



# Days of Grace

November 2025 Edition

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am**

**Worship Services @ 10:00 am**

### NOVEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>** - Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** – All Saints Sunday
- 8<sup>th</sup>** – Second Saturday: Grub Gathering @ Time to be announced
- 12<sup>th</sup>** - Women's Ministry – ZOOM @ 7:30 PM
- 14<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM
- 15<sup>th</sup>** - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM
- 16<sup>th</sup>** – Grace UCC Annual Meeting after services
- 26<sup>th</sup>** – Joint Thanksgiving Service @ 7:00 PM
- 30<sup>th</sup>**– Sunday Advent - **5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are Special**

### DECEMBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>** – Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church – **23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> are Tuesdays**
- 10<sup>th</sup>** – Bible Study Group & Movie @ 12:30 PM
- 10<sup>th</sup>** – Women's Ministry - ZOOM @ 7:30 PM
- 12<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM
- 13<sup>th</sup>** – Second Saturday Cookie Baking & Caroling @ Time to be announced
- 20<sup>th</sup>** - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM
- 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Service @ 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM



This November, you are invited to explore special stations during worship. Together, we'll celebrate God's blessings and share our gratitude in a variety of ways—through prayer, reflection, hands-on activities, and quiet moments of meditation. Come and experience the many ways we can give thanks as a community of faith.



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Warm greetings to all of you,

Here we are—in the middle of the “ber” months—September, October, November, and December. It’s the time of year when it gets darker earlier, the chill is in the air, and we look to the holiday season.

This Thanksgiving we pause to give thanks for countless gifts in our lives. We are thankful for the many hands who volunteer for so many things at Grace UCC, around Grace UCC, and in the name of Grace UCC. We are thankful for watchful eyes caring for the upkeep of the church and for generous people who volunteer their time at various outreach ministries in the area. We give thanks for the compassionate who are able to donate to various activities like “Goats for Rwanda” and helping to gather 800 cans of fruit cocktail to feed those who are in need of a Thanksgiving meal.

We are also grateful for the quiet, everyday actions of love and faith that are done, not to be noticed, but because there is a need. We are thankful for the calls made to check in on a friend or neighbor, prayers lifted for someone in need, and in the smiles, hugs, and handshakes shared in our pews. These small, meaningful gestures are truly what make Grace UCC a place full of love and care.

As we move into the holiday season, may we continue to see and celebrate these small moments of blessing. As the busyness of the holidays comes upon us, may we also remember to make space for rest and reflection. May our days be filled with gratitude. Let our hearts be open to God’s presence and our hands ready to share love and kindness with all that we meet. May we notice the simple joys and may those moments remind us of the abundant grace that surrounds us each day.

### ***Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles***

<sup>1</sup> *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 107:1 (NRSVUE)*

**Blessings and peace,**

**Pastor Amy**

# NEWS

## **Fifth Sundays are Special at Grace!**

Join us on our final “5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are Special at Grace” for 2025. It will happen on November 30<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. More details will be shared closer to the date.

## **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 gather place (weather pending)

Women of all ages are invited to participate in both.

## **Recent Special Offerings and Outreach Donations**

Deacon's Fund: **Collected \$1,040**

Neighbors in Need: **Collected \$570**

Goats & Sheep for Rwanda: **Collected \$1,025**, sent to the Mennonite Central Committee

CROP Walk: 5 Grace participants **raised \$381**

## **Thank you for your support!**

## **Sunday School Kick-Off**

Sunday School Kick-Off started on September 21, 2025. For Ages Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Keep spreading the news.

## **Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive**

Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive will take place during the month of November. Your dues will be used to purchase wish list items that benefit residents in Personal Care and Nursing Care at Homewood. Dues for 2026 are \$3 per individual or \$5 per couple. To join or renew your membership or for more information, contact Linda Bixler 717-632-5606.



PhotoCredits [ @LyricBand.org ] (2025, October11) Photos from Lyric Band of Hanover, Inc. Annual Banquet/Facebook. <https://lyricband.org/>



### PROVIDE A LUNCH (P-A-L)



Grace is still preparing the meal every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:FawksAmy@gmail.com).

