



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

GRACE NOTES

March - April 2026 Issue

Sunday Worship Service:

9:30am in the Sanctuary

(Or join us on YouTube or Facebook to watch our 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

2nd & 4th Saturday each Month, 11:30am-2:30pm

Office Phone: 717-597-2983

Email: gucc128@outlook.com

Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook:

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

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

From the Pastor's Desk.....

On March 22, in preparation for the start of Holy Week on March 29, we will be having a Time for Anointing and Healing Prayer during our Sunday morning service. It will be held during our pastoral prayer time. On that day, we will remember that Jesus was anointed by Mary of Bethany with a costly perfume.

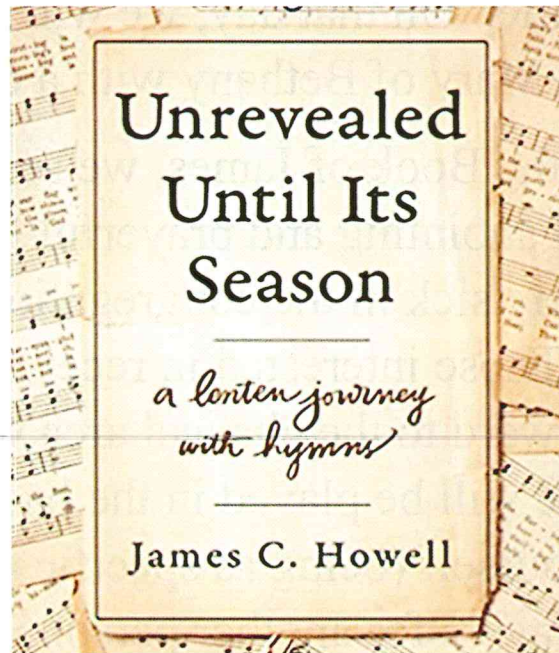
Also, in the Book of James, we see the early church regularly practiced anointing and prayerful laying on of hands for those who were sick in the congregations. This is how we will proceed: Those interested in receiving prayer will be invited to come forward to the chancel area where Pastor Mark will be. Piano music will be played in the background. You can ask for prayers for yourself (being as specific as you choose to be) or you can ask for prayers for another person. Then, olive oil will be placed on your forehead in the sign of the cross, a hand will be put on your shoulder, and you will be prayed for aloud by Pastor Mark. After this, you can return to your pew. If you prefer not to come forward, you can pray silently in the congregation.

I hope this will be a meaningful way to continue to observe Lent and prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week.

In Christ, Pastor Mark

LENTEN BOOK GROUP

Our Lenten Book Study continues Wednesday evenings through April 1st, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. The resource we are using is a book entitled *Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns* by James C. Howell. The author believes in the power of song to teach spiritual truths. "Hymns embed faith into the marrow of the soul," he writes. In *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, Howell takes us on a 40-day journey through well-loved hymns. We invite you to join us, even if it's just for one session! Contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch fellowships are held at 11:30am on the last Tuesday of each month. The group selects various restaurants each month. Everyone is invited to join them for good food and fellowship. For more information, contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider.

Next luncheon: Tuesday, March 31st, at Il' Castello's in State Line

Ham Sandwich and Soup Fundraiser

Our annual sandwich & soup sale is being held on Thursday, March 12th. Orders can be pick-up from the social hall between 11am-1pm or 4pm-6pm, at the side door entrance. We are accepting pre-orders up till Sunday, March 8th. Ham sandwiches (made with sandwich potato rolls from Martin's) are \$4.50 each. Homemade soups are sold by the pint for \$4.50 or \$9 per quart. Soup choices are chicken & rice or ham & bean. Order forms are available in the church vestibules. Drop off orders in the boxes provided or bring them to the church office during the week. Payment is due at time of pick. If you can help us to make the soups or sandwiches, please contact Cathy Keefer or Marg Stouffer.

Social

Seniors

Group

Church of the Apostles is hosting the next gathering on Wednesday, March 11, at 2pm. Discussion topic "God Knows Our Names" is being lead by Pastor Mark and Mary Black (from Apostles). We will play getting to know you games, consider the meaning of our earthly names, and delight that God will give us special, new names in Heaven. Light refreshments will also be served. Please join us!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Noelle Homer's birthday was on January 12th.
She enjoyed a fantastic birthday celebration
at her bowling party, joined by friends
including Jack Shoemaker.
Looks like everyone had a wonderful time!





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:

May 3rd

August 2nd

November 1st

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

CHURCH SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

We need more members to volunteer during Sunday services. Please contact church office or any board member for further details. Sign-up sheets for April will be out soon.

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 church family. They hold quarterly meetings which have been set-up for the rest of the year:

April 21st , 1pm

July 21, 1pm

October 21, 1pm

If you would like additional information about joining this committee, please contact Pastor Mark or Sydnae Vanner.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship

The men of Grace UCC are invited to join the Church of the Apostles for their monthly breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Their next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th.

Please join them and bring a friend!

Chancel Choir

CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, AT 7:15PM, IN THE SANCTUARY. THE CHOIR IS PREPARING FOR THE EASTER CANTATA BEING HELD ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH, AT 9:30AM. PATTY STEPLER IS OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR, PLEASE CONTACT HER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THEM.

Activities & Fundraising Committee

This committee organizes the 1st Saturday Free Meals as well as other church fundraisers and activities. Currently they are busy organizing our ham sandwich & soup sale, which is being held on March 12th. You are welcome to join them at any of their meetings! They are held on the first Tuesday of each month, from September through June. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, at 7pm in the meeting room. For updates on meetings or specific needs, please contact Chet Nye or Marg Stouffer.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

We will be accepting these offerings during the month of March. Please use the special offering envelopes that can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area. OGHS offerings will be accepted during the month of March.

