

**Grace United Church of Christ**

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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

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

**Week of September 8, 2024**

**We thank** *Church of the Apostles* for inviting us to join them for a combined Outdoor Worship Service at their beautiful pavilion, followed by a church picnic. This is a great way for the two church communities to come together, get to know each other, and worship God together.

**You're Invited –**

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to my Installation Service on Sunday, September 22 at 3 pm in our sanctuary. An installation service celebrates **the covenant** between a local church and a newly called pastor...and reaffirms the covenantal relationship of all the churches in the Mercersburg Association and the Penn Central Conference. It is a way of saying, "Thank you God for bringing us together, for this time of ministry."

It will be held in the afternoon so that people from other faith communities can attend. For instance, participating at this service will be: **the Rev. Danielle Neff** (current pastor of Trinity UCC in Waynesboro and member of the Committee on Ministry), **the Rev. Dr. Tim Dugan** as a preacher (pastor of St Matthew's UCC in Carlisle), and **the Rev. Jeff Diller** (playing the guitar). I have a friend of mine from the UCC Homes in Carlisle who is going to play the piano prelude. Some of my extended family will be present as well: probably my wife's parents, my mom and stepdad, my aunt, etc. (you get the picture!)

As Steve Liechty (at the [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) website) writes, "In our faith tradition, we don't refer to positions that ministers fill as **jobs**, but as **calls**. Those of us who engage in ministry talk about **receiving a call**. There is something deeply and profoundly **sacred** about this. We do believe that the Holy Spirit is an engaged partner in the unfolding life, health, and vitality of the Church. The Spirit remains ever invested in decisions we make."

So, mainly on this day, we celebrate the Spirit's leading. One way we show this is by wearing red (the color of Pentecost). So, the pastors will wear red stoles...and when you come, put on something red and let's enjoy worshipping God together!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

**Upper Room** – We still have some September/October issues available. Stop by the church office during the week to pick up a free copy!

**Live Streaming** - We are now live streaming our Sunday worship services on YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. Our new YouTube channel is Greencastle Grace UCC. We thank everyone who helped and donated to this project.

Good News: **Social Seniors is being restarted this Fall!** -- In the past, this was a gathering of folks from Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Trinity (State Line), and Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro). At this time, we are including folks from Grace UCC (in Greencastle). We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at one of our different churches. Generally, we meet at 2 pm for fellowship, have some snacks, and then enjoy a different program each month. On *September 11*, we will be meeting at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro and the program will be "having fun with games." If you are a senior, consider coming...it should be great!

**Grace's Free Closet** will be **closed** this coming week, as they continue to change over from summer to fall clothing. Please save your plastic grocery bags for them. You can drop them off on Sunday in the green box located in the hallway outside the church office. You can also drop off any clothing donations in that box. Contact Nancy if you can volunteer some time to help them out or if you have any questions.

**Chancel Choir** – Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Anyone new interested in joining the choir, please contact Patty. We would love to hear some new voices!

**Church Bulletin Board** – You will find a *new bulletin board* located in the lower hallway, just outside Pastor Mark's office. We are placing pictures of our GUCC leadership team on the board so you can get to know them; plus, you will find information about our upcoming events, fundraisers, bible studies, community news and more. Be sure to check the board often! Thank you to Marg for putting this together for us!

**Appreciation:** We thank all the volunteers who helped us during our *First Saturday Free Community Meal* over the weekend. Mark your calendars for our next free meal on October 5! If you would like to volunteer with us, contact Chet Nye.

**Grace Snyder Circle** – Hope everyone in the Guild has been enjoying their summer break. They will be holding their monthly meeting starting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm, in the meeting room. If anyone new would like to join them, please contact Nancy Myers for more information, or just show up at the meeting! We would love to have some new faces join us!

**Wednesday Night Book Study Group: "An Introduction to Covenant and the United Church of Christ":** Beginning this week, *September 11*, Pastor Mark will lead a BOOK GROUP on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the Chapel. This study is an opportunity to learn about the United Church of Christ. The group will use JANE FISLER HOFFMAN'S book, COVENANT: A STUDY FOR THE UCC which begins with the UCC pamphlet WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE then moves into the book which contains 3 to 4 page chapters followed by discussion questions for each of the THOUGHT-PROVOKING SESSIONS that explore the concept of covenant as it relates to the Hebrew Testament, Jesus, God, the UCC Heritage, the wider UCC, and more! This 8-week study will conclude on October 30<sup>th</sup>. For those who requested us to order the Covenant Book for you, please see Marg for payment. Hope to see you there!

