



♪♪ Grace Notes ♪♪

**July / August 2021 Issue**

# **Pastor Mark's Newsletter Article for July and August 2021**

This year all the people of the United Church of Christ have a new and special opportunity...to attend the denomination's first fully virtual General Synod, taking place July 11-18th. Personally, I have attended General Synods in Kansas City, New Haven, and the Twin Cities. I enjoyed them all immensely, especially the times of worship.

So, you can learn more and sign up online at <https://www.generalsynod.org/>  
The cost for visitors (non-delegates) is just \$100.

According to the website: while the agenda is still a work in progress, broad outlines are taking shape. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will begin at 7:45 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. ET. There will be about 50 workshops available to attend. Finally, one thing the church does at General Synod is deliberate and vote on Witness Resolutions. The names of the resolutions for this year are listed below:

**\*A RESOLUTION TO ADVOCATE AND ACT TO  
CHANGE THE CASH BAIL BOND SYSTEM TO  
ELIMINATE RACIAL AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES  
INHERENT IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM**

**\*A RESOLUTION TO BAN THE PRACTICE OF  
CONVERSION THERAPY**

**\*A COMMITMENT TO GENDER SAFETY &  
EQUITY IN MINISTRY SETTINGS**

**\*A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128  
YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM**

**\*DECLARATION FOR A JUST PEACE BETWEEN  
PALESTINE AND ISRAEL**

**\*“WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE TREES?” A  
RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF NATURE**

**\*BECOMING A CHURCH OF CONTEMPLATIVES  
IN ACTION**

**\*A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AND RESPOND  
TO RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**\*A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE UNITED  
NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE  
OF AFRICAN DESCENT (2015-2024)**

**\*A RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING WORKERS AT  
CHURCHES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

**Peace and love in Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Mark**





## **Live Streaming of Worship**

Live streaming of our services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would like to watch from the comfort of your home.

You can find us at:

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

## **GUCC Website**

Have you checked out our website? You can download our weekly worship program along with the newsletter, or just read about some church history.

You can also 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. Once you submit any contributions, you will receive an email receipt for your tax purposes.

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

## **Chancel Choir**

Choir rehearsals have ended for the summer months. We expect to resume in the Fall after Labor Day weekend. Please contact Patty with any further questions or concerns.

## Here's What's Happening . . .

Our Hidden Treasures Yard Sale is just around the corner on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 1 PM. We need your help!!!

Drop off dates for yard sale items will be Monday through Friday beginning Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2PM. We are in need of helpers on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accept, clean, and organize donations. Please sign up on the forms by the elevator and vestibule. Please see Chet or Marg if you need to make other arrangements.

We will be having a Bake Sale during the Yard Sale. Your donations of baked goods and snacks are needed. Please sign up on the forms by the elevator and vestibule.

**\$5 Hot Dog Lunches** will also be available during the Yard Sale. Lunch will include hot dog, bag of chips, applesauce, granola bar and bottle of water. Eat-in or take-out available.

We will need lots of help on the yard sale days to cover the various areas. Sign-up sheets will be available soon to volunteer your time. With your help, we hope to make this another successful fundraiser for Grace Church.

**First Saturday Free Community Meal** will not be held July due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. We will be back August 7<sup>th</sup> with BBQ ribs, baked beans, and applesauce. Yum!!!

Plans are in the works for a **Congregational Peach Social** in August. Details will be coming later.

\*Our next **Activities/Fundraising** meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Social Hall.







## **HIDDEN TREASURES & BAKE SALE**

### **WHERE**

**Grace United Church of Christ**  
128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225

### **WHEN**

***Greencastle Sidewalk Sale Days!***

Friday, July 9th, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, July 10th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

### **& HOT DOG LUNCH!**

Lunch includes hot dog, bag of chips, applesauce,  
granola bar and bottled water. Eat in or take out.

***ONLY \$5.00!***

**Proceeds to benefit programs at GUCC.**

## **GRACE'S FREE CLOSET**

Grace's Free Closet is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. The Closet is full of nice clothes and household items. Stop by and say hello! The Closet will announce if they will be closed on July 5 in observance of Independence Day. They will be closed on Friday, July 9, as that is when we will be holding our Church Yard Sale/Lunch Fundraiser. To keep updated on any changes, please 'like' their Facebook page 'Grace's Closet Greencastle' or contact Nancy Myers.

