



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

**♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪**

**January/February 2025 Issue**

*We welcome everyone into 2025!*

*May you have a Happy, Blessed & Prosperous  
New Year!*



## *Prayer for the New Year*

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,  
to offer support,  
loving comfort, and care.

Give us the courage to do what is needed,  
the wisdom to choose  
what is right and most fair.

Give us the vision to see what is possible.

Give us the faith  
that will help pave the way

for a present that's hopeful,  
a future that's peaceful--

give us the heart to bring joy to each day.

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

I believe the best way to start any adventure or project is to pray about it. Therefore, I will share with you two prayers for the New Year in the space below. I hope you all have a Happy New Year and that we will enjoy discovering even more of God's goodness this year as the church, Pastor Mark Ruzicka

This first one has been attributed to Wendy Ball from the Iona Community in Scotland. The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.

To learn more about Iona, visit "[iona.org.uk](http://iona.org.uk)"

At the turning of the year, turn our **ache into action**.

At the turning of the year, turn our **fear towards love**.

At the turning of the year,  
re-turn our hearts **to You**: loving, living God.

Amen

The second one is from Martin Luther,  
who needs no introduction:

"Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,  
that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am  
unable to trust You altogether.

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in You.

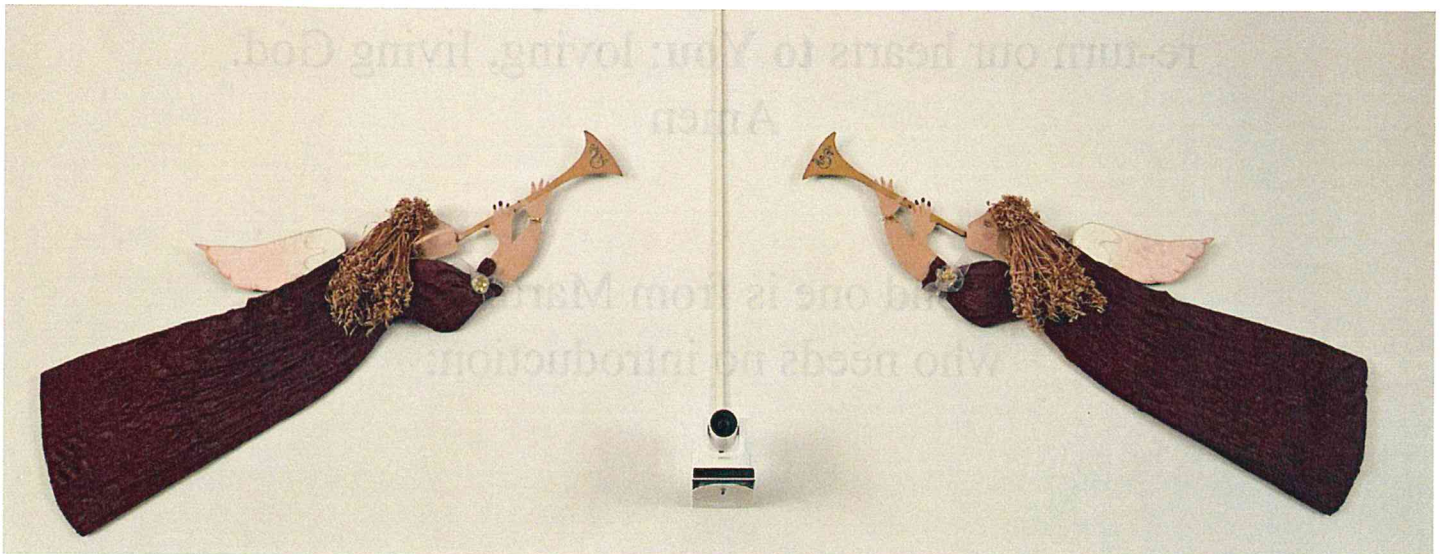
In You, I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner; You are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin;  
in You is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with You, of whom I can receive,  
but to whom I may not give. Amen."



