



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

♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪

May/June 2024

From the Pastor's Desk.....

This month I have been pondering a new direction with you all...me giving up my current health care ministry and embracing a new adventure of serving two small churches. To me, this is a big risk, an act of faith. I have been looking for guidance about how to approach this time. I came across a quote by the author Henri Nouwen, who has been an excellent guide for my whole ministry. In his little book *Can you Drink the Cup?* Nouwen talks about what made Jesus able to “drink the cup” of his mission on earth (namely, his public ministry and his passion). It was during Easter season, so I copied one page in the book and saved the paper for later. Below, I will share some of it with you. I do so, because, to me, it expresses **what faith is like** for all of us...especially when we strike out in a new way in life. Here's the quote:

Jesus inviting us to drink the cup...without offering the reward we expect...is the greatest challenge of the spiritual life...It defies all our wishes to be sure in advance. It turns our hope for a predictable future upside down...and pulls down our self-invented safety devices.

Drinking the cup that Jesus drank is living a life in and with the spirit of Jesus, which is the spirit of unconditional love. The intimacy between Jesus and Abba, his Father, is an intimacy of complete trust...it is only love. That intimacy gave Jesus the strength to drink his cup. That same intimacy Jesus wants to give us...so that we can drink ours. That intimacy has a Name...it is called the Holy Spirit.

Another way of saying that is in the Book of Hebrews (11:1): *Faith is the substance of things hoped for...the evidence of things unseen!*

I can't give you promises of what the church will be like 5 years down the road from now, but I am willing (in faith) to sit with you at the Lord's Table and we can all commit to drinking the cup that the Lord has given to us. May God give us the strength and courage to do God's will and act with faith.



*We welcome Pastor Mark
as our half-time settled pastor!
We are blessed to have him guide and lead us
through worship and our daily lives.
His leadership gives us a brighter future!*

A special congregational meeting was held Sunday, April 14 at which time we extended the call to Pastor Mark to be our half-time settled pastor at Grace UCC. This is an exciting time for Grace UCC looking to the future to reach out to our neighbors, grow our church, and continue to grow our outreach programs.

Pastor Mark will also be half-time with Church of the Apostles UCC in Waynesboro. May 19th is the starting date for this endeavor with our church service starting at 9:30am on Sunday. Pastor Mark will be in the office at Grace on Tuesday & Thursdays and on Monday & Wednesdays at The Apostles. Members of Grace Consistory have met with Apostles Consistory and will continue to meet to ensure the needs of both congregations are met. Please address any questions to Pastor Mark and/or the Consistory.

Your Consistory Board

ORGAN REFURBISHING

During the April 14th special congregational meeting members voted to proceed with the refurbishing of the organ. Presently we have \$47,000 in the Organ Fund for the project. We are in need of another \$15,000 of which \$5,000 has been committed. The refurbishment will not take place until sometime in 2025 and will take 3 – 6 months to complete. During the following months you will be kept updated on our progress towards the \$15,000 needed for this project.

Your Consistory Board

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Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee helps plan our fundraisers and other ministries of our church such as 1st Saturday Free Meals. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 7 and June 4. If you would like more volunteering information about this committee, please contact Chet Nye.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

Have you ever thought about being a greeter/usher, reader or helping serve the communion elements? If you would like to hear more about these volunteering opportunities, please contact the church office, consistory board or any current volunteers for further details. It's easy, and we need more help! Thank you!

Laundry

Love

This outreach program provides assistance to families who need a little extra help with laundry expenses. We have pre-made baggies with coins and laundry pods that we hand out to the patrons at the Laundry Spot one evening a month, between 5:30pm-8pm. The Laundry Spot is located at 111 N. Carlisle Street in Greencastle. Our next scheduled Laundry Love will be held on May 16. If you can volunteer your time to help us, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

Condolences

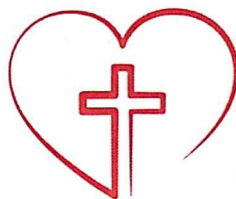
*Our condolences to the Strausner Family,
as Marjorie, known by many as 'Peggy',
has recently passed away.*

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Called to Care Committee

This committee helps with the pastoral care of our members. They have been trained in caregiving and visitations to help meet the needs of our members. Quarterly meetings are held on Sunday mornings before worship service. The next scheduled meeting is set for July 28, at 8:30am, in our meeting room. If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, please contact Rev. Mark Ruzicka or Sydnae Vanner.



Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

It has been decided to hold meetings on Thursday afternoons, rather than on Sundays before worship service. The next scheduled meeting for this committee will be held on Thursday, July 18, at 1pm, in our meeting room. Please direct any questions to Marg Stouffer.

Refreshments & Fellowship

We enjoy fellowship and refreshments following worship service the second Sunday of each month. Join us in the social hall after worship on May 12 and June 9.

Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch has updated their name to just the **Lunch Bunch**. They invite women and men to join them. We welcome everyone! They meet on the last Tuesday of each month at various local restaurants to enjoy a delicious lunch and fellowship.

If you would like further information,
please contact Glenda Stenger or Joann Snider.

Chancel Choir

We thank our choir for their recent Easter Cantata performance. It was absolutely beautiful and enjoyed by everyone! The loose change of \$250.82, which was collected during the Cantata service was donated to the choir. Choir practice is held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. If you have any interest and would like to join them, please contact Patty Stepler.

Consistory

Board

Meeting

Meetings starting in May will be held at 8am, on the third Sunday of each month. The next upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 19 and June 16. No meetings are held during the summer months of July or August, unless needed. Please keep in touch with board members or the church office for any changes.

First Saturday Free **Community Meal**

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

1st Saturday **FREE** **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

May 4th
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MENU: Turkey & Waffles,
Mashed Potatoes,
Applesauce & Bottled Water
(Limited Quantities)

Grace United Church of Christ
128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225
717-597-2983 www.graceuccgreencastle.com



ALL WELCOME! DONATIONS ACCEPTED. EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT!

Grace Snyder Circle

There is no monthly meeting in May, as we are putting together our Family in Christ Banquet scheduled for May 13.

No meetings are held during the summer months.

Family in Christ Banquet

On Monday May 13, the Guild will be hosting their annual Family in Christ Banquet. The banquet will start at 6:30pm. Meal is being catered by the Long's Catering. The same caterers served us last year. The cost is \$25.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children ages 6-12 and age 5 and under is Free. Jane Peating, Marlin Barnes and Larry Stepler will be providing our entertainment for the evening. Please mark the date on your calendar. We are taking reservations after Sunday's worship service on April 28 and/or May 5.

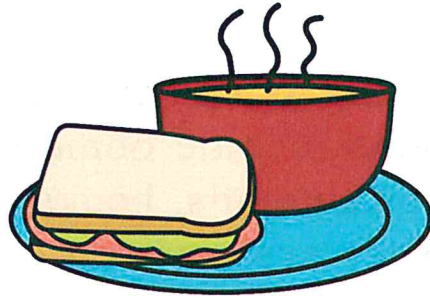
Please come out to enjoy a full Meal and Great Entertainment!
Men, Woman & Children all all invited. You don't have to be a member of Grace Snyder Circle or GUCC to attend this banquet, as family and friends are all welcomed.

Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions.

Thank you!



Thank You



We thank everyone for their efforts that made our **Spring Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale** a success! We appreciate all our volunteers and everyone who made a purchase to help support the ministries at GUCC! We thank our volunteers who donated the cost of the ingredients for the soups! We thank Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe in Chambersburg for donating the potato sandwich rolls and for their matching contribution of the cost of the rolls! After our expenses were paid, our net profits came to \$3409!

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hours of Sharing (**OGHS**) is the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in a crisis. The UCC helps provide sources of clean water, food, education, health care, refugee, agricultural, and emergency disaster relief and rehabilitation. The theme for 2024 is '*It's time to share the light*'. We received a total of \$75 in March for OGHS, which has been sent to Penn Central Conference UCC for their focus on helping those in need.



GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

The Closet offers free clothing to the community, ranging from infants to adults. Other free items include home décor, dishes, glassware, utensils, books, sheets, bedspreads, books plus lots more. Everyone welcomed to stop by! They are open on Monday and Wednesday's from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Donations are accepted during their open hours. The Closet will be closed on Memorial Day, so all the volunteers can enjoy the day with their families. Contact Nancy Myers at 717-360-3021 if you have any further questions.

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 in person.

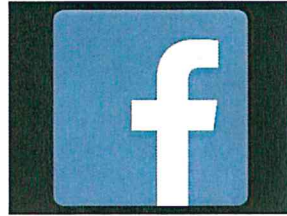
Please comment 'hello' so we know you are watching along with us!

