



Days of Grace

February 2026 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

FEBRUARY

11th – Bible Study @ 12:30, Movie at 2:00 PM

11th Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:30 PM

13TH – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM

18TH - Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

18th – Ash Wednesday Services @ Noon & 7:00 PM

21st – Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM

25th – Women's Ministry – In Person @ 7:30 PM

MARCH

4th & 18th – Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

11th – Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:30 PM

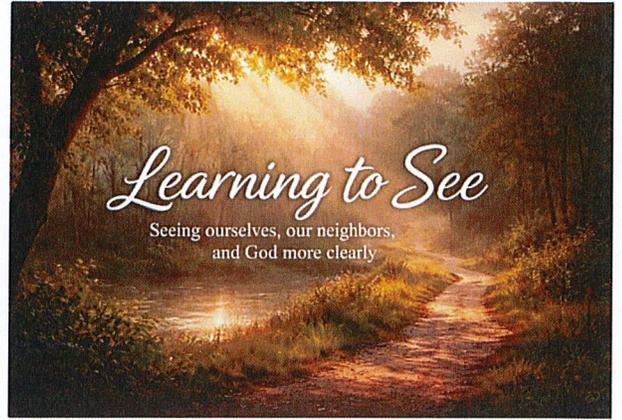
13th – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM

21st – Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM

25th – Women's Ministry – In-Person @ 7:30 PM

**Church Sanctuary is open every Wednesday from 11:00 – 12:00 for
A moment of Peace & Stillness**

Learning to See: An Invitation into the Season of Lent



Dear Friends,
Lent begins each year with a simple, yet honest truth:
“Remember that you are dust.” These words, while heavy, are not meant to shame us or to weigh us down. They are an invitation to look deeper at who we are: fragile, unfinished, and loved by God.

This year, as we journey through Lent together, our worship will focus on the theme of “Learning to See.” Lent is a time for clarity. It is an opportunity to see things differently. Over and over again in scripture, Jesus meets people who are also fragile, unfinished, and loved by God. They are people who are faithful, curious, broken, and grieving, yet Jesus patiently opens their eyes. It doesn’t happen all at once. It doesn’t happen without difficulty. But it always happens with grace.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, we enter this season by recognizing our own limits and trusting that God meets us there. In the weeks that follow, we, too, will walk with Jesus into the wilderness—and we will learn what truly sustains us. We will sit beside Nicodemus in the quiet of the night and listen for new ways of seeing God at work in our lives. We will gather at the well with a Samaritan woman who is seen fully and sent to share the good news. We will stand beside a blind man as sight brings healing and courage. Finally, we will grieve beside Martha and Mary, as we all discover again that even in the face of death, Jesus calls forth life.

Lent is not about having all of the answers or even about getting everything right. Lent is about slowing down. Lent is about paying attention. Lent is about letting God open our eyes so that we can learn to see ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly—in the light of Christ.

I invite each of you to join us for worship on Sundays at 10am during this Lenten season. Whether you are able to be there every week, or only occasionally, you are welcome exactly as you are. May this be a time when we learn to see and discover the grace that has been with us all along.

*Pastor
Amy*

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Amy

NEWS

RED AND WHITE ROSES

You may notice that there are occasionally roses on the altar. Each one carries a special meaning in the life of our church family. When we celebrate the joy of a new birth, a **Red Rose** is placed on the altar and later given to the family as a symbol of new life and love. When we mourn the passing of someone dear, a **White Rose** is placed on the altar and then shared with the family as a reminder of our prayers and love. Both roses help us share in the joys and sorrows—and remind us that, through it all, God’s love holds us close.



EXCITING NEWS!!



We’re beginning plans for a new pictorial directory. More details will be shared in next month’s *Days of Grace*. Until then, keep practicing those smiles!

LENTEN SERIES 2026

Learning to See

2/18

“Seeing Our Limits Truthfully”

2/22

“Seeing What Really Sustains Us”

3/1

“Seeing Beyond What We Already Know”

3/8

“Seeing Those We’ve Learned to Overlook”

3/15

“Seeing the Truth--and the Cost of It”

3/22

“Seeing Hope Where We Expect Death”



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



Our Gathering Place on Sunday mornings is abuzz with great fellowship and caring hearts. Won't you consider joining us before and/or after the service? We're also seeking new people to offer to provide snacks.... nothing fancy needed 😊. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board

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.

FEBRUARY FILM



This 2016 film is about an airline captain who landed his plane in the Hudson River, NY, after engine trouble. The film will be shown Friday February 13th at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film runs 96 minutes and is rated **PG-13**. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15. Call 717-632-5606 for weather cancellation.