# Heritage Christmas

We thank all the volunteers who braved the cold weather during Heritage Christmas. We had a great response from the community signing holiday cards for the veterans. The cards were taken to a local place in Chambersburg and distributed to our local veterans. We thank them for their service and wish them all a wonderful 2025.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

It was approved that our annual congregational meetings will now be held on the second Sunday of November for budget review and approval.

Besides the budget, we will also vote on new consistory members.

Committee reports and the final year's income/expense totals will be shared with the congregation when they are completed in the new year.

Feel free to contact any consistory board member if you have any questions.

## **CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:**

The sign-up sheets for January and February have been placed on the welcome table in the front vestibule. Please check your calendars and sign-up. We have open spots for greeters/ushers, readers and communion servers. We thank all our Sunday volunteers and encourage anyone new to join us! Contact the church office or any board member for further information about volunteering.

### **Social Seniors Group**

The Social Seniors Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm for a program and snacks. This is a shared experience of folks from Trinity (State Line), Trinity (Waynesboro), Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro) and now GUCC is invited to join them.

The program for January will be an interactive presentation on "Enoch Brown, a Schoolmaster in Greencastle in the 1700's." Everyone is invited to join them.

### **Activities & Fundraising Committee**

This committee helps plan our fundraisers and other ministries of our church. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for the summer months. If you would like more information about volunteering on this committee, please contact Chet or Marg.

### **Laundry Love**

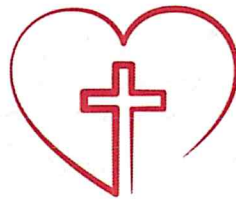
This outreach program has been put on hold. The last three events held during the summer and late fall were totally unproductive. We welcome all suggestions for improvement or a new community outreach program to take the place Laundry Love. Please contact Carolyn Shoemaker or Sydnae Vanner with any ideas or questions.

## Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

On the second Sunday of each month we have volunteers who provide and serve refreshments in the social hall following worship. This is a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy good conversations and fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to provide refreshments, please see the sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the front vestibule or contact Carolyn Shoemaker for further information.

## 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 of the group are held. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room. If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, please contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.



## Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

This committee works with and supports the pastor to provide meaningful worship, social events, and meet the needs of the congregation. Meetings are held bi-monthly or as needed.

If you would like further information about this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am, in the meeting room.

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch fellowships are scheduled on the last Tuesday of each month at various local restaurants. The group meets at the restaurant at 11:30am. The restaurants are chosen by the group at the end of each luncheon. Everyone is invited to join them for great food and fellowship. If you would like further information, please contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

## Men's Breakfast & Fellowship

The men of Grace UCC are welcome to join the men from the Church of the Apostles for their monthly breakfast. They meet the First Saturday each month at 9am at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. All men are invited to join them for fellowship and breakfast!



## Chancel Choir

We thank our choir for sharing their musical talents with us during the Christmas Cantata service. It was a wonderful performance that we all enjoyed!

The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. If you would like to join them, please contact Patty Stepler!



## **OFFICERS & CONSISTORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

We thank Lorna Thomas and Mark Stahl, as they will continue to be our Co-Presidents in 2025. We thank Deb Homer for staying on as the Secretary and Larry Stepler will continue as our Treasurer. The 4 year term is ending for Cathy Keefer and Chet Nye. We thank them for serving on the board these past few years. Installation of our new board members, Steve & Lu Miller, will be held during our worship service on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We welcome them. Monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month. They meet at 8am to review the monthly treasurer's reports. They also discuss committee updates, fundraising, church repairs and other church related items. Everyone is welcome to sit in at the board meetings.

## **Grace Snyder Circle**

We hope everyone had a great time at the Christmas party.

This group meets on the second Monday of each month, at 1pm, in the meeting room. We welcome any new members!

Contact Nancy Myers for further information.

