

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



September/October 2025 Issue

Sunday Worship Service:

9:30am in the Sanctuary (Or join us on YouTube or Facebook to watch live-streaming)

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 12noon

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8am to 2pm

Grace's Free Closet Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9:30am to 12:30pm

Office Phone: 717-597-2983

Email: gucc128@outlook.com

Website: <u>www.graceuccgreencastle.com</u>

Facebook:

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Fall is coming! So, we will restart our Book Study Group. This year's book is published by the Pilgrim Press of the UCC and is called *A Little One Shall Lead: Small Congregations Create New Ways of Being Church*.

Here is a description of the book:

"Against the widespread narrative of church decline, the small congregations in A Little One Shall Lead are alive, thriving, and full of love for their communities! Co-authors Susan Craig and Douglas Dunlap share the encouraging stories of congregations that – despite limited worship attendance and financial resources – have outsized community impact with their ministries. Drawing from their Small Church Story Project, Craig and Dunlap have good news for the modern church: Small is mighty!"

We will meet Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm in the Chapel. We start September 3rd and it goes through October 29th. You can come for one or all the sessions. The book is available new on Amazon for \$21.95 or from the Pilgrim Press for the same price (plus shipping). Or, let the church office know if you'd us to order it for you. I hope you can join us.

Pastor Mark

A Welcoming Change

A discussion was held about adjusting the locations of our greeters on Sunday mornings. One greeter will remain at the main entrance downstairs, while the second greeter will now be stationed near the elevator. Both greeters will distribute the weekly worship programs downstairs only, rather than upstairs. This approach is intended to ensure that all attendees are greeted as they arrive. Also, for safety reasons the outside doors will be locked after worship starts. For questions, please contact the church office or any board member.

BOOK STUDY

Our *Fall Wednesday Night Book Study* began on September 3rd and will continue through October 29th. We are meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the Chapel. We will be using a book called '*A Little One Shall Lead: Small Congregations Create New Ways of Being Church.*' If you haven't signed up yet, you are still invited to join us for one or all the sessions! The book is available new on Amazon for \$21.95 or from the Pilgrim Press of the UCC for the same price (plus shipping).

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We're looking for new Sunday service volunteers to help greet, usher, prepare and serve communion, and read the scriptures. For more info, contact the church office or a current volunteer. Sign up at the welcome table. Once all monthly spots are filled, the schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Sympathy

Our condolences to the family of Ron Barnes upon his passing on August 20th. He passed away peacefully at Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation in Chambersburg. Ron is the brother of Joann Snider. May God receive Ron into the arms of his mercy.

Social Seniors Group

This is a joint gathering of folks from Trinity UCC (State Line), Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro), and Grace UCC, which meets on the second Wednesday each month for fun entertainment and light refreshments.

Trinity UCC in State Line will be hosting the first session on Wednesday, September 10th, at 2pm. The events theme is "Tall Tales and True" — perfect for storytellers! We encourage you to join them!

Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee organizes the 1st Saturday Free Meals as well as other church fundraisers and activities. Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month, except during the summer. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th, at 7pm in the meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them! For updates on meetings or events please contact Chet Nye or Marg Stouffer.

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. The meet every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 28th at 8:30am in the meeting room. If you would like further information about this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.

Restoration of the Organ

Our organ is back in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, there was one component that needed repairs, as it was not working 100%. This piece was sent back to the manufacturer, and we hope to have it reinstalled by Sunday, September 14th. You will notice we removed the small pews in front of the organ, so everyone can now have a better view and enjoy seeing Susan play. Thank you to Barry and Tim for doing this work for us.



Fundraiser Profits

We are happy to announce the profits we have made through our Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale held in July. Net profits were \$1504, and \$150 was donated to Grace's Free Closet. We thank everyone for making this a successful sale!

Monthly Refreshments & Fellowship

On the second Sunday of each month, volunteers provide and serve refreshments in the social hall after service. This time allows for conversations and fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to provide refreshments, please refer to the sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the front vestibule or contact Carolyn Shoemaker for more information.

Called to Care Committee

This committee holds quarterly meetings to help with the pastoral care of our members. They have been trained in caregiving and visitations to help meet the needs of our church family.

