

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**128 East Baltimore Street**  
**Greencastle, PA 17225**  
**(717) 597-2983**



Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka  
Supply Preacher: D. Neil Suders  
Choir Director: Patty Stepler  
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson  
Ministers: All Those Present

**Guided in Prayer**  
**Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**May 16, 2021**

*Acts 1:15-17; 21-26 - 1 John 5:9-13 - John 17:6-19*

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME**

**VIDEO**

**Psalm 111: Worship Reflection**  
**by The Skit Guys**

Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith  
and serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.**

## **PRELUDE MUSIC**

**Slumber Song  
-J.S. Bach**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 111)**

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the  
upright, in the congregation.

**Let us stop and contemplate His perfect goodness.**

All the works of the Lord are great and mighty;  
to study His works brings delight.

**Let us all delight in his Mighty Power.**

With praise on his lips, the psalmist declares God's work to be full of honor  
and majesty; surely God's righteousness is everlasting.

**We acknowledge that God is full of honor;  
worthy of our praise for now and evermore.**

In spite of His fame and acclaim for the Wonderful deeds He has done,  
his reputation is one of grace and mercy. He is majestic, yet not haughty.

**We are in awe of His majesty and might, and we are so grateful  
for His grace and mercy!**

God is faithful to the covenant with His people. He will never cease to  
provide for those who fear Him.

**We thank Him for His faithfulness. We are blessed by His goodness.**

By keeping His promise in giving them the land of promise,  
God demonstrated his Divine power.

**There is nothing too hard for God. He is willing and able to keep His promises for His children.**

All the works of God are faithful and just: every bit of His character is trustworthy.

**We worship an all-powerful God whose character and works prove His sovereignty. Because God is Sovereign, He can be trusted. We worship a Sovereign God.**

