



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

**♪♪ GRACE NOTES ♪♪**

**July/August 2026 Issue**

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

As I write this in June, I am thinking about what my life will be like in the next two months. As we continue to “re-make” our home after the fire, we will also be helping our oldest daughter move to her new apartment in Elizabethtown. Among other things, leaving home is a religious act. As Herbert Anderson and Kenneth R Mitchell write in their book *Leaving Home*,

*“It is an act of faith to accept the adventures God sends,  
with the assurance that God will accompany us  
into an unknown, uncertain future.*

*It is not change that separates us from God.*

*It is our inability to believe that nothing, not our leaving or even our children leaving home, can separate us from the love of God. That promise provides a ‘grounding’ for families that intend to stay together by changing together.”*

Watching our oldest daughter leave home will surely shift us into a new phase of life. This “letting go” will be a significant moment for our family...with much grief and pride mixed all together. We’re excited for her as she steps into her new vocation of being a labor and delivery nurse at Hershey Hospital. The good news is that she will only be about an hour’s drive away.

So church, acknowledging that we are all at different stages of life, “How can our faith help us let those we love... venture off and strike out in the world? What does it look like to change together through life?”

In Christ, Pastor Mark



PASTOR MARK WILL BE ON VACATION FROM JUNE 28 - JULY 12

On June 28 and July 12, Michael Spielman will be leading worship. He is a "Member in Discernment" in the Mercersburg Association of the United Church of Christ. He works as a machinist for Volvo/Mack Trucks in Hagerstown, MD, where he also serves as their Chaplain. He lives in Waynesboro with his wife, Brandy, and their two kids.

On July 5, Rev. Peter Emig is leading worship. He is a retired UCC Pastor who served Solomon's UCC in New Franklin for about 40 years. He lives in Chambersburg with his wife Julia (who is the current treasurer for the Mercersburg Association).

If there are any pastoral emergencies during my vacation, you can call Rev. Dani Neff at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro at 717-762-7191 (July 5-12) and for the other dates Rev. Caroline Saxton at St. Johns UCC in Chambersburg at 717-263-8593 will be available.

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Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 2nd!  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



Our 6<sup>th</sup> Hidden Treasures Yard Sale is just around the corner  
on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 4PM  
& Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 1PM.

## **GOT HIDDEN TREASURES?**

Donations for our yard sale/fundraiser can be dropped off  
**Monday through Thursday, up till July 2nd,**  
**between 9:30AM till 12Noon**

Please drop off items off in the social hall.

Volunteers are needed to help sort, clean and set-up the items  
to prepare for the sale. Sign-up sheets are available on the  
front welcome table and elevator area at the church.

Extra helpers are also needed the day of the sale!

Please contact Marg for more information.

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHURCH**

# SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that six graduates from Greencastle-Antrim High School have been awarded Scholarships from our church, each one valued at \$1000.

*Julia M. Bodes Scholarship* was awarded to Avery Horst. He will be attending West Chester University, studying business finance. His parents are Randall & Jennifer Horst.

*Kathryn Didier Scholarships* were awarded to five students:

- 1) Sawyer Allen will be attending University of Pennsylvania studying Anthropology. His parents are Stephanie Haynes-McMullen & Philip Allen.
- 2) Olivia Carey will attend Liberty University majoring in Elementary Education. Her parents are Michael & Heather Carey.
- 3) Callie Izer will be studying Exercise Science at Shenandoah University. Her parents are Daniel & Kristen Izer.
- 4) Kinley Myers will be attending Shepherd University for the Nursing program. Her parents are Whitley & Tyler Myers.
- 5) Taylor Watts will be studying Radiology at Hagerstown Community College. Her parents are Robert & Kristin Watts.

**Congratulations to all the students of 2026!**  
**Blessings on their future endeavors!**



## EDUCATIONAL SUNDAY

Was held on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We honored and recognized the students during our Educational Sunday service.