**Hoss's Fundraiser** – We are teaming up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Chambersburg on September 14 to raise money for our church. Please consider dining at Hoss's, located at 20 Falling Spring Road, between 11am and 9pm on Saturday, September 14, as GUCC will receive 20-25% payout based on the day's total food sales (pre-taxed food and beverage sales). This is a one-day event scheduled only at the Chambersburg restaurant. Gift card purchases will not be included as part of the food sale totals. For us to get credit, you must bring the coupon they have provided us. A Coupon is attached to the back of the announcements, and extras are available on our new community bulletin board. One coupon is good for everyone at the same table. Please pass along coupons to family, friends and neighbors! Contact Cathy Keefer if you have any questions or need additional coupons. Thank you!

**Our latest issue of Grace Notes is now available** - Check your emails, snail mail or our website to see what's going on in September and October. Stop by the church office if you need a printed copy.

**Past Board Members** – We are missing some consistory books. If any prior board members have binders at home, please return them to the church office. Thank you.

**Consistory Board Members** – Meeting is being held on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8am, in the meeting room. Please turn in your summer reports for June, July, and August to the church office by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale** -- Our activities & fundraising committee is preparing for our fall *ham sandwich & soup sale* in October! We will be selling delicious ham sandwiches made with Martin Potato Sandwich Rolls, and homemade soups. This year we are offering three soup choices: *Chicken Noodle, Chicken Rice and Ham & Bean*. The sandwiches cost \$4.50 each, soups are \$4.50 per pint or \$9 per quart. The ham sandwiches and soups will be available for pick up on **October 3**, between 11am – 1pm, and 4pm to 6pm, in the social hall. Order forms and boxes to place your orders will be placed in the front vestibule and elevator area, or you can drop off orders at the church office. All pre-orders must be turned in by September 26. Payment will be due at time of pick-up. Cash or checks (with valid ID) will be accepted. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. We will need helpers to make the ham sandwiches in the morning of October 3 and help put the orders together. If you can volunteer your time to help us or have any further questions, please contact Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer or call the church office.

**Guidelines for Sharing Prayer Concerns & Joys** - As our service is now being shared on YouTube, and accessible to anyone with internet access we need to respect privacy on the details we share:

- \* If it is not yourself, ask yourself, "Do I have permission from the person to share this request"?
- \* Use **FIRST** names **ONLY!**
- \* Do not divulge specific medical information (like cancer, COVID, heart surgery, etc.). So, what can be said is something like, "Richard is having surgery or Richard is having surgery on 9/28" Or, "Sue is dealing with a serious illness".
- \* If you want more information about the concern shared, please talk to the person directly after the service.

**Prayer Needs:** Jack Webb is doing amazingly well with his treatments. They are staying away from crowds to avoid getting any colds. He appreciates our prayers and well wishes. If you are sending cards, be sure to send them to his PO box number, rather than the street address. His address is listed in the church directory. If you need a new copy, please contact Elaine in the office.

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**Contributions Received on 9/1:**

Regular Offering: \$1927 / Loose Change Offering: \$16  
Building Fund: \$255 / Choir Donation: \$20

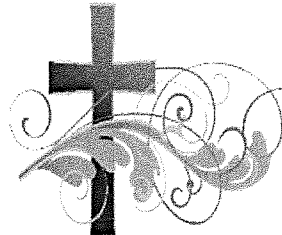
**Worship Attendance on 9/1:** In-House: 42 / Online: 11

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 15:**

Greeters/Ushers: Cathy Keefer & Stacy Schweitzer

Reader: Patty Stepler



From: Hoss's Community Night <commnight@hosscorp.com>  
To: cnckeefer@comcast.net Cc: 04@hosscorp.com

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## Hoss's Community Night

### Dear Friend of Grace United Church of Christ:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 9/14/2024 to aid us in raising money to benefit Grace United Church of Christ.

Print this email and present it on **9/14/2024** at Hoss's in **Chambersburg**  
Hoss's will then donate 20%\* or 25%\*\* of your total check paid to **Grace United Church of Christ**

\*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

\*\*To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!

**Group #130504**

Please print and present this email when ordering. See the attached file for the entire Community Night agreement.

