



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

♪ ♪ GRACE NOTES ♪ ♪

July/August 2024

From the Pastor's Desk.....

This past weekend I spent two and half great days at our PA UCC Spring Annual Meeting in State College. Thanks to both congregations for making this possible.



This picture is of the group doing some “chair dancing”

The most pressing and important topic was the possibility of joining all 4 current PA conferences into **one, new Keystone Conference**. This will be formally voted upon on November 9th by each conference...and then, if successful, it will be voted upon by the UCC General Synod later.

You might be wondering “Why do this? Why join the conferences together?”

The main answer is “**together we are stronger.**” As one of the speakers said, “the future [of the church] is shared.” Also, we can act **proactively now** and design a good structure...as opposed to waiting until later and then **reacting** to crisis situations. There are many details to be worked out...including the staffing model...but I believe generally this is positive step into the future (which is always unknown, at least to us). Personally, it was great to see and re-connect with old friends from the Penn Northeast Conference (where I grew up and had my first call).

Here are a few more things I can tell you. We learned that the average worship attendance at a typical UCC church in PA is 48 people. This means our denomination in PA is made up of generally small churches. Also, it was shared that the churches across the state **are more alike than different**...we are all facing similar challenges and opportunities...so we can learn from one another.

I had an opportunity to attend two workshops. The first one was about becoming a “kinder church.” And the second was about how the church can evolve in today’s world. What was emphasized was the need and the value of the churches getting to know our neighborhoods...and to be clear about our purpose as the church.

It is good to know that we are not alone...we have the support of our wider UCC community, like the Mercersburg Association and even the national setting. Our preacher for the closing worship was our General Minister and President of the UCC, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. In her presentation, she shared some poetry that she wrote; two lines I especially liked were that we are “connected by the Spirit’s fire...so all may feel God’s warm embrace.”

In the next few months, I am hoping we too embrace the motto for the weekend: **together we are stronger.**



*This is me at the Penn State Creamery
...the flavor is Peachy Paterno.*

Pastor Mark

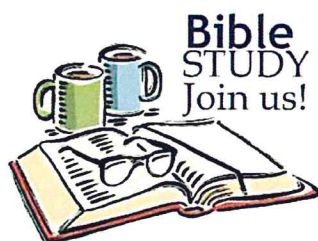
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

In case you haven't heard.... Pastor Mark now has morning office hours on Tuesday and Thursday's, between 9am and 12noon. In the afternoons, he will be available for visiting and attending church meetings. Stop by to say hello or call him to schedule a time if you would like to talk with him. We thank him for his spiritual guidance!



Pastor Mark also has a new email address of:
markruzicka3349@gmail.com

Be sure to update your records. Thanks!



FALL BIBLE STUDY

We plan to finish studying the Gospel of Matthew in September. We will continue using the same study guide: *Matthew: 25 Studies for Individuals or Groups*. It is written by N.T. Wright and is part of the "N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides." The book can be purchased new on Amazon for about \$10. Further details will be announced as they become available.

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

The sign-up sheets for July and August have been placed on the welcome table in the front vestibule. Please check your calendars and sign-up. We have lots of open spots for greeters/ushers, readers and communion helpers. We thank all our Sunday volunteers!

Wi-Fi Password

If you need our Wi-Fi guest password to access the internet during church services, please see any of our ushers and they will gladly provide you with this information.

Our Sympathy

We continue to keep Mildred Minnich, Chet Nye, Tammy Hockenberry, and the family in our hearts and prayers as they celebrate the new life of Shelby Hahn.

Shelby passed away on April 22nd. She was the beloved daughter/grand-daughter to Mildred and Tammy.



Laundry Love

No Laundry Love dates are scheduled for July or August. The committee will reevaluate this outreach program to see if the need is still there for this program and will keep us updated if it would continue in the Fall. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

On the second Sunday of each month we have volunteers who provide and serve refreshments in the social hall following service. 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.

Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee helps plan our fundraisers and other ministries of our church. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the summer months. No meetings are held in July or August. The committee is currently preparing for our 4th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale which is scheduled for July 12 & 13. We could use some extra help during those days, plus we need volunteers on July 8 & 9 to help us sort, clean and organize all the donations. Please see the sign-up sheets in the front vestibule and elevator area. If you would like more information about volunteering for our church yard sale, please contact Chet Nye.

4th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale!!!

It will be held Friday, July 12, from 8am to 4pm & Saturday, July 13, from 8am to 2pm. We are accepting donations the week of June 24th, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00am till 12noon, and on July 1 & 2, from 9am till 12noon.

Ideas of things to donate . . .

Decorations	Linens/bedding
Seasonal items	Table cloths/placemats
Kitchen items	Childrens toys
Bath items	Puzzles
Wall art	Purses/backpacks/luggage
Carpet runners	Sports items
Outdoor items (lawn games, camping)	Lamps/lighting

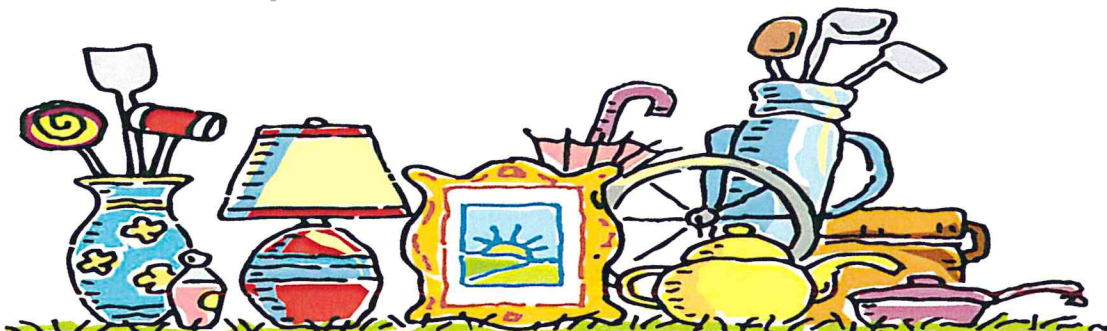
Dish and glassware sets of 4 or more, **no odds and ends please.**

Small furniture, **please check with a Committee member before drop-off.**

We are not accepting clothing or books for the sale.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ITEMS ARE CLEAN AND IN WORKING ORDER.

We need helpers July 8th and 9th to sort, clean and organize donations. Please sign-up on the forms by the elevator and vestibule.



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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 scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, July 25 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room. Please note the new meeting day. 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 by-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 July 18th, at 1pm, 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.

Chancel Choir

We thank our choir for sharing their musical talents with us this past season. There are no rehearsals or Sunday choir anthems during the summer months. The choir banquet will be held on August 28, 6:30pm, at a restaurant to be determined. Rehearsals will resume the first Wednesday after Labor Day weekend. Contact Patty Stepler if you have any questions or would like to join us in September!

Consistory

Board

Meeting

No board meeting are scheduled during the summer months of July or August. Impromptu meetings will be called if any issues arise. Board members are always available for any questions or concerns. Enjoy the summer!

Family In Christ Banquet

We thank Grace Snyder Circle as they did a wonderful job putting together their annual banquet for everyone to enjoy! We thank Larry Stepler, Jane Peating and Marlin Barnes for providing the entertainment. We thank Long's Catering for providing the delicious meal. We hope everyone had a great evening!

Grace Snyder Circle

There are no meetings held during the summer months. We will see you in September. If anyone has any questions about joining the Guild, please contact Nancy Myers.

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. Nancy and Jean keep the Closet running smooth along with our other volunteers including Chet, Millie and Pat. We also have a non-church member, Janice, who volunteers each week. They accept donations during their open hours. If you have any questions, give Nancy a call at 717-360-3023.

