



Days of Grace

March 2024 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

6th & 20th - Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at church.

8th - Monthly movie @ 3pm

16th - Provide-A-Lunch (P-A-L)

23rd - Goody Bag Assembly @ 10am

27th - Bible Study Group Movie @ 1pm

April

3rd & 17th - Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at church.

12th - Monthly movie @ 3pm

20th - Provide-A-Lunch (P-A-L)

24th - Bible Study Group Movie @ 1pm



Consistory Reorganization Digest

The Grace Consistory met and reorganized on February 11. Below are the new Consistory officers and the approved members of the Grace Transitional Ministry Team.

2024 Consistory Officers

President: Dave Fawks

Vice President: Dan Trimmer

Treasurer: Carroll Miller

Assistant Treasurer: Linda Bixler

Secretary: Craig Bixler

Assistant Secretary: Vickie Arnold

Transitional Ministry Team

Pastor Fred Young

Brad and Vickie Arnold

Rick and Becky Boyer

Susan Dienes

Pam Kreitz

Judy Rummel

Holly Smith

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.

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 Patti Miller who will then add your request to the Bible Moment and Prayer Line (717-634-8865). You may leave messages for Patti on the Prayer Line or reach her at 717-451-1913 or pattiamiller68@gmail.com. Requests will be added to the weekly bulletin if received by Friday night. Mailings will be updated on Sunday night with all available information. Any questions, please call Patti.



PRAYER CONCERNS

The Off-site Saints, the persons living with cancer, all local churches, all local pastors, leaders of our country, leaders of countries around the world, the wildfires in Hawaii, the hatred in our world, the gun violence and the persons struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts, grief, and anxiety. You will find specific names and concerns on the bulletin board in The Gathering Place.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Grace is working on the new Church Directory. If there has been changes with your mailing address, phone number or even email, please fill out the change form provided in the Gathering Place or call the Church office and give the information to our Secretary Karen Samuelson. Please have all changes into the office by April 1, 2024.

MARCH FILM

March Film: This 2014 film is about the clash of two cultures and how the people are able to work out their differences. The film will be shown Friday March 8 in Fellowship Hall. The film will start at 3 PM and doors will be locked at 3:15. The film is rated **PG** and runs 122 minutes. Snacks provided.

THANK YOU'S

Dona & Maynard Warner & family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many prayers during our son Scott's illness & expressions of sympathy after his passing.

*God, I am sorry I ran from you.
I am still running, running from that knowledge,
that eye, that love from which there is no refuge.
For you meant only love, and I felt only fear, and pain.
So once in Israel love came to us incarnate,
stood in the doorway between two worlds,
and we were all afraid. Annie Dillard.*

+++++

Happy Easter!

Sunday, March 31st, is a day of great celebration, joy and new beginnings! Easter is a day when we can live as if all that has happened before has been made fresh and new. Theologian, Annie Dillard in her words above, remind us that although Easter brings joy and wonder, the events leading up to it and the actual empty tomb, can also bring fear of the unknown. This past year has certainly presented us with many moments of fear and doubt. Yet our faith and belief in Christ's Resurrection provide hope that such uncertainty is nearing an end!

*Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **John 3:3-6***

As our journey through Lent moves us into Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and eventually Easter Sunday, I invite you to think about how you will allow Christ to live within you instead of running away in fear of what that might truly mean for your life. What will need to change for you to truly live in Christ? The Pharisee who came to Jesus under the cover of the night sky sought the answers to these questions too. Nicodemus argued with Jesus about the possibility of someone being born again. Perhaps when he finally understood this to mean that Christ would live within his heart and such love would radiate from him through his outward faith, he stopped running from such love.

*May you live life renewed this Easter Season
with hearts of love and light!*

Pastor Fred

March Special Worship Opportunities

Dinner Church: March 7th at 5:30PM at Trinity, Gettysburg

Bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Worship lasts about an hour.

Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity UCC Gettysburg led by Pastor Fred at 7pm

Good Friday Service at Grace UCC led by Pastor Fred at 7pm

Easter Sunday JOINT Sunrise Service on Easter at 6:30AM (Straban Township REC Park, behind the Tractor Supply Store on Route 30, Gettysburg)

8AM Worship/communion at Trinity led by Pastor Fred at approx. 8am and 10:30AM led by Kara Young and Rev. Peter Kuhn

10AM Worship/communion at Grace UCC led by Pastor Fred, Patti Miller and Amy Fawks at 10am.





Outreach Committee Planned Activities

March:

The Outreach Committee has decided to collect snack items and put together goody bags to take to fire & police departments, school bus companies, and hospitals. Assembly date will be March 23rd at 10:00 a.m.