## **First Saturday Community Meal**



**In observance of Independence Day, we will not be holding a First Saturday meal on July 3. We will be back on Aug 7 with BBQ ribs, baked beans & applesauce!**

**If you are a homebound church member and would like a lunch delivered, please call Elaine at the church office, or contact Chet Nye so we can make arrangements.**

**Everyone Welcome. Donations Appreciated.**



## Laundry Love

This outreach program is still on hold. We will keep you updated when we re-open. Contact Carolyn Shoemaker with any further questions.

## Coffee & Refreshments

Postponed till further notice

## Single Ladies Luncheon

Postponed till further notice

## Worship & Spiritual Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am, in the social hall. Please contact Rev. Mark or Cathy Keefer for further details. Everyone welcome to join us!

## Church Weeding

We need your help to keep our flower beds at the front entrance of the church looking beautiful. Please see the sign-up sheet 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!

# **Scholarships:**

Our scholarship recipients were honored on Educational Sunday, June 13.

We had two recipients for the Julia M. Bodes scholarship. One was awarded to Dave Witmer and the other to Allie Morgan. (Allie was unable to attend service on June 13, she was awarded her scholarship on June 27.)

A donation has been made to the scholarship fund at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in honor of Rev. Ralph S. Geiman.

The loose change offering received on Educational Sunday, total of \$102, has been donated to our Education Fund.

Congratulations to all the graduates of 2021!

## **Information Update and Directory**

We are still working on getting updated information from everyone to compile our new directory. You may get a phone call from a committee member if you didn't turn in your forms, or we may just need to confirm all the information you listed is correct. You will receive a copy of the directory once this is completed. This will help each of us stay connected and support our church family. Cathy Keefer is leading this project for us, so please contact her if you have any questions, or call the church office.

## **CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:**

We have several open spots for Greeters/Ushers in the upcoming weeks of July and August. Please see the sign-up sheets located on the table in the front vestibule.

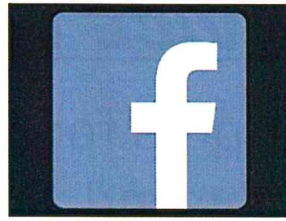
## **Condolences:**

*Our condolences to the Myers Family, as Mary Ann Myers has recently passed away. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.*

May the *love* of those  
around you  
*help* you  
through the  
days ahead.



# **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. If you are watching the live stream, comment hello, so we know you are watching with us. This is a great way to stay connected with everyone!



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Congregational Peach Social in August  
Church Picnic in September



## MEETING MINUTES

### Consistory Minutes of Meeting

April 18, 2021

Roll Call: Margaret Stouffer, Jeff Stouffer, Mark Stahl, Chet Nye, Carolyn Shoemaker, Larry Stepler, Pastor Mark and Cathy Keefer

Absent: Lu and Steve Miller

The meeting was called to order at 8:39 am by President Margaret Stouffer.

Devotions were given by Pastor Ruzicka.

Work of the Church: Effective May 3, 2021 the following will occur:

1. Continue wearing masks in and out of service and can be removed during service if fully vaccinated and the member feels comfortable doing so.
2. Continue opening windows at the altar.
3. First Saturday Meals and Fundraising meals – will now do in-person or to go
4. Grace's Closet – to open on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays starting May 3
5. Communion will be delivered and the offering plates will be passed

Agenda Additions & Subtractions: Corrected date for Education Sunday to 6/13

Consent Agenda: On a Sydnae/Carolyn motion the consent agenda was unanimously approved after the correction date for Education Sunday.



## Information Agenda:

*Activities Committee:* Laundry Love – delayed resuming until this summer due to close proximity of the laundromat. Ham & soup sandwich-Chet reported all is in order. Continued work for the Breakfast and Sidewalk Sales Days Yard Sale.

*Building & grounds:* Mark reported a problem with the refrigerator and it has been repaired by Priest's Refrigeration. Mark is checking on cleaning the carpets. Jeff will be replacing moldings at the elevator. John Lehman is to fix the ceiling at the top of the stairs into the sanctuary for \$5,000.00. Repair of roof was completed by Dependable Roofing; however, it will cost \$11,500.00 to have Dependable Roofing paint the roof. Due to this amount being over \$10,000.00 per the bylaws, a congregational meeting needs to be held and voted on. That meeting is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> after service. Of note, the Guild made a \$1000.00 donation towards this project. It was noted the flag & stand on the altar needs attention and Ed and Gladys Doyle have agreed to take it to Baer Signs for repair.

*Parsonage Payment Plan:* Payment for the month of March still has not been received...supposedly lost in the mail. An investigation is pending and we have determined to waive the late fee upon arrival. April was paid by Pay Pal. The contract has been signed by Pastor Brenda and Mike and notarized; however, we have not received a hard copy – only a snap shot. Interestingly, we were to have received this in February. Pastor Brenda's W-2 was returned with an insufficient address. Marg reached out for a new address and once again it came back so she contacted Carrie through the Conference for a new address and to date, that has not come back. Once again, Larry will reach out to Mike for a hard copy of the signed contract.

