



Days of Grace

September 2025 Edition

UPCOMING EVENT

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

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd & 17th - Monthly Red Cross Blood
Drive here at the Church
10th - Bible Study Group @ 12:30 PM
Movie at 2:00 PM
10th - Women's Ministry - ZOOM @
7:30 PM
12th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 pm
13th - Fall Clean-Up @ 9:30 AM
20th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM
21st - Sunday School Kick-Off 9AM grades K-8th
24th - Women's Ministry - In Person
@ 7:30 PM

OCTOBER

- 1st - Monthly Red Cross Blood
Drive here at the Church
8th - Women's Ministry - ZOOM @
7:30 PM
10th - Monthly Movie @ 3:00 PM
18th - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) @ 9:00 AM
22nd - Women's Ministry - In Person @
7:30 PM

**PLEASE
JOIN US**

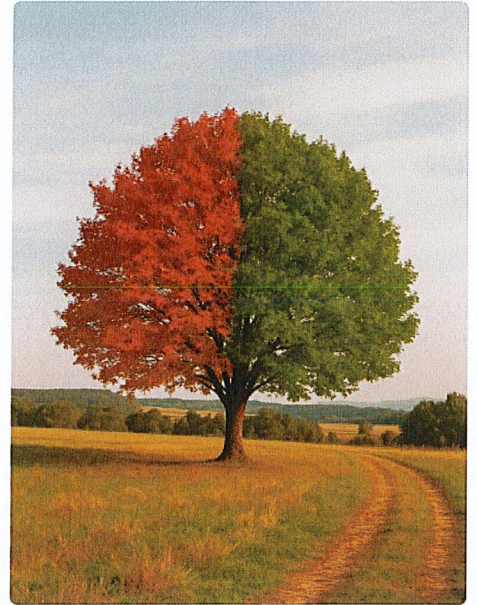
GRACE NEEDS YOU!

What great fellowship we have shared at our Summer Skills Swaps! Please consider joining us through the fall season for our **SECOND SATURDAY SHARES**. On the second Saturday of each month we are planning to gather for some seasonal activities to provide service, fellowship and FUN! Possible projects are most welcomed. Please share with Jenn.

On Saturday, September 13th please mark your calendars for our fall indoor cleanup. Arrive at 9am or after and leave with a happy heart! Not able to do clean up chores, please let us know ahead of time and we'll have some seated table tasks to share. Any ideas?

Dear Grace UCC Members and Friends,

September always feels like a month that is caught between seasons. The heat of summer still lingers—sometimes hotter than previous months! But school is back in session, fall sports fill our televisions and fields, and autumn whispers from the sidelines with a slight chill on the breeze and earlier sunsets, hinting of change. We are not completely in one season or the other, we are in the in-between times.



Our lives have these in-between moments too—when we let go of one thing but haven't quite embraced the next. It can feel uncertain, maybe even a little uncomfortable. These in-between moments are where amazing things can happen. This is where we can imagine the changes that are to come without being locked into any one thing. This is where growth can happen because we are listening and paying attention to where the Spirit might be nudging us next. God is present here, reminding us to slow down, to breathe, to prepare, and to imagine! Imagine all the possibilities living in these in-between moments.

As we move toward this new season, let's take all our summer lessons with us—our hope of what is new and our love for what is rooted in traditions. Let's also make room for what's ahead—new worship and faith formation opportunities, new faces, and a renewed purpose. We have shared fellowship in joyful and meaningful ways this summer—handing out peace packets, playing board games to video games in Fellowship Hall with ages 9 to 93, and learning to make soup and scones from the experts. Let's take this energy and dare to dream of all we can offer as we open our doors to new people and new opportunities. Let's step into the in-between with hope and faith, that God walks with us through it all!

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.

Is it Christmas Already?

No, No! Committee chairs don’t be fooled by the deadline to turn in your Annual Reports! Because we are moving the annual meeting to November from our previous January date any documents to be included in the 2025 Annual Report should be to Karen by September 15th. Please include activities that have taken place from January 2025 until now and projected events that are to occur before the end of the year.

Thank you, thank you!

White Roses

We lost four of our beloved Grace members. We lift up in prayer the families of Millie Hershey, Joan Leib, Harold Hartlaub and Sally Powell. 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

During lent, we began a journey of listening, reflecting on a contemporary Christian song weekly via zoom. We decided to continue this after lent including 2-in-person events this summer. We will be taking the rest of the summer off and restarting this in September with the following cadence:

The second Wednesday of every month we will meet via zoom. @ 7:30

PM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81264532233?pwd=pu8cWIoLimwBWOXAPAQo1ZarupUyff.1>

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)

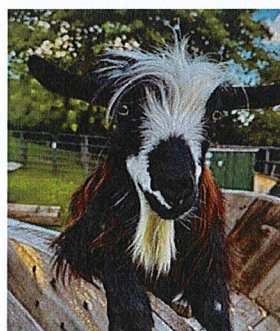
Women of all ages are invited to participate in both.

