

Grace United Church of Christ 128 E. Baltimore Street P.O. Box 448 Greencastle, PA 17225



## January/February 2023 Issue

#### From the Pastor's Desk.....

When I was considering the ordained ministry as a young college student, my home pastor at St. John's UCC in Laurys Station gave me a copy of the Heidelberg Catechism and said something like, "This is what the UCC believes...read it over and let me know what you think."

The Catechism (which was written in 1563 in German) is divided into 52 Lord's Days (one for each Sunday of the year)....so I have decided to preach "through" the Catechism in this our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year as a congregation. I have a little book that contains a new translation written by Dr. Lee Barrett, a professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary...but you can find other translations free online....like at the Center for Excellence in Preaching at <a href="https://cepreaching.org/heidelberg-catechism/">https://cepreaching.org/heidelberg-catechism/</a> and also at <a href="https://www.heidelberg-catechism.com/">https://www.heidelberg-catechism.com/</a> (which has many teaching aides)

The way the catechism is structured is this. There is a **faith question proposed** like in Question 45 for example, "What benefits do we gain from the resurrection of Christ?"

Then there is an answer offered...which is based on the Scriptures (many versions show the footnotes with these references to the verses in the Bible). The answer to Question 45 reads:

"First, by his resurrection, he has overcome death, so that he could make us share in the righteousness which he had obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are raised up to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge of our glorious resurrection."

I hope we will all see that The Heidelberg Catechism is a helpful guide to our faith...supporting us along the way...even in our day and age.

Pastor Mark Ruzicka





## **NEW MEMBERS:**

We welcome Joann Snider as an official member of our church. She has joined our congregation with a letter of transfer. We are blessed to have her in our church family and happy to have her singing in the choir!

Welcome!

#### **2023 Annual Congregational Meeting**

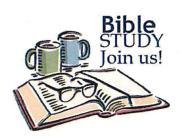
Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2023 following worship service. Chairpersons and committee leaders, please gather your information and submit your annual reports and information to the church office by January 5<sup>th</sup>, as we need time to put the agenda together.

#### **CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:**

We need Greeters/Ushers, Readers and Communion servers for the upcoming months. The sign-up sheets for January & February are located on the table in the front vestibule. If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact the church office.

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Mark will be leading our Lenten Bible Study this year on the Gospel of Matthew. The sessions will start on Feb 22, after a short Imposition of Ashes service...and continue each Wednesday evening through April 5. We will be using the N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide called *Matthew: 25 Studies for Individuals and Groups*. You can order the paperback workbook on Amazon for \$9.59. We will gather at 5:30 pm for a simple soup meal...then go to the Chapel for the Bible Study from 6-7 pm. If you are willing to bring food, please sign up on the clipboards that will be placed in the lobby.



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## Activities & Fundraising Committee

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the social hall at 7pm. We appreciate everyone who volunteers their time to help support the ministries of our church. Our next meetings are scheduled for January 3, and February 7. We need help with our upcoming First Saturday Free Meals and other fundraisers. Please come out and join us or contact Chet for further information.

## **Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship**

Please join us in the social hall on the second Sunday of each month for refreshments and fellowship following worship service. We are looking for some volunteers to help us prepare and serve the refreshments. A sign-up sheet will be located on the front table in the vestibule. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker. We appreciate all our volunteers!

## **Called to Care Committee**

This committee is trained in care giving and visitations and helps us to be in better touch to meet the needs of our congregation as they arise. We meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10. Contact Pastor Mark or call the church office if you would like more information about this group.



## **Grace Snyder Circle**

Their next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, at 1pm, in the social hall. We would love to see some new faces joining us! Please contact Nancy Myers for further information.

# Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday, at 9am, in the social hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 12. Please contact Rev. Mark, Cathy Keefer, or church office if you would like further details about this committee. Everyone is welcome to join us!



Our beautiful choir sings each week during Sunday service. Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for practice! Please contact Patty Stepler with any further questions or concerns.

#### Consistory Board Meeting

Next board meetings are scheduled for January 8, and February 19, both beginning at 8:30am in the social hall. Please keep in touch with consistory president, board members or church office for any changes.