Their next meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 1pm, in the meeting room. If you would like additional information about joining this committee to help with the needs of GUCC, contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch fellowships are held on the last Tuesday of each month Here are the upcoming locations:

> Tuesday, September 30, at 11:30am Parlor House 724 S. Potomac Street, Waynesboro

&

Tuesday, October 28, at 11:30am Velvet Café 145 West 3rd Street, Waynesboro

Everyone is welcome to join them! For further information, contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship

This is a joint gathering of the men from GUCC and Church of the Apostles for a monthly breakfast. It's held on the first Saturday each month at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Join them on:

Saturday, September 6th & Saturday, October 4th

Friend Sunday

We encourage everyone to invite a friend to worship with us on **Sunday, October 19th**. As Pastor Mark often says, "The church grows by invitation." Refreshments and fellowship will be held in the social hall following service.

Chancel Choir

Choir had their first practice of the season this past week. Weekly rehearsals will continue Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us. Contact Patty, the choir director, for more information. We look forward to another year of great singing!

Consistory Board Meetings

Our board meetings will resume with the first one being held on Sunday, September 21 at 8am in the meeting room. Meetings will continue to take place on the third Sunday of each month throughout late spring. Reports for June, July, and August need to be submitted to the church office by Monday, September 15.

Building Projects

We held a special congregational meeting in June to discuss and vote on our building projects for roof replacement and a new HVAC system. They were both approved by unanimous vote.

<u>Premier HVAC</u> completed the installation of our new system on July 12th, ensuring effective cooling just in time for our annual yard sale. We appreciate their service, as all will now benefit from comfortable temperatures throughout the summer. We thank Tim Bryan for leading this project and everyone who contributed.

<u>Dependable Roofing</u> will start our roof replacement in 2-3 months. We thank Barry Shoemaker for taking the lead on this project.

Sharing some photos from Old Home Week in August



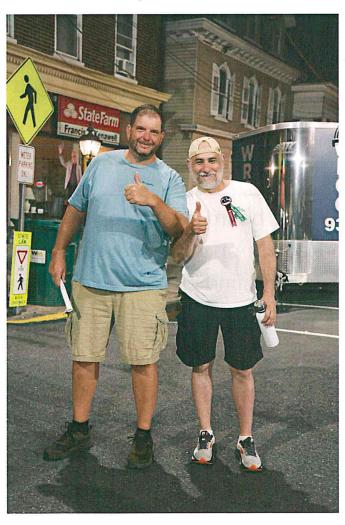
Grace's Free Closet at the Parade



Hosting Reminiscing in our Social Hall



Elaine & Kathy at Paint in the Park



Jack & his friend having fun on the square!

Grace Snyder Circle

Their first meeting for the season is scheduled for Monday, September 8th at 2pm in the meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them. They would love some new members. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any questions.

GRACE'S FREE CLOSET

The Closet provides free clothing to the community for individuals of all ages, from infants to adults, plus additional home décor and kitchen items. The Closet operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The organization is efficiently managed by dedicated volunteers including Nancy, Chet, Mildred, Pat, Kathy, Tammy and other local community members. Donations are accepted during operating hours. They will be closed for the first two weeks in September as they change over from summer to fall items. For further inquiries, please contact Nancy Myers.

<u>Church</u> <u>Bulletin</u> <u>Board</u>

Please check the bulletin board in the lower hallway each Sunday for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more. You will also find pictures of our members during various events on the welcome bulletin board.

Church Directory Update

Recent updates have been made to our church directories and copies have been sent out to our members via email. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office. If you are not listed, and would like to be included, please contact Elaine in the church office.

Ham Sandwich & Soup Sale

Our Sandwich & Soup Sale is being held on Thursday, September 18th!

Ham Sandwiches are \$4.50 each. Our two homemade soup choices are: chicken rice soup & ham and bean soup. Soups are being sold by the pint for \$4.50 or by the quart for \$9. Sandwiches will be made and available to be picked up on Thursday, September 18th, between 11am – 1pm and 4pm – 6pm, in the social hall. Deadline to place your orders is Sunday September 14th. You can place your orders in the boxes located in the front vestibule and elevator area or drop them off at the church office. Payment is due at time of pick-up. We accept cash or checks (with valid ID). Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. If you can help volunteer with us to make the soups or sandwiches or have further questions, please contact Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer or call the church office.