**God, we are honored by your presence. Speak to us through the power of your Spirit and the power of your Word.**

### **\*PRAISE SONG**

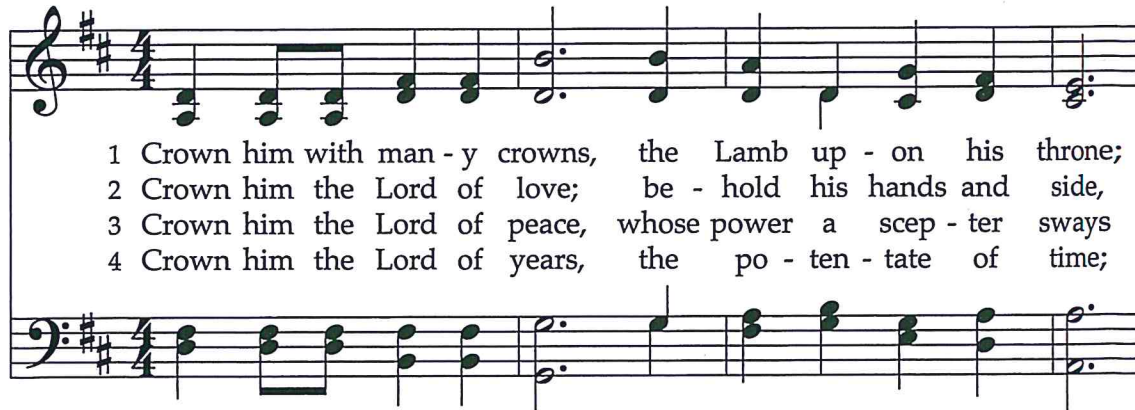
**Crown Him with Many Crowns**

**# 268**

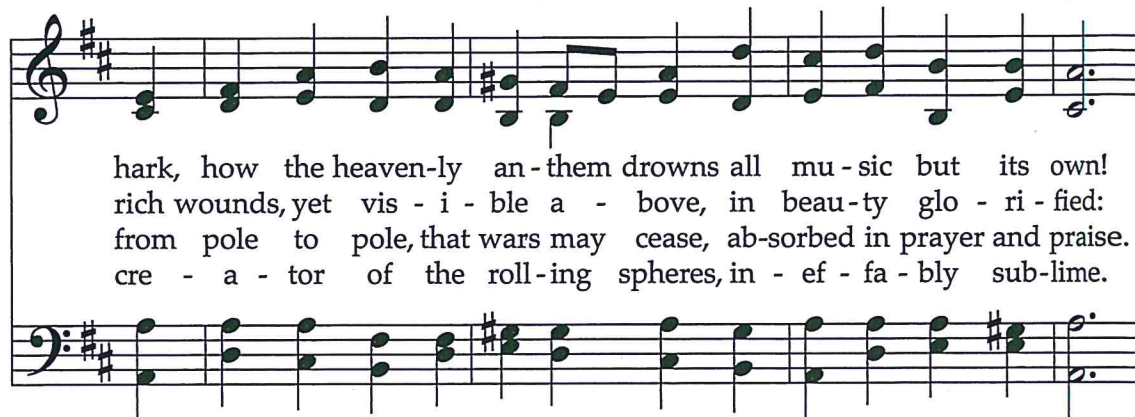




## Crown Him with Many Crowns 268



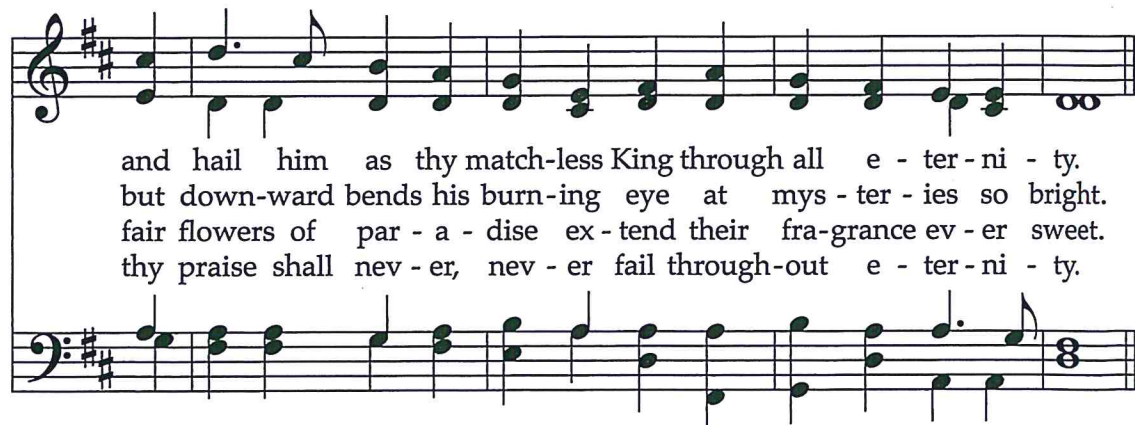
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;



hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Based on Psalm 111)**

**Almighty God,  
When we face the trials and tragedies of life,  
Remind us of your power.  
When we are worried about the famines we face,  
Remind us how you can provide for us.  
And when we are worried about the uncertainties of life,  
Remind us that you are the sovereign God.  
Because you are sovereign, you can be trusted.  
May we trust you with every part of our lives.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, we all struggle with trials.  
There are times when our faith is weak.  
We don't mean to doubt your word, and  
we can't express our fears or worries adequately.

Our confession is that we feel inadequate and unworthy.

Our faith should be stronger in our trials.

We fix our eyes on circumstances and difficulties  
instead of focusing on your power and sovereignty.

We ask you to remind us of your strength and  
help us look to you in times of sorrow, fear, and uncertainty.

Forgive us for our fears and  
help us to trust you, whatever life may bring us.

*Silence*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As God's children we are assured of God's forgiveness.  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us of our sins and  
to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
He knows our weakness and will help us in our struggles.  
God desires us to grow in our faith.  
He offers grace to endure trials and strength to withstand tribulations.  
And He offers mercy when our faith fails.  
Because He is sovereign, we can trust him.  
Thanks be to God.  
**Amen and amen.**

## **WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS**

### **SCRIPTURES**

#### **Acts 1:15-17; 21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said,

"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—

for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."



So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### **1 John 5:9-13**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

**Sharing the Love      -Besig**



## **WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US**

### **WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

#### **John 17:6-19**

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.



I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

This is the Word of God for the People of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **SERMON**

### **SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

## **WE GIVE BACK TO GOD**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

God is intimately aware of our suffering,  
our trials, and our struggles.  
He chooses to bless us and offer us strength,  
provision, and grace to help us in our times of need.  
We can accept that help whenever we need it.  
Our response is to share some of our time, talent,  
prayers and resources so others might enjoy God's  
blessings, as well.

## **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**I Am Thine, O Lord  
-Doane/Smith**

**\*WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Heavenly Father,  
Bless these gifts and the hearts with which we give them.  
We ask you to multiply these gifts so that, with them,  
the world and all therein can be blessed.**

**WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE**

**\*BENEDICTION**

As you leave today, go with the assurance that God is sovereign. Therefore, He can be trusted with every aspect of our lives. He knows what we face and He is willing and able to provide His blessings in His perfect timing. May we be open to His sovereignty and let it transform our fears into faith.  
**Amen and amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

**Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! # 839**





## 839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion,  
 rap-ture now burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing,  
 Sav-ior am hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing,

pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

## Refrain

This is my sto-ry; this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains four measures of music, primarily using chords and some eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, also containing four measures of music, mostly chords. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature. The top staff continues the melody with four measures, ending with a double bar line. The bottom staff continues the bass line with four measures, also ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

## POSTLUDE MUSIC

### Fugal Fantasy -Beethoven/Saxton



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Prayer messages and liturgy within were written by D. Neil Suders. No outside sources were consulted or used without permissions.

