



Days of Grace

MARCH 2026 EDITION

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

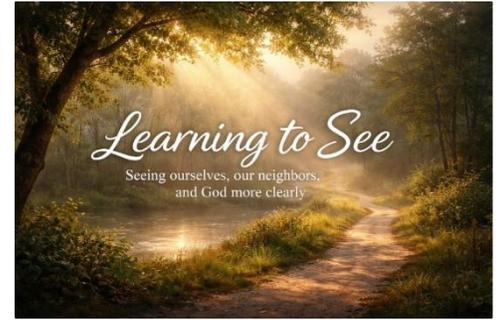
MARCH

- 4th & 18th – Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church**
- 11th – Bible Study & Movie @ 12:30**
- 11th – Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:30 PM**
- 13th – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM**
- 14th – Second Saturday @ 1:00 PM**
- 21st – Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM**
- 25th – Women's Ministry – In-Person @ 7:30 PM**

APRIL

- 1ST – Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church**
- 8th - Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:30 PM**
- 10th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM**
- 11th – Second Saturday @ 1:00 PM**
- 22nd - 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**



Dear Friends,

Lent isn't a season that rushes by. It unfolds slowly and week by week we are learning to see.

During this month, we find time with Nicodemus who was a man who lived his faith but sensed that there was something more. He came to Jesus with questions, and Jesus invited him in deeper. He didn't fill him with more information or clearer rules, but he experienced a new way of seeing that was shaped and changed by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes faith begins when we let go of the tight grip we have on what we think we know and understand.

As we continue our journey, we find ourselves at a well, watching Jesus speak with a woman who was overlooked. She came carrying her story, and Jesus met her with honesty and grace. Jesus saw her completely and wholly. By being seen, she found her voice. Lent invites us to notice who we just pass by. It invites us to see beyond labels and assumptions. When we allow Christ to meet us truthfully, our image of others begins to change too.

As the weeks move forward, we stand with a man who was blind since birth. When he receives sight, everything changes—it causes those who thought they knew everything to feel uncomfortable and challenged. This story reminds us that clarity can be costly. It asks us if we are willing to see things differently, even if it pushes us into discomfort.

Soon we are standing outside a tomb with Martha and Mary. Before Lazarus walks out, Jesus weeps. He stands fully in that grief, without rushing through it. Hope doesn't ignore sorrow. Hope grows within it. Lent teaches us to trust that even when we are in the valley, God is still working.

As we end this month heading to Holy week, the crowds gather with palms, shouting praise for the person they believe Jesus to be. Yet the road ahead will lead to the cross. Holy Week reminds us how easily we misunderstand God's ways. It calls us to stay close to Jesus, even when the path isn't what we expect.

Lent isn't about getting everything right. It is about paying attention. It is about allowing God to open our eyes a little more each week. As we continue this journey together, may we see ourselves, our neighbors, and Christ more clearly.

I invite you to continue journeying with us on Sundays at 10am. Whether you come every week, or when you are able, you are welcome exactly as you are.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Amy

NEWS

EXCITING NEWS!!



We are planning a new pictorial directory. Call the church office to sign up for a time slot for pictures. Times are available on April 16th – April 19th (day and evening times available).

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2026

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Look for labeled envelopes near the offering plates.



THE HOMELESS ARE STILL HOMELESS AFTER THE HOLIDAYS



A local Facebook group collects and delivers clothes, food, and water to nearby homeless people. We can help this group by donating plastic grocery bags that their group will cut into strips to crochet mats. The mats are given to the homeless. A collection bin is in the Gathering Place under the lector and snack sign-up sheets.

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Of \$1,800.00 help provide 7,200 meals at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.



Dear Susan,
Thank you and the eighteen member churches of the Gettysburg Association of the Penn Central Conference for the \$1,800 donation to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.
We are grateful for each Church and the decision the Association made to support neighbors facing food insecurity.
At the food bank every dollar provides up to four meals so together the Association provided 7,200 meals to support our neighbors facing food insecurity.
We are thankful for this donation and your support, wishing you all a Merry Christmas!
With Gratitude,
Arian Silverman



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.