Quickly Approaching Outreach Committee Event

Car Show
May 4, 2024
Rain Date: May 11, 2024
10 AM -2 PM
Grace UCC
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, PA 17331
May 4 Food Stand: The Home Dog, LLC
May 11 Rain Date – Church Food Stand
Registration - \$5 in advance by April 27, \$10 day
of show, 40 spaces
To register call 717-632-5606
Donations: Socks for all ages for HACC
Changing Lives Shelter
Cash donations welcome for YWCA Women's
Shelter
and New Hope Ministries

Current Consistory Members for 2024

President - Dave Fawks . . . 717-880-2256
Vice President - Dan Trimmer . . . 717-870-4539
Secretary - Craig Bixler . . . 717-632-5606
Asst. Secretary - Vickie Arnold . . . 717-744-5341
Becky Boyer . . . 717-632-1053
Fay Emlet . . . 717-637-4027
Susan Dienes . . . 717-870-1288
Joleen Fennell . . . 717-633-7813
Glendon Ruhlman . . . 717-632-7297

Grace UCC Staff

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young . . . 717-253-2214
IT/AV Technician - Amy Fawks . . . 717-698-6366
Organist – Christian Keller . . . 717-356-1029
Secretary – Karen Samuelson . . . 717-688-9891
Sexton - Dave Fawks . . . 717-880-2256
Treasurer - Carroll Miller . . . 910-540-4099
Visitation Leader - Patti Miller . . . 717-451-1913
Office phone number . . . 717-632-1146
Prayer Line and Bible Moment . . . 717-634-8865

Worship and Music Committee Members

Amy Fawks	Patti Miller
Susan Dienes	Deb Rickrode
Christian Keller	Pam Kreitz
Becky Boyer	Martha Channel
Brad Arnold	Melissa Storm

& Alter 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!

Facebook Live Streaming Changes

Due to copyright restrictions, our worship service live streaming will be slightly different and effective immediately. The Live Stream will begin at approximately 10:10 and go until the end of the message. Certain portions that will not be live streamed will be available via links on the Grace Facebook page immediately preceding and following the live streamed worship service. At 10am, the first contemporary song will be posted to the Grace Facebook page. (The in-person worship will hear the announcements, prelude, and the contemporary song.) Live streaming will begin with the call to worship. The rest of the service will be live streamed until the end of the message. The video associated with the message and the final contemporary song will be posted on the Grace Facebook page at approximately 10:50. (The in-person worship will then watch that video, sing with the contemporary song, and sing the Choral Benediction). Please be sure to turn on Live Stream notifications for Grace's Facebook page. The Sunday bulletin can be found on the Grace website under the "Weekly Mailers" tab. Within the weekly mailer, you will find the bulletin and the announcements that were read at the beginning of the worship service. While we miss worshipping with you in person, hopefully these changes will help you to still feel connected to the worship service. Comments and interactions during worship via Facebook help us to stay connected!

10:00am: 1st Contemporary song posted to Grace's Facebook page

10:10am (approximately): Live Streamed worship begins

10:55am (approximately): Live Stream worship ends with the conclusion of the message

10:50am: The video associated with the message and the final contemporary song posted to Grace's Facebook page

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

February 4 - Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

MARCH LECTIONARY

March 3 - Exodus 20:1-17; Psalms 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 10 - Numbers 21:4-9; Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 17 - Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalms 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 24 - Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11

March 31 (Easter) - Acts 10:34-43; Psalms 18:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

APRIL LECTIONARY

April 7 - Acts 4:32-35; Psalms 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14 - Acts 3:12-19; Psalms 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36B-48

April 21 - Acts 4:5-12; Psalms 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28 - Acts 8:26-40; Psalms 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21



Grace January 2024 Annual Meeting Digest

Dave Fawks called the meeting to order at 11:11 AM, on January 28, in the sanctuary. There were 31 members in attendance.

Amy Fawks opened the meeting with a prayer.

President's Report

Dave asked the congregation to review his "Consistory President's Report" found on Pages 4 and 5 of the Annual Report. He went on to say change can happen and it is up to us. He asked the congregation what is our passion? Who do we want to be? He reviewed some event highlights at Grace from 2023.

Dave said the congregation will be forming a Pastor Relations Committee and Transition Ministry Team.

Rev. Fred Young Comments

Pastor Young spoke to the congregation about the Pastor Relations Committee and Transition Ministry Team. The Pastor Relations Committee will be a liaison between the congregation and the pastor. The Transition Ministry Team will review where Grace has been, where we are now, and look at dreams moving forward. This team will hold Town Hall meetings to get input from the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

Carroll Miller highlighted some of his comments found in the "2023 Treasurer's Overview Report," found on Page 6 of the Annual Report. He mentioned some other areas of interest:

Comparison of Giving Income versus Expenses for the past three years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
2021	\$122,932	\$216,549
2022	\$117,202	\$234,321
2023	\$83,447	\$220,374

Carroll said most of the expenses are fixed such as salaries and utilities. Carroll was able to find another electricity supplier which reduced Grace's electricity expense by approximately 50%. He also stated we are now using some of the principal in these funds which will reduce the amount we have available for investment to pay expenses.

