



Days of Grace

December 2024 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

4th, 18th & 31st – Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church
3rd – Bible Study Group @ 10am
12th - Monthly Movie @ 3pm
21st – Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)

JANUARY

15th & 29th - Monthly Red Cross Blood Drive here at the Church
7th – Bible Study Group @ 10 am
10th – Monthly Movie @ 3pm
18th – Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)
29th – Bible Study Group Movie @ 1pm



Holiday Open House!

141 South Stratton St., Gettysburg
Sunday, December 29th
from 2-5PM

Pastor Fred and Kara invite you to an Open House at the Parsonage. Enjoy time of fellowship and food. Come as you are and stay as long as you would like.



A message from Pastor Fred...

Advent Prayer

*Draw near to us, O God of mystery. Awaken us each day in this time of Advent waiting.
During this season of great light we celebrate you,
the God who stoops down to raise us up, the abiding love that reveals us to ourselves.
We pray for the people of this world struggling with illness and isolation,
cruelty, separation, and violence. Remind us that Advent is all about
light that refuses to stop shining.
Grant us each day restful moments of peace and beauty, as you draw near. Amen.*

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The Advent and Christmas Seasons are upon us and my hope for all of us is that we find time each day to take a break, breathe and spend some time with God! Stores have been decorated for a few months now, as the material world prepares to meet the miraculous. Trinity will be offering many opportunities for us to come together in our own anticipation for the coming Messiah.

Trinity will have Dinner Church on Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30PM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. The Advent/Christmas Devotional, *The Mess with the Messiah*, brought to us by the UCC Still Speaking writer's group, is now available in the Gathering Area. Pick up a copy before they are gone.

Christmas Eve will be a busy day as we celebrate with communion and candlelight at 5:30PM. Trinity will hold 3PM and 8PM Services. Please choose whichever time works and join us as we welcome the Light of the World. Within our community, the Gettysburg Ministerium will host a Carol Walk, December 8th beginning at 4:30PM in front of the Library and Caroling to the location of the Nativity on York Street.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



Meet Amy Fawks our Associate Pastor!

Sunday begins early as she is the first one to arrive in church. Amy unlocks, turns on lights, makes coffee and tea, puts out the Welcome flag, moves about the church doing other tasks, then greets us upon arrival as we gather to worship together. That's what **WE SEE**.

Throughout the week Amy PREPARES. She seeks God's wisdom to prepare a meaningful WORSHIP service for Grace two to three Sundays each month. Searching scriptures from many bible versions and following the revised common lectionary. Amy composes sermons that she prays will touch our hearts and strengthen our faith. She writes the call to worship and opening prayer. In addition she may select a meaningful video to enhance the message. Amy remains mindful to honor traditions and be open to new elements as we seek together to give thanks and praise God. She also creates bulletins from cover to announcements. She selects modern music and creates their inserts. She must verify and report the use of all copyrighted songs to the licensing board. Amy displays the updated lectionary(scriptures), lector signup sheet and service handout for lectors. She oversees the soundboard operator and prepares their handout with each worship.

A church is a gathering of God's followers who CONNECT to praise Him, seek His word, serve others and share the Good News. Amy meets with Pastor Fred at least twice a month and communicates frequently via email and text. She presently calls some on our visitation list and reaches out in person as Pastor Fred may request. She responds to the questions and needs of all church staff and attends monthly Staff, Worship and Music, and Consistory meetings. Amy is available to all church members for prayer requests and for any need or concern they may share.

TECHNOLOGY has come to stay...and with it tasks to make it happen! Called the "deck", the collection of changing slides we see on the screen throughout each service, must be adapted weekly. Updates are made to the announcements, Call to Worship, Prayer, Creed, hymn lyrics, scripture readings, videos, special music...all proofed for enhanced background, readability and fit on our screens. Amy also is responsible for updating the church website which includes the weekly mailer, Days of Grace, calendar, the lectionary, and any alerts that may need communicated. Grace also has a Facebook page on which Amy posts events happening, and a Livestream of our Sunday worship. She shares welcoming posts, responds to posts and monitors for unwelcome scam activity. Grace relies on Amy's training and knowledge for all our audio and visual needs right down to the setting up of microphones, sound checks and charging equipment.

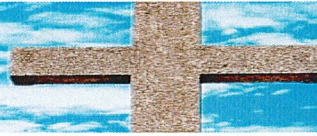
Apart from Amy's church responsibilities, she is a sixth-grade teacher in Spring Grove School District, married to Dave and mother to Lexi, Nathan and Ellie along with several furry four-legged critters. With the caring and financial support of our church, Amy has been approved as a Member in Discernment with the Gettysburg Association of the UCC Penn Central Conference. She is presently taking classes through the Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry sponsored by Lancaster Seminary.

We are thankful that Amy has agreed to be our Associate Pastor as we partner with Gettysburg Trinity UCC and Pastor Fred Young.

Prepared by: Vickie Arnold



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.

