



Days of Grace

October 2025 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Sunday School @ 9:00 am
Worship Services @ 10:00 am

OCTOBER

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 Sunday Shares - Time to be announced
12th - Crop Walk @ 12:30 PM
15th - Bible Study Group & Movie @ 12:30 PM
18th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM
22nd - Women's Ministry - In Person @ 7:30 PM
28th - Grace Trick or Treat Night @ 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER

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

**Autumn reminds us that God
provides in every season. As the
harvest comes in, may we see
God's blessings, give thanks,
and share them abundantly
with those around us.**

Dearest Friends,

October's beauty reminds us of change and continuousness. The leaves continue to change color, some still clinging to the trees while others have fallen to the ground below. The tree and the roots remain. No matter the changing of the leaves and the seasons, the tree and its roots remain a firm foundation for life to begin again in the spring.



This October 15th, we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the German Reformed tradition in the United States. John Philip Boehm led the first documented Communion service at Falkner Swamp near Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. Those first founding families who gathered there for worship began a faith that still shapes our faith today. As we look back over those 300 years, many things have changed, just like the leaves that change color and fall away, but they make room for regrowth and transformation.

Grace UCC stands in that same legacy of faith—we are grounded in scripture, prayer, and worship but we are always growing and changing to follow God in new ways. We honor all of those who came before us, the foundation that they built, but we are not stuck in the past. We use that foundation to continue to flourish and thrive.

Just as our Reformed families trusted God through uncertain times, we too are called to live faithfully in this season of our lives. We are called to love our neighbors, to welcome all we meet no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey, and to keep our hearts and eyes open to where God is still speaking.

May we always remember that God's love never changes. The foundation of faith that was left by those who came before us continues to guide us and sustain us. Keep our hearts open, our hands outstretched to serve, and our eyes and ears watching for where God is still speaking in our lives and in the life of Grace UCC.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Amy



Fifth Sundays are Special at Grace!

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

White Roses

We lost five of our beloved Grace members. We lift up in prayer the families of Millie Hershey, Joan Leib, Harold Hartlaub, Sally Powell & Susan Caler. They will be deeply missed by the Grace community. We honored their memory with a white rose for each of them on the altar and the roses were then given to their families as a remembrance from Grace UCC. Let us keep their memories alive through the stories we share—so that we may carry the light they brought into this world and share it with all we meet.

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.

Annual Neighbors In Need Offering

The Neighbors In Need Offering will be taken on Sunday October 5th. These funds support ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. This is one of the UCC's 5 For 5 offerings.

Sunday School Kick-Off

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

Harvest Home

Harvest Home will be observed on Sunday October 19th. This is an annual nonperishable food donation to an area food pantry. Food donations can be placed in the rear pews in the Gathering Place. This year, the food collected will go to God's Meal Barrel in Hanover.

Collection for Hanover's Annual Trick or Treat Night

Grace has been participating in the Hanover Trick or Treat Night for many years. We will collect donations of candy and bottles of water beginning in October. The collection box will be in the sanctuary level hall near the elevator. Anyone is welcome to participate on Trick or Treat night, Tuesday, October 28th, 6 to 8 PM. It's a great way to meet Grace's neighbors.



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.

OCTOBER FILM



This 1960 film is based on a literary classic story about a shipwrecked family. The film will be shown Friday October 10th in Fellowship Hall at 3 PM. The film is rated G and runs 126 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. Outreach Committee



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee had a very busy and productive September. We enjoyed chatting with each of our Staff members as part of their Annual Review. Also, we completed our task of sharing Budget input with the finance Team. Finally, we distributed the Employee Handbook to our Consistory members and hope to have the document approved at the October Consistory meeting. Should you have any questions related to Personnel, please contact Fay, Pam, Vickie, Pastor Amy, or

Joleen.

PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE

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

Susan Dienes

Pam Kreitz

Martha Channel

Christian Keller

Becky Boyer

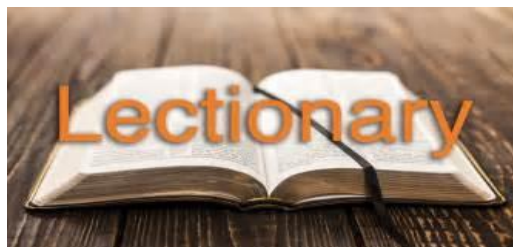
Brad Arnold

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.

Thank you



OCTOBER

October 5th - Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26, & Psalm 137 or Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalm 37:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:1-14

October 12th – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 & Psalm 66:1-12 or 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c & Psalm 111, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

October 19th – Jeremiah 31:27-34, & Psalm 119:97 – 104 or Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalm 121, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

October 26th – Joel 2:23-32 & Psalm 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 & Psalm 84:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

NOVEMBER

November 2nd - 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 9th – Haggai 1:15b-2:9 & Psalm 145:1-5, 17 -21 or Psalm 98 or Jobe 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9, 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

November 16th – Isaiah 65: 17-25 & Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a & Psalm 98, 2nd Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

November 23rd – 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

September Consistory Digest

There were 12 members in attendance including Pastor Amy Fawks, Brad Arnold, and Rick Boyer.