SHARING CORNER IS BACK



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

WOMEN'S MUSIC MINISTRY



On the second Wednesday of every month, we will meet via zoom. @ 7:30 PM & on the fourth Wednesday of every month we will meet in person @ 7:30 pm either outside in Franklin Street lawn or in the gathering place (weather pending) **Women of all ages are invited to participate in both.**

CURRENT CONSISTORY MEMBERS FOR 2026

Co - President – Vickie Arnold . . . 717-476-1492
Co – President – Jenn Weaver ... 717-451-9703
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 ... 717-881-9116
Asst. Treasurer – Chelsey Topper ... 717-640-1092
Becky Boyer . . . 717-881-9116
Susan Dienes - . . . 717-870-1288
Angie Boyers - ... 717-817-5344

Office Man./Bookkeeper-

Karen Samuelson . . . 717-688-9891
Sexton – Zachery Jackson ... 301-802-1570
Office Phone Number . . . 717-632-1146
Prayer Line and Bible Moment . . . 717-346-1703

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE 2026

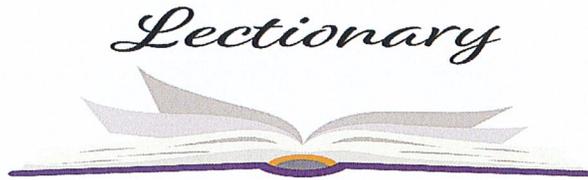
Pastor Amy Fawks
*Susan Dienes
Pam Kreitz
*Anita Kincaid
Vickie Arnold
Christian Keller
Martha Channel
*Joleen Fennell

GRACE UCC STAFF

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

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. The star beside the names are the Altar Guild members to contact
Thank you



FEBRUARY

February 1st - Micah 6:1-8, Psalms 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12
February 8th – Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9, (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20
February 15th – Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9
February 22nd – Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalms 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

MARCH

March 1st - Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9
March 8th – Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
March 15th – 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41
March 22nd – Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
March 29th – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

January Consistory Digest

There were 9 in attendance including Pastor Amy, Brad Arnold, and Rick Boyer.

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge December 2025: \$9,100.00

General pledge December 2024: \$6,747.00

YTD income: \$169,042.98

YTD expenses: \$239,630.14

YTD deficit: \$70,587.16

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$24,530.38

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,361.07

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.56

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$17,147.77

Rick Boyer reviewed the Grace December Balance Sheet.

Joleen Fennell reported Zachery Jackson is now officially employed as Grace's Sexton.

Vickie Arnold reported a hospitality team, or committee, is being formed this year

From the Gettysburg Association: The Spring Meeting will be held Sunday, April 19, 2026, starting at 2 PM. It will be hosted by Zwingle UCC, 403 W King St, East Berlin, PA 17316. It is our hope that all of our Gettysburg Association will have representation at this meeting.

Pastor Amy reported:

SPECIAL WORSHIP:

- There is bible study one Wednesday per month. We will begin again in February.
- The sanctuary is open every Wednesday from 11am-12pm for quiet prayers.
 - This has gotten positive feedback.
- We held a Blue Christmas (Longest Night) service on Dec. 20th at 7pm. This was well received by those in attendance and viewers online.
- We held two Christmas Eve services, one at 1pm and the other at 7pm. The services were identical (except the choir sang at the 7pm service). Those who attended the 1pm service appreciated that both services were the same—including candles and Silent Night.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- I will have 5 more in January-April 2026. (This will put me at 16 out of my 18 courses needed. The remaining two will be held in September and January 2027)
- I continue to have conversations and meetings with my Advisor, Rev. Heather Kurtz.
- I continue to reach out and make connections with the community and other local pastors—including a monthly brunch with other clergy from Gettysburg Association.
- I will be attending a MID retreat in March with all other Members in Discernment around the state. I will be gone on Friday and Saturday.

THINGS TO NOTE:

- January, February, and March, I will have class on Mondays at 7:00pm.
- Here are some of my goals for 2026:
 - I'd like to continue building relationships across our congregation.

- I want to explore new ways for people to encounter God in worship and learning including those who worship online.
- This year, I hope we can explore intentional ways to be more visible in the community—through service, outreach, and partnerships that share God’s love.

Vickie Arnold and Jenn Weaver reported they would like everyone to use the new templates for committee meetings. The initial template is very important for us to prevent overlapping duties and/or dates of support needed.

- **2026 Grace UCC Committee Planning Template** – to be used early in the year to determine the number of projects, events, etc. each group would like to do during the year.
- **Committee Meeting Sheet** – to use as a template for notes for each meeting to send reports to Karen.

Pastor Amy mentioned a new Grace pictorial directory is being considered. Angie Boyers said she has experience with photography and would be interested in helping with this project. She said we could set up a photo booth at Grace. Angie also suggested people who do not attend too often could have the option to email one of their photos for the directory.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 1/16/26

ASH WEDNESDAY

WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!



PRAYER	SACRIFICE	FAITHFUL
LENT	ASHES	SPIRITUALITY
PALMS	REFLECTION	FORGIVENESS
REPENTANCE	FOREHEAD	PROMISE
CHURCH	OBLIGATION	FASTING
WEDNESDAY	WORSHIP	BAPTISM



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!

Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street Hanover PA 17331
(717) 632-1146

e-mail address: office@graceucchanover.org
website: graceucchanover.org