Deacon's Fund Offering

There will be a Deacon's Fund offering taken Sunday September 14th. Look for the labeled envelopes near the weekly offering plates. This will be one day only. The Deacon's Fund is used for temporary assistance for Grace members who experience unexpected emergency expenses.

Goats & Sheep for Rwanda

Collection for goats and sheep for Rwanda during the month September. The donation will be sent to MCC, Rwanda-Food and Livelihoods.
\$40 buys one goat or one sheep.



Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School Kick-Off starts September 21, 2025. For Ages Kindergarten – 8th Grade. Help us get the word out.

Announcements

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.



SEPTEMBER FILM

This 2013 film is based on the true story of a U. S. container ship that was hijacked by Somali pirates. It is rated **PG-13** due to some language and intense action sequences. It will be shown Friday, September 12th, at 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film runs 134 min. Snacks provided. Doors locked at



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 joyfully announces that our Grace UCC Employee Handbook is finally in its final stages. The Handbook will be a resource for both our Staff and Grace UCC, as the Employer, to communicate Common Personnel Policies and describe what is expected of the Staff by Grace UCC as well as what they can expect from Grace UCC as the Employer. A HUGE thank you to Karen, who retyped the document and to the Committee Members.

We continue to welcome our Sexton, Zachery Jackson. He is currently under Axiom Temp Agency's umbrella. He is working diligently beautifying the exterior of the building and also the interior. We are grateful for his work ethic.

We are currently completing the Staff's Confidential Employee Evaluations. This is an opportunity for the committee and Staff to reflect on their performance and discuss any concerns and ways that we, at Grace UCC, can assist them in meeting their goals.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please share these with Joleen, Vicki, Pam, Fay, or Pastor Amy. 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

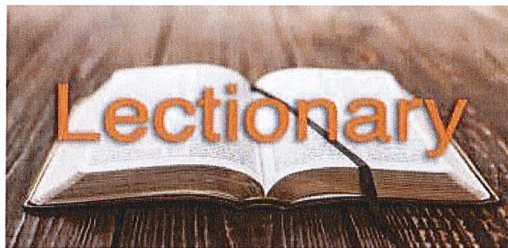
Pastor Amy Fawks
Susan Dienes
Pam Kreitz
Martha Channel

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.



SEPTEMBER

September 7th– Jeremiah 18:1-11 & Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Psalm , Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 14th- Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28 & Psalm 14 or Exodus 32:7-14 & Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 21st-Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 & Psalm 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7 & Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 28th- Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 & Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31, Psalm 146

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

August Consistory Digest

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

Treasurer's Report

General pledge July 2025: \$5,687.00

General pledge July 2024: \$5,336.00

YTD income: \$124,624.86

YTD expenses: \$140,132.25

YTD deficit: \$15,507.39

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$14,585.77

-- Deacon Fund: \$17,664.37

-- Education Fund: \$11,067.11

➤ \$0.00

-- Memorial Fund: \$16,212.09

Brad Arnold urged committee chairs to submit their 2026 budget requests now.

Glen Ruhlman will not be returning to the Consistory next year. The nominating Committee will search for his replacement.

Joleen Fennell reported the Grace Employee Handbook will soon be ready for Consistory comments and approval.

Susan Dienes and Glendon Ruhlman reported the updated By-laws and Grace Policies will soon be ready for review.

There is a change in the trustees. Dave Fawks now has a full-time job but will remain as a trustee. Len Bankert and Mike Mummert will remain as trustee consultants. Craig Bixler will join the trustees to help with immediate needs. Jenn Weaver, Craig Bixler, and Susan Dienes will be added to the afterhours alarm call list.

There was discussion about Grace's numerous old pianos. It was recommended Christian Keller get a quote to remove and dispose of 6 old pianos.

Pastor Amy stated Grace has not had a Stewardship Team in 10 years. It was recommended to form a Stewardship Team.

Jenn Weaver reported for Faith Formation:

- Implemented ideas:
 - We will continue the devotionals in the Gathering Place
 - Women's Music Ministry will transition in September to twice a month. 2nd Wednesday of the month will be via zoom and 4th Wednesday of the month will be in person.
 - Skills swaps are going well and will continue with a new twist in the fall.
- Sunday School updates:
 - September 21 we will kick off a new year of Sunday School. We will ask for volunteers to possibly start a class for younger children.
 - Jenn volunteered to help as needed for teaching.
- Confirmation Class - Pastor Amy and Jenn will begin creating a new design for those wanting to be confirmed into the church. It will focus on core pillars of our faith and involve the broader congregation and community.
- New Members - Pastor Amy has created new member classes for adults wanting to join the church as well as re-learning classes for those that wish to understand our faith better.