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge August 2025: \$5,974.00

General pledge August 2024: \$5,487.20

YTD income: \$114,071.42

YTD expenses: \$161,639.01

YTD deficit: \$47,567.59

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$18,959.94

-- Deacon Fund: \$16,320.50

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.20

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$16,807.22

Rick Boyer reviewed the August Balance Sheet. Interest rates are falling; however, he will try to keep invested CDs at 4%.

Brad Arnold reported the Grace 2026 Budget is being prepared.

Vickie Arnold reported several people have been asked to serve on the 2026 Consistory to replace Glendon Ruhlman. To date, there have been no positive responses.

The Consistory approved changing the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper position to Office Manager.

Trustees:

- Tim Hagarman was contacted for a quote to replace and repair the heat tapes in the building's downspouts and to replace a rusted electrical conduit on the rear of the Education Wing. Tim quoted \$500 for each job.
- Contacted Structure Perfect to get a quote to inspect all vinyl windows on the Education Wing for needed repairs. Some windows have aluminum trim pulling loose.
- The contact list for afterhours alarms was updated at WFX. Jenn Weaver, Craig Bixler, Susan Dienes, and David Fawks will be called in this order.
- Possible cement repair around front entrance steps to the Education Wing.
- The downspout drain to the left of the front entrance to the Education Wing shows blockage. A quote should be gotten to clean it out.
- The frame to the parsonage garage side door has rotted. A quote should be obtained to repair the door frame and replace the door.

Brad Arnold has resigned from the Property Committee for the present time.

Grace has a lot of old pianos. Christian Keller recommended keeping the two pianos on the first floor. He will get a quote to have all the other old pianos removed.

Vickie Arnold reported we will be returning to our signup sheet in the Gathering Place for Sunday snacks.

Jenn Weaver reported Linda Bixler and Joleen Fennell are trying to find more volunteers to help with children's Sunday School.

Pastor Amy Fawks:

CONNECTIONS:

- Made many phone calls (and many texts) to congregation members to check in
- Made 8 visits.
- Sent letters to families inviting them to the 5th Sundays are Special at Grace—blessings of the backpacks

SPECIAL WORSHIP:

- We had our 5th Sundays are Special at Grace on Aug 31st. We had a continental potluck breakfast out in the parking lot for outdoor worship along with Blessing of the Backpacks. We blessed 19 crosses and backpacks.
- On my Sunday off, I attended Zion UCC in Arndtsville (my advisor's church) to participate in worship and blessing of the backpacks on Aug 17th.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- I begin my 9th and 10th courses, September 3rd and 4th through October 8th and 9th.
- I continue to have conversations and meetings with my Advisor, Rev. Heather Kurtz
- I continue to meet with my discernment team here at Grace.
- I took a tour of Lancaster Seminary (now Moravian University) and participated in their Wednesday noon worship.
- I've joined a community of practice with other pastors throughout the state.

OTHER:

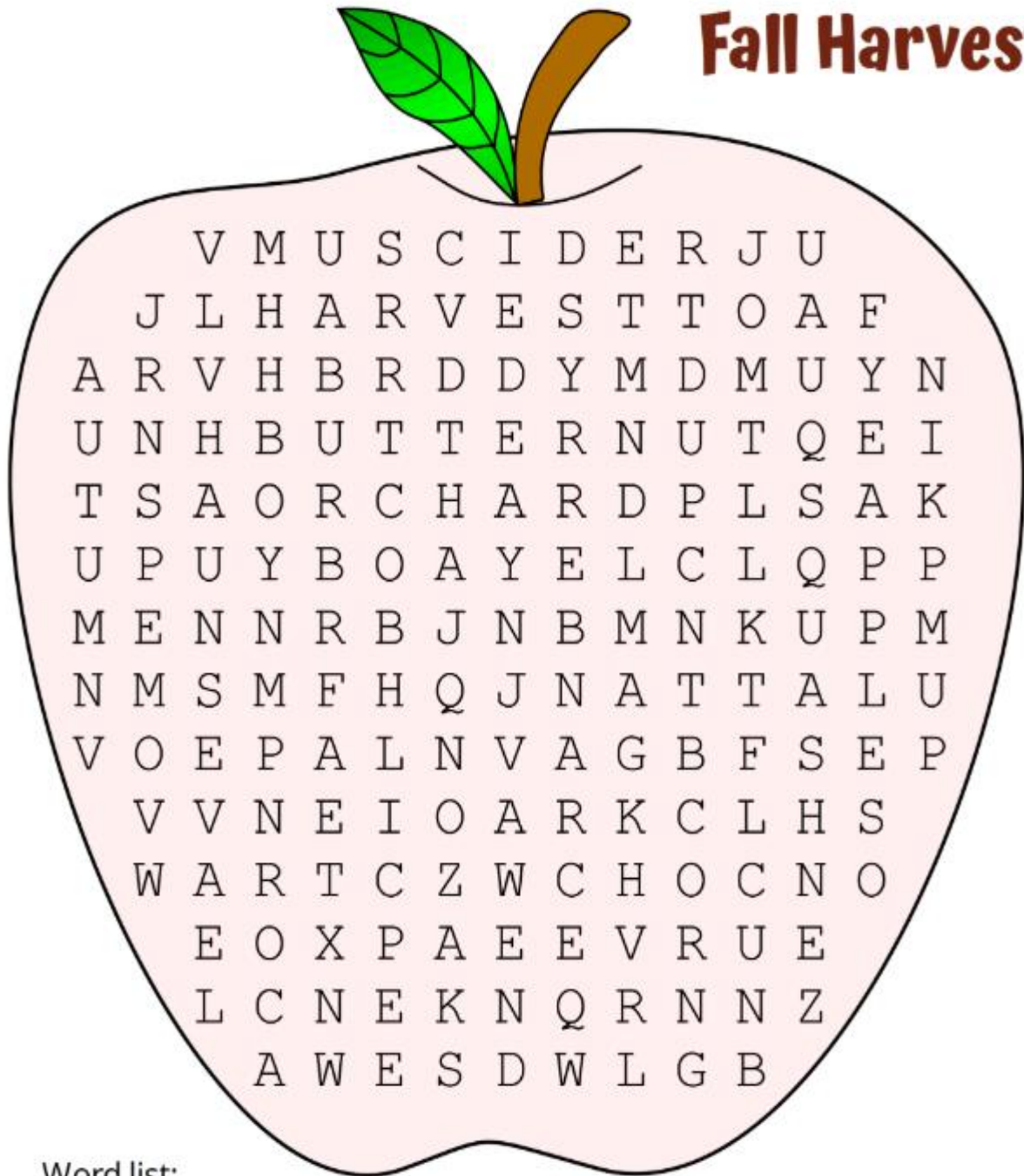
- I continue to reach out and make connections with the community and other local pastors.
- Karen and I attended a Community Symposium on September 4th regarding Food Insecurities. The hope is that we will get more information and create stronger community connections so that we might be able to help more when people call the church asking for money.
- Manger People disposal—worship and music voted to dispose of the broken manger people stored in the shed.
- Karen's office has been moved around after our safety discussion last month. We are waiting on an estimate to put the excess cords into a "box" (for cord protection and people protection), and also a quote for a new computer for Karen and a laptop for me. Both are too old to accommodate the move to Window 11 and Windows 10 will no longer be "serviced" after October. There is plenty in the budget for this year to accommodate those tech needs.
- The security system monitors have been moved and repaired so that Karen and I both have functional monitors.

The Consistory approved a gift for Pastor Fred Young and his wife Kara for his service to Grace for the past year and a half.

Jenn Weaver, Rebecca Boyer, and Linda Bixler met to plan a "thank you" for Rev. Fred Young, his wife Kara, and the congregation of Trinity UCC, Gettysburg. They proposed holding a brunch between Trinity's October 12th services. Jenn will contact Jane Malone at Trinity to see if that date is OK. Grace members may be asked to donate some baked items for the event.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 9/14/21

Fall Harvest



Word list:

ACORN
 APPLES
 AUTUMN
 BUTTERNUT
 CIDER

CORN
 CRANBERRY
 HARVEST
 LEAVES
 MAIZE

ORCHARD
 PECAN
 PUMPKIN
 SQUASH
 SUNFLOWER



Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

I want to make sure that you, and those who care for you, always know how to reach me and the church when it matters most.

Sometimes, life changes quickly! Whether it is a hospital stay, a health concern, or just a need of some extra prayers or support, I want to be there for you. I also want your family or caregivers to know that they are welcome to reach out to me if you are unable to do so yourself.

Below, you will find both my contact information and the church's contact information. There is a small section at the bottom of this page that you can cut out and keep handy (on the fridge, by the phone, in your wallet, or given to a loved one.) This is an easy way to stay connected, no matter what life brings.

With love and grace,

Pastor Amy

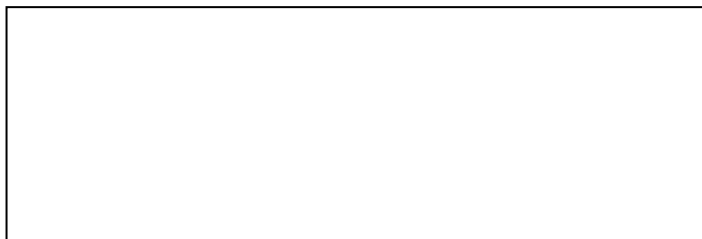
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Pastor Amy Fawks
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Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover PA 17331



CHRIST CALLS US TO REACH OUT WITH LOVE AND SHARE GOD'S GRACE

WELCOME EVERYONE!

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