

Grace UCC
100 Fourth Street
Hanover PA 17331

The Days of Grace for May 2021

Spring has sprung!

The flowering trees are beautiful!

The spring flowers are outstanding!

You are a child of God!!!

You are loved!

You are blessed abundantly!

Share the blessings with all you meet!



Lancaster
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

555 West James Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tel: 717-393-0654
Toll Free: 800-393-0654
Fax: 717-393-4254

www.lancasterseminary.edu

February 17, 2021

Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

Your gift provides support for Lancaster Seminary's mission "to educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish." We seek to bring a gifted and dedicated faculty, committed and called students, and supporting churches, organizations, and friends into a vibrant community of faith.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

In Christ,

Jennifer Thompson
Vice President of Advancement

Received: 02/17/2021 \$800.00 *Annual Fund

Thank you for your continued support and funding of our LTS Students & faculty.

Hello,

I continue to ride the high of Easter! How about you? I feel so inspired to bring some new ideas to Grace Church as a way to promote fellowship, community, outreach and hope! I have many new and exciting things planned for the Parking Lot, Worship and mailings.

One thing I am planning with the help of the others--- A BEACH PARTY!!!!!! Music concerts, sandwich and fellowship on Sunday evenings,...be sure to read the entire newsletter so you are up to date on exciting activities that you are not only invited to attend, but we expect to see you! Every activity is open to everyone! Bring a friend!!

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic please be flexible and understanding with decisions that are out of our control. You will read more about this in the following pages.

I continue to believe that God is in total control. I continue to believe God blesses us abundantly. I continue to believe that God's grace is sufficient. I continue to believe God is good...all the time!

You may have heard or read about the fact that Kelly Wolf the secretary has tested positive for COVID and the Flu. She had not been in the building for 12 days prior to the tests. No one was from the church was around her. If you want to send her a note or card please do so! Kelly Wolfe

27 Ewell Dr

East Berlin, PA 17316

Blessings, Peace, Good Vibes!

Pastor Bonnie

Rev. Bonnie J. Whittier



PRAYER CONCERNS:

Len Bankert, Sue Caler, Eileen McKinley, Jerry & Wife both diagnosed with cancer, Don a mass on his brain, children, families grieving, Elsie Rickrode, Susan Maddox, all off site Saints, and those who have unspoken prayer concerns.

Announcements:

Consistory Meets May 10 at 7 PM.

The Food Pantry accepts donations anytime.

The Prayer Line has prayer concerns posted every night with a devotional and prayer.

There are multiple opportunities to serve at Grace Church.

The Worship Services

Early Church meets at 9 AM. This is a less formal service, with modern music and instruments other than the organ.

Late Church meets at 11 AM. This is a more traditional service that includes the organ, hymns, and more liturgy.

****Both services meet in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing is observed. The masking tape indicates pews for the early service seating. The blue painter's tape indicates clean pews for the late service seating. *****

Congratulations to Justin and Mitchell Moul! Justin adopted Mitchell! Justin and Emily are a family of 5 now!! Very Exciting!

It's A Beach Party!!

Formal Invitation:

You are invited to join us at: *Grace United Church of Christ*

Location: *100 Fourth Street, Hanover*

Date: *July 17, 2021*

Time: *1PM to 3PM*

Activity: **!!!! A WATER FILLED FEW HOURS OF FUN!!!!**

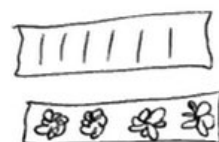
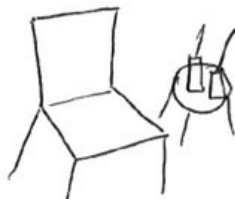
***BATHING SUITS ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT ARE ENCOURAGED!**

Specifics: *Every family or group registering together will receive a pool, a bucket, beach ball, shovel and sand, a parking space in the parking lot.*

You Bring: **Lawn Chairs, towels, picnic basket, drinks, canopy or chair umbrellas.**

Please plan to join us for this afternoon of fun! Please call before June 20 to ensure we have enough swimming pools!! You get to keep the pool, the bucket, shovel and balls! **717 632 1146**


no
Diving



Children's Virtual Sunday School News

Weekly lessons filled with songs, Bible stories, activities, questions to consider, and prayers continue during May. The theme this month is Families. We know that families are quite different. The Bible has many stories featuring diverse families and their challenges. In these stories we discover how God's guidance for family living influenced these people. Our lessons will show how these same values of love and respect apply to today's world. We'll learn how God wants family members to care and love one another, why children should obey their parents, how God invites and accepts all people into His family, the church, and that God loves all children unconditionally.

