



# Days of Grace

November 2023 Edition

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

**1<sup>ST</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>**

– Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at church.

**4<sup>th</sup> – Help fill Bags & Purses**

for HACC Changing Lives Shelter  
9:30am – Fellowship hall

**5<sup>th</sup> – All Saints' Sunday**

Come help us remember and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us

**12<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day**

We will be celebrating our Veterans with special music.

**18<sup>th</sup> – Provide-A-Lunch (P-A-L)**

**19<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service**

**During the month**

- Collection of money for the Deacons Fund

### DECEMBER

**6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

– Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at church.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Advent Begins with our Advent Celebration!**

**16<sup>th</sup> – Provide-A-Lunch (P-A-L)**

### December can't –

**24<sup>th</sup>– Christmas Eve Service 10am**

**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Special Holiday Blood Drive

**During the month**

- Collect Hats, Mittens, etc.

- Support Hoffman Homes & HACC Homeless Shelter for distribution from Grace.

### JANUARY

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>**

– Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at church.

**20<sup>th</sup> – Provide-A-Lunch (P-A-L)**

**TBA** Soup Jars for Hanover Area Council of Churches

## 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.

### *Prayer Works*



### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you have a prayer request, please call, text, or email Patti Miller who will then add your request to the Bible Moment and Prayer

Line (717-634-8865). You may leave messages for Patti on the Prayer Line or reach her at 717-451-1913 or [pattiamiller68@gmail.com](mailto:pattiamiller68@gmail.com). Requests will be added to the weekly bulletin if received by Friday night. Mailings will be updated on Sunday night with all available information. Any questions, please call Patti.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

The Off-site Saints, the persons living with cancer, all local churches, all local pastors, leaders of our country, leaders of countries around the world, the wildfires in Hawaii, the hatred in our world, the gun violence and the persons struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts, grief, and anxiety.

You will find specific names and concerns on the bulletin board in The Gathering Place.

## **Deacon's Fund Offering**

The Deacon's Fund at Grace was proposed by Rev. Carl Folk during the December 1981 Consistory meeting. The Consistory approved the fund at that meeting and the congregation approved it at the January 1982 Annual Congregation Meeting.

This fund was established to help members of Grace who may be temporarily in financial need due to illness, layoff, accident, etc.

This is the way it works: If a member is in need, he/she contacts the pastor who refers the need to the Deacon Fund Committee. There are no names mentioned. The pastor contacts the committee members and explains the need. The members then decide if assistance should be given. The aid is temporary and not ongoing. No funds are given directly to individual(s). For example, if a member is short on funds and cannot pay his/her electric bill, Grace pays it through the Deacon's fund.

For many years there were Deacon Fund offering envelopes in our box of donation envelopes. These were removed a few years ago and the collections stopped. We are going to try collecting again 2 times per year – Fall and Spring. We will have blue and white envelopes labeled Deacon's Fund by the entrances near the offering plates during the month of November for anyone who may wish to donate. Thank you for your consideration.

# October 2023 Consistory Digest

- In the spirit of transparency and openness, the members of the newly formed Worship and Music committee were published in the Days of Grace
- Next meeting is Nov 15th.

Deacon's Fund offering envelopes will be available in November for anyone who would like to donate.

After some discussion it was decided Patti Miller could hold a service for Transgender Day of Remembrance in the parking lot or in Fellowship Hall if it is raining. The service will be November 20.

Highlights from Patti Miller's Visitation Report:

- During September I made 20 visits to senior care facilities and homes, fewer than usual since I had COVID and isolated for 10 days so as not to endanger any of our members. A few of our members prefer a phone call to a visit, so I make sure to spend time in conversation with them. I made over 30 phone calls to stay in touch with shut-ins and to arrange visits.
- I did use the time to create a fall pamphlet for those on the mailing list, entitled Autumn's Promises which included seven Bible verses, pictures, and words of encouragement as well as relevant phone numbers.  
I continue to use a spreadsheet format to keep track of visits, communion, calls, and other forms of communication so that no one is forgotten, and I continue to send birthday, anniversary, and thinking-of-you cards.
- I record the prayer list and the Bible moment every evening around 10 PM on our special phone line, and often receive messages from those who listen, both on the line and through calls on my phone and cards.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 10/17/23

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#### Grace Consistory Insider - October 2023

I have often been told "Be careful what you ask for". Last month, I commented on looking forward to those crisp fall days while we were enjoying what seemed like extended summer weather. This morning, there was frost. So it seems that the fall weather has arrived at last.....and I am stuck lamenting those warm summer days again. As the temperatures are cooling off outside though, the activity and fellowship at Grace seems to be warming up.

