



Days of Grace

December 2025 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

DECEMBER

3rd, 17th, 23rd, 30th – Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church – 23rd & 30th are Tuesdays

10th – Bible Study Group & Movie @ 12:30 PM

10th – Women's Ministry - ZOOM @ 7:00 PM

12th – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM

13th – Second Saturday Cookie Baking & Caroling @ 1:00 PM

17th Women's Ministry – In Person @ 7:00 PM

20th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM

20th Longest Night – Service @ 7:00 PM

24th – Christmas Eve Services @ 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

JANUARY

7th, 23rd - Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

9th – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM

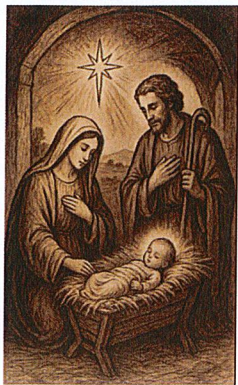
14th - Bible Study Group & Movie @ 12:30 PM

14th - Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:00 PM

17th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM

28th – Women's Ministry – In Person @ 7:00 PM

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



Happy Holidays to each of you!

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and Advent is upon us. As we move from a season of gratitude to one filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we are reminded that each of these gifts is both a promise and a practice—a gentle reminder of God's presence in our everyday lives.

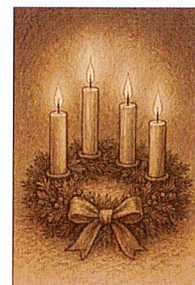
This time of year is often filled with waiting and preparation. Little ones wait with anticipation of hot chocolate, candy canes, and presents. Those longer in their years wait with anticipation for moments of togetherness, of time shared around tables. The birds who have flown from the nest are hopefully finding their way home again for the holidays.

Beyond the lights, the gatherings, and the festivities, Advent offers another kind of waiting—on that is grounded in Hope. In every season of our lives, there is uncertainty. We plan and prepare as best as we can, and then we wait—trusting that God is already at work. We trust that God is bringing light to parts of our lives that feel dark and offering peace to places that feel unsettled.

This year, we offer many ways to experience that hope. Join us each week as we celebrate Advent during our worship at 10am. On December 20th, we will offer a service for those who find this time of year especially difficult—whether it is the first holiday without a loved one, or just a time that feels heavy. Our Longest Night service will hopefully offer you peace and light in the darkness. Then, on Christmas Eve, join us for two services, one at 1pm during the day and one at 7pm in the evening. Both will be filled with singing, waiting, and the glow of candlelight.

May this season of Advent be a time of holy waiting for each one of us. In our time of waiting, may we see Christ's love in the small moments of our lives. Let us be filled with hope, offering peace to all we meet, sharing our joy with those around us, and offering unconditional and radical love to all the world.

**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.



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.**

900 CANS OF FRUIT COCKTAIL!!!

Yes!!! That's what our congregation collected for New Hope Ministries, to help them provide Thanksgiving dinners to 900 needy families in our community!!! New Hope has expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation for our donation. They have been overwhelmed this year with more requests for food than ever before. Their receipt says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me." Matthew 25:40. The people of Grace UCC have a long history of generosity, compassion and helping others. You folks have ALWAYS made a difference, and this is a huge one!!! **Becky Boyer, for the Worship and Music Committee**



Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be returning to the Gathering Place in December. We will be collecting new mittens, gloves, and hats for the Hanover Area Council of Churches shelter.



2025 Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This offering will be taken Sunday December 21st. Look for Christmas Fund envelopes near the offering plates.



Announcements

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 @ 717-744-5341.

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.

DECEMBER FILM



This 1989 film is a holiday drama about a young girl who forms a bond with a wounded reindeer. The film will be shown Friday December 12th at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. It runs 1 hr 43 min. and is rated **G**. 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



The Sharing Corner will be taking a break in December and will resume again in January. Please support the mitten tree that will be placed in this location for December

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



End of the year tasks were the Personnel Committee's focus. We revised Job Descriptions to reflect items in the Employee Handbook and the 2026 Budget and Pastor Amy helped create a new document which our Staff can use to compare their 2025 salary and benefits to the upcoming year's. We will take a little break during December to celebrate the many tasks accomplished in 2025. However, should you have questions or concerns, please share these with Joleen, Vickie, Pam, Fay, or Pastor Amy. Have a joyous Christmas season!

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 ... 717-881-9116
Asst. Treasurer – Chelsey Topper ... 717-640-1092
Becky Boyer . . . 717881-9116
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
Office Manager/Bookkeeper-
Karen Samuelson . . . 717-688-9891
Sexton – Zachery Jackson

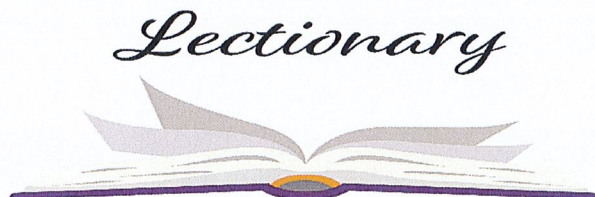
Office Phone Number . . . 717-632-1146
Prayer Line and Bible Moment . . . 717-346-1703

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE 2025

Pastor Amy Fawks	Christian Keller
*Susan Dienes	* Becky Boyer
Pam Kreitz	Brad Arnold
*Anita Kincaid	*Joleen Fennell
Martha Channel	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. The star beside the names are the Altar Guild members to contact
Thank you.