### NOVEMBER FILM



This animated 2016 film is about a bunny whose dream is to join the police force. The film will be shown Friday November 14th, at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film is rated PG and runs 108 minutes. 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



Have an item you no longer use or need? Examples - books you have read, unused cards, **unwanted items**. Consider our Sharing Corner in the Gathering Place. Drop off an unwanted item and take home a "treasure" or deliver an item to a shut-in or friend. Shop the Sharing Corner. Have fun looking. Bags will be available for your convenience. At the end of each month any remaining items will be donated to local agencies. It will be taking a break until January. Outreach Committee

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



The Personnel Committee continues to actively update, revise, and create documents for the employees of Grace UCC. The Employee Handbook was approved by the Consistory in October. Job Descriptions for our Music Director/Organist, Office Manager/Bookkeeper, and Sexton: Indoor/Outdoor are being revised to ensure that responsibilities and benefits match current expectations and that the appearance of the documents is uniform. This month documents will be created to inform each employee of their 2026 wages and benefits and to make the documentation of informal employee interviews uniform.

We are so proud of our Grace UCC Staff. Pastor Amy is very busy taking care of her flock and being creative with her ideas. Christian continues to inspire us with his beautiful music and is has a goal of featuring Grace congregants for special music monthly. Karen continues to keep us on track with her clerical and bookkeeping skills during this last quarter, a super busy time. Zachery has tackled outdoor repainting of the black rails and yellow no parking/watch your step areas and is keeping the interior clean. Please continue to share your compliments with them.

Should you have questions or concerns, please share these with Joleen, Vickie, Pam, Fay, or Pastor Amy. (preferably not at Sunday worship) **Thank you!**

### **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** . . . 717-881-9116  
**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

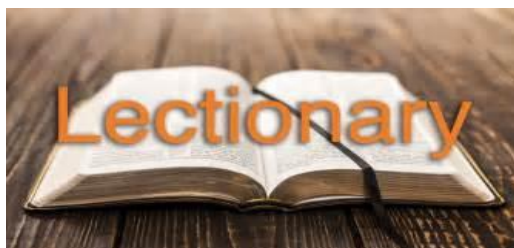
**Office Phone Number** . . . 717-632-1146  
**Prayer Line and Bible Moment** . . . 717-346-1703

### **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**



### **NOVEMBER**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalm 119: 137-144 or Isaiah 1: 10 -18 & Psalm 32: 1-7, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19: 1-10  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Haggai 1:15b-2:9 & Psalm 145:1-5, 17 -21 or Psalm 98 or Jobe 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>** – Isaiah 65: 17-25 & Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a & Psalm 98, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19  
**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Jerimiah 23:1-6 & Luke 1:68-79 or Jermiah 23: 1-6 or Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33 – 43  
**November 30** – Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, romans 13:11-14, Matthew 3:1-12

### **DECEMBER**

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

## October Consistory Digest

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

### Treasurer's Report:

General pledge September 2025: \$4,405.00

General pledge September 2024: \$7,733.00

YTD income: \$122,051.89

YTD expenses: \$179,375.83

YTD deficit: \$57,323.94

### Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$18,959.94

-- Deacon Fund: \$16,320.50

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.20

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$16,412.22

### Rick Boyer budget comments:

- Reviewed the Grace Balance Sheet as of September 30.
- \$20,000 was removed from Wilmington Trust Investments to pay bills.
- Presented the Grace 2026 Proposed Budget showing the total for all expenses of \$286,326.00, which is a 3% to 4% increase over 2025.

**Vickie Arnold reported**, to date, there has not been a replacement found for Glendon Ruhlman for the 2026 Consistory.

The Consistory approved the Grace Employee Handbook that was presented for review last month. The new handbook will be in use beginning January 1, 2026.