### **GRACE'S FREE CLOSET**

We are open Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We thank everyone for their generous donations and we thank all the volunteers who help us on a weekly basis! Donations are accepted during their open hours. If you would like to volunteer at the Closet, please contact Nancy Myers at 717-360-3021.

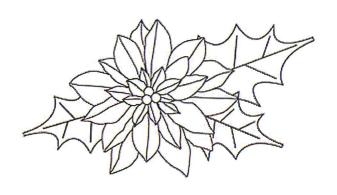
## Thank you Note:

We thank everyone who participated in our Angel Tree. We thank all our members for helping the Greencastle Community by making the children happy this past Christmas Season!

## Condolences:

Our condolences to Kendra Koons and her family, as her Mother, Carole, has recently passed away.

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.





#### First Saturday Free Community Meals

Free Community Meals are held on the first Saturday of each month from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. Meals are eat-in or you can request a carry-out container.

<u>January</u> 7<sup>th</sup> <u>Menu</u>: beef ravioli, salad, roll, cookie & bottled water

<u>February 4<sup>th</sup> Menu</u>: chicken corn soup, toasted cheese, and bottled water

If you are a homebound church member or in need of a meal delivered, please contact Chet Nye to make arrangements.

## 275th Anniversary Planning Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th, at 9am. Will be meeting in the social hall or Chapel. Contact Marg for further details.



Grace Snyder Circle will be holding their annual Pie Sale on February 16. The cost is \$9 per pie. Cherry & Apple pies will be available. There will be 4 choices available for each flavor: crumb, crumb sugar free, double crust and double crust sugar free. The Guild will be making the pies on February 16th, and they will be available for pick-up the same day, in the social hall, between 3 & 6 pm (or until all sold). Deadline to order is February 13, at 12 noon. Order forms and boxes to accept orders will be placed in the front entrance of the church and by the elevator area. An order form can also be found towards the back of this newsletter. You can drop off orders at the church office, call us, or place your orders in the boxes that will be provided in the vestibule. Payment is due at time of pick. We will accept cash or checks (with valid ID). Checks can be made payable to GUCC. Proceeds benefit the Guild of Grace Snyder Circle. Please call Lorna Thomas or church office for any further details.

#### **Live Streaming of Worship**

Live streaming of our services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who are unable to attend worship.

# Please comment 'hello' so we know you are watching along with us!

You can find us at:

https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/



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#### **Facebook**



If you have access to Facebook, please 'like' our page, Grace United Church of Christ, it will help keep you updated on events and changes. If you are out of town, or want to watch our worship service from the comfort of your home, please gather on our Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings for a live stream of our service. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching with us. This is a great way to stay connected with everyone!

## **GUCC** Website

Our weekly worship programs along with our newsletters can be downloaded from our website anytime! You can make donations through our website. Just click on any DONATE button, use drop down box to choose where you would like your donation to be used. You will need your credit card. Once you submit any contributions, you will receive an email receipt for your tax purposes. Any questions with this new donate button, please contact Kate Kennedy or contact the church office.

You can find us at: <a href="https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com">https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com</a>

# Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross & Emergency Fund

The **Christmas Fund** is one of the UCC's annual offerings which help to care for active and retired clergy. They provide emergency grants and monetary supplements at Christmas time to the lower income retirees throughout the United States. We received a total of \$25 for this 'Joy' offering we received in December, which has been sent to Penn Central Conference UCC. They encourage the congregation to donate directly to their secure website at <a href="https://www.christmasfund.org">www.christmasfund.org</a>



## Scholarships:



Grace United Church of Christ Scholarship applications will be available in the new year. Applications need to be returned to the church office by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The following scholarships are available:

Kathryn Didier - open to any members of Grace UCC

**Julia M. Bodes** - open to any GAHS senior planning to enter into the business field

Ralph S. Geiman - open to anyone entering the ministry

If you have any questions about these available scholarships, please contact Lorna Thomas or call the church office.

## **Church Directory Update**

As we try to keep our Church Directory updated, please contact Elaine in the church office if you need to make any changes to your information that is currently listed. The directory is a great way for all our members to keep connected with one another.