Our Grace UCC Children's Virtual Sunday School began in May 2020. As restrictions are being adjusted and summer is coming, the virtual teacher team has decided that the final lesson will be on May 30, 2021. Children and families can go the Grace UCC Kids Facebook page to access previous lessons. We look forward to the possibility of in person activities in 2021 as we continue our spiritual learning and growth. We thank Pastor Bonnie, our church secretaries, and the children and families who have supported virtual Sunday School. We hope that you continue to celebrate and share God's Word and remember, Jesus loves us!



Every Tuesday you are invited to bring a chair and your lunch to the Parking Lot! A group meets to eat lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship. We social distance! Please join in the fun when your schedule permits!!!

What did one ocean say to the other?

Nothing. They just waved.

May 24 @ 7PM. A planning meeting is scheduled to look forward and put procedures in place for slowly re-opening the church. We will continue to follow the CDC and Penn Central Conference recommendations.

This meeting is open to everyone.

If you work in the health care we encourage you to attend and offer your thoughts, experiences and wisdom!

What is orange and sounds like a parrot?

A Carrot.

April 13, 2021

Hello,

Consistory met last evening for the regular monthly meeting. As usual there was a lengthy agenda with many items to discuss. Perhaps one of the most exciting items was the Treasurer's report. We ended March with a surplus of giving. What does that mean? We ended March meeting the weekly budget needed for the month with some left over! This is the second month in a row. This is an item to be celebrated! We are doing something right!!

Another important item was virtual Sunday School for the children. Joleen Fennell, Anita Kincaid & Jenn Weaver have been organizing and leading the virtual SS since last year. The last day for this virtual SS is May 30. The hope is that in the fall regular SS can resume in person!

The third item was the most important for many. How do we as a church begin the process of opening worship, classes, studies, and other groups as we move forward? Most of you know, or have heard, that the main concern for Consistory is that "the most vulnerable person be safe" while attending worship or coming into the building. We continue to hold that concern as a priority.

After much discussion it was decided that we are going into a pro-active plan for opening the church carefully, thoughtfully, and productively. There will be a meeting to begin discussing this towards the end of May. However, in the meantime it was decided that most in attendance felt we need to continue wearing face masks and maintain six-foot distancing when in worship. We want to clarify the six-foot distancing when in the sanctuary. There is **blue painter's tape** on the pews for safe seating during the **late service**. When the **early service** moved upstairs **off white masking tape** was put on the pews for people to sit on during the early service.

The tape may not have been explained as well as it might have been. The reason for sitting in different pews for the two services is because there is no time for cleaning the pews between the services. **Consistory wants the system followed for the safety of everyone.** Families and those riding in the same car may sit together, but otherwise it is expected that the six-foot distancing be observed for a bit longer. We are following the CDC and Penn Central Conference recommendations.

Consistory made decisions based on the numbers of COVID cases in this area, the number of people vaccinated and the number of people choosing not to be vaccinated. Most were in agreement that we will be living with COVID for a very long time and we will need to be flexible as we move forward.

If you are part of a small group and want to know when the group is allowed to meet—following the mask wearing, six-foot distancing requirements—please call the church office and ask! We want the building safe for everyone. One restriction for a group meeting will be the availability to clean between groups meeting.

Please remember this may not be about your safety, but the safety of one much more vulnerable than you. Please help us to keep the most vulnerable safe, by **wearing a face mask and six-foot distancing at all times.**

I am enclosing a list of the Consistory members and their telephone numbers if you have questions! Thank you for your continued concern, support and involvement in Grace Church.

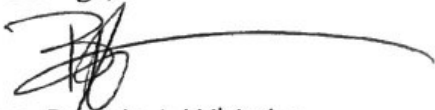
| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| David Fawks, Consistory President | 717 880 2256 |
| Mike Mummert, Vice President | 717 965 2941 |
| Justin Moul, Secretary | 717 965 5538 |
| Craig Bixler, Asst Secretary | 717 632 5606 |
| Carroll Miller, Treasurer | 910 540 4099 |
| Linda Bixler, Asst Treasurer | 717 632 5606 |
| Lynn Becker | 717 633 5187 |
| Dani Benner | 717 479 8224 |
| Sue Fuhrman | 717 969 8910 |
| Stephanie McIlwee | 717 434 9975 |
| Allison Myers | 717 630 9141 |
| Faye Myers | 717 632 6361 |
| Jo Ann Sites | 717 515 5775 |
| Jenn Weaver | 717 632 6127 |
| Rev. Bonnie J. Whittier | 717 324 6639 |
| Patti Miller, Visitation Leader | 717 451 1913 |

Consistory is here for you!