*Finance Committee:* Columbia Gas of PA has informed us of a rate increase of 26 to 28%. Insurance coverage for the church has now changed to Brethren Mutual with a considerable savings.



*Homebound Outreach:* Is still in the works. There are a few more people that need to be reached and once the information is passed onto Cathy, the directory will be updated and completed.

*Guest Pastors:* Pastor Mark will be attending his son's confirmation on May 16<sup>th</sup> and Carolyn suggested a gentleman who is a waiter at B Street and also a minister who would love to perform the service on that day. Carolyn will get more information on him. Additionally, Pastor Mark has secured guest pastors for the month of July while he will be visiting family in Wisconsin.

**Action Agenda:** The Greencastle Boro Council reached out to Margaret about possible renting the social hall for added space when Council meets. Wi Fi is needed for their meetings in the social hall so a motion by Sydnae/Chet to approve \$120.00 for Steve to get that set up and was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will May 16, 2021 at 8:30 am in the Social Hall.

Submitted by Secretary's Assistant

Cathy Keefer

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GUCC's financial statement for  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April thru June) will be  
available in the next newsletter

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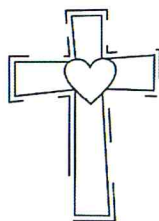
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



- 2** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 3** First Saturday Free Meal Closed in observance of Independence Day
- 4** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary  
Supply Preacher: Carrie Call (Conference Minister)  
Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Jean Rice  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Reader: Lu Miller  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 and 2 Cor 12:2-10
- 5** Office Closed in Observance of Independence day  
Grace's Free Closet will announce at a later date if they will be open.  
No Activities & Fundraising Meeting tonight
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 9** Grace's Free Closet Closed  
Hidden Treasures Yard Sale, Bake Sale & Hot Dog lunches from 8am-4pm

- 10** Hidden Treasures Yard Sale, Bake Sale & Hot Dog Lunches from 8am-1pm
- 11** 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall  
10am Worship, in the Sanctuary  
Supply Preacher: Nora Foust (Asst. Conference Minister)  
Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker  
Reader: Patty Stepler  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Eph 1:3-14
- 12** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 14** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 16** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 18** No Monthly Consistory Meeting for June  
10am Worship, in the Sanctuary  
Supply Preacher: Jan Custer (Retired Pastor)  
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer  
Reader: Nancy Myers  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 7:1-14a and Eph 2:11-22
- 19** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 23** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm



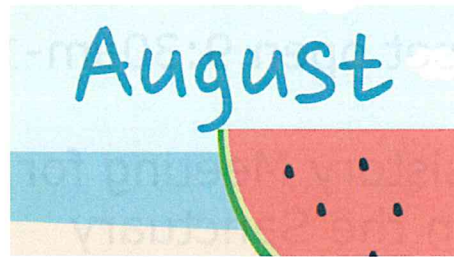


**25** 10am Worship, in the Sanctuary  
Supply Preacher: Marisa Laviola (Asst. Conference Minister)  
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner  
Reader: Patty Stepler  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 11:1-15 and Eph 3:14-21

**26** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

**28** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

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



**1** 10am Worship with Communion, in the Sanctuary  
Communion Servers: Jeff & Marg Stouffer  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Reader: Lorna Thomas  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 11:26-12:13a and Eph 4:1-16

**2** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm  
Consistory Committee Reports Due for May, June & July  
No Activities & Fundraising Meeting tonight

**4** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

**6** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

**7** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11am-1pm,  
in social hall, take-out and eat-in available

- 8** 9am Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, in social hall  
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer  
Reader: Tony Homer  
Scriptures: 2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 & Eph 4:25-5:2
- 9** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm  
Consistory agenda packets will be sent to board members via email this week
- 11** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 12** Deadline to submit articles for Sept/Oct newsletter
- 13** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 15** 8:30am Consistory Board Meeting, in social hall  
10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Reader: Lu Miller  
Scriptures: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Eph 5:15-20
- 16** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 18** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 20** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm



- 22** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Reader: Nancy Myers  
Scriptures: 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43  
and Eph 6:10-20
- 23** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 25** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 27** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm
- 29** 10am Worship Service, in the Sanctuary  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Reader: Patty Stepler  
Scriptures: Song of Sol 2:8-13 and James 1:17-27
- 30** Grace's Free Closet open 9:30am-12:30pm