### **2023 Boxed Offering Envelopes**



Please pick-up your new 2023 offering envelope sets after worship service. They are located on the table in the library. Please make sure your name and address is listed correctly on the labels. If anything has changed, or the labels are incorrect, please contact the church office.



#### **2022 Contribution Reports**

If you need a year-to-date contribution statement for your 2022 taxes, sign-up sheets will be placed on the vestibule table in the beginning of January. We will have your statements available to be picked up during service on January 22 and 29 (they will be placed in a secure, sealed envelope on the table in the vestibule), or you can pick them up at the church office, or request them to be mailed. Any requested statements not picked up by January 29 will be placed in the mail.

# Member Birthday's

#### **January**

1/3 – Mary Lou Bryan

1/5 – Glenda Stenger

1/7 – Tony Homer

1/10 – Shirley Stenger

1/12 - Noelle Homer

1/19 – Cathy Keefer

1/19 - Mildred Minnich

1/28 - Rev. Mark Ruzicka

#### <u>February</u>

2/2 – Erma Foley

2/4 – Margaret Stouffer

2/6 – Marguita Storms

2/20 – Susan Dietrich

## Newsletter Deadline

Do you have anything you would like to share in our next newsletter? We encourage members to submit any announcements, joys, news, articles or committee updates to share with our church family. Deadline to submit articles for our March/April issue of Grace Notes is Monday, February 14, at 12 noon. You are welcome to drop off articles at church office or submit through our email: <a href="mailto:gucc128@outlook.com">gucc128@outlook.com</a>

# Office Hours

Mon-Thurs, 8am-2pm Church Office will be closed on the following days: January 2 (in observance of New Year's Day)



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES:**

#### March:

Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale Easter Flower Dedications UCC One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Bible Study continues

April:

Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Easter Sunday



#### CONSISTORY MEETING

September 18, 2022

ROLL CALL: Pastor Mark, Jeff Stouffer, Mark Stahl, Lorna Thomas, Chet Nye, Deb Homer, Carolyn Shoemaker, Larry Stepler, and Cathy Keefer

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: Pastor Mark shared a story of a lady who had had a stroke & her testimony with Psalm 63 helping her get through her situation.

CONSENT AGENDA: Was accepted unanimously by a motion by Carolyn and second by Jeff.

#### **INFORMATION AGENDA:**

**Pastor Mark**: Stated he will be off on October 16 as he was invited to preach at his home church and Jan Custer will be the supply minister. Additionally, he is planning a trip to Williamsburg on December 11<sup>th</sup> and Carol Kipe will be the minister. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, individual members of the congregation will be participating in a 6 word faith statement and share what this statement means to them. There will be a sign-up sheet for weekly participation.

Activities & Fundraising Committee: Chet thanked all who helped with the soup & sandwich fundraiser as it was a success with \$2550.00 being made & 10% going to the Food Pantry. October 1<sup>st</sup> is First Saturday Free Community Meal & October 15<sup>th</sup> is the pork & sauerkraut fundraiser.

Building & Grounds Committee: Had a roof leak and Barry and Dependable Roofing were able to temporarily repair it. Dependable will get a quote together for a replacement. There was a leak over the gas stove which in turn rusted the grates and burners and this will need cleaned. Eberly's repaired a spigot outside the Secretary's office. Round window facing the parking lot is slated to be repaired & painted next week. Mark said the men's bathroom will be painted & flooring done by the end of the year. Kone, the elevator company, visited & said the elevator is okay; however, the battery should be replaced inside the elevator.

**Finance Committee**: Larry reported that less than \$5000.00 has been borrowed from the Organ Fund and will be repaid back. Doing this keeps the church from touching the IMA accounts. There will be a separate line added for Memorial Contributions to the Income and Expense Statement. Larry will commit to doing an assessment of finances for next meeting.