*If you want to continue receiving the weekly mailer please call! (717 632 1146) Some have opted not to receive the mailer and we want to be respectful of your choice!

FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN IN THE CHURCH BUILDING FOR ALL SERVICES, MEETINGS, GROUPS!

Blessings,



Rev. Bonnie J. Whittier

Pastor Bonnie is hoping to have **Music programs, concerts or entertainment in the Parking lot over the summer**. She hopes to schedule one for June, July & August. Perhaps a **late afternoon** say, 4ish? The sun is down in the parking lot so it will be cooler at that time.

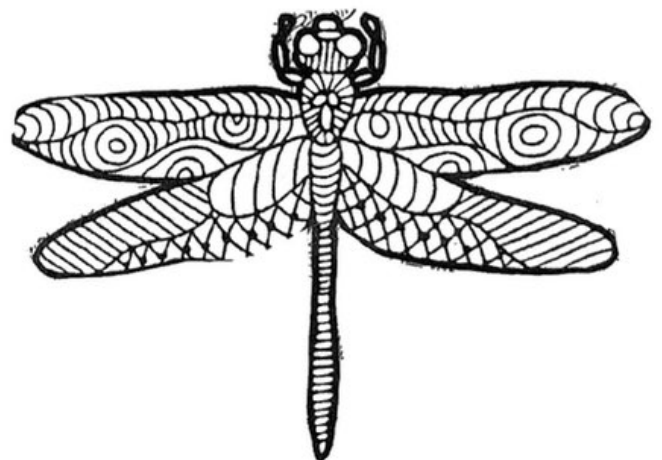
If you play an instrument, sing, dance, do a magic show or what have you? Please contact Pastor Bonnie and let's get something on the calendar. This can be a group offering or individual offering. We have access to a sound system outside. If you have a friend and want to do several songs—yahoo! If you want to offer one song, maybe we can get several one song acts to entertain on the same evening.

The evenings can also include children doing a Karate routine, Baton twirling, dancing, dog or pet show. Pastor Bonnie is open to ideas for these evenings.

Please give this some thought! Call and let Pastor Bonnie know what you will offer! (717 324 6639)

Another **evening event** Pastor Bonnie is promoting is "Dinner, a Sandwich, Snacks and Drink in the Parking lot". Again, if we plan this after 4 or 5 pm the lot is shaded and it will not be too hot—and we can put up canopies if it is hot! This can be a Sunday evening, Saturday, Friday, Thursday.....Let's just get together and practice social distancing and eat and chat. **Give us feedback** on a night that works for you and yours!

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Every Tuesday, weather permitting, you are invited for lunch in the parking lot. It is so much fun. Bring a chair, your lunch and a joke or story or two and come join us! 12 noon!
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April Consistory Digest

There were 13 members present (including one member via Zoom).

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge for March 2021: \$15,661.00 (4 Sundays)

General pledge for March 2020: \$11,180.00 (5 Sundays)

YTD 2021 income: \$51,539.86

YTD 2021 expenses: \$46,991.15

YTD surplus: \$4,548.71

Checking account balances:

Deacon: \$10,488.66

Education: \$12,612.23

Memorial: \$158,130.17

Resource: \$2,790.45

Operating: \$56,733.96

Carroll Miller reported that we had another surplus for March, \$3,789.72. We had a gift from a member for \$5,000.00 which is always helpful. The "Organ Funds" are with Wells Fargo and are still in a money market account which earns very little. It is time to discuss moving into the investment program.

Patti Miller reported that she was able to make over 35 calls in March, most of which were to shut-ins or members with health concerns. She was able to make a few visits as well in March. Patti continues to record the Bible Moment which she records along with the Prayer Line each day.

Jenn Weaver reported that Joleen Fennel, Anita Kincaid and Jenn Weaver created a Holy Week Activity in the parking lot. There were 10 stations marked by laminated sheets around the parking lot that chronicled the last week of Jesus's life. The first stop was Palm Sunday and the last Easter Sunday. Each stop had a scripture reading, a short reflection and question/s and ended with a brief prayer. Families and groups along with individuals were invited to join the self guided tour for a reflection on that last week as well as how it is still relevant in our lives today.

There was much discussion on the topic of developing a timeline to reopen the church. There will be a meeting set up towards the end of May to hopefully formalize a plan for this. In the meantime, please remember to care for your neighbor by wearing a mask and maintaining six feet between yourself and others.

Prepared by Justin Moul 4-14-21