Lectors



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 Fred Young 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 him at 717-253-2214. You can email him at pastoryoung.tucegburg@gmail.com. Requests will be added to the weekly bulletin if received by Thursday night.



DECEMBER FILM

This 1939 classic film is a fantasy about traveling to a different land, only to find there is no place like home. The film will be shown Friday December 13th at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. The film runs 1hr. 42 min. and is rated G. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15.



THE IRRESISTIBLE REVOLUTION LIVING AS AN ORDINARY RADICAL

This is the name of a book written by Shane Claiborne. This is the next book the Thursday Evening Book Group will discuss. It is about a group of college students who answer Jesus's call to follow him. We will begin meeting again in September, on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. For more information contact Craig Bixler

GRACE UCC COMMITTEES LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU HELP?

Personnel Committee: Two Consistory Members, Vickie Arnold and Joleen Fennell, and 1 non-Consistory Member, Pam Kreitz, make up this committee. We would welcome another volunteer. Meetings are monthly, usually at 3:45, on a selected date. Personnel continues to revise Job Descriptions for our Staff and will need to create an Employee Handbook. We hope that you are enjoying the "Meet the Staff" articles in the "Days of Grace". Your questions, concerns, and comments are important to us, so feel free to contact a committee member.



DEACON'S FUND

A Deacon Fund offering will be taken during the month of November. This fund helps Grace members who sometimes have emergency financial needs.

CONGREGATION MEETING VOTES

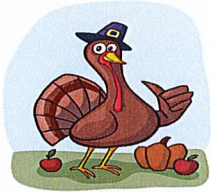


There were two recent congregation meetings. The first meeting was held Sunday September 29 to ask the congregation for \$26,000 to remove the asbestos floor tiles in Fellowship Hall and replace with new floor tiles. The vote was 26 in favor and 2 opposed. The second meeting was held Sunday November 10 to change Amy Fawks' title to associate pastor at Grace. The vote was 35 in favor and 4 opposed.

HOMWOOD AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Homewood at Plum Creek Auxiliary Annual Membership dues will be received in November. Financial contributions from Creek Dues for 2025 remain at \$3 per individual, and \$5 per couple. Please contact Linda Bixler 717-632-5606 to join or renew your membership.





OUR DONATION FOR TURKEYS

When New Hope Ministries asked if Grace UCC could help them by donating turkeys for the approximately 900 Thanksgiving meals, they provide in the Hanover area alone, the goal for our church was a modest one. After all, we are a small congregation.

You are all a historically generous group of people, and you can always be counted on to care about and help with the needs of others. But WOW!!!! In just 4 short weeks, you folks contributed \$901 .00!!!! That will help New Hope provide turkeys for at least 45 families!!!! How WONDERFUL!!!!

They were very excited and grateful to receive our donation. And I am blessed and so thankful to be part of such a good and caring group of people of faith!

Becky Boyer, for Worship and Music Committee

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TEENS YOU CAN HELP!



New Hope Ministries is collecting Christmas gifts for those in our community. New Hope usually receives less gifts geared toward teens. We will be collecting items for teens. Some of the items needed are below:

basketball, skateboard, soccer ball, baseball/ bat, football, makeup, jewelry, tote bags, hair accessories, perfume, cologne, journals, skin care baskets, Bluetooth headphones, Bluetooth speakers, phone cases, bath sets boys and girls, socks

If you would like to donate, please bring your **unwrapped** gifts to Grace and place them in the hall outside the elevator. Place either in the box next to the elevator or for larger items, under the coat rack. The last day to accept donations is **Sunday December 8**. Thank you for your consideration.

MITTEN TREE



Grace will once again have a mitten tree in the Gathering Place during December. New gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats can be placed on the tree. These donations will be divided between Hoffman Home and the Hanover Area Council of Churches Changing Lives Shelter. The Christmas Eve Offering this year will go to Hoffman Home.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

Thank you all so much for the special donations received in the month of November
Deacon Fund Donations - \$625.00
The Neighbors In Need Donations - \$640.00



CURRENT CONSISTORY MEMBERS FOR 2024

President – Dave Fawks . . . 717-880-2256
Vice President – Vickie Arnold . . . 717-476-1492
Secretary – Craig Bixler . . . 717-632-5606
Asst. Secretary - . . .
Becky Boyer - . . . 717-632-1053
Fay Emler - . . . 717-637-4027
Susan Dienes - . . . 717-870-1288
Joleen Fennell- . . . 717-633-7813
Glendon Ruhlman - . . . 717-632-7297
Jenn Weaver . . . 717-632-6127

GRACE UCC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young - . . . 717-253-2214
IT/AV Technician/Worship Leader - Amy Fawks - . . . 717-698-6366
Organist/Director of Music – Christian Keller . . . 717-356-1029