Carroll said there are currently only two people on the Finance Committee, Linda Bixler and himself. He asked for more volunteers to serve on the committee.

The congregation approved the 2024 Budget of \$219,000.

Consistory

Dave Fawks recognized Tom Craig and Mike Mummert for their past service to Grace and the Consistory. Dave presented the following slate of candidates for the Grace 2024 Consistory: Vickie Arnold, Craig Bixler, Becky Boyer, Susan Dienes, Fay Emlet, Dave Fawks, Joleen Fennell, Glendon Ruhlman, and Dan Trimmer. All nine candidates were approved to serve in 2024.

Old Business

Mary Jane Fuhrman expressed her concern that she cannot see the painting of Jesus because the screen in the sanctuary blocks her view.

New Business

A visitor asked if the congregation has considered putting solar panels on the sanctuary roof.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM. **Prepared by Craig Bixler 2/10/24**

February 2024 Consistory Digest

There were 11 members present including Pastor Fred, Amy Fawks, Carroll Miller, and Patti Miller.

Treasurer's report:

General pledge January 2024: \$5,092

General pledge January 2023: \$7,001

YTD income: \$11,960

YTD expenses: \$15,827

YTD deficit: \$3,867

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$57,546

-- Deacon Fund: \$16,040

-- Education Fund: \$14,142

-- Memorial Fund: \$9,716

Carroll Miller reported the month's expenses totaled \$15,827.00 while we had budgeted \$18,059.00. Pledge giving's of \$5,092 were \$9,062 below what we needed to break even. This combination resulted in a deficit of \$3,867.00. We did help a family through the Deacon Fund and used \$1,410 from the Zeigler Estate Funds to pay repairs and maintenance.

Amy Fawks reported for Worship & Music: Due to copyright, the livestream will begin after the first modern song and end after the sermon. The videos will be published at comparable times on Facebook to "complete" the worship experience. CCLI licensing information is now shown at the end of the hymns.

Christian will be looking at interest in starting a choir.

Amy Fawks presented a proposal from Reynold's AV to upgrade AV equipment in the sanctuary.

The Reynold's quote was discussed. During the discussion, it was suggested Pastor Whittier's old computer be moved to the balcony which would save \$1500. Also, Amy recommended Grace try the robotic camera. Using the old computer along with purchasing the robotic camera will adjust Reynold's quote to \$6700. A congregational meeting will be held to discuss the upgrades and vote on the expenditure.

Patti Miller reported: During January I made 19 visits to senior care facilities and homes and three hospital visits. There are currently 23 total members who for various reasons are unable to attend worship physically. Some of our members prefer a phone call or a card to a visit, so I make sure to spend time in conversation with them. I made over 40 phone calls to stay in touch with shut-ins, to arrange visits, and to keep in touch with family members.

Outreach Committee reported:

- Cards for people in the service, college students, off-site saints, and Grace members we have not seen recently, will be signed after the February 25 worship service in the nursery.
- During March, the committee is collecting snack items for goody bags to be donated to fire & police departments, hospital ER, school bus companies, etc. The assembly date will be late March.
- Plans are being made for another car show, possibly May 4 or May 11.
- For many years Grace had been a "5 for 5 UCC Church." Being 5 for 5 means that our church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Grace currently still donates to OCWM. There was discussion about once again donating to One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need.

Pastor Fred reported:

- The newly created Transition Ministry Team was presented for Consistory approval. The team members are: Brad and Vickie Arnold, Rick and Becky Boyer, Susan Dienes, Pam Kreitz, Judy Rummel, and Holly Smith. The team members were approved by the Consistory.
- Pastor Fred will be searching for people to be on the Pastoral Relation's Committee.
- The outdoor front sign facing Fourth Street should be changed to show "Transition Ministry Team" with the names Rev. Dr. Fred Young, Amy Fawks, and Patti Miller showing.
- Pastor Fred would like to hold staff meetings once a month.

Dave Fawks, President's report:

- Committees and committee personnel were discussed during the meeting. Committees with no activity were removed from the agenda and new ones added for 2024.
- After some discussion, it was decided to hold future Consistory meetings the second Monday of each month at 6 PM.
- Piano moving: Christian Keller and Scott Fredericks have stated that when playing duets with the piano and organ they cannot see each other. Christian checked into what it would cost to move the piano up to the choir loft. He said he knows of a company that does this and would cost about \$650. The area where the piano is now would become the new place where the choir would sing.

The Consistory discussed the matter and decided to gather information about moving the piano. A positive vote by the Consistory to move the piano will be referred to the congregation for approval.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 2/14/24



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