

Hello,

I have been arriving in the office early (7ish) the last few weeks. It is a time for me to focus, to pray and to listen. God speaks and if we listen closely we hear.

God has been affirming of what choices are being made at Grace Church! I have received much needed affirmations from colleagues, scripture and members/visitors of Grace.

I use the early hours when no one is around to hold in prayer the people on the prayer list, people I know that are struggling and thanking God for the many blessings I receive and the many blessing the church receives.

I believe we have turned the corner from the Pandemic and we are moving forward!! It has been a long, difficult, stressful and grace-filled time. The scriptures have come alive to me during this time. I have taken time to sit with, read (over and over) the scriptures for Sunday worship and others that God has brought to my mind during prayer & meditation.

I invite you to sit with God. Allow God to fill the center of your soul and just be! "Be still and know that I am God"...Be still! It is amazing what can be heard when you are still!

Pastor Bonnie

March Film at Grace

This 2013 film is about the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers taking a stand against Major League Baseball's infamous color line when he signed Jackie Robinson. It will be shown Friday March 10, at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film is rated **PG-13** due to language and graphic racism. The film runs 128 minutes. Popcorn provided. Call 717-632-5606 for weather cancellation.

Soup Jar Donations

There were 61 decorated soup jars donated to Hanover Area Council of Churches. 15 people helped assemble jars at 1PM & two at 6:30PM. All items were donated! THANK YOU for your donations and interest in this outreach project.

We will be doing this again in the future. If you want to donate pint size canning jars, beans, tomatoes are other items please bring them to church!

Care Boxes to Bus Drivers

We are collecting snacks, candy, gum to be given as a Thank you to Bus Drivers for keeping our children as safe possible. If you have a donation please bring it to the office!! We want to deliver the packages later in March.

Financial Report January 2023

General Pledge	\$7001.00
YTD Income	\$14,093.42
YTD Expenses	\$20,525.85
YTD Deficit	\$6632.43

Sight and Sound Theater

If you are interested in a trip to see MOSES, please call the office 717 632 1146. If we have enough people interested we will schedule a date. The cost will be approximately \$125. And lunch will be an additional cost.

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Bonnie is interested in starting a Bible Study on Wednesdays. If you are interested in participating in a Bible Study Wednesdays at 1:00PM, please call the church office or speak with Pastor. If there is interest, we will schedule the time.

Consistory Officers:

President	Dave Fawks
VP	Susan Dienes
Secretary	Patti Miller
Treasurer	Carroll Miller
	Tom Craig
	Fay Emlet
	Mike Mummert
	Faye Myers
	Cathy Reck

Staff:

IT	Amy Fawks
Music Director	DR, Troy Winemiller
Secretary	Faye Myers
Sexton	Dave Fawks
Visitation	Patti Miller
Greeters	Sue & Tracy Caler
Pastor	Rev Bonnie J Whittier

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Wed 10:-2:30PM
Thursday by Appointment
Friday is Pastor's Day Off

Consistory Members 2023

President	David Fawks	717 880 2256
Vice President	Susan Dienes	717 870 1288
Secretary	Patti Miller	717 451 1913
Treasurer	Carroll Miller	910 540 4099
Ast. Treasurer	Linda Bixler	717 632 5606
Tom Craig	717 479 6751	
Fay Emlet	717 637 4027	
Mike Mummert	717 965 2914	
Faye Myers	717 451 0883	
Cathy Reck	717 451 2573	

Grace Church Staff

IT	Amy Fawks	717 698 6366
Music Director	Dr. Troy Winemiller	717 579 4332
Pastor	Rev Bonnie J Whittier	717 324 6639
Secretary	Faye Myers	717 632 1146
Sexton	Dave Fawks	717 880 2256
Visitation Leader	Patti Miller	717 451 1913
Greeters	Sue & Tracy Caler	

Grace Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 2:30pm

Thursdays by appointment

Pastor Bonnie schedules visits on Thursdays. If you desire a visit anytime PLEASE call and she is happy to come visit anytime!

Friday is Pastor Bonnie's day off.