ACTION AGENDA: Janice Swope approached Elaine about renting out the social hall for dance lessons. This was tabled as Jeff will contact her to get more information. Snow Removal quote from Mark's Lawn Care was approved unanimously with a motion by Carolyn/ Lorna. Rahauser Family Bible — Consistory voted to keep the Bible in-house & not give to Jack Webb to deliver to the Reformed Historical Society in Lancaster. Industrial Appraisal — Consistory voted no need to do this. Security of doors & use of a Trak phone — tabled at the present time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – October 16, 2022 @ 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Cathy Keefer, Secretary

#### **CONSISTORY MEETING**

October 16, 2022

ROLL CALL: Jeff Stouffer, Lorna Thomas, Chet Nye, Deb Homer, Carolyn Shoemaker, and Larry Stepler

PRAYER: Jeff Stouffer had a short prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA: Was accepted unanimously by a motion by Carolyn and second by Lorna.

**INFORMATION AGENDA:** 

Pastor Mark is away today Jan Custer will be our supply minister.

Activities & Fundraising Committee: Chet thanked everyone for helping with pork & sauerkraut fundraiser. November 5<sup>th</sup> is the First Saturday Free Meal, it will be a Thanksgiving meal. November 18<sup>th</sup> is Apple Dumpling Sale, tickets will be available soon.

**Building & Grounds Committee:** Rubber roof was repaired by Dependable Roofing. Round window repaired and painted by Doug Betzner from Blue Skies Painting.

**Finance Committee:** Larry reported we are \$20,000 short in budget. There are 4 payments on parsonage reimbursement yet to come in. Borrowed \$5824 from Organ Fund. Budget time is coming we need to think about raises to salaries, and thinking about what employees deserve to keep good employees.

Discussion: Janice Swope has not gotten back to us about renting social hall for dance lessons and Jeff has tried several times to contact her. Discussion on how to save money for Grace church, if Elaine could do accounting job it would save about \$1,880 year to date. Maybe to cut heat costs back Grace's Closet could be open 2 days a week instead of 3 and just Monday and Tuesday. Mark and Jeff are going off Consistory we need to think of new members. Ron Shaffer has been approached and thinking about it. Discussion on maybe changing bylaws, about how long a member has to belong to church before being on Consistory. Bylaws now state 1 year. Since Pastor Ralph Geiman has passed away it is not proper protocol to use Emeritus Designation. Wording for bulletins will be The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, Pastor, 1967-1995.

Adjourn meeting with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – November 20, 2022 at 8:30AM

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Homer

#### **CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

**ROLL CALL**: Pastor Mark, Jeff Stouffer, Chet Nye, Mark Stahl, Lorna Thomas, Carolyn Shoemaker, Deb Homer, Cathy Keefer. Guests present were Tim Bryan and Ronnie Shafer

**DEVOTIONS & PRAYER:** Pastor Mark read from Romans 12

**CONSENT AGENDA**: The Minutes and Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by a motion from Carolyn/Deb after the change of Grace's Closet's days of operation was changed to Mondays and Wednesdays. All other reports were accepted unanimously by a Jeff/Carolyn motion.

#### **INFORMATION AGENDA WITH UPDATES:**

<u>Pastor Mark:</u> Upcoming Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew will be scheduled closer to Easter.

<u>Activities & Fundraising</u>: Chet reported donations are down. 71 meals were served at the Thanksgiving meal. 377 apple dumplings were made and sold with approximately \$1895.00 being made.

<u>Building & Grounds</u>: Rubber roof was repaired by Dependable Roofing. Round window was repaired & painted by Doug Betzner from Blue Skies Painting. Mark Stahl commented the painting in the men's bathroom has not begun due to other obligations but is on his slate to do.

<u>Finance</u>: Larry Stepler was not in attendance; therefore, a more detailed report will be made available at the December meeting. The investment accounts are down.

#### **ACTION AGENDA:**

Consistory 2023 Budget – Possible options were discussed to cut expenses which included changing accounting services from Charles Strausbaugh, CPA to Truist & approval was given for Jeff to pursue with setting up a meeting with Truist.

Possibilities to increase revenue include renting/leasing out vacant Sunday School rooms, meeting in the Chapel instead of heating the Social Hall, develop creative ideas for fundraisers like making small subs/hoagies as a fundraiser in the summer. Any suggestions are welcome to help raise revenue. *Increasing Energy Costs & Concerns*: Two representatives from Mechanicsburg assessed the church on November 16<sup>th</sup> regarding electrical updates/replacements of lights to LED. They will provide a written estimate with the possibility the cost would be federally funded from a grant from West Penn Power. To be continued...