Craig Bixler reported the Outreach Committee September and October activities:

- September:
 - Deacon's Fund collection, Sunday September 14th
 - Collect for goats and sheep for Rwanda during the month. The donation will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee, Rwanda-Food and Livelihoods
- October:
 - Harvest Home, Worship & Music or Outreach will advertise and set date
 - Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, Sunday October 5th
 - Collect candy and bottled water for Hanover Trick or Treat night

Pastor Amy reported:

VISITATION

- Continue visitations and making phone calls.

SPECIAL WORSHIP

- We will have our 5th Sundays are Special at Grace on Aug 31st. There we will have a continental potluck breakfast out in the parking lot for outdoor worship along with Blessing of the Backpacks.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- I finished my 8th course Pastoral Care on July 24th.
- I begin my 9th and 10th courses, September-October.

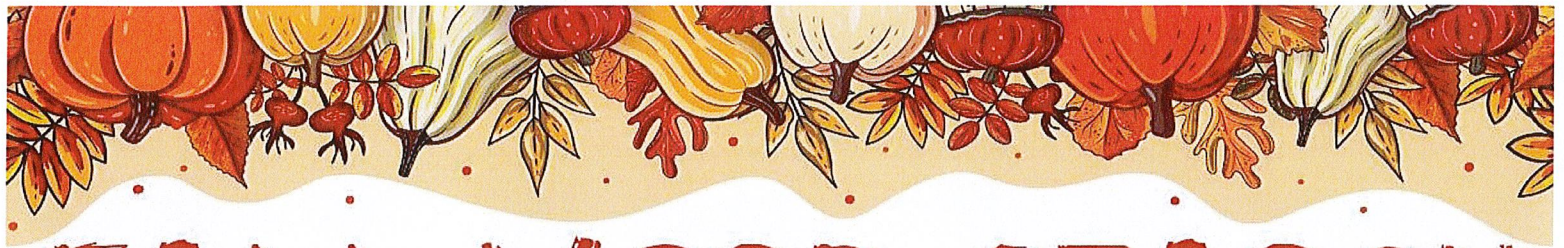
I continue to reach out and make connections with the community. I have created the following:

- A "care letter" that has our church information in case a congregation member is unable to provide that information to a loved one.
- "Welcome bags" for visitors with information requests. We received one back from a visitor.
- An updated Prayer Line to include a daily email and newsletter format to meet the needs of those who requested it. I currently email 20 people who have requested to be on our mailer.
- A Sexton's Request form—for set up of events.
- The contract for Wike Counseling Services.
- A Maintenance/Damage Notification form.
- A New Member Class and created a refresher class as well.

Vickie Arnold and Jenn Weaver reported:

- We want to remind everyone that our annual meeting along with 2026 budgeting and annual reports have moved from January to November.
- If you lead a committee, please have your 2025 committee recap (Jan-Aug) and preview (Sep-Dec) to Karen no later than September 15. These will be compiled for our annual report.
- Last Summer Skills Swap scheduled for Aug 19th where we'll share some crafting projects together. In September we will begin our Second Saturday Shares. Times to be decided.
 - * Sept 13th - Fall Outdoor Cleanup
 - * Oct 11th - A tailgate and watch party
 - * Nov 8th - A Ghastly Grub Gathering
 - * Dec 13th - Cookie Bake and Caroling
- Will be requesting an in-person review with our insurance provider for early October.
- Upcoming announcements to congregation:
 - * Guidelines on who may deliver communion
 - * Present partnerships with the Red Cross and Wike Counseling Center.
 - * New structure of Martha's Ministry
 - * Movement of the Annual Meeting to take place third week in November

Joleen Fennell reported there are extra gowns, pews, and craft and lunch bags at Grace. It was decided to advertise to get rid of some of these items.



FALL WORD SEARCH

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

WORD BANK

ACORNS
APPLES
BONFIRE
CIDER

CORN
FOOTBALL
GOURD
HALLOWEEN

HARVEST
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
PUMPKIN
ORANGE

RED
SCARECROW
SWEATER
THANKSGIVING
YELLOW

WWW.ALWAYSTHEHOLIDAYS.COM





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

Grace United Church of Christ

100 4th Street

Hanover, PA 17331

Office Phone: 717-632-1146

Email:

office@graceucchanover.org

Pastor Amy Fawks

Cell: 717-698-6366

Office Phone: 717-632-1146 (line 2)

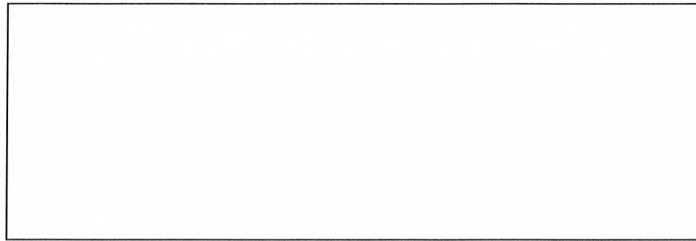
Email: FawksAmy@gmail.com



GRACE
United Church of Christ



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