MARCH FILM



This 1986 film was inspired by the story of a small-town high school basketball team that went on to win a state championship. The film will be shown on Friday March 13th, at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film is rated PG and runs for 115 minutes. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15

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.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee continues to complete tasks such as performance reviews, signing pay roll time sheets, and other human resource responsibilities. Recently we shared the Mid-Year Informal Staff Conversations and agreed that Grace UCC is blessed to have wonderful employees. For our next meeting, on April 06, we will discuss Volunteer Clearance needs and how to meet training requirements. If you are interested in completing the Clearance process so that you can help with our Sunday Faith Foundation Children's Group, please let us know. Our committee's members are Vickie Arnold, Angie Boyers, Fay Emler, Pastor Amy Fawks, Joleen Fennell, and Pam Kreitz

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

Lectioary



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

APRIL

April 5th – Acts 10:34-43 or Jerimiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts, John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
April 12th - Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20: 19-31
April 19th – Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35
April 26th – Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10: 1-10

February 2026 Consistory Digest

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

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge January 2026: \$3,998.00

General pledge January 2025: \$5,026.00

YTD income: \$11,727.77

YTD expenses: \$18,855.23

YTD deficit: \$7,127.46

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$15,784.39

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,361.23

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.66

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$17,272.93

The Financial Committee reported Karen will pay more bills with the credit card to earn more cash rewards. Last month's cash rewards totaled \$61.45. Karen printed a detailed report for the 2025 budget and actual expenditures. We were under budget for 2025. A reminder that there is no carryover of funds from 2025 to 2026.

Pastor Amy will prepare a pie graph of income information to be included in the February newsletter. It will show percentage income from donations, investments, and rentals.

Worship & Music Committee reported:

- Christian Keller will not be attending Worship & Music Committee meetings for a few months due to conflict with college courses.
- **There will be two Easter services this year. Easter Sunrise service will be held in the parking lot at 6:30. The other service will be held at 10 AM.**
- There will be a contemporary praise band at Grace on February 15th and March 22nd worship services.

The Outreach Committee reported the hats, gloves, and mittens from the Mitten Tree were delivered to the Hanover Area Council of Churches on January 17th.

Pastor Amy reported:

- There will be a gathering at Trinity UCC, Gettysburg, March 1st, at 2 PM, to meet Rev. David Ackerman.
- The Keystone Conference Annual Meeting will be held June 5, 6, and 7 at Millersville University.
- **VBS planning meeting with Trinity UCC Hanover, and Emmanuel UCC**
 - **To be held June 22-June 26 @Trinity UCC Hanover, with "Rainforest Falls" as the title of the program.**
 - I will be attending a Member in Discernment retreat in March with all other Members in Discernment around the state. I will be gone on Friday and Saturday, March 27th and March 28th.

Co-Presidents Vickie Arnold and Jenn Weaver reported:

- We would like to remind everyone to express appreciation to any staff member when opportunity arises. For any of our Lay Staff we ask that you refrain from calling them outside of their work hours. If you have a question outside of their work hours, we encourage you to email them to receive and respond within their paid time.
- We also ask that if you have concerns or suggestions for improvement for any of the staff...instead of directly engaging the staff, you are advised to share your concern with Pastor Amy. She will assess the issue and then seek to resolve the concern personally with the staff member. Thank you for your attention to this matter.
- If your concern is with Pastor Amy a reminder that the Pastoral Relations team is available to listen to and address your concern. This group is made up of: Jenn Weaver, Becky Boyer and Charlie Fennell.

Angie Boyers gave an update on the pictorial directory. She researched 5 publishing companies for cost. She will check with some local printers.

A community yard sale is being planned to be held in the Grace parking lot. Angie volunteered to organize the event. **The suggested**

dates are May 23, with the rain date being June 13. Grace can set up tables for Grace members who would like to donate items for sale. Drop off for donations to the Grace tables would begin in early May. The public and Grace members who want to set up their own tables will be charged \$20 per space and will need to provide their own tables. A space would be 2 parking spaces. The time will be 9 AM to 1 PM. Set-up time will begin at 7:30. Clothing will not be accepted. It was suggested that Grace have a food stand. Flyers will be distributed in the neighborhood.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 2/14/26

2026 Consistory Reorganization Notes

There were 9 members present including Pastor Amy, Brad Arnold, and Rick Boyer.