Live Streaming of Worship

Live streaming of our services is available to watch on our Facebook page for those who are unable to attend in person.

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

You can find our FB page at:

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



Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures

The Upper Room is a daily devotional booklet published 6 times a year. They are behind in publishing the upcoming July/August issue. We will place them out as soon as they are received.

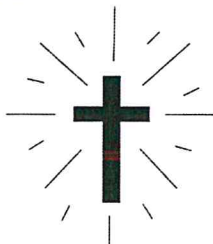
ORGAN REFURBISHING

The refurbishing of our Moller organ will begin sometime in 2025, and it will take 3 to 6 months to complete. Our fundraising goal is \$62,000. If you would like to contribute to the organ fund to help with this upcoming expense, please make a notation on your offering envelope, marking as "organ fund" and amount. You will be kept updated on our fundraising progress on our weekly announcements. The below chart lists our goals and donations received as of 6/18/24. We thank everyone for their donations. Please direct any questions to our consistory board.

<u>Organ Fundraising Goal - \$62,000</u>	
Total Amount Raised prior to formal approval	\$46,968
Total Amount Raised since approval	\$6,687
Anonymous Pledge	\$5,000
Total Raised to Date	\$58,655
Still Needed (as of 6/18/24)	\$3,345

Church Directory Updates

We have made some recent changes to our church directory. If you haven't received the lastest version via email, or need a printed copy, please contact the church office.



First Saturday Free Community Meal

There will be no meal in July due to it falling over a holiday weekend. This gives our volunteers time to spend the holiday with their family and friends. They are planning a delicious meal for August 3rd, served in our social hall, from 11am-1pm.

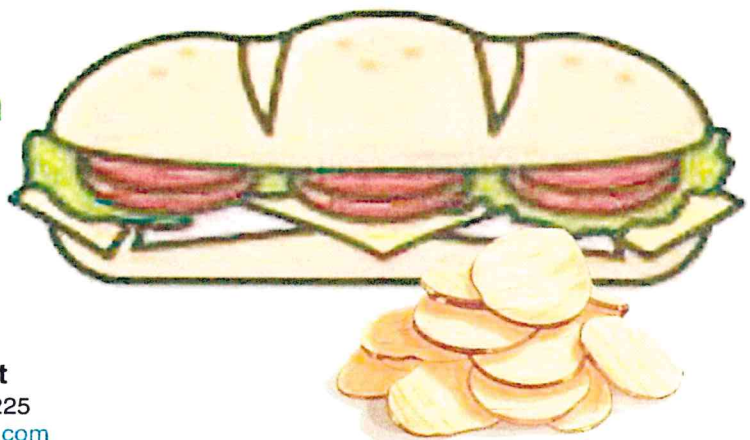
You can eat-in or request a take-out container.
If you need a meal delivered, please contact Chet Nye.
Everyone is welcome to join us!

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

August 3rd
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MENU: Hoagies, Chips,
Watermelon & Cantaloupe,
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!

Words of Gratitude

We thank Grace Snyder Circle for providing us with a new freezer in our kitchen. It's a larger capacity and it's frost free! It will be used to store foods for our 1st Saturday meals and other needed events and fundraisers. It was greatly appreciated, and we thank everyone in the Guild for this wonderful donation!

Strengthen the Church Donations – Thank You

Strengthen the Church Offering (STCO) is the UCC's annual Pentecost offerings which help support the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. We received these offerings in May and **thank you** for your donations, total of \$55. These offerings have been sent to Penn Central Conference UCC for their focus on creating sacred spaces, where holy ground transforms into God's love. Donations can be made anytime throughout the year. Special offering envelopes are available in the elevator area and in the library room. Be sure to add your name and offering envelope number if you would like your donation credited to your yearly statement. Additional information about STCO can be found at: www.ucc.org/stc

EDUCATIONAL SUNDAY

A Recognition of Scholarships was held on Sunday, June 9th. Lorna Thomas awarded Kathryn Didier Scholarships to three Greencastle-Antrim HS graduates.