*Left to right - Sawyer Allen, Olivia Carey, Callie Izer and Cathy Keefer  
(not able to attend: Avery Horst, Kinley Myers & Taylor Watts)*

## Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

This committee collaborates with and supports the pastor in providing meaningful worship, organizing social events, and addressing the needs of the congregation. They meet quarterly on Sunday mornings at 8:30am in the small meeting room. The meetings for the remainder of this year are scheduled as follows:

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

November 1<sup>st</sup>

For more information on joining this committee contact Pastor Mark or Marg Stouffer.

## Chancel Choir

Thank you to the choir, director, and organist for a wonderful season. Rehearsals and worship anthems will resume in the fall. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Stepler.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Our updated church directory was recently emailed. If you need a printed copy, please contact Elaine in the office. Please also let us know of any changes to your address or contact information.**

## Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures

July/August issues are available in pocket size and large print. Pick-up your free copy from the vestibule areas on Sunday or stop by the church office during the week.

# Consistory Board Meetings

No board meetings 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!

## 2026 Officers & Board Members:

President: Mark Stahl

Vice President: Steve Miller

Secretary: Lu Miller

Tim Bryan, Ron Shafer, Barry Shoemaker

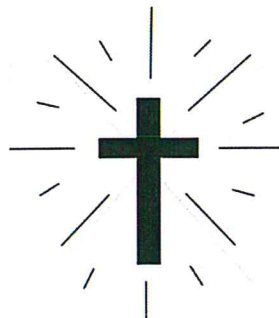
Patty Stepler, Carolle Patrick

Treasurer: Larry Stepler

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## Newsletter Deadline

Members are encouraged to share photos, joys, and articles with our church family. If you are planning church events or fundraisers for September or October, please send the details to the office by August 13<sup>th</sup> so they can be included in our next newsletter. Submissions may be emailed to [gucc128@outlook.com](mailto:gucc128@outlook.com) or dropped off at the church office during the week.



# Thank you note from Greencastle Food Pantry:



Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry  
57 W. Baltimore Street  
Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225

Date 4/15/26

Dear Members of the G-A,  
Ministerium

Thank you on behalf of our patrons for your generous donation of \$428.00 to the food pantry. Your donation will help keep our shelves stocked and allow us to purchase meat and other proteins for our patrons. The church communities' support of the pantry is vital in helping us provide a variety of food and good nutrition to our patrons. May God bless your church community for the commitment they show to our local pantry.

Sincerely,

*Heather M. Bair*, secretary  
Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome...*