2026 Consistory Officers:

Co-Presidents: Vickie Arnold and Jenn Weaver

Vice President: Joleen Fennell

Co-Treasurers: Brad Arnold and Rick Boyer

Assistant Treasurer; Chelsey Topper

Secretary: Craig Bixler

Assistant Secretary: Anita Kincaid

2026 Committees & Teams

Administrative Committees (**bold** denotes chair)

- Budget & Finance: **Brad Arnold, Richard Boyer**, Linda Bixler, Pastor Amy Fawks, Chelsey Topper
- Deacon's Fund: **Pastor Amy Fawks**, Victoria Arnold, Craig Bixler, Rebecca Boyer, Fay Emlet
- Education Fund: **Linda Bixler**, Brad Arnold, Richard Boyer, Pastor Amy Fawks, Chelsey Topper
- Memorial Fund: **Pastor Amy Fawks**
- Nominating: **Victoria Arnold**, Pastor Amy Fawks, David Fawks, Jenn Weaver
- Personnel: **Joleen Fennell**, Angie Boyers Fay Emlet, Pastor Amy Fawks, Pam Kreitz
- By-laws & Policy: Dormant in 2026

Trustees: Leonard Bankert, **Craig Bixler**, Pastor Amy Fawks, David Fawks, Mike Mummert, Chelsey Topper

Worship & Music Team

- Worship & Music: **Christian Keller**, Pastor Amy Fawks, Victoria Arnold, Martha Channell, Susan Dienes, Pam Kreitz
- Ladies of Grace: Pastor Amy Fawks
- Hospitality: **Victoria Arnold**, Pastor Amy Fawks, Angie Boyers, Anita Kincaid, Chelsey Topper
- Head Usher: **Consistory**
- Altar Guild: **Susan Dienes**, Rebecca Boyer, Pastor Amy Fawks, Joleen Fennell, Anita Kincaid, Chelsey Topper

Church Relations

- HACC: Craig Bixler, Linda Bixler
- Conference Delegates: **Pastor Amy Fawks**, Craig Bixler, Linda Bixler, Jenn Weaver, Chelsey Topper

Empowerment Team

- Visitation: **Pastor Amy Fawks**, Craig Bixler, Linda Bixler
- Pastoral Relations Team: **Pastor Amy Fawks**, Rebecca Boyer, Charlie Fennell, Jenn Weaver
- Stewardship: **Chelsey Topper**, Pastor Amy Fawks

Faith Formation (formerly Board of Education)

- **David Fawks, Jenn Weaver**, Linda Bixler, Pastor Amy Fawks, Joleen Fennell, Anita Kincaid

Outreach Team

- **Craig Bixler**, Janette Becker, Linda Bixler, Rebecca Boyer, Angie Boyers, Pastor Amy Fawks, Joleen Fennell, Pam Kreitz, Chelsey Topper, Marsha Theisson

If you have questions about teams or committees or may be interested in joining one, please contact the committee chair or Pastor Amy

Prepared by Craig Bixler 1/15/26

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”



Lent Word Search

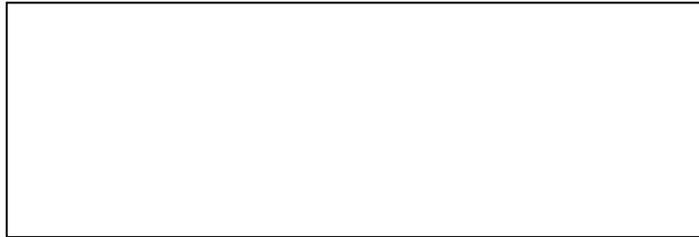


F	A	S	T	I	N	G	W	R	D	S
Q	Y	P	U	R	P	L	E	E	S	A
X	E	A	A	A	R	M	D	L	U	C
L	V	G	S	L	W	L	N	I	E	R
L	E	N	T	H	M	Q	E	G	A	I
K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	I	S	F
J	B	T	C	P	U	S	D	O	T	I
E	C	H	U	R	C	H	A	N	E	C
S	A	P	B	R	O	D	Y	B	R	E
U	K	R	M	U	G	S	U	J	T	J
S	I	F	O	R	T	Y	S	Y	D	U

WEDNESDAY	RELIGION	EASTER	ASHES	CROSS
SACRIFICE	LITURGY	CHURCH	JESUS	PALMS
KINDNESS	FASTING	PURPLE	FORTY	LENT



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