They each received \$1000 towards their college tuition.

Our loose change offering of \$91 received on this Sunday was donated to our scholarship fund.

Congratulations to them and all the 2024 graduates!

We wish them all well in their future studies!



Eli Sterling

He will be attending Penn State Altoona majoring in Business.



Madisen Trugleo

*She will be attending West Chester University majoring
in English & Music Performance*



Mackenzie Wingert

*She will be attending Shippensburg University majoring
in Early Childhood Education*

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

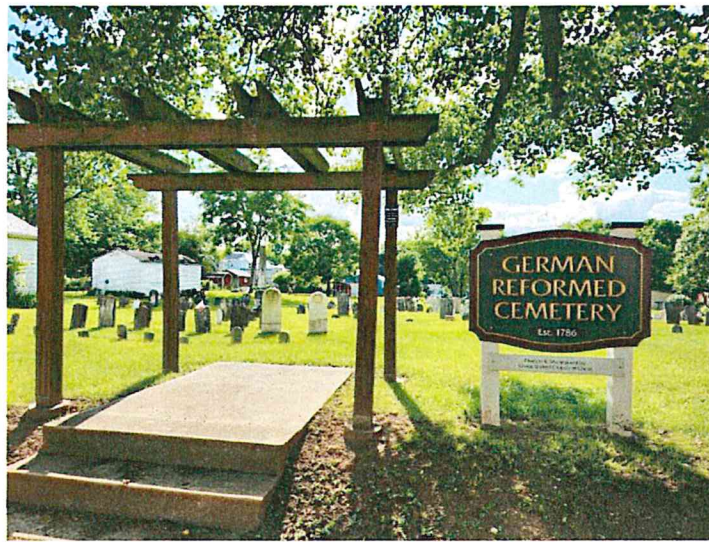
Our weekly worship programs along with our newsletters can be downloaded from our website anytime!

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>

Thank You Volunteers

We are thankful to all the volunteers who are keeping up with the lawncare and weeding at our German Reformed Cemetery on S. Carlisle Street. It looks so beautiful for the community and visitors!
You are doing an amazing job! Thank you!



Beautiful Entrance of Cemetery



View from back of cemetery looking towards S. Carlisle St.



How old do you think that mushroom is?

Save the Date.....

Combined Outdoor Worship Service & Annual Church Picnic

On Sunday, September 8, we are planning a combined outdoor worship service held at Church of the Apostles. They are located at 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro. Worship will begin under their pavilion at 10:30 am, followed by a picnic. Bring a chair for yourself if you have one. For those who would like to carpool, we will gather at GUCC at 9:30 a.m. Further details will be announced as they become available.

Milestone Birthday

Bill Storms will be turning **90 years young** on July 18th! Let's shower him with Happy Birthday wishes and cards! His contact information is in the church directory.



Pictured here is Bill and his beautiful wife, Marquita.

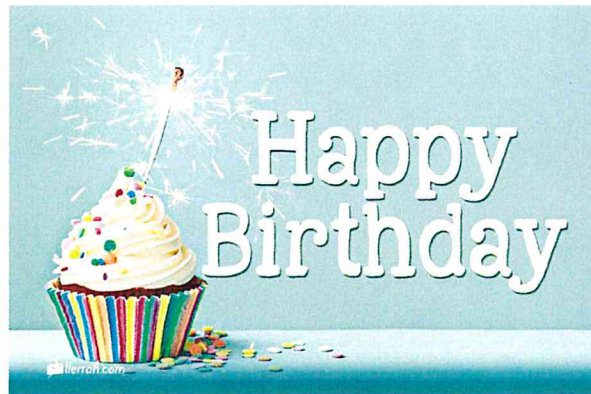
July & August Birthday's

July

7/11 – Mary Frances Myers
7/12 – Clarisse Hicks
7/13 – Jan Shafer
7/18 – Bill Storms
7/25 – Earl Bodes
7/25 – Nancy Myers
7/26 – Ethel Fisher
7/28 – Faye Baker
7/28 – Nancy Stine
7/29 – DeBorah Alston

August

8/11 - Emory Stahl
8/26 – Roger Stahl
8/31 – Pat Zimmerman



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 September/October issue of Grace Notes is August 15th. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email of gucc28@outlook.com Thank you.