*Matthew 25:35*

# Member Birthday's

## July

7/11 - Mary Frances Myers

7/12 - Clarisse Hicks

7/18 - Bill Storms

7/19 - Samantha Ruzicka

7/25 - Earl Bodes

7/25 - Nancy Myers

7/26 - Ethel Fisher

7/28 - Nancy Stine

7/28 - Faye Baker

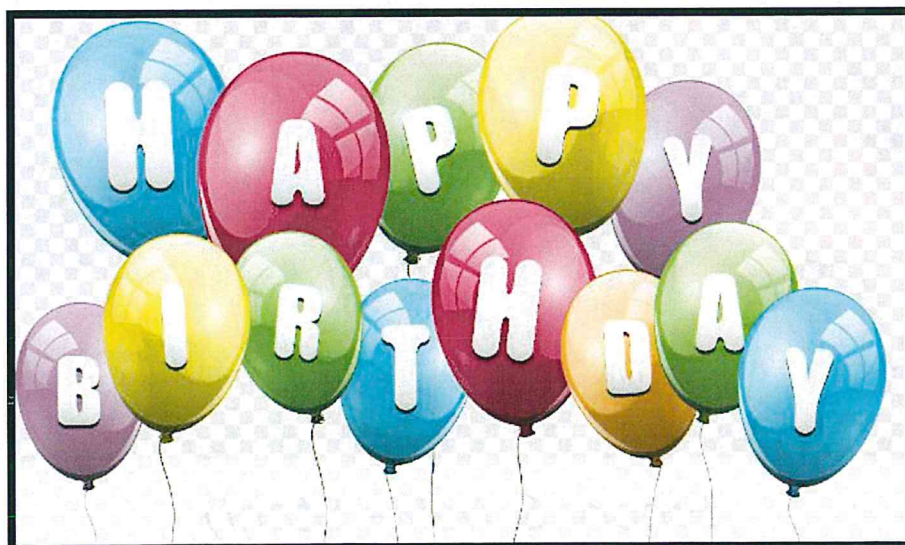
7/29 - DeBorah Alston

## August

8/11 - Emory Stahl

8/26 - Roger Stahl

8/31 - Pat Zimmerman



Church of the Apostles invites us to join them at their summer concerts. Here is the schedule for July & August



*Sunday Evening Concerts, 6 PM at*



# THE PAVILION

*Church of the Apostles, UCC, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, PA*

**BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

Rain or Shine, concerts will be held inside the church building in inclement weather.

## JULY 12

### DREW ADAMS



*Drew plays a vast selection of acoustic pop and rock hits spanning over many decades.*

## JULY 19

### CATOCTIN PROMISE BAND

*1st Show*



*A Contemporary Praise & Worship group whose desire and mission is to share the life-changing Gospel message of Jesus Christ with all the world.*

## JULY 26

### MOUNTAIN AIR

*2nd Show*



*Guitar, mandolin & vocal harmony. Acoustic, contemporary, folk, and pop country music.*



## MEETING MINUTES

### Consistory Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2026

**Members:** Mark Stahl, Barry Shoemaker, Pastor Mark, Carolle Patrick, Patty Stepler, Larry Stepler

**Absent:** Ron Shafer, Tim Bryan, Lu Miller, Steve Miller

**Devotions:** Pastor Mark shared a prayer from Iona.

**Consent Minutes:** Barry made motion to accept the minutes – Mark second it.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accounts have rebounded, ERTC believes money from IRS is coming or they will be sending back our reprocess money. Mark made motion to accept – Barry second it

#### **New Information:**

- Mark fastened floor tiles in bathroom and will do flooring upstairs at elevator area at a later date
- Make sure the air conditioning is turned off upstairs because of the price of electricity.
- Activities / Fundraiser – donations \$162.
- Buildings and grounds –
  - No information about outside lights
- Mercersburg Association – need someone to run the computer and doing a hybrid meeting – Sunday, May 3
- GAHS Awards Ceremony – May 21 @ 9:15 giving out 6 - \$1,000 scholarships – Pastor Mark will represent Grace at the ceremony. Education Sunday is June 14 in our church where we will honor the recipients.
- Steve Miller purchased a new vacuum for the church and Tim Bryan donated a shredder for the office.
- Elections on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – Barry will open and close the church.

## **ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Barry will set up tables for elections after service today. He will also open/close for them.

Note from Lorna Thomas . She is retiring from parish nurse.

Blessing Box will be constructed for better protection from elements of the weather.

Building and Grounds committee will decide on the placement.

Celebrate America Event at Shady Grove on June 26<sup>th</sup> 6-9:30 pm

## **ACTION AGENDA:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be September 20, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Miller, Secretary





## SEPTEMBER (FALL):

NO FIRST SATURDAY FREE MEAL THIS MONTH

COMBINED WORSHIP & PICNIC WITH CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES – SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

HAM SANDWICH & SOUP SALE – SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

ORGAN CONCERT FEATURING JONATHAN LEONARD – SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

BIBLE/BOOK STUDY – DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

## OCTOBER:

FIRST SATURDAY FREE COMMUNITY MEAL – OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING (NIN) BEING RECEIVED

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY – OCTOBER 11

TOTEN FEST SERVICE

LIGHT THE NIGHT (TRICK OR TREAT EVENT BEING PLANNED)