DECEMBER

December 7th - Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
December 14th – Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146: 5-10 or Luke 1:46b – 55, James 5:7-10, Mattheew 11:2-11
December 21st – Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
December 28th – Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10 – 18, Matthew 2:13-23

JANUARY

January 4th – Jerimiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: (1-9), 10-18
January 11th – Isaiah 42: 1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17
January 18th – Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
January 25th – Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

November Consistory Digest

There were 10 members present including Brad Arnold, Rick Boyer, and Pastor Amy Fawks.

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge October 2025: \$4,730.97

General pledge October 2024: \$5,950.00

YTD income: \$142,418.46

YTD expenses: \$204,369.81

YTD deficit: \$61,951.35

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$14,083.26

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,360.79

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.39

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$17,047.50

Brad Arnold reported the general pledge offering continues to be lower than last year

The Consistory voted to hire Zachary Jackson as Grace's Sexton as soon as he meets the Axiom Service agreement of 400 hours.

There was discussion about lighting issues at Grace. An electrician should be contacted to replace batteries in some emergency light fixtures, replace a burned-out light in the parking lot, and check the sodium vapor light at the elevator entrance.

Craig Bixler reported changes are coming to PAL Lunch. Beginning November 1st PAL Lunch will transition to dine-in only. Any remaining meals will be available after 12:15 PM. A dish washer will be installed in several months. When there was a dishwasher available in the past, Grace needed 6 volunteers per meal. Currently, we need 4 to 5 per meal. The current hours are from 9 AM to approximately 1 PM. With the dishwasher in use and dine-in, the ending time will be closer to 1:15 to 1:30.

Pastor Amy reported the First Keystone Conference Gathering will be on November 22, 2025 at 9:30 AM on Zoom. Craig and Linda Bixler will be the delegates for this meeting.

The Outreach Committee reported gifts for teens and household items will be collected for New Hope Ministries in November. The mitten tree will be set up in the Gathering Place during December.

Pastor Amy reported:

- Bible study on Wednesdays has begun again. Join us in the parlor on Nov 12th at 12:30pm
- The sanctuary is open every Wednesday from 11am-12pm for quiet prayers.
- Fifth Sundays are special at Grace: Nov. 30th we will have a small potluck before worship in the gathering place. We will distribute Christmas packs to the neighbors like we did in June, inviting them to upcoming services at Grace.
- There will be a Blue Christmas (Longest Night) service on Dec. 20th.

- We are working on a joint Thanksgiving Eve service again. The service will be held here at Grace. We will have a joint service with Trinity Gettysburg, Trinity Hanover, and Grace. The service will be on Nov. 26th at 7pm.
- The offering for this service will be sent to **God's Meal Barrel**.

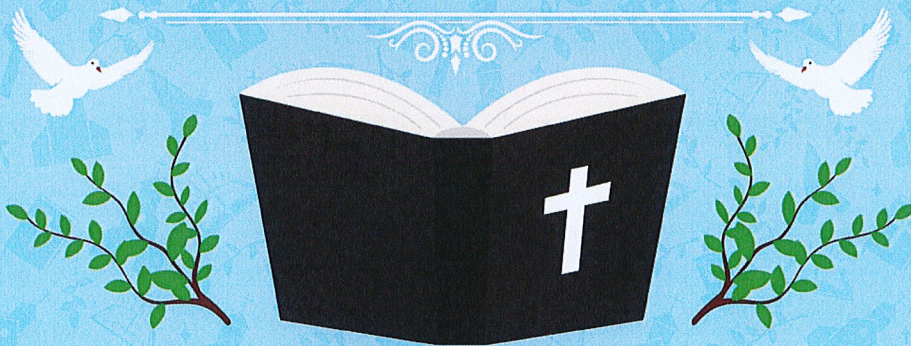
Vickie Arnold reported:

- The Second Saturday activity in December will be **Caroling and Cookies** beginning at 1 PM.
- As we move into 2026, we hope to have more ideas and opportunities for our Second Saturday events. We encourage all committees to share ideas for these Saturday gatherings as a way to share our faith and fellowship. Please reach out to us if you would like to sponsor or use the date for an event.
- Another new start for 2026 will be Committee Meeting templates which we are including for your review. We encourage you to look at these, share with your committees and provide us with feedback as you see fit. We anticipate these changing throughout the year as we start to use and find things we are missing. It may seem confusing or overwhelming at first but this is one small step we are taking towards more strategic planning in 2027 and beyond. Thanks in advance for your feedback.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 11/16/25

NEED A MOMENT OF PEACE?

All are welcome to stop by for
prayer, silence, or stillness.
No programs. No pressure. Just a
quiet space to be with God.



Grace
United
Church
of
Christ

Wednesdays

11:00-12:00

+717-632-1146

100 Fourth St Hanover PA 17331

www.graceucchanover.org

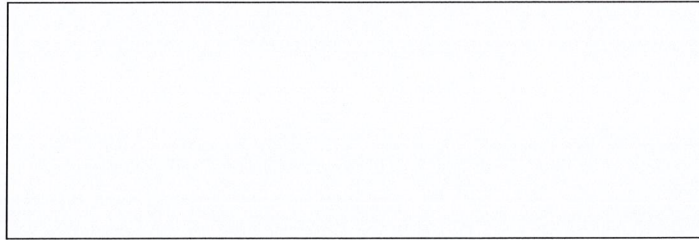
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STAR
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GOLD
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JESUS
FRANKINCENSE
JOY
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CHRISTMAS
WREATH
LOVE
WISEMEN
MESSIAH
MYRRH
ADVENT
HOPE



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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