Office Telephone Number 717 632 1146

Dial a Prayer Telephone Number 717 634 8865

Committees

Altar Guild:

Susan Dienes, Linda Hillsinger, Eileen McKinley, Joleen Fennell, Faye Myers

Finance:

Carrol Miller, Linda Bixler, Sue Furchman

Personnel:

Sue Furchman, Mike Mummert, Susan Dienes, Dave Fawks (Ex-Officio) Cathy Reck

Mission Outreach:

Craig & Linda Bixler, Joleen Fennell, Cathy Reck, Linda Hillsinger, Judy Rummel, Eileen McKinley

Trustees:

Mike Mummert, Dave Fawks, Mike Whittier, Susan Dienes

Worship/Music:

Troy Winemiller, Amy Fawks, Pastor Bonnie

Thank you for responding to the sign up for committees. We received a large number and it was decided to go in order of response for some committees that did not require so many involved.

Financial Report January 2023:

General Pledge Jan. 2023, \$7001.00 (4 Sundays)

General Pledge Jan. 2022, \$14,653 (4 Sundays)

YTD 2023 Income \$14,093.42

YTD Expenses \$20,525.85

YTD Deficit \$6432.43

Outreach Ideas/Plans for every month of 2023

- January** Distribution of Hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs & socks
New Hope, Hoffman Homes & Safe Shelter
PAL Lunch January 21 9am – 12:30pm
ALWAYS the THIRD Saturday of the Month
- February** Soup Jars New Hope & HACC
Ash Wednesday Hand out Ashes
PAL lunch February 18
- March** Sight & Sound Bus Trip (David)
Lenten Services on Wednesdays
Snack Boxes for Bus Drivers
PAL Lunch March 18
- April** Karen Knight Palm Sunday
Good Friday
Easter
Women's Retreat April 29 9-12pm
PAL Lunch April 15
- May** CWS Buckets?
Snack Boxes for Fire Stations
PAL Lunch May 20
- June** Fill Handbags for Women In Shelter
Snack Boxes for Police Department
PAL Lunch June 17
Family Fun Afternoon to include Mini-Golf, Corn Hole, Bocce Ball,
Ladder Game, Go Fish, Lawn Chess, Tether Ball. ??? 1-4PM
- July** Fill Back Packs for Men in Shelters
PAL Lunch July 15
- August** Blessings of the Pets in Parking Lot Community invited!
Bring a donation for pets: towels, blankets, treats, litter, food...
PAL Lunch August 19
- September** Fill Back Packs for School/ Snack Boxes for School Staffs
PAL Lunch September 16
- October** Car Show/Blue Grass Band Outreach Collection TBD
Halloween on Front lawn of Church Tuesday Before Halloween
PAL Lunch October 21
Soup Jars
- November** Thanksgiving Service CWS Blankets
PAL Lunch November 18
- December** Support Hoffman Homes and Homewood with gifts
Collect hats, Mittens, etc
PAL Lunch December 16

Lenten Services:

February 26 10am
March 5 10am Gen12:1-4a & John 3:1-17 Condemnation? Grace?
March 12 10am John 4:5-42 "Sitting at The Well"
March 19 10am Psalm 23 "The Lord is MY Shepherd"
March 26 10am Psalm 130 "Lament! Cry Out!"
April 2 10am Karen Knight: Crucifixion Through the Eyes of Pilate's Wife
April 7 Good Friday 6:30PM Finger Food similar to a Seder Meal
7 Interactive drama of the last hours of Christ's life
April 9 Easter Sunday String Trio, Trumpet, Handbells, Choir, Solo,
Scripture, Message, Communion

Looking Ahead:

April 15 PAL LUNCH

April 29 Women's Retreat 9-12PM

May Church World Services Bucket Assembly

Snack Boxes for Fire Stations

PAL Lunch May 20

June 3 Family Fun Afternoon

Fill Handbags for Women in Shelter –

We have handbags: Donations of hygiene items needed

There are multiple opportunities to serve the wider community in the schedule for 2023. There are multiple opportunities to serve Grace Church in 2023. There are multiple opportunities for you to help, donate or participate in during the year 2023.

Where is your passion? What do you want to see in addition to what is planned? We want to hear your ideas!!!