## **GRACE'S FREE CLOSET**

The Closet offers free clothing to the community, ranging from infants to adults. They also offer other free items such as home decor, dishes, glassware, utensils, books, sheets, baby toys, books, plus lots more. They are open twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, from 9:30am till 12:20pm. If Greencastle Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Closet will also be closed. We want everyone to be safe. We thank Nancy and all the volunteers who have helped out at the Closet this past year. The volunteers include Jean, Chet, Millie, Tammy, Shania, Janice, Nancy & Darren. (Hope I didn't miss anybody.) We appreciate all your help. Donations are accepted during their open hours. If you have any questions, please give Nancy a call at 717-360-3023.

# **First Saturday Free** **Community Meal**

Free Community Meals are held on the first Saturday of the month, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall.

You can eat-in or request a take-out container.

## **Menu for January 4th:**

Turkey Noodle Soup, Turkey Salad Sandwich,  
Apple Sauce & Bottled Water

## **Menu for February 1st:**

Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Salad & Bottled Water

## **Menu for March 1st:**

Potato Bar with all the Fixings  
(cheese, butter, bacon bits, sour cream)  
and Bottled Water

**\* Everyone Welcomed \***

**\* Donations Appreciated \***

**\* Limited Quantities \***





**Grace Snyder Circle** will be holding their annual Pie Sale on February 21st. The cost is \$10 per pie. **Cherry, Cherry Sugar Free & Apple** pies will be available in crumb or double crust. The Guild will be making the pies on February 21th, and they will be available for pick-up the same day, in the social hall, between 3 & 6 pm (or until all sold). **The deadline to pre-order is February 10, 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. You can drop off your orders in the boxes provided, or bring them to the church office during the week. Payment is due at time of pick. We accept cash or checks (with valid ID). Checks can be made payable to GUCC. Proceeds benefit Grace Snyder Circle. Please call Lorna Thomas or the church office for any further details.

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### **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. The latest issues have been placed in the front vestibule and elevator area. Pocket size and large print copies are both available. Pick up your free copy after Sunday's worship service or stop by the church office during the week.

## Angel Tree – Thank You

We thank everyone for donating Christmas gifts to the children in our community. It was wonderful seeing how our church family works together to help the community. These gifts brought joy and happiness to the children in our area. We thank Nancy Myers for organizing this every year! We were able to provide gifts to 50 children in our community! Thank you!



# *Fundraiser Profits*

We are happy to announce the profits we made during our Apple Dumpling Fundraiser this past November. Net profits: \$1285! We thank all our volunteers and everyone who made a purchase to support our church! We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family and community!



## **Facebook & Live Streaming**



If you have access to Facebook, please 'like' our page, Grace United Church of Christ, it will help keep you updated on events and stay connected with the church. 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 9:30am on Sunday mornings for a live stream of our service. You can also watch us on our YouTube Channel. This is a great way to stay connected with everyone!

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

# 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>

## Church Directory

Directories are available for all our members who have given us their approval to have their information printed in our membership directory. This is a great way for all our members to keep connected with one another. Please keep us informed if any of your contact information has changed, such as address, email or phone. If you need a new or updated copy, please call Elaine at the church office.





“ ...the Glory of God  
shone around them...  
Luke 2:9 ”

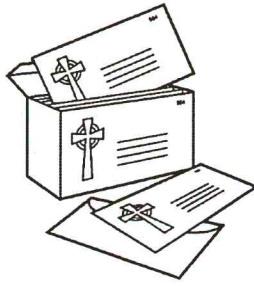
Be the Light

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

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate \$135 to the UCC's Annual Christmas Fund. This fund ensures more ministers, church workers, and their families receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. The United Church of Christ has been caring for active and retired clergy, along with lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years. With your support we can continue to help them. If you would still like make a contribution, you can donate directly to their secure website at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org)

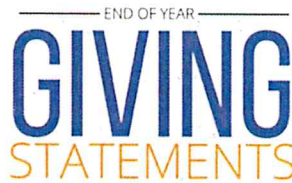


# 2025 Boxed Offering Envelopes



We still have a few offering envelope sets for the new year that need to be picked up. They are located on the bench in the elevator area. You can pick up after Sunday's worship service or stop by the office during the week. Please discard any old 2024 envelopes. If you don't currently have envelopes, and would like a box, please contact the church office. Thank you!