Penn Central UCC

A total of \$30 was donated to the UCC Texas Flood relief funds in July. The next Penn Central mission we help support is "Neighbors In Need". This offering supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. We will be receiving NIN offering on Sunday, October 5, during service. Special offering envelopes with additional information will be set out on the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area as they become available.

1st Saturday Free Community Meals

Everyone is invited to attend our free meals. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Chet Nye or Lorna Thomas.

1st Saturday FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH

September 6th 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MENU:

Hot Dogs, Chili, Watermelon & 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!

1st Saturday FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH



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

Menu:

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad, Garlic Bread, Cookies & Bottled Water (Limited Quantities)

Grace United Church of Christ

128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225 717-597-2983 <u>www.graceuccgreencastle.com</u>

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



*** We thank our Activities & Fundraising Committee for all their hard work in putting together our 5th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale which was held in July. We thank Marg Stouffer, Patty Stepler, Lorna Thomas, Kathy Fillman, Darlene Bitner, Sydnae Vanner, Lu Miller, Kate Kennedy, Chet Nye, Millie Minnich, Tammy Hockenberry, and Janice & Matthew (who volunteer at the Closet) and everyone who volunteered their time setting up and assisting during the sale! We couldn't have done it without you!

***We thank our <u>Building & Grounds Committee</u> for all their work getting estimates for our HVAC and Roof projects. We thank Tim Bryan for leading the HVAC project and Barry Shoemaker for leading the roofing project. We thank everyone for all the donations we received for these projects.

***We thank Larry Stepler, Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer, Tim Bryan, Steven Miller and Chet Nye for mowing & trimming the lawn at the cemetery, removing weeds from the back of the garages, and keeping the church grounds and flower beds in the front of the church trimmed and looking nice over the summer.

***Old Home Week – We thank everyone who helped with all the activities during OHW, and all those who helped clean and arrange different areas in the church in preparation for all the visitors.



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

Church updates, scholarship applications, newsletters and weekly worship programs can be downloaded from our website anytime! Donations can also be made through our website. https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Newsletter Deadline

Submit your announcements, joys, news, articles, or photos to share with the church family by October 9th for our Nov/ Dec issue of Grace Notes. You are welcome to drop off articles at the church office or submit through our email of gucc128@outlook.com Thank you.

Combined Outdoor Service and Church Picnic with Church of the Apostles is being held this Sunday, September 7th at 10:30am

Worship will begin at 10:30am under their pavilion, followed by a covered dish picnic. No communion will be held during this service. The Church of the Apostles will provide a warm/cold dish to share; we are asked to bring drinks, fruits or desserts to share. Fried chicken and paper products will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs and join us!





EAST BROADTOP RAILROAD

Church of the Apostles is hosting a group train ride to the East Broad Top Railroad near Orbisonia, PA. It is being planned for Friday, October 17th. They need to have 20 participants to receive a group discount. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, September 7th. Please see the registration form towards the back of this newsletter for further details. Linda Ritchey at Church of the Apostles will accept your registration form and payment during the church picnic or Elaine will accept them up till this Thursday, September 4th.

Member Birthday's

<u>September</u>

9/1 – Bob Gearhart 9/9 – Larry Stepler 9/12 – Jim Thomas 9/15 – Duane Lawson 9/29 – Tom Green

<u>October</u>

10/9 – Patty Stepler, Jack Shoemaker, Doll Koons 10/12 – Elaine Scheffer 10/14 – Teresa Myers 10/17 – Christopher Wilhide 10/23 – Ed Doyle 10/25 – Larry Burger 10/31 – Tammy Hockenberry



NOVEMBER:

ANNUAL LUNCHEON & CHURCH DECORATING DAY

APPLE DUMPLING FUNDRAISER

ADVENT SEASON BEGINS

ANGEL TREE

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE

December:

CHRISTMAS CANTATA SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OFFERING BEING RECEIVED



CONSISTORY MEETING

JUNE 11, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by President Lorna Thomas.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Ron Shafer, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, and Pastor Mark, were present, Lue Miller, and Steve Miller were present via phone. Treasurer Larry Stepler was also present.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read selections from Psalms 37.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. The May minutes were approved with on a Tim/Barry motion.
- 2. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a Ron/Tim motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Building and Grounds Committee:

- 1. Garage rentals are paid up until the end of this year. Consider increasing rent for 2026.
- 2. The two estimates for air conditioning replacement for Social Hall were discussed. On a Steve/Barry motion it was decided to go with Premier HVAC Services. The cost comparison of the two companies is attached to minutes.
- 3. The roof replacement was the next discussion. Dependable Roofing was the only estimate we have so far. Barry is trying to get at least one more estimate. We need to move forward with this project because the roof is leaking into one of the Sunday school rooms.

Activities/Fundraising Building and Grounds Committee:

1. Next big fundraiser is our Annual Hidden Treasures indoor yard sale on July 11 & 12.

Finance Committee

1. We need to verify with our insurance company to make sure we have enough coverage on the organ.

<u>Additional Topics for Discussion:</u>

- 1. The congregational annual business meeting will be Sunday, November 9, 2025.
- 2. Need more members to volunteer for ushers/greeters.

Adjourned meeting with Lord's Prayer at 7:22pm.

Next scheduled meeting – September 21, 2025

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 8:10 a.m. by President Lorna Thomas.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Ron, Deb Homer, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, were present, Lu Miller and Steve Miller were present via phone. Treasurer Larry Stepler was also present. Ron Shafer and Pastor Mark were absent.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Building and Grounds Committee:

- 4. Three estimates for roof were discussed, Dependable Roofing, Inc., Bonded Applicators, Inc., and Happy Home. It was decided to exclude Happy Home so we would just have two estimates to discuss. After discussing both companies, it was passed on a Mark/ Steve motion to take Dependable Roofing estimate to the congregation for their approval. It will be 2 to 3 months until Dependable can get to our roof, but we are told if we have any problems in the meantime they will come and do a temporary repair at no charge.
- 5. Safety issues were discussed. It was decided that the doors will be locked at 9:40am on Sunday morning. Mark Stahl is going to be responsible for locking doors. Ring Doorbell was discussed but no decision was made on this.

Finance Committee

2. Larry said the two projects we are looking at (air conditioning and roof) are \$79,000.00. Using the money we have in our accounts and money already donated we have about \$37,700.00. We can use some of our investments if we can't raise the rest of the money.

Adjourned meeting at 8:50am

Respectively Submitted:

Deborah Homer, Secretary

Co-President Mark Stahl started the meeting at 10:18am. He went over the two topics that needed attention. The first was the air conditioning in the Social Hall. We need to replace both units; the ones we are replacing are 36 years old. The replacements will be heat pumps, which give heat and air conditioning. It should be a cost savings on our heating bill. The total to replace both units is \$23,597.00. The consistory has recommended going with Premier HVAC Services, they currently service our system. Premier says they will have the work done by our yard sale on July 11-12.

The next item is the rubber roof and part of the shingled roof needs replaced. There is a leak in one of the Sunday school rooms and part of the ceiling has come down. The cost of roofing is \$56,018.00, with a 15-year warranty. The consistory recommends going with Dependable Roofing for this project. Dependable says it will be 2-3 months until they can get to our job, but if we have any more leaks they will come and fix for free.

Larry Stepler explained some ways we can fund these two projects. We did get a check for \$4900.00 from the insurance company for damages. We have investments of \$378,000.00 if we have to dip into them. There already have been some special donations for these projects, which are greatly appreciated.

Next was to take a congregational vote for approval to spend the money on these two projects.

The vote came back 100% to go ahead with these projects.