You can find us at:

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



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 Elaine in the church office.

You can find us at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

Scholarship Committee:



Our scholarship committee will be reviewing all the applications that were received. The recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday, which is scheduled for June 9. Any questions, please contact Lorna Thomas.

Educational Sunday

We will be honoring our scholarship recipients on Sunday, June 9th. Refreshments and fellowship will be held in the social hall following this special service.

Congratulations to all the graduates of 2024!

(Archived photo from 2020.....scholarship recipients)

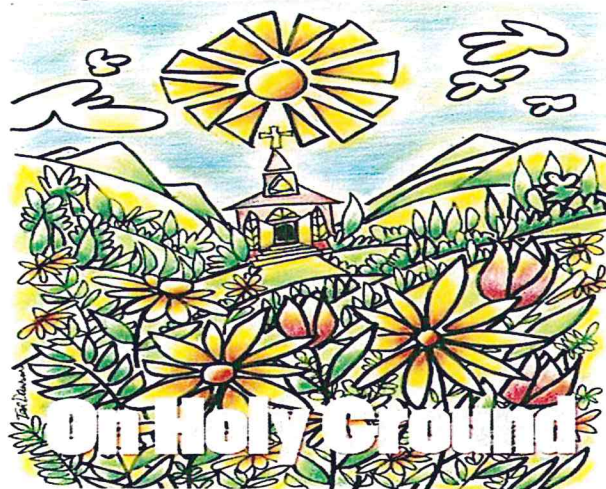


Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures

The Upper Room is a daily devotional booklet published 6 times a year. They guide you with daily prayers to help you with your devotional practice. The meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others who share their faith experiences through writing. These brochures are available for anyone who would like to get more connected in faith. As soon as we receive the May/June issues we will place them on the welcome table in the front vestibule and the elevator area. Pocket size and large print copies will both be available. Pick up your free copy after Sunday's worship service or stop by the church office during the week.

Strengthen the Church Offering

The next UCC's annual offering coming up is Strengthen the Church Offering (STCO). We will be receiving these offerings on May 19. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfil its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries, giving leadership support, and awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



Member Birthday's

May

5/18 – Roy Thomas

5/13 – Tom Stine

5/23 – Joann Snider

5/26 – Jeff Stouffer

June

6/12 – Ron Myers

6/17 – Kate Kennedy

6/17 - Barry Shoemaker

6/18 – Lorna Thomas

6/19 – Kermit Hicks

6/21 – Deb Homer

6/21 - Rashaw Alston

6/22 – Ben Thomas

6/26 – Joseph Koons



Newsletter Deadline

Along with our committee chairpersons, any member is invited to submit announcements, joys, news, articles or photos that you would like to share with our church family. Deadline to submit items for our July/August issue of Grace Notes is by June 13. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email of gucc28@outlook.com Thank you.



Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
8am – 2pm

Office will be closed on May 27 (Memorial Day)

Grace's Free Closet will also be closed on Memorial Day.



MEETING MINUTES

CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:320 a.m. by President Cathy Keefer.

ROLL CALL: Cathy Keefer, Carolyn Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Chet Nye, Larry Stepler, Treasurer and Pastor Mark and Mark Stahl on phone.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read from Psalms 16

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from January Consistory meeting and Treasurer's report were approved unanimously on a Carolyn / Lorna motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising –Chet reported on First Saturday Meal; they are doing very well, and the turnout has been great. Chet has meals planed up to May.

We are having a problem with people dropping donations for Grace's Closet when closed. There is a sign put up that states no donations unless Closet is open. Chet is going to buy a surveillance camera to put up to try to catch these people.

Carolyn reported that Laundry Love isn't going as well as it did before COVID. She has a schedule of dates and times they will be there. She is going to try for a few more months and then we need to discuss if we should keep doing this or not.

Building and Grounds Committee –

1. Barry Shoemaker is the new Chairman of this committee.

2. Barry has been monitoring the elevator on a weekly basis, everything is going good.
3. LED bulbs to be installed in more light fixtures.
4. Women's bathroom will soon be painted.

Worship and Spiritual Life Committee –

1. The committee is looking at different ideas for outings that the congregation can do as a group.
2. Bible Study – Gospel of Matthew will begin February 14th.
3. Joann Snider is starting a Lunch Bunch for the ladies of the church.

