace Packets and ventured out into the neighborhood to offer blessings of peace to our neighbors. What a beautiful occasion to work together to create these packets and go forth in groups to offer peace.

Our final “5th Sundays are Special at Grace” for 2025 will happen on November 30th as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. More details will be share closer to the date.



Donation to World Central Kitchen

We will be collecting monetary donations for World Central Kitchen for 4 Sundays: July 20th through August 10th. World Central Kitchen is an organization that provides food after disasters around the world. World Central Kitchen is currently in central Texas helping victims of the July flooding. Our donation will be directed to their central Texas work. If you would like to donate, there will be labeled envelopes near the entrance offering plates. Please place any donations in the house inside the Chancel Rail. Thank you for your consideration.

White Roses

We lost three of our beloved Grace nonagenarians this spring/early summer. We lift up in prayer the families of Millie Hershey, Joan Leib and Harold Hartlaub. They will be deeply missed by the Grace community. We honored their memory with a white rose for each of them on the altar and the roses were then given to their families as a remembrance from Grace UCC. Let us keep their memories alive through the stories we share—so that we may carry the light they brought into this world and share it with all we meet.



PROVIDE A LUNCH (P-A-L)

Grace is still preparing the meal every 3rd Saturday at Hanover Area Council of Churches for the PAL lunch! Contact Linda or Craig Bixler with any questions.



GATHERING PLACE REFRESHMENTS

If you would like to provide light refreshments for fellowship time before and after the service, sign up at the Gathering Place or contact Vickie Arnold. Sign up for refreshments are on hold for the months of July & August. If you feel like bringing something in, please feel free to do so



LECTOR SIGN UP

If you are interested in being a part of the morning worship service by serving as a Lector, please see the bulletin board in the Gathering place to sign up. Thank you.



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request, please call, text, or email Pastor Amy Fawks who will then add your request to the Bible Moment and Prayer Line (717-346-1703). You may leave messages on the Prayer Line or reach her at 717-698-6366. You can email her at FawksAmy@gmail.com.



AUGUST FILM

This 2009 film is about a U.S. container ship that was hijacked by Somali pirates. It is based on a true story. **It is rated PG-13 and is very intense at times.** The film will be shown Friday August 8th, at 3 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15.



PROVIDE A LUNCH (PAL) COORDINATOR FOR GRACE

Members of Grace have been preparing the PAL meals every 3rd Saturday for over 40 years. Grace will need a new PAL coordinator by the end of 2025. The coordinator contacts the Hanover Area Council of Churches PAL Manager, currently Sharon Shreve, to plan menus. The Grace PAL coordinator also contacts volunteers to prepare the meals. Volunteers do not have to be members of Grace. Currently 5 people are needed every 3rd Saturday from about 9 AM to 1 PM. Please see Craig Bixler for detail



SHARING CORNER

Have an item you no longer use or need? Examples - books you have read, unused cards, **unwanted items**. Consider our Sharing Corner in the Gathering Place. Drop off an unwanted item and take home a "treasure" or deliver an item to a shut-in or friend. Shop the Sharing Corner. Have fun looking. Bags will be available for your convenience. At the end of each month any remaining items will be donated to local agencies. Outreach Committee



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee happily announces that our Grace UCC Employee Handbook is in its final stages. The Handbook will be a resource for both our Staff and Grace UCC, as the Employer, to communicate Common Personnel Policies and describe what is expected of the Staff by Grace UCC as well as what they can expect from Grace UCC as the Employer.

With mixed emotions, Dave Fawks will step away from the Sexton position. He has served Grace UCC for many years with much energy and a willingness to take on extra responsibilities. We are delighted that Dave will continue to be part of the Property Committee/Trustees, Cochair the Faith Formation Team (updated name for Sunday School), and be the Sound Board Operator. Thank you, Dave!

Filling the role of Sexton is Zachery Jackson. Axiom Staffing Group helped match him with us. His schedule is 4 hours per day Monday-Thursday and 4 more hours of flexible time per week to use based on church needs. Please introduce yourself and welcome our new Sexton. Communications for room use, table arrangements, and other requests will now go through Karen in our Church Office.