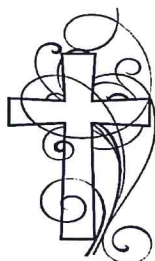
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**Contributions received week of 5/9:** Regular Offering: \$886 - Loose Change Offering: \$202  
Communion Offering: \$10 - Building Fund: \$30 - Roof Fund: \$510 - Organ Fund: \$250  
Offering Received by Mail: \$600

**Sunday Worship Attendance – 5/9:** In-House: 47 - Facebook Check-Ins: 7



*Pastor Emeritus*

*The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995*





## **GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

128 E. Baltimore Street - PO Box 448 - Greencastle, PA 17225

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka      Cell Phone: (717) 504-2923

Church Office: (717) 597-2983

Email: [officegucc@gmail.com](mailto:officegucc@gmail.com)      Website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/](https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/)

### **Church Announcements for Week of May 16, 2021**

**Greeters/Ushers**: Tony & Deb Homer

**Reader**: Tony Homer

### **We welcome our guest preacher, Pastor D. Neil Suders!**

Neil was born and currently resides in Chambersburg. He graduated from Liberty University with a degree in Pastoral Ministries. He has completed his Master of Divinity from Liberty Theological Seminary and the Doctorate of Ministry from Antietam Biblical Seminary. Neil has been involved in church ministry for over thirty years. He is employed by Noland Company as an HVAC Territory Manager and he serves as a waiter at 104 B Street on the weekends. Neil enjoys music, sports, and brain teasers; and he considers himself a connoisseur of coffee! Please welcome him today.

Health and safety measures continue to be kept in place, which includes using face masks, fresh air flow, social distancing and hand sanitizing. Please sit in pews marked with a blue ribbon to help social distance. Please continue wearing your masks while entering, exiting and moving around during service. If fully vaccinated, and at your own discretion, you may remove your mask once seated. We still need to be extremely cautious. Our choir will be singing weekly anthems during service, so please sit back a few pews from the front so we all can be safely distanced while they perform. On communion Sunday's we are now passing the trays for you to receive the elements, and the offering plates will also be passed.

Live streaming of the services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would prefer to continue watching from the comfort of your home. If you are unable to view our live streaming and would like access to a recording of the service, please contact Elaine at the office and we will provide a copy of the bulletin, Pastor Mark's sermon, and a recording.

**Church Worship Services/Meetings/Events/Fundraisers:** We ask all our members and volunteers to kindly continue wearing your masks during all church events, activities, fundraisers and meetings.

**Boost Your Day with Breakfast** – We thank everyone who helped us with this breakfast fundraiser! Whether you helped organize, prepared or served food, set up the social hall, put out flyers, advertised, sold tickets, or just came to enjoy the breakfast, it was greatly appreciated! We couldn't have done this without everyone's help! We are proud to have such great members in our church and community!

**May/June Upper Room Devotional Booklets** – There are just a few brochures still available on the front table in the vestibule and by the elevator area. You are welcome to take home a copy today.

**Chancel Choir** – Rehearsals have ended for the season. The choir will be singing today, and their last weekly anthem will be on May 23. Contact Patty Stepler with any further questions.

**Congregational Group Email** – Don't miss out on any church updates! Contact church office if you are not currently on our email list so we can add you today.

**Grace's Free Closet** is now opened on Friday's! Their new open hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Please 'like' their Facebook page - Grace's Closet Greencastle or contact Nancy Myers to keep updated on any changes.

**Offerings/Donations** – Starting this month, we are now passing the plates to collect offerings. You can still mail them to GUCC, at PO Box 448, Greencastle, drop off at the church office, or donate online through our website.

**Information & Directory Updates** – Members on this committee are still in the process of contacting those who haven't turned in their updated information sheet for our new directory. Once completed you will receive a copy of our new directory. This will help each of us to stay connected and support our church family. Contact Cathy Keefer or call the church office for further details.



**GUCC Website:** Please look us up on the web to see the history of our church! You can download our weekly worship programs and our newsletters, Grace Notes from the website at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

**Facebook:** Please join our Facebook page to keep updated on activities and connect with others in the community. The live streaming of our worship services will continue to be available to view on our Facebook page, Grace United Church of Christ. Please comment or say hello on our live stream so we know you are watching with us! You can find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/>

**Grace United Church of Christ Scholarship Applications** have been reviewed and the recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday which is scheduled for June 13. We plan on having a social time after worship. Loose change offerings during this service will go towards the Education Fund. If you have any questions regarding these scholarships please contact Lorna Thomas or call the church office.