Martha's Ministry is coming back to life! It is being re-organized, re-branded and will continue to be a vital ministry of the Ladies of Grace! Martha's Ministry was specifically geared toward helping and supporting the families dealing with death and grieving. The Ministry is changing in order to continue reaching out to families in need. The luncheons are being changed to a basket of food being delivered to families! If you want to know more, please contact Becky Boyer 717 632 1053.

AMAZING!!!!
Amazing things are happening
at
Grace Church!

Thank you to Rich at the computer company we use, we have gotten in touch with a **local elevator service** that is licensed with the state. (The previous company we were using was charging \$1,000. an hour.) We have been reaching out to the other company for over a year to get the elevator up to compliance with the state and the elevator company did not get back to our request. Justin was here two hours after we called and within a week had the compliance issues resolved. He charged less to complete all the necessary compliance issues (several hours of work) than a regular hour charge of the other company!

We have been holding the **pews** from the Gathering Place in the shed. It was determined we will not be putting the pews back in the building and we advertised to give them away to a church in need. We are donating the pews to a new church in Biglerville.

We have also changed our **organ service company** to a small, family owned company. They are charging less than half the cost of the previous company for regular servicing. More importantly, however, they have given us a schedule of when they will be here.

We don't have to call them and wait for a response.

All three of these examples are a result of our diligence in being good stewards of our finances. Thank you to everyone involved that made this happen!

Stewardship:

Stewardship is so much more than money. Stewardship is an opportunity to help in any way you are able in the life of the church. We need help on a weekly basis with a number of things!

Another piece of Stewardship is support of the Consistory, Pastor, and officers of the church. A simple Thank-You or Good Job sure goes a long way.

And of course Stewardship does include financial giving. This is a touchy subject for many in the congregation and congregations of local churches!

At Grace Church it becomes an issue because we have money in investments, endowments and designated areas. Many see that as reason to give nothing at all or lower their giving because "we don't need the money." However, we do need giving to help us continue to be a fulltime church.

Although we have money in other areas, some of the other monies are designated for a specific purpose. Stewardship is one of the responsibilities of a member of a church (and most other organizations as well) but we don't

highlight it as often or as stringently as other organizations. Without active members supporting the Stewardship of our church we cannot survive.

We are **advertising** many of our services, outreach and general life of the congregation in several places: The Merchandiser, the Hanover Area Council of Churches and Penn Central Conference. We will also begin to advertise in The Hanover Magazine. The advertising has brought visitors to the church on a regular basis, helped us to donate the pews AND helped us share the love of God!!!! The cost is minimal.

The **leadership team** of Grace UCC is attempting to be as transparent as possible. Please let us know if you can help in any way to keep Grace Church a vital part of the greater community!

The **Grace Church Choir** is growing! The Choir in place is a huge accomplishment! Thank you to Troy Winemiller for the time and effort to get the choir together! The choir will be singing more regularly! Thank them if you appreciate this gift of music during worship!

Handbells are being organized for special services. If you are interested and available to learn some simple handbell music/ability please, please, please see Troy!! Handbells are a beautiful addition to our services!

Prayer Shawls, Lap Blankets & Baby Blankets. If you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or sewing one of the items, please do so! We give them to people as a way to let them know they are thought about, loved and prayed for.

Snacks & Candy are being collected for a Mission Outreach of the Church. (There is a list of the outreach opportunities included in this Newsletter.)

We will be donating **Care Packages** to Firehouses, Police Stations, School Staff, School Bus Drivers, & Hospital Staff throughout the year. We need donations to put in the care packages. Please drop off snacks, candy, gum, mints and other small items for this purpose!