Grace started off the month of October with the celebration of Worldwide Communion Day, led by Rev. Joel Hummel. Our very own Amy Fawks and Patti Miller once again led Sunday worship services, with such meaningful sermons: "Boundless Love and Invitation to All", "Put God First", and "Love Cubed". Last month I mentioned that Grace has also enjoyed volunteers from the congregation to be lectors. This month, we were blessed again with guest lectors Merle Whisler, Gary Rickrode, Len Bankert, and Craig Bixler. Many of our beloved traditions have been brought back to our Sunday services, such as various Creed recitals and the Choral Benediction. A suggestion was made to somehow bring back the offering Doxology and I am happy to say that the worship and music committee made it happen. October also marked the official start for our new organist/pianist/trumpet player.....the list goes on, Christian Keller. With our favorite hymns being played, new songs we are introduced to, members returning, offerings and tithes growing, the joyous noise from the gathering place before Sunday service, and our various committees hard at work, I keep hearing members of the congregation say that "It feels like church again". I couldn't agree more and we hope to keep up the good work.

Grace's various committees are working more diligently than ever. The Outreach Committee hosted a car show on a rainy Saturday. The weather may not have cooperated, but the donations of socks and money was wonderful. The Personnel Committee finalized a job description for our open secretary position and has begun interviews with candidates. Worship and Music is looking to our holiday season and working hard to keep up this momentum of excellent Sunday services. Lets not forget our small groups that continue to meet. The Tuesday afternoon group meets

in the Gathering Place for a time of fellowship, snacks, and fun games. Our Wednesday bible study group has been mixing it up with watching some meaningful movie clips in Fellowship Hall. The monthly Friday movie group watched "Dave" this month and will be watching "Invincible" in November.

Consistory has met multiple times this month as we also try to continue our good works. Our primary focus has been the discussion of the proposal we received last month. In September, Grace's consistory met with another local UCC church's leadership, to see if "yoking" or sharing a pastor would work. Both teams came up with some possibilities of this arrangement, with considerations on worship times, weekly responsibilities, travel, financial concerns, and strategies if either congregation felt this solution was causing more problems instead of solving them. Both consistory presidents met, along with representation from Penn Central Conference, to develop a memorandum of understanding. This document listed out all of the concerns that would affect both church families and was to be shared and discussed amongst both consistories at their monthly meetings. As I am writing this newsletter, Grace's consistory has some new ideas and will be meeting with members of Penn Central Conference's leadership in early November. Our plan is to have the support and understanding of how we are doing now, before we bring this proposal before both congregations. While it seems our plates are already full, Consistory is also working on our year end budgeting process and annual meeting agenda. I don't think I will ever be able to express the gratitude I have for such a hard working team.

In wrapping up this monthly update, I would like to thank all who are working to make Grace church better than ever. As always, if you have a thought or suggestion, please let consistory know. The cooler weather can continue as much as it wants. The warm hearts and souls here at Grace are more than enough to keep that feeling of summer going.

God bless you all,  
David Fawks  
Consistory President

## NOVEMBER FILM AT GRACE



This film is the true story of a 30-year-old bartender who attended an open tryout for the Philadelphia Eagles and made the team. It will be shown November 10, at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film is rated **PG** and runs 104 minutes. Snacks provided.

## Thursday Evening Book Group



The Thursday book group continues to discuss Jefferson Bethke's book, **Take Back Your Family**. Bethke believes the nuclear family has caused societal problems, and "the team aspect of families supporting each other has been a missing nutrient for decades - and our unstable, weary homes show it." If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Craig Bixler.

## All Saints' Sunday



November 5<sup>th</sup> –

Come help us remember and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us. Tea lights will be available to light in remembrance of loved ones. The names of those who passed in the last two years will be read aloud.



## More donors needed to rebuild blood supply

Since announcing a national blood and platelet shortage a month ago, thousands of donors across the country have rolled up a sleeve to help

rebuild the American Red Cross blood and platelet supply. As that generosity continues, we're working around-the-clock to ensure patients have access to lifesaving transfusions and must collect 10,000 additional blood and platelet donations – over and above expectations – each week over the next month to sufficiently meet hospital needs.

Donors of all blood types are urged to book a time to give now, especially those with type O blood or those giving platelets.

## SHARING GOD'S GRACE



Sharing God's Grace has been an Outreach project of Grace UCC for years. In previous years, the donations were given to

Hanover Area Council of Churches to support the PAL Lunch program. We will be reviving this outreach in 2023!