Our monthly meeting is August 04 at 3:45 in the Gathering For more information, please contact Vickie Arnold, Pam Kreitz, Fay Emlet, or Joleen Fennel

CURRENT CONSISTORY MEMBERS FOR 2025

Co - President – Vickie Arnold . . . 717-476-1492
Co – President – Jenn Weaver ... 77-451-9703
Vice President – Joleen Fennell- . . . 717-633-7813
Secretary – Craig Bixler . . . 717-632-5606
Asst. Secretary - Anita Kincaid . . . 717-476-1222
Co – Treasurer – Brad Arnold ... 717-688-0890
Co – Treasurer – Rick Boyer ... 717-632-1053
Asst. Treasurer – Chelsey Topper ... 717-640-1092
Becky Boyer . . . 717-632-1053
Susan Dienes - . . . 717-870-1288
Glendon Ruhlman - . . . 717-632-7297

GRACE UCC STAFF

Pastor - Amy Fawks . . . 717-698-6366
Organist/Dir. of Music - Christian Keller 717-356-1029
Admin Assistant/Bookkeeper-

Karen Samuelson . . . 717-688-9891

Sexton – Zachery Jackson

Office Phone Number . . . 717-632-1146

Prayer Line and Bible Moment . . . 717-346-1703

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE 2025

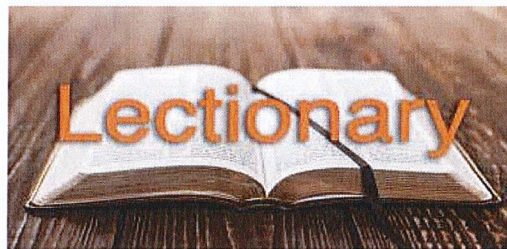
Pastor Amy Fawks
Susan Dienes
Pam Kreitz
Martha Channel

Christian Keller
Becky Boyer
Brad Arnold
Altar Guild

ALTAR GUILD

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please speak with one of the committee members and we will discuss and consider your comment.

Thank you



AUGUST

August 3rd – Hosea 11:1-11 & Psalm 107:1-9,43 or Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 & Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

August 10th – Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 & Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23, Genesis 15:1-6 & Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

August 17th – Isaiah 5:1-7 & Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Jeremiah 23:23-29 & Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

August 24th – Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Psalm 71:1-6, Isaiah 58:9b-14 & Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13: 10-17

August 31st – Jeremiah 2:4-13 & Psalm 81:1, 10-16 or Proverbs 25:6-7 & Psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-15, Luke 14:1,7-14

SEPTEMBER

September 7th– Jeremiah 18:1-11 & Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Psalm , Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 14th- Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28 & Psalm 14 or Exodus 32:7-14 & Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 21st-Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 & Psalm 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7 & Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 28th- Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 & Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31, Psalm 146

July Consistory Digest

There were 11 members present including Pastor Amy Fawks and Rick Boyer.

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge June 2025: \$7,098.00

General pledge June 2024: \$6,647.25

YTD income: \$113,264.67

YTD expenses: \$111,825.66

YTD overage: \$1,439.01 (includes investment interest and \$20,000 transferred from Repair & Maintenance)

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$29,800.69

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,664.10

-- Education Fund: \$11,066.92

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$15,816.84

Rick Boyer reported \$55,000 has been taken from investments including \$20,000 from repair & maintenance.

Joleen Fennell reported the interview team and Personnel offered the Sexton position to Zachery Jackson through Axiom. He accepted the offer, and Axiom confirmed his Background Check. Zachary will be working under the Indoor/outdoor Sexton Job Description, which means he will clean inside the building and do lawn care outside.

Property Committee:

- SWAM Electric removed the rotting utility pole on North Franklin Street July 1st and completed the sidewalk repair July 3rd. The cost was \$624.00.
- Spoke to Jared Meyers at Heidler Roofing regarding inspecting the flat roof on the education wing, and check gutters and downspouts.
- Brad Arnold reported he contacted Tom Leib and Dennis Axline to do some maintenance work at Grace. They are currently working on the ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall and the choir room window.

After some discussion, the Consistory decided to have two Christmas Eve services, one at 1 PM and the second at 7 PM.

Craig Bixler reported the list of volunteers for PAL meals is down to a few people. There was some discussion about trying to get more volunteers. If more volunteers cannot be found, we will need to decide how much longer we can prepare meals.

Pastor Amy Fawks reported for Faith Formation (formerly Christian Education):

- Devotionals have been placed on the tables in the Gathering Place to hopefully spark discussion.
- Parts of the Rocky Roads VBS program will be used in Sunday School.

The Outreach Committee met June 24th. Activities and offerings discussed for the 2nd half of 2025:

- Donate school supplies to New Hope during July.
- Find an organization, such as Heifer, Church World Service, Mennonite Central Committee to donate animals.
- Deacon's Fund offering
- Harvest Home – usually October
- Trick or Treat - October
- Neighbors In Need – usually October
- The Christmas Fund – 4th Sunday in Advent
- God's Meal Barrel donation in January or February

Glenn Ruhlman suggested collecting funds for World Central Kitchen to aid flood victims in central Texas. The collection will

be four weeks: July 20th through August 10th. Glendon will make announcements on Sundays.