**Save the Date!** We will be holding our **Hidden Treasures Yard Sale / Bake Sale / Bagged Lunch Sale during Sidewalk Sales Days** this summer! This is a church fundraiser that will be held on July 9th from 8am to 4pm and July 10 from 8am to 1pm. As you or your family and friends are spring cleaning this year, please set aside your "hidden treasures" for our sale. We will begin accepting your donations on June 15. Please make sure these are gently used items that are in good working order. We are not accepting clothing or books for the sale but those items are always welcome at Grace's Closet. Thank you for supporting this event!

**Heirloom Mirrors** – Long-time member, Jeff Stouffer, has been making high quality custom hardwood mirrors for over 35 years. Jeff has a long background creating custom wood projects. Jeff is donating his talent, time and materials by selling his custom heirloom mirrors to benefit GUCC. Please visit our website for more details about Jeff's talents and ordering information about these beautiful custom mirrors. You will find this information on the Groups & Activities page, under Jeff Stouffer Heirloom Mirrors. Feel free to call Jeff or the church office with any further questions, or to place your order. We thank everyone who has ordered mirrors and plaques to help support GUCC.

**Volunteers** are needed to help run the camera during service for live streaming our worship on Facebook. It's easy to learn! Please see Steve Miller for further details!



**Church Weeding** – As the spring flowers, trees and shrubs are blooming we need your help to keep our flower beds at the front entrance of the church looking beautiful. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the front vestibule to lend a hand to help us weed and trim! We know it's not easy, especially on a hot day, but your help is greatly appreciated!

**Congregational Meeting** will be held following worship service on May 23. The purpose of this meeting is to present information regarding the painting/sealing of the sanctuary roof. If you would like your building fund offering to go to this project, please note "Roof Project" on the outside of your building fund envelope.

**Strengthen The Church Offering** – (STC) This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised will support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. The theme this year is RENEW. We will be receiving STC offerings on Sunday, May 23. Please pick-up a special offering envelope from the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area if you would like to make a donation.

There are some extra copies of **Grace Notes**, our newsletter, on the front table in the vestibule and by the elevator area for any members or guests who would like to take home a copy. Our newsletters are also available on our website, and have been sent out to everyone who has an email on file.

**Thank you to Carolyn Shoemaker** for volunteering to help weed the front flower beds of the church this week! There is a sign-up sheet for anyone else who can donate their time and energy to help us continue keeping the weeds under control. Thank you!

**Municipal Primary Elections** will be held in our social hall on May 18, from 7am till 8pm for those who use this location to vote. The commissioners' office will be supplying the poll workers with masks and disinfectant supplies to be used on Election Day for everyone's safety.

**Communion Server & Greeters/Ushers** needed for June. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the front vestibule.

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, May 23, 10am:**

**Greeters/Ushers**: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner    **Reader**: Patty Stepler





## Renewal Through Partnership

**T**he Strengthen the Church Offering provided crucial support to congregations and their community partners during the Covid Pandemic. Moving forward, grants from the Strengthen the Church offering will help congregations pivot towards church renewal and community engagement.

Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, Kansas, partnered with the Haskell Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit whose sole mission is to support Haskell Indian Nations University, to address the needs of Haskell students during the pandemic.

Covid-19 deeply affected Indigenous people. The students and staff of Haskell suffered hardships. One Navajo student received help for an emergency flight and quarantine accommodations because he needed to return to bury five family members.

Plymouth continued to aid students throughout the year. Sara Taliaferro, of Plymouth, explained, "One young Lakota woman traveled back from her reservation to off-campus housing in Lawrence, KS, last September. Her car broke down on the way. She had managed to scrape together the first month's rent and deposit for the off-campus apartment. But she had to spend her rent money on car repairs. Emergency

funds helped her make the rent deposit, so she had a place to live when she got back here."

Drawing on her 25-years of work with people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, Sara knew, "complex community problems can't be fixed with a simple checklist of actions." Instead, the congregation focused on developing meaningful community relationships on the Haskell campus. Sara worked closely with Manny King (Northern Cheyenne), a university counselor. Even as they help specific students, Sara and Manny build the kind of community solidarity that affects lasting change.

**The renewal of our congregations takes many forms. In Lawrence, Kansas, it meant forming meaningful relationships to support students affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic.**



**Gifts to the  
Strengthen the Church Offering  
Renew the  
United Church of Christ.**

Renew!

