



Days of Grace

January 2026 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

JANUARY

7th, 21st - Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church

9th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM

14th - Women's Ministry - ZOOM @ 7:30 PM

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

28th - Women's Ministry - In Person @ 7:30 PM

FEBRUARY

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

Epiphany: Following the Light

Dear Friends,

As we enter into the season of Epiphany, we are invited to pay attention. We are called to notice where God is being revealed in our lives and in our world. The word “epiphany” means manifestation or appearing. It is a gentle reminder that God is not hidden away, but here, with us, showing up in unexpected places and surprising ways.

When we think of Epiphany, we often picture the story of the Magi. Those travelers who came from far away, following a star that they didn’t really understand. They trusted the light enough to move, to journey, to risk being changed by what they would find. When they arrived, they discovered that God’s presence wasn’t found in power or money, but in love and humility. Epiphany calls us to ask similar questions of ourselves.

Where is God’s light shining in our own lives?

What stars are we being called to follow?

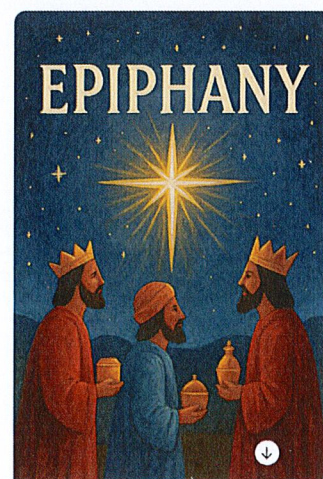
How is God revealed through the people we meet, through the love we share, and through our eyes opened to the situations around us?

This season reminds us that faith isn’t about having all of the answers, but in being open to wonder, to change, and to see the ways that God works among us and through us. The light of Christ shines not just for a few, but for all of us. We are called to be that light in the world.

As we move through Epiphany, may we notice the light, follow it faithfully, and reflect it into our world that longs for hope.

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.**

Please Join Us January 18, 2026

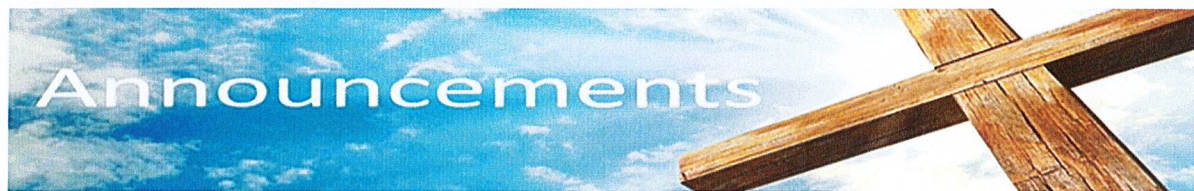
Rev. David Ackerman, our new regional conference minister, will be sharing the message on January 18th. Please join us in welcoming our new regional conference minister!



Hospitality Meeting

**JOIN THE
HOSPITALITY
COMMITTEE**

There will be a hospitality meeting in January for anyone interested in getting involved with all things hospitality.



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.



JANUARY FILM

This 1933 B&W musical was the first on-screen pairing of the 1930s biggest box office dance team. They were supporting actors in this film. The film is pre-code and is not rated. It will be shown Friday January 9th, 3 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15. Call 717-632-5606 for possible weather cancellation.



SHARING CORNER

The Sharing Corner will be coming back sometime around mid-January. If you have any items, you no longer need, feel free to bring them in for someone else that may have use for it.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Happy New Year from the Personnel Committee. We will begin 2026 with preparations for our Midyear Informal Conversations with each Staff Member. Each Committee Member will set up a time with 1 Staff Member to ensure that all is well and to share any concerns and solutions by both parties. A summary by each committee member will occur in February. Should you have questions or concerns or want to be part of the Personnel Committee, please contact Joleen Fennell, Vicky Arnold, Fay Emlet, Pam Kreitz, or Pastor Amy



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

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 . . . 301-802-1570

Office Phone Number . . . 717-632-1146

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

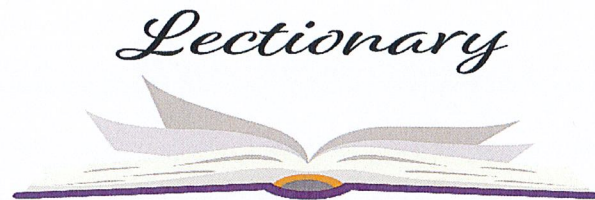
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE 2026

Pastor Amy Fawks	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



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

FEBRUARY

February 1st - Micah 6:1-8, Psalms 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 8th – Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9, (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

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, Matthw 4:1-11

December Consistory Digest

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

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge November 2025: \$6,981.91

General pledge November 2024: \$7,461.00

YTD income: \$154,334.76

YTD expenses: \$225,686.19

YTD deficit: \$71,351.43

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$24,946.13

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,360.92

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.47

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$17,047.63

Brad Arnold reported, to date, donations to general pledge have been approximately \$62,000. This is about \$4000 to \$5000 less than last year. This decrease has been the trend for the past several years. Current expenditures are in line with the 2025 budget.

The trustees reported Grace now has an 8ft. ladder rated at 250 lbs. It is stored in the closet behind the altar. This is where the other one used to be kept.

Vickie Arnold recommended a Hospitality Committee be formed in 2026.

Pastor Amy mentioned there have been no volunteers for a Stewardship Committee.