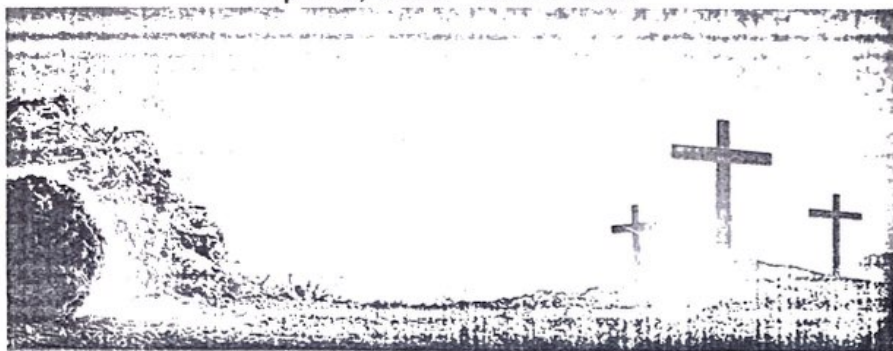
Sight and Sound Bus Trip:

If you are interested in going to Sight and Sound as a group, Please call the church office and let us know. The Spring show is Moses. The cost including transportation will be approximately \$125.00 with lunch on your own. If we get enough people a trip will be planned.

American Music Theater is another option for a bus trip. The Theater offers a variety of shows and is much less costly. Again if you are interested call the church office and let us know. 717 632 1146

There is a **Sunday School** class for all ages!! **Sunday School** begins at 9am!!

Resurrection Sunday Worship Service
April 9, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.



Please joins us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This service will be filled with Vocal Soloists, The Grace UCC
Choir,
a Trumpeter along with the Sanctuary Steinway
Concert Grand Piano and the Magnificent Sanctuary Pipe
Organ.

Pastor Bonnie will lead us in Celebration with a message of
Hope, Salvation and Love!

Easter Prelude will begin at 9:45 a.m.
(Hanover String Trio)

Grace United Church of Christ
100 4th Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Grace United Church of Christ Presents
In Concert
New Song Community Choir



New Song Community Choir's members are from
20 local congregations devoted to lifting their
voices to praise God through gospel music.

May 21, 2023 @ 4 p.m.
Grace United Church of Christ
100 4th Street, Hanover, PA.

Free Will Offering to Benefit New Song
For questions, please call 717-579-4332

Circle of Care and Compassion



In the past, Grace Church has hosted several women's retreats, offering refreshments, prayer, song, activities, and friendship. This year the retreat will focus on care and compassion - for ourselves and for others. Please join us on April 29th from 9:00 AM until noon in Fellowship Hall to sing, pray, reflect, eat 😊, and have fun with each other as we reflect on self-care and caring for others and work on crafts and arts. While the retreat has traditionally been a women's retreat, in the Christlike spirit of inclusion and acceptance of all God's children, everyone is welcome, not just women. As we form our circle of care and compassion, we are dedicated to keep that circle open for all. If you have any questions, please call Patti Miller at 717-451-1913 or email at pattiamiller68@gmail.com.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7, 2023

6:30 PM

6:30 – 7:00pm Finger Food

7:00 Choose from the hat. The paper you choose is what part you play.

7:15 The evening begins.

This is an inter-active evening of thoughts, reflections, comments and feelings.

This evening we will play out the events of Good Friday as recorded in the scriptures. We will attempt to imagine what it was like to be in the crowds as Jesus lives his final moments in a mock trial.

Please plan to attend this evening and participate in the drama as it plays out.

Calling All Bell Ringers



Have you ever thought about learning to plan the Handbells?

I would you like to have Handbells play for our Easter Sunday Worship Service.

If you are you interested, please see me before or after Sunday Morning Worship or you can call/text me at 717-579-4332 or email me at troy.winemiller@comcast.net

Everyone is welcome, especially those who have not participated in the music department previously.

The deadline to sign up is February 26, 2023.

Thank you, Troy

Grace United Church of Christ Presents
Sight and Sound Theatre Lead Actress

Karen Knight

In

"Because of Me" (Pilate's Wife)



Because of Me (Pilate's Wife): With beautiful musical moments and powerful storytelling, the wife of a strong ruler struggles with her questions about a man whose words have touched her heart. Her journey from the halls of power to the foot of the cross opens her eyes to the truth.

Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Grace United Church of Christ
100 4th Street, Hanover, PA 17331

For more information,
please call 717-579-4332
Grace United Church of Christ Presents

A Prayer of Confession for the Lenten Season

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

We confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

We confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

We confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. AMEN