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## 2024 Contribution Reports

If you need a year-to-date contribution statement for your 2024 taxes, sign-up sheets will be placed on the welcome table in the front vestibule and at the elevator area in the beginning of January. We will have your statements available to be picked up during service on January 19 & 26, (they will be placed in a secure, sealed envelope in the area you signed sheet), or you can pick them up at the church office or request them to be mailed. Any requested statements not picked up by January 26 will be placed in the mail on January 27. Any questions, just call Elaine in the office.



# Member Birthday's

## January

1/5 – Glenda Stenger  
1/7 – Tony Homer  
1/12 – Noelle Homer  
1/19 – Cathy Keefer  
1/19 – Mildred Minnich  
1/28 – Rev. Mark Ruzicka

## February

2/2 – Erma Foley  
2/4 – Margaret Stouffer  
2/6 – Marguita Storms



## Newsletter Deadline

All members are invited to submit any announcements, joys, news, articles or photos that you would like to share with the church family. Deadline to submit items for our March/April issue of Grace Notes is February 13th. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email at [gucc28@outlook.com](mailto:gucc28@outlook.com)



Weekly Worship: Sunday, 9:30AM

### Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday / 9am – 12noon  
Pastor's Office will be closed on New Year's Day

Church Office Hours: Monday–Thursday / 8am to 2pm

Office will be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>



# MEETING MINUTES

## CONSISTORY MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:55 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

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

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark had devotions and prayer.

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

### INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

#### Activities/Fundraising –

1. First Saturday Meals are going well November is Thanksgiving meal and December is hot turkey sandwiches, gravy, mashed potatoes, cookie and water.

#### Building and Grounds –

1. Barry reported 90% of new LED lights are finished.
2. Tim reported that the boiler is doing good, but we need to keep in mind it will need replaced soon.
3. We have an estimate to correct “hmm” in sanctuary and run new circuit for lighting dimmer equipment.

#### Finance Committee – Larry gave out proposed budget to go over.

1. He has increased the amount we withdraw from Morgan Stanley to \$3000 a month.
2. Streaming on Sunday services are \$225.
3. Tim's company is taking care of service agreement on boiler.

4. On a Cathy/ Chet motion the proposal for snow removal was passed.
5. We will meet next Sunday to finalize and approve the budget.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

1. Dedication of new streaming equipment is October 27.
2. Polls need to be set up and open and close church for election. Barry will open up and Lorna will close.

Action Agenda:

1. The new Consistory members, Cathy and Chet are going off, thank you for your service to the church. Steve and Lue Miller have consented to becoming new members of Consistory. On a Tim/ Chet motion they were approved to go before the congregation for approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – November 17, 2024, at 8am

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

**CONSISTORY BOARD MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

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

DEVOTIONS: Ron said a prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from October Consistory meeting and Special Meeting and Treasurer's report were approved unanimously on a Cathy / Tim motion.

**INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:**

Activities/Fundraising – Chet reported on First Saturday Meal, they served 90 meals and had \$412.00 in donations.

Building and Grounds –

1. Barry reported that all the light bulbs have been changed to LED.
2. Thank you, Jeff Stouffer, for donating a mower to use at the cemetery. We need to get him a gift card and thank you note for this generous donation.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

3. Approved additional cost of \$105 to replace switch and receptacle in attic on a Tim/ Chet motion.
4. There was a discussion on funeral procedures at Grace. It was decided and passed on a Barry/Lorna motion to accept the proposed procedures without the paper products being mentioned. We can revisit this in the future if needed.
5. We will begin making apple dumplings at 8am Friday morning. All help is appreciated. The dough was purchased from Sunnyway Foods.