Discussion transpired regarding locking the bathroom doors during hours of operation at Grace's Closet. Unfortunately, the Ladies bathroom was messed up several times which involved extensive cleaning. Options to rectify this situation is in discussion & will be determined later.

Two new consistory members, a new consistory President & Vice-President will be voted on at January's Congregation Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 with The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Keefer, Secretary

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# GUCC's financial statement for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (October thru December) will be available in the next newsletter

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#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(Please contact committee members, board members or church office for any questions or updates about any items listed below.)



1 Welcome 2023!

10am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary

Communion Servers: TBA

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Isaiah 40, Gospel of John 14

- **2** Church Office Closed in celebration of the New Year
- 3 Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, in social hall
- **4** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 5 Annual Congregational Reports Due to Church Office
- **7** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, in social hall
- 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee will be meeting at 9am, in the social (or Chapel) 10am Worship Service, Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: Mark Stahl & Kate Kennedy Reader: TBA Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Matthew 22:34-40 Refreshments & Fellowship after service, in social hall
- **9** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Grace Snyder Circle, meeting at 1pm, in the social hall Consistory Reports for December due to church office
- 10 Called to Care Committee, 6:30pm, in the social hall
- 11 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 15 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Genesis 3, Romans 5

Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

- 16 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 18 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Join us at 6pm to take down Christmas decorations Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 22 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Exodus 34, John 8:34-45

Statements available on vestibule table for those who

requested to pick them up at worship

- 23 Grace's Free Closet opened 9:30am-12:30pm
- **25** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 29 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

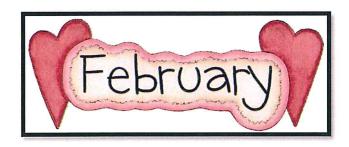
Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Isaiah 53, Galatians 2:17-21

Statements available on vestibule table for those who

requested to pick them up at worship

30 Grace's Free Closet opened 9:30am-12:30pm



1 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

- 4 First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, in social hall
- 5 10am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary Communion Servers: TBA

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: John 3:1-21, Isaiah 53:1-6

- 6 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 7 Activities & Fundraising Meeting, 7pm, in social hall
- 8 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary
- 9 Consistory Reports for January due to church office
- 12 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall 10am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-6, John 15:1-17

Refreshments & Fellowship after service, in social hall

13 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Deadline to order pies is at 12 noon today!
Deadline to submit articles for March/April issue of Grace Notes.

#### 14 Happy Valentine's Day

15 Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

- 16 Pie Sale starts at 3pm till 6pm (or until all sold), in the social hall
- 19 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: 1 John 3:11-24, John 1:1-14

20 Grace's Free Closet, opened from 9:30am-12:30pm

#### 22 Ash Wednesday

Grace's Free Closet, opened from 9:30am-12:30pm Light Meal, before bible study, begins at 5:30pm, in the social hall Bible Study, 6-7pm, in the Chapel Imposition of Ashes will be the first 15 minutes of

bible study. This will not be a full service. Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:15pm, Sanctuary

26 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary Greeters/Ushers: TBA

Reader: TBA

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:1-18, Matthew 7:7-12

27 Grace's Free Closet, opened from 9:30am-12:30pm







**GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE** is having their Annual Pie Sale! We will have cherry & apple pies available! The cost is \$9 per pie. Payment of cash or check (with photo ID) is due at time of pick-up. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. Fill out form below or contact church office at 717-597-2938, Mon-Thurs, 8-2pm to place your order. Thank you for your support!

**BAKED PIE CHOICES:** 

- Cherry or Apple pies
- Crumb, Double Crust
- Sugar Free Crumb, Sugar Free Double Crust

**DEADLINE** for orders is Monday, February 13, at 12 noon.

<u>PICK-UP</u> is Thursday, February 16, from 3 to 6pm (or until all sold), in the social hall at Grace UCC, 128 E. Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (detach and return below to church) \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE PIE ORDER FORM:**

Name:			Phone:	
Cherry:	Crumb	Double Crust	Crumb Sugar Free	Dble Crust Sugar Free
Apple:	Crumb	Double Crust	Crumb Sugar Free	Dble Crust Sugar Free