Weekly Worship Hours

Sunday, 9:30AM

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
9am – 12noon

Office closed on July 4th - Independence Day

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
8am to 2pm

Office Closed on July 4th - Independence Day



MEETING MINUTES

CONSISTORY MEETING NOTES of APRIL 21, 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, Pastor Mark, and Treasurer Larry Stepler

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read from Psalms 116 and gave a short prayer.

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

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising – Chet reported on Frist Saturday meal; it is going very well; Cathy's lasagna was very good, it served 47 meals.

Chet also reported that the Guild is going to buy the church a new freezer.

Building and Grounds –

1. Barry reported that the garage repair is finished and paid for in full. Justin Myers did a great job on the repair and painting.
2. Barry also reported on the scheduled power outage this morning and everything is on and running.
3. Barry is setting up for the election and opening at 6:00 am and Mark is closing and locking up.
4. Comfort Solutions are coming to do our annual maintenance on the air conditioning equipment.

Finance Committee -

Larry explained that on the Balance Sheet under Assets the two Morgan Stanley funds will be put together to help pay for our ½ pastor, so it will look a little different.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

1. Organ agreement is signed and \$5400 down payment has been paid. A \$5000 donation has been pledged by a unanimous member for the organ repairs. It was suggested that we keep the congregation informed of how the funding for this project is going, maybe some kind of poster made up.

Action Topics:

1. Discussion on Four-Way Call Covenant and on Call Agreement, these agreements need to be signed. Pastor Mark's health insurance was discussed and, on a Deb/Chet motion it was decided that plan C from UCC plan was accepted.
2. Pastor Mark reported on the Keystone Project which is the four Conferences coming together for a meeting.
3. Discussion on making the Wi-Fi password available for more people. It was decided that the ushers would know the password and could give it out if asked. BlessedBe! Is the password.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28 with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – May 19, 2024 at 8:00

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

CONSISTORY MEETING NOTES of May 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

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

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark gave a short prayer

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes from April Consistory meeting were approved unanimously on a Deb/Cathy motion. Larry reported the Morgan Stanley will look different in the report because of organ money. The organ donations will go into a special account and every six months it will be added to the Morgan Stanley Account until needed. It was also suggested different ways to keep the congregation assessed on how the fund is growing. We are going to check with Margaret to get some ideas. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Cathy/ Ron motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA UPDATES:

Activities/Fundraising –Chet reported First Saturday Meals are going well.

Chet also reported that the yard sale is coming up. They are not going to accept single glasses and plates. Date for yard sale is July 12th and 13th.

Nancy wants to put overflow from Grace's Closet in nursery in bins, we decided against it.

Cathy reported that a fund raiser with Hoss's is being planned for September 14. Hoss's will give us coupons to hand out and we will get 10-15% of meals bought that day.

Building and Grounds –

5. Comfort Solutions are coming on May 21 to repair air conditioners.
6. The family restroom door needs a new handle, it can be opened from the outside when locked.
7. Easter season is over cross outside needs taken down.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

2. Market Days for Consignment shop is ok with church. The bushes need trimmed they are hanging over alley.
3. Margaret wants to place a bulletin board in the hallway, it is ok.
4. Someone is parking in our lot all the time, we have contacted Police and a letter was put on car after 2 weeks we can have car towed.