Action Agenda:

1. Installation of new Consistory members – January 12
2. Officers for Consistory will stay the same for the 2025 year with Lorna Thomas and Mark Stahl as Co-Presidents, Deb Homer Secretary, and Larry Stepler Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 9:04am.

Next meeting is December 15, 2024, at 8am.

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, 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 New Year's Day! Happy 2025!**  
Offices & Grace's Closet closed for the holiday.
- 2** Church office closed. Pastor's office open from 9am-12noon.
- 4** Men's Breakfast, 9am, meet at Velvet Café in Waynesboro  
First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall
- 5** Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, 8:30am, in meeting room  
Worship Service with Communion, 9:30am, Sanctuary  
Installation of New Board Members Today  
Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Cathy Keefer  
Reader: Patty Stepler  
Communion Servers: Nancy Myers & Cathy Keefer  
Sign-up sheets to receive 2024 Contribution statements have been placed in the front vestibule & elevator area.
- 6** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 7** Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, in meeting room
- 8** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Social Seniors, 2pm, meet at Trinity UCC in State Line  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 9** Consistory Reports for December 2024 due to church office
- 12** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA  
Refreshments served in social hall after worship  
Sign-up sheets to receive 2024 Contribution statements have been placed in the front vestibule & elevator area.

- 13** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
- 15** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 19** Consistory Board Meeting, 8am, meeting room  
Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA  
If you signed up to receive 2024 contribution statements, you will find them in the front vestibule and elevator area.
- 20** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 21** Called to Care Committee, 1pm, meeting room
- 22** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 26** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA  
If you signed up to receive 2024 contribution statements, you will find them in the front vestibule and elevator area. If they are not picked up today, they will be mailed out on Monday.
- 27** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 28** Lunch Bunch, 11am, location TBA
- 29** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary



- 1** Men's Breakfast, 9am, meet at Velvet Café in Waynesboro  
First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11-1pm, social hall
- 2** 9:30am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary  
Communion Servers, Greeters/Ushers & Reader: TBA
- 3** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 4** Activities & Fundraising Committee, 7pm, meeting room

- 5** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 6** Consistory Reports for January are due to church office
- 9** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA  
Refreshments & Fellowship following service, in social hall
- 10 **Deadline for Apple/Cherry Pie Pre-Orders****  
Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Grace Snyder Circle, 1pm, meeting room
- 12** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Social Seniors, 2pm, location TBA  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 13 **Deadline to submit Newsletter articles for March & April****
- 16** Consistory Board Meeting, 8am, meeting room  
Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA
- 17** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 19** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary
- 21 **Apple/Cherry Pie Sale hosted by Grace Snyder Circle****  
Pick-up your orders between 3-6pm, in the social hall
- 23** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers, Readers: TBA
- 24** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 25** Lunch Bunch, 11am, location TBA
- 26** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm, sanctuary

Blessings to you as we enter 2025!





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

### **March:**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale**

**Scholarship Applications Available**

**Easter Flower Dedications**

**UCC One Great Hour of Sharing**





**GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE** is having their Annual Pie Sale! We will have cherry & apple pies available! The cost is \$10 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. Please fill out the form below with the number of pies you would like to order, or contact the church office at 717-597-2983, between Mon-Thurs, 8-2pm to place your order. Thank you for your support!

**PIE CHOICES:**   ▪ Cherry or Apple available in Crumb or Double Crust  
                          ▪ Cherry Sugar Free available in Crumb or Double Crust

**DEADLINE** for orders is Monday, February 10, at 12 noon.

**PICK-UP** is Friday, February 21, between 3 & 6pm (or until all sold), in the social hall at Grace UCC, 128 E. Baltimore St., Greencastle.

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

**GRACE SNYDER CIRCLE PIE ORDER FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cherry:** Crumb \_\_\_\_\_ Double Crust \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar Free Crumb \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar Free Dbl Crust \_\_\_\_\_

**Apple:** Crumb \_\_\_\_\_ Double Crust \_\_\_\_\_ (No sugar free available in Apple)