Respectively Submitted:

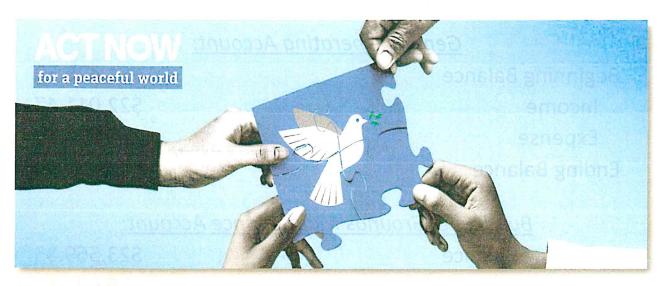
Deborah Homer, Secretary



Grace United Church of Christ 2nd Quarterly Statement Financial Income and Expense Report April - June 2025

General Operat	ting Account:
Beginning Balance	\$1,426.59
Income	\$22,011.47
Expense	\$20,650.57
Ending Balance	\$2,787.49
Building & Grounds M	aintenance Account:
Beginning Balance	\$23,569.85
Income	\$36,008.47
Expense	\$12,119.00
Ending Balance	\$47,459.32
<u>Organ/Memorial,</u>	/Trust Account:
Beginning Balance	\$19,391.51
Income	\$16,750.53
Expense	\$16,806.31
Ending Balance	\$19,335.73
Special Account (Outreach/O	ther Non-Operating Funds)
Beginning Balance	\$20,947.32
Income	\$5,478.92
Expense	\$14,932.38
Ending Balance	\$11,493.86

Day of Peace Event September 21, 2025, 3-5 pm at the Waynesboro YMCA "Cookie's Corner" Pavilion

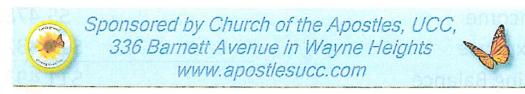




near the Dove Sculpture by Summitview Elementary

Live Music provided by "Mountain Air"

with Prayer, Refreshments, and Crafts for children



Grace UCC

Ham Sandwich & Soup Order Form

Phone	##	Orders due by Sunday, Sep
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Pick-up Date & Times: Thursday, September 18, between 11am-1pm and 4pm-6pm (side door)

TOTAL DUE	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$																
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Ham & Bean Soup Pint Quart	00.68®														4	00	
Ham & 1 Pint	@\$4.50														a Taga		-
Chicken Rice Soup Pint Quart	@\$9.00																
Chicken Pint	@\$4.50						1 1			, 1		-					
Number of Ham Sandwiches	@\$4.50																
nZ S																	
	Name								91								

Payment due at time of pick-up. We accept Cash or Checks (with valid ID) made payable to Grace UCC. Proceeds support the ministries at GUCC. We thank you for your orders!

to the EAST BROADTOP RAILROAD near Orbisonia, PA CHURCH FAMILY, NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS FALL TRIP

eastbroadtop.com

ONLY & NO GLASS CONTAINERS PERMITTED ON THE TRAIN), rest rooms, and then return The General Admission ticket includes a 1 hour scenic 9-mile train ride with a 11/2 hour layover at Colgate Grove for a photo op, eating our SELF PACKED LUNCHES (INDIVIDUAL DRINKS to the station for a 1 hour guided tour of the historic shop complex and roundhouse.



WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

9.45 Apostles meet at the church to carpool 10.00 Grace meets the at church, Apostles stop at Grace 11.30 Arrive, park, restrooms, check-in at ticket booth

12:00 Begin train ride

12:30 Photo op, lunch, rest rooms at Colgate Grove

2:00 Re-Board train

2:30 Guided tour of historic shop complex and round house

3:30 Gift shop, rest rooms

4:00 Leave for home

5:00-5:30 Arrive home

We're planning on 20 or more participants; the group prices are:

Adults (13+) coach or cinder car \$25.44

caboose \$29.68

Child (2-12) coach or cinder car \$15.00

caboose \$19.08

Children 1 and under ride free on lap.

Wheelchair Accessible Train Car and Golf Cart.
The train runs rain or shine, there are no refunds, credit only.

Questions: Bob Benchoff 717-377-4729 or benchoff360@comcast.net

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SIGN UP INSTRUCTIONS:

Name(s)

1. Using the cost information above circle coach, cinder car (no roof) or caboose on the next line and write the price on the line.

Coach Cinder Car Caboose Price

Turn in this slip and cash or check to: Church of the Apostles, UCC, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268

SIGN-UP DEADLINE is SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025