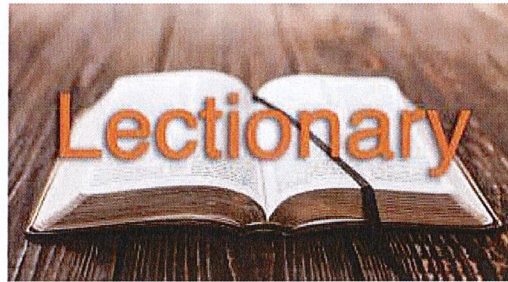
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper- Karen Samuelson. . 717-688-9891
Sexton – Dave Fawks . . . 717-880-2256
Office Phone Number . . . 717-632-1146
Prayer Line and Bible Moment . . 717-346-1703

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE 2024

Amy Fawks	Christian Keller
Susan Dienes	Becky Boyer
Melissa Storm	Pam Kreitz
Brad Arnold	Martha Channel
Rev. Dr. Frederick Young	

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



DECEMBER

December 1st – Jerimiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36
December 8th – Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippi-ans 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6
December 15th – Zephaniah3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Phi-lippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18
December 22nd – Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalms 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
December 29th – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

JANUARY

January 5th - Jerimiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12, Psalm 147:12-20, Solomon 10:15-21, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: (1-9), (10-18)
January 12th - Isaiah 43:1-7 & Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 19th – Isaiah 62:1-5 & Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11
January 26th - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 & Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

November 2024 Consistory Meeting Digest

There were 12 members present including Pastor Young, Associate Pastor Fawks, and Rick Boyer.

Treasurer's Report:

General pledge October 2024: \$5,950.00

General pledge October 2023: \$5,866.00

YTD income: \$135,339.24

YTD expenses: \$184,045.73

YTD deficit: \$48,706.49

Checking account balances:

-- Operating Fund: \$46,890.12

-- Deacon Fund: \$15,298.23

-- Education Fund: \$13,444.67

➤ \$0.00 for October

-- Memorial Fund: \$12,765.44

Four members of the Trinity UCC Gettysburg Consistory attended the meeting to review the Memorandum of Understanding for shared Transitional Ministry between Trinity UCC and Grace. The Trinity members stated there are no complaints, and overall, things are going well. Grace Consistory members stated things are going well at Grace. Rev. Young had a concern about missing a service at Trinity. It was suggested the two congregations should try some activities together. A Trinity member asked, "What about long term?" It was decided to continue the MOU for another 6 months, look at how the congregations can work closer together, and possibly look beyond at the next review.

The Personnel Committee presented a proposed Grace UCC Confidential Employee Performance Evaluation. The Consistory approved the evaluation. It will be used in future annual employee reviews.

Glen Ruhlman, a member of the By-laws/Policy Committee, distributed the Fundraising Policy for review. Comments and any suggested changes will be made at the December meeting.

Dave Fawks reported:

- The floor tiles have been replaced in Fellowship Hall with the exception of the tiles under the tech desk. Bill Trump will be returning to replace floor trim. Mr. Trump will be asked about replacing the tiles under the desk. The floor can be waxed in 2 to 3 weeks.
- The ceiling tiles in the hall will soon be replaced.
- New lower wattage light bulbs are being installed in the hall.

The Worship & Music Committee has determined the old figurines used in the outdoor nativity scene are too damaged to use and too expensive to replace. Metal pieces at an approximate cost of \$600 are being considered for purchase. The creche is still useable.

Pastor Young's November 2024 Advisements:

The next Town Hall is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at 10AM. The format will be different for this discussion. Worship will be held in Fellowship Hall and will begin with Breaking of the Bread and will end with us sharing the Cup of Blessing. Worship elements, music, scriptures, prayers and our conversation will all take place in and around the Communion Elements. All will be invited to bring along their favorite aspects of worship and why. We will also talk about hopes and dreams for our time of worship.

Transition Team Members:

Rick and Becky Boyer

Brad and Vickie Arnold

David Fawks

Susan Dienes

Pam Kreitz

Holly Smith

The team meets again on **November 20, 2024**, at 6PM

Pastoral Relations team will meet again **November 18, at 6PM.** We will continue to meet monthly for the duration of the transition period. Members of this team: Becky Boyer, Jen Weaver and Charlie Fennell.

The Spiritual Council No Report

Other:

- Amy, Craig Bixler and I have split up the home Visitation list. My goal will be to visit again during Advent. A healthy and responsible cycle of visitation for homebound members is 4 to 5 visits a year. I typically do these visits in Advent, Lent/Easter, Summer and Fall around World Communion Sunday. Additional check-ins are conditional with each individual need. Hospital visitation will be split between Amy and I.
- Amy Fawks, I, and Jen Weaver represented Grace for the GA Association, and the PCC Fall meeting held here at Grace on November 9th: We will report during this meeting.
- The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 12th to begin the 2025 budget process.

Prepared by Craig Bixler 11/17/24



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| Frankincense | Forgiveness | Bethlehem | Celebrate | Christian |
| Christmas | Salvation | Guardian | Wise Men | Gabriel |
| Shepard | Donkey | Joseph | Manger | Bible |
| Crown | Gifts | Jesus | Myrrh | Sheep |
| Baby | Gold | King | Lord | Love |
| Mary | Noël | Star | God | Joy |