Finance Committee –

1. Larry, Cathy and Carolyn met with the people from Morgan Stanley and with the investments we have now we can afford to pay a half-time minister for 23 years.
2. Pastor Mark gave an approximate date of April 7 for the Apostles church to vote.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

1. Welcome Mark Stahl and Barry Shoemaker to Consistory.
2. Officers for 2024 Co-Presidents Lorna Thomas and Mark Stahl; Secretary Deb Homer and Treasury Larry Stepler.
3. Susan was there to explain the estimate on repairing the organ. We discussed the options and decided to do repairs totaling \$53,000.00. The repairs will not get done until 2025. (estimate will follow)
4. Reviewed the general insurance policy from Brethren Mutual, there is an increase of \$413 from last year. It was decided to stay with Brethren Mutual on a Tim / Barry motion.

5. Church cleaning was discussed, and Cathy, Marg, and Carolyn will sweep every two weeks and once or twice a year we will do deep cleaning.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – March 17, 2024 at 8:30

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

CONSISTORY MEETING FROM March 17, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

ROLL CALL: Lorna Thomas, Mark Stahl, Cathy Keefer, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Chet Nye, and Pastor Mark

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read from Psalms 118

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from February Consistory meeting were approved unanimously on a Tim/Cathy motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Cathy/Ron motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising –Chet reported on Frist Saturday meal that it is doing very well. We are also going to have a church yard sale again this year.

Chet also reported that there was a problem with a person coming to Grace's Closet that was intoxicated. Nancy handled it this time but if happens again the Police will be called.

Cathy reported that the estimated profit from Soup and Sandwich Sale was \$3400.00

Building and Grounds –

1. Barry had a quote on preventive maintenance for the seven air conditioning units the church has. Comfort Solutions quote was \$1,008.00. After discussion it was approved on a Cathy/Tim motion to accept Comfort Solutions to do the work.
2. Barry had a quote from Justin L Myers, Carpentry to repair the garage. Quote of \$2,356.00 was approved on a Deb/Lorna motion. The work will be done in the spring.
3. Parking for Beer & Wine festival, April 13th was discussed, and it was decided The Shoppe could rope off 4 spaces for her customers and we would wait and see how much trash is left and take action next year.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

4. Election Day is April 23rd, Barry and Mark will open and close church; and Barry and Jack will put voting booths together.

Action Topics:

1. Consistory approved to recommend to the congregation that Pastor Mark to move to ½ time on a Cathy/ Tim motion.
2. Organ Estimate will be taken to congregation for approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28am with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – April 21, 2024 at 8:30

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FROM MARCH 17, 2024

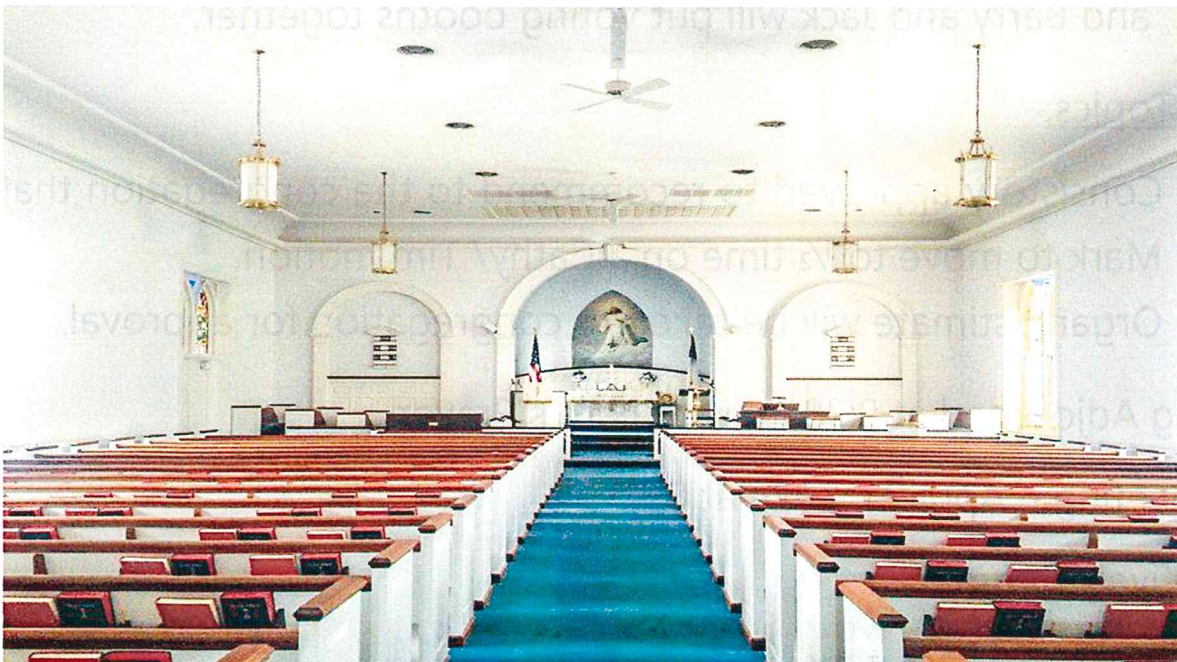
Mark Stahl presented two items to the congregation:

1. That Pastor Mark would like to go half-time with Grace and half-time with Church of Apostles, UCC in Waynesboro and give up his position at the Nursing home.
2. Bids have been received for repairs and upgrades to the organ. The proposal was broken down into several options.

A handout was provided to everyone present for their review. A follow up meeting was scheduled following service on April 7, 2024, for questions.

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary



<p style="text-align: center;">Grace United Church of Christ 1st Quarterly Statement Financial Income and Expense Report January - March 2024</p>

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$7,996.51
Income	\$26,950.62
Expense	\$31,450.07
Ending Balance	\$3,497.06

Building & Grounds Maintenance Account:

Beginning Balance	\$16,142.93
Income	\$3,586.00
Expense	\$2,726.00
Ending Balance	\$17,002.93

Organ/Memorial/Trust Account:

Beginning Balance	\$35,290.82
Income	\$21,878.66
Expense	\$10,008.25
Ending Balance	\$47,161.23

Special Account (Outreach/Other Non-Operating Funds)

Beginning Balance	\$5,721.97
Income	\$1,764.97
Expense	\$1,870.53
Ending Balance	\$5,616.41

* Please contact Church office if you would like a detailed report of the income and expense statement. Thank you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



- 1** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Choir Practice 7:15pm, in Sanctuary
- 4** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall
- 5** Worship with Communion, 10am, Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA Communion Servers: TBA
Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
- 6** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 7** Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, in meeting room
- 8** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Choir Practice 7:15pm, in Sanctuary
- 9** Committee & Consistory reports for April are due to church office
- 12 Happy Mother's Day**
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
Refreshments & Fellowship in social hall following service
- 13** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
Family In Christ Banquet, 6:30pm, in our social hall

- 15** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Choir Practice 7:15pm, in Sanctuary
- 16** Laundry Love, 5:30-8pm, at the Laundry Spot, 111 N. Carlisle St.
- 19** Consistory Board Meeting, 8am, meeting room
9:30am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Receiving Strengthen the Church Offerings Today (STCO)
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27
- 20** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 22** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Choir Practice 7:15pm, in Sanctuary
- 26** 9:30am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA
Scriptures: Isa 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17
- 27 Memorial Day**
Church Office & Grace's Free Closet Closed
- 28** Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, location TBD
- 29** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
Choir Practice 7:15pm, in Sanctuary



- 1** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall
- 2** Worship with Communion, 9:30am, Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA Communion Servers: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Sam 3:1-10, 2 Cor 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6
- 3** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm

- 4** Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, in meeting room
- 5** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 6** Committee & Consistory reports for May are due to church office
- 9** Educational Sunday - Worship Service, 9:30am, Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Sam 8:4-11, 2 Cor 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35
Refreshments & Fellowship, following service in social hall
- 10** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 12** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 13** Deadline to submit newsletter articles for our July/Aug issue of Grace Notes
- 16 Happy Father's Day**
Consistory Board Meeting, 8am, meeting room
Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Sam 15:34-16:13, 2 Cor 5:6-10, Mark 4:26-34
- 17** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 19** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 23** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Sam 17:32-49, 2 Cor 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41
- 24** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 25** Lunch Bunch, 11:30, location TBA
- 26** Grace's Free Closet, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 30** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 1:1, 17-27, 2 Cor 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43



JULY:

CHURCH ANNUAL YARD SALE WILL BE HELD DURING
THE GREENCASTLE SIDEWALK DAYS!

PLEASE START SAVING ANY ITEMS YOU NO LONGER NEED.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING SOON.

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