There are envelopes in the pews marked for "Sharing God's Grace" to be used for this outreach. You may drop your envelope in the offering plate or every month we will collect the donations on the fourth Sunday of the Month during the worship service. We will collect through the end of the year. (November 26, and the final collection will be during the Christmas Eve Service!)

## Grace Car Show

The car show was held October 4 in the parking lot. Despite the rain, some people still attended. We collected \$540 in donations which were divided evenly between New Hope Ministries and the YWCA Women's Shelter. We also took 2 large bags and 2 medium bags of new socks to the Hanover Area Council of Churches homeless shelter.

Thank you for your support.

Grace Outreach Committee



## Outreach Committee Planned Activities

### November:

#### **HELP WANTED FOR OUTREACH-FILL**

**THE BAGS** - Purses and bags will be filled with personal hygiene items on **Saturday morning, November 4 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall**. The purses and bags will be given to HACC Changing Lives Shelter. The Outreach Committee appreciates the donations received and will continue to collect items until November 03. Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, tissues, hand sanitizer, lip balms, soap, deodorant, shampoo, tampons, shaving cream, and cash donations are needed. A box for donations and poster with specifics are located in the Gathering Place. Please join us for a time of fellowship as we fill the bags. All are welcome!

### December:

Collect **hats and mittens** for Hoffman Homes, HACC Homeless Shelter and for distribution from Grace.

The **food pantry** in the lower Adult Sunday School room has been updated regarding out-of-date food. The older food will go to the PAL



Program. Food with current expiration dates will stay at Grace for Grace members or others who may need food.

### **January:**

**Decorative soup jars** may be assembled again. These decorative jars would be given to Hanover Area Council of Churches for distribution.

### ***Advent Celebration***



Join us on Sunday,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Advent  
Celebration. Immediately

following church, join us for a potluck in Fellowship Hall, followed by crafts and decorating the church for Christmas. We will conclude in the sanctuary with singing Christmas carols. Mark your calendars now and dust off your favorite potluck recipe to make!

### ***Christmas Eve Service***



Christmas is just around the corner (or so the big stores want you to believe)! Start planning your Christmas Eve now.

**Grace will hold its Christmas Eve service  
(including candles for Silent Night)  
during the 10am service on Sunday,  
December 24<sup>th</sup> .**

This will allow families & friends who want to experience their Christmas Eve service, but still have time to do other family obligations in the evening. It also allows families to attend evening services at other locations as well.

***Please note:*** As we continue to make choices for the morning worship service, you will notice that we will be using various versions of creeds, readings, etc. so that we can reach all people in their own way. ❤️

### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Current Consistory Members for 2023

President: Dave Fawks ... 717-880-2256

Vice President: Susan Dienes ... 717-870-1288

Secretary: Craig Bixler ... 717-632-5606

Vickie Arnold ... 717-744-5341

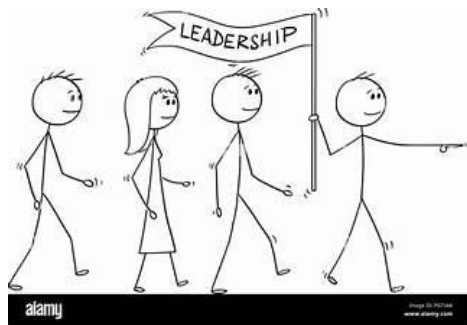
Becky Boyer ... 717-632-1053

Tom Craig ... 717-479-6751

Fay Emlet ... 717-637-4027

Mike Mummert ... 717-965-2914

Dan Trimmer ... 717-870-4539



## Grace UCC Staff

IT/AV Technician - Amy Fawks ... 717-698-6366

Organist – Christian Keller

Sexton - Dave Fawks ... 717-880-2256

Treasurer - Carroll Miller ... 910-540-4099

Visitation Leader - Patti Miller ... 717-451-1913

Office phone number - 717-632-1146.

Prayer Line and Bible Moment - 717-634-8865.

## Worship and Music Committee Members

Amy Fawks

Patti Miller

Susan Dienes

Parker Dienes

Christian Keller

Deb Rickrode

Becky Boyer

Pam Kreitz

Martha Channel

Eileen McKinley

Brad Arnold

Melissa Storm

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!!





# In every thing give THANKS

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Autumn  
Blessings  
Christian  
Gratitude  
Prayers  
Gobble  
Pumpkin  
Friends  
Gathering  
Respect  
Grateful  
Holiday  
Platter  
Turkey  
Feast  
Cranberry  
Tradition  
Worship  
Colonist  
November  
Family  
Apple

## Christian Thanksgiving Word Search



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



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  
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