Pastor's report:

SPECIAL WORSHIP:

- Bible study on Wednesdays has begun again.
- The sanctuary is open every Wednesday from 11am-12pm for quiet prayers.
- There will be a Blue Christmas (Longest Night) service on Dec. 20th at 7pm.
- All Saints Sunday went well on Nov. 2nd.
- Thanksgiving Eve service went well—it was a joint service with Trinity Hanover and Trinity Gettysburg. **We collected \$312 for God's Meal Barrel.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- I finished my 11th course on November 19
- I will have 4 more in January-March 2026. (This will put me at 15 out of my 18 courses needed. The remaining three will be held in April, September, and January 2027)
- I continue to reach out and make connections with the community and other local pastors.

THINGS TO NOTE:

- I will be taking vacation days as we finish out 2025. My plan is to be out of the office on 12/11, 12/18, 12/23, 12/29-12/31. I will be available by phone if any needs arise.
- January, February, and March, I will have class on Mondays at 7:00.
- **Regional Conference Minister Rev. David Ackerman will be at Grace on January 18th. He will be giving the sermon that day.**

Vickie Arnold thanked Glendon Ruhlman for his service and his insight while serving on the Grace Consistory.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 12/11/25

Summary of the November 16th Grace Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held Sunday November 16, 2025, with 34 in attendance.

The 2026 Grace Proposed Budget of \$287,326.00 was approved by the congregation.

The congregation voted to approve the revised Grace UCC By-laws.

2026 Grace Consistory:

Angie Boyers was nominated to the Consistory during the meeting to give the Consistory the 9 members needed as shown in the By-laws.

The following slate was approved for the 2026 Consistory

Victoria Arnold – 1st three-year term, 3rd year
Craig Bixler – 1st three-year term, 3rd year
Rebecca Boyer – 1st three-year term, 3rd year
Angie Boyers -- 1st three-year term, 1st year
Susan Dienes – 2nd three-year term, 2nd year
Joleen Fennell – 2nd three-year term, 1st year (completing Mike Mummert's term)
Anita Kincaid – 1st three-year term, 2nd year
Chelsey Topper – 1st three-year term, 2nd year
Jenn Weaver – 1st three-year term, 3rd year (completing Dan Trimmer's term)

Prepared by Craig Bixler

Keystone Conference Fall Budget Meeting November 22, 2025, by Zoom

It was determined that at least 150 congregations were represented to establish a quorum.

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Executive Conference Minister, hosted the meeting.

There was introduction of the new conference board members, who were appointed until the Annual Conference meeting which will be held June 5-7 at Millersville University.

There was introduction of conference staff members. Rev. David Ackerman, from Latrobe, PA, will be the Region III conference minister. The Gettysburg Association is now in Region III which is the western part of PA.

The Keystone Conference office will be at St. Thomas UCC, Linglestown, PA. Contacts for conference staff will be sent out in early 2026. There will be a new website: keystoneuc.org.

The 2026 proposed Keystone Conference budget showed \$2,006,771. The 2025 expenses, which were calculated by combining the prior 4 conferences', 2025 expenses, showed \$2,575,787. The budget vote was: 262 yea, 10 nay, 2 abstain.

Rev. Dr. Call shared that there will be two priority conference outreach projects during the next two years. One, is continued giving for Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) and People at the Table.

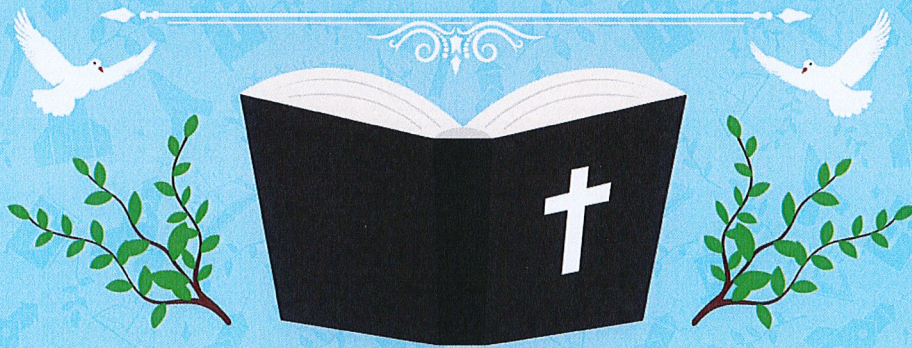
OCWM funds are donations made by congregations to go to support the conferences and UCC national offices and missions. The Keystone Conference will donate 10% of its budget (\$200,000) to the national UCC.

People at the Table is a new project that will address food insecurity in Pennsylvania as a whole conference. The conference staff is planning on meeting with the governor and agriculture secretary of PA. Updates will follow.

Craig & Linda Bixler

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



New Year's Word Search



J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E
F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H
N E Y S E R T I E M O W B L C
B S I L Y F A E N E I Y A E O
N O C R N V N V E Y D L B N U
A L D C L O C K L T I E Y D N
R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T
V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D
G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O
C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W
R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N
A J A N U E L V E I M K E R A
Y P A R T Y H A A P Y S E V W
N E W Y E A R C L O K S O R Y
S H A P P Y E B A L L R E S O

BABY
BALL
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
EVE

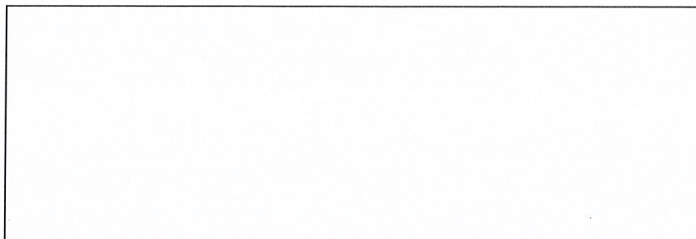
FAMILY
FRIENDS
HAPPY
JANUARY
MIDNIGHT
NEW YEAR
NOISEMAKER
PARTY

RESOLUTION
TOAST





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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