Other Pertinent Topics :

4. June 9th Pastor Mark will be away, and Doug Wagner will be supply minister.
5. Pastor Mark needs a laptop computer. The computer in chapel is outdated. On a Mark /Cathy motion we are going to buy him one. It was suggested to talk to Steve Miller about getting one.
6. Scholarship recipients will be attending June 9th service, they will each be receiving \$1000.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28 with Lord's Prayer

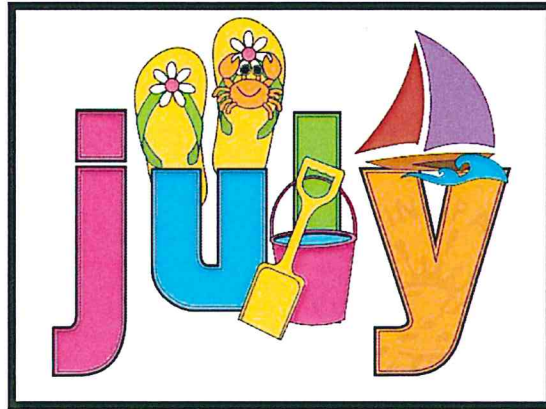
Next meeting – June 16, 2024 at 8:15

Respectively Submitted: Deborah Homer, Secretary

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

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 from 9:30am to 12:30pm
Accepting Yard Sale Donations by social hall entrance, 9am-12noon
- 2** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
Accepting Yard Sale Donations by social hall entrance, 9am-12noon
- 3** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
Accepting Yard Sale Donations by social hall entrance, 9am-12noon
- 4** **Independence Day** / Office Closed
- 7** Worship with Communion, 9:30am, Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA Communion Servers: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10, 2 Cor 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
- 8** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
Volunteers organizing yard sale items in social hall from 9am to 2pm
- 9** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
Volunteers organizing yard sale items in social hall from 9am to 2pm
- 10** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 11** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 12** Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale, in social hall, 8am-4pm



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- 13** Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale, in social hall, 8am-2pm.
- 14** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 6:1-5, 12-19, Eph 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29
Refreshments & Fellowship following worship service in social hall
- 15** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 16** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 17** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 18** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, 1pm, meeting room
- 21** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 7:1-14, Eph 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- 22** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 23** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 24** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 25** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
Called to Care Committee Meeting, 1 pm, meeting room
- 28** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 11:1-15, Eph 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
- 29** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 30** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-11am
Lunch Bunch, meeting at 11:30am, location TBA
- 31** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm



- 1** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 3** First Saturday Free Community Meal, 11am-1pm, social hall
- 4** Worship with Communion, 9:30am, Sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Reader: TBA Communion Servers: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 11:26-12:13, Eph 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
Social Hall is being used between 1pm-4pm for private event
- 5** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 6** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 7** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 8** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 11** New Member Sunday
Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 2 Sam 18:5-9,15,31-33, Eph 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51
Refreshments & Fellowship in social hall following worship
- 12** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 13** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 14** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 15** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
Newsletter Deadline – submit all articles for Sept/Oct to church office
- 18** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, Eph 5:15-20, John 6:51-58
- 19** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 20** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 21** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm

- 22** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon
- 25** Worship Service, 9:30am, sanctuary
Greeters/Ushers: TBA Reader: TBA
Scriptures: 1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11,22-30, Eph 6:10-20, John 6:56-69
- 26** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 27** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-11noon
Lunch Bunch, meeting at 11:30, restaurant location TBD
- 28** Grace's Free Closet open from 9:30am to 12:30pm,
Choir Banquet, 6:30pm restaurant TBD
- 29** Pastor's Office Hours 9am-12noon



UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES:

SEPTEMBER

Hoss's Restaurant Fundraiser
Fall Bible Study
Church Picnic
Choir Season Begins

October:

Ham Sandwich & Soup Fundraiser
UCC Neighbors in Need Offering (NIN)