Pastor Amy Fawks reported:

CONNECTIONS:

- Made 25 phone calls (and many texts) to congregation members to check in
- Made 6 visits.
- Met with a member and her family while she was in the hospital and after she passed.
- Worked with someone from another church to have a joint graveside funeral for a member of Grace.
- Working with other churches to create a resources document for community assistance.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Continue to meet monthly with another Member in Discernment.
- I began my 8th course Pastoral Care and it will finish on July 24th.
- I begin my 9th course, Church History I on Aug 6th.

OTHER COMMENTS

- The next special worship service is August 31st. There will be outside worship in the parking lot with continental breakfast fellowship (sign-ups to come), blessing of the backpacks, briefcases, etc.
- A Stewardship Committee should be formed.
- The UCC General Synod voted by 98% in favor of forming the Keystone Conference in Pennsylvania. The Gettysburg Association will now be in the western region.
- As I began my first full month as your pastor, the resounding message that surrounds me is “relationships”. I continue to reach out and build/nurture relationships: with local churches, with all of the committees, with members and friends who left Grace for a variety of reasons, and with our Grace members. Building and rebuilding those relationships seems to be the first step in getting on track for the future.
 - Mailed 35 letters and personal cards to an initial list of people who left and didn’t find another church to call home. The purpose was to let them know that we are still here and we care about them.
 - Made “Welcome bags” for visitors.
- The prayer line updates will be tried by daily email.
- Two people and their daughter would like to join Grace. I am developing a New Member Class and considering developing a Refresher Class for long time Grace members.

Co-presidents Vickie Arnold and Jenn Weaver reported:

- Pastor Amy received a call from a counselor at Wike Counseling Services in Hanover. They are a group of seven mental health counselors presently operating from their homes and other various locations around town. They’ve recently purchased a building, to renovate and call home. They are requesting to use available space at the church to conduct counseling sessions in the interim. The Consistory voted to allow Wike Counseling services to use space at Grace for their services until their new building is complete.
- Forms and a file for Martha’s Ministry funeral luncheons are available in the office. Please keep notes, such as day of week, number attending, leftover food.
- Will ask for volunteers as first responders and look for trainer.
- Will organize a committee to plan a “Thank You” for Trinity UCC, Gettysburg, and Pastor Fred Young for yoking with Grace.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 7/16/25



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Day	Lord	Buried	Pontius
God	Mary	Christ	Almighty
Son	Rose	Father	Ascended
Amen	Will	Heaven	Suffered
Body	Earth	Living	Communion
Born	Ghost	Pilate	Conceived
Come	Jesus	Saints	Crucified
Dead	Judge	Seated	Descended
Hand	Maker	Spirit	Everlasting
Hell	Right	Virgin	Forgiveness
Holy	Third	Believe	Resurrection



Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

I want to make sure that you, and those who care for you, always know how to reach me and the church when it matters most.

Sometimes, life changes quickly! Whether it is a hospital stay, a health concern, or just a need of some extra prayers or support, I want to be there for you. I also want your family or caregivers to know that they are welcome to reach out to me if you are unable to do so yourself.

Below, you will find both my contact information and the church's contact information. There is a small section at the bottom of this page that you can cut out and keep handy (on the fridge, by the phone, in your wallet, or given to a loved one.) This is an easy way to stay connected, no matter what life brings.

With love and grace,

Pastor Amy

Grace United Church of Christ
100 4th Street
Hanover, PA 17331
Office Phone: 717-632-1146
Email: office@graceucchanover.org

Pastor Amy Fawks

Cell: 717-698-6366

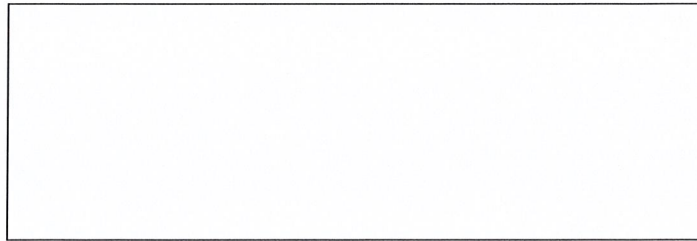
Office Phone: 717-632-1146 (line 2)

Email: FawksAmy@gmail.com





Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover PA 17331



CHRIST CALLS US TO REACH OUT WITH LOVE AND SHARE GOD'S GRACE

WELCOME EVERYONE!

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