### Trustees:

- Work done by George H. Bixler, Inc.:
  - Parsonage Burham hot water boiler serviced September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Opened left rear downspout drain at front inset between sanctuary and Education Wing, repaired toilet on third floor ladies' room, repaired faucet in nursery, September 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Checked left downspout drain at front entrance and first downspout drain on N. Franklin St. side with camera. No breaks found in pipes. A lot of roofing nails and some shingle gravel present. (September 30<sup>th</sup>)
  - Opened right downspout drain to the right of the Fourth Street front entrance. Downspout cut to make a cleanout. (October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Tim Hagarman replaced the rusted electrical conduit on the back of Education Wing with plastic conduit
- Heidler Roofing repaired the northwest gutter on the sanctuary. The gutter hangers were strengthened. This gutter has a history of getting pushed out from the roof. This is the northwest corner and ice may be a problem in the winter. Heidler also repaired the downspout at the rear of the Education Wing closest to North Franklin Street. A metal funnel was fabricated to direct the water into the round drainpipe

**Pastor Amy** reported the elevator was inspected and should be up to date for state certification.

Microsoft has ended support for Windows 10. New computers with Windows 11 should be purchased for better speed and security. Pastor Amy presented a quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Computer Solutions:

- \$2,079.98 for Lenovo ThinkPad E16 16" Notebook/Laptop, Dell Pro QCS1250 Desktop Computer, and computers in-installation and data transfer

The Consistory approved the expenditure.



Another quote from 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Computers for \$1,695.00 for network cleanup in order to get equipment off the floor by installing a wall rack was approved. Recently a wire got hot that caused phone and internet problems at Grace. The wall rack should help eliminate the problem.

**Pastor Amy:**

**Special Worship**

- Bible study on Wednesdays has begun again. Join us in the parlor on Oct 15th at 12:30pm
- All Saints Sunday is Nov. 2, 2025. (We have 8 saints to honor that we've lost over the last year)
- We are working on a joint Thanksgiving Eve service again. More information to come

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- I begin my 11th course, October 15 through November 19)
- My lay ministerial standing is now good for the length of my time at Grace until ordination. I do not need to get it renewed every year

**Other**

- The councilors from Wike would like to know where the on/off switch is for the parking lot lights.
- Proposed idea: Offer a church opportunity and community outreach – Open the church for prayer: Mondays or Wednesdays 11am-12pm. It would be a small cost of having the lights on in the sanctuary during that hour

The Consistory approved opening the church for one hour on Wednesdays as long as Pastor Amy feels safe.

There was Consistory discussion about improving the parking lot lights. Susan Dienes reported some kids are sometimes in the parking lot late at night. It was suggested lights with sensors be purchased for the parking lot.

Vickie Arnold reported that a Gunn-Mowery Insurance agent was at Grace, October 8, 2025, to review our insurance policy with Utica. The agent was satisfied with the overall appearance of the building.

After some changes to the renewal, the premium was reduced by 5.5% for 2026.

**Prepared by Craig Bixler 10/18/25**

# 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](http://www.graceucchanover.org)





**Please join us Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> in remembering those we have lost over this past year.**

**Sonya Harbold – December 22, 2024**

**Betty Slagle – December 24, 2024**

**Faye Myers – March 10, 2025**

**Mildred Hershey – April 22, 2025**

**Joan Leib – June 26, 2025**

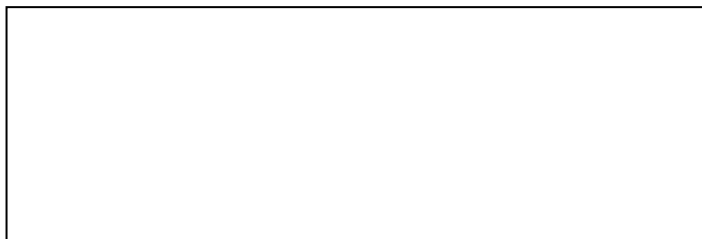
**Harold Hartlaub – June 28, 2025**

**Marian "Sally" Powell – July 24, 2025**

**Sue Caler – September 5, 2025**



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  
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