*Congratulations and happiness to
Darren & Kristen Vannoy.
The newlyweds were married
on February 21, 2026*



Easter Worship Services & Day of Prayer

Anointing Sunday/Healing Prayer Service |

Sunday, March 22nd, 9:30am

Easter Cantata & Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 29th, 9:30am

(Loose change received during this service will be donated to the choir.)

Greencastle Community Palm Sunday Service

Sunday Evening, March 29th, 6:30pm

(We are hosting the community service in our sanctuary.)

Day of Prayer

Thursday, April 2nd, between 9am to 5pm, in our sanctuary

(Sign-up sheets for our prayer warriors are available
in both vestibule areas)

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2nd, at 7pm

(Held at Greencastle Presbyterian Church. Loose change collected during this worship will be donated to the Greencastle Food Pantry located within the Greencastle Presbyterian Church.)

Easter Sunday Worship with Communion

Sunday, April 5th, 9:30am

(There will be breakfast starting at 8:15am in the social hall.)

Scholarships Information:



Scholarship applications are now available. We offer three different scholarships. Please pick up an application for yourself or if you know someone who may qualify. Applications can be found in the elevator area. Applications need to be returned to the church office by April 1st. Recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday, June 8th. Contact Lorna Thomas if you have any questions.

- **Kathryn Didier Scholarship** is open to members of GUCC who are pursuing higher education, and to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors who plan on enrolling in college.
- **Julie M. Bodes Scholarship** is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC who are planning on majoring in business education or computer science fields.
- **Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship** is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster (now part of the Moravian University).



Emory & Nellie Stahl, our senior lovebirds, are enjoying the Valentine's activities at Heritage Retirement Community.

Consistory Board Meetings

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Sunday each month at 8am. Anyone is welcome to attend if you have any issues you would like to present.

2026 Officers & Board Members:

President: Mark Stahl

Vice President: Steve Miller

Secretary: Lu Miller

Tim Bryan

Ron Shafer

Barry Shoemaker

Patty Stepler

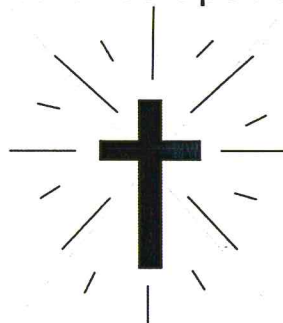
Carolle Patrick

Treasurer:

Larry Stepler

Church Directory Update

We are working on updating the church director. If anyone has made any recent changes to their phone, address or emails, please let us know. We will distribute copies once updates are completed.



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.

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>

Member Birthday's

March

3/1 - Susan Alsip-Lawson

3/1 - Kendra Koons

3/4 - David Fillman

3/11 - Robin Stahl

3/17 - Darlene Bitner

3/24 - Chet Nye

April

4/4 - Darren Vannoy

4/5 - Bobbie Sponseller

4/10 - Grace Gearhart

4/14 - Steve Miller

4/16 - Sydnae Vanner

4/17 - Marilyn Walck

4/24 - W. Jean Oliver

4/27 - LuAnn Miller

Newsletter Deadline

Submit your announcements, joys, news, articles, or photos to share with the church family by April 20th to place in our next 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.



MEETING MINUTES

Consistory Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Mark Stahl at 8:00 am.

ROLL CALL: Mark Stahl, Tim Bryan, Barry Shoemaker, Lu Miller, Steve Miller, Ron Shafer, Pastor Mark, Carolle Patrick, Patty Stepler, Larry Stepler

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Mark read passages from Psalm 103.

CHURCH WORK: New members, Carolle and Patty were welcomed. Officers were elected as follows: Mark Stahl, President, Steve Miller, Vice President, Lu Miller, Secretary, Larry Stepler, Treasurer. On a Ron/Tim motion the officers were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA: November and December minutes were approved on a Tim/Steve motion. December's treasurer report was approved on a Tim/Ron motion.

INFORMATION AGENDA:

Pastor Mark asked for approval from the group for Grace UCC to host the Greencastle Community Service to be held in our sanctuary Palm Sunday, March 29 at 6:30 p m. Approval was given.

Activities and Fundraising Committee: Report was reviewed.

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee: Minutes were reviewed. Book study will start Feb. 18 and run for 7 weeks.

Building and Grounds Committee: Updates from Barry

1. Troy Layton replaced the thermostat in Grace's Closet. While here Barry asked him for a quote for lights to be placed along Church Alley & parking lot.
2. Quality Termite & Pest Control inspection was good. Next inspection 4/7/26.
3. Boiler inspection was completed and still awaiting the new certificate.

4. Cleaning of church – Barry met with Ryan Hawk and reviewed areas to be cleaned and tasks to be done. It was suggested that he notify Ryan to add the cleaning of the sanctuary and stairs. Cleaning to be done every 2 weeks. Barry will undertake the task of seeing the garbage can is set out for collection. Chet Nye will be asked about snow removal from the sidewalk at the cemetery.

- Finance Committee: Larry reported the new shed will increase our insurance by \$45 a year. He also stated that Nancy Myers has stated that she will be paying for the increase. ERTC application was denied by the IRS. The rep at ERTC will be following up and reviewing the application. The financial statement was reviewed.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION: Elaine asked for someone to take pictures of church activities to add to the bulletin boards and the newsletter. It was suggested that Elaine be notified that with the change in tax law for deductions more people may want contribution statements for their 2026 taxes.

ACTION AGENDA:

1. On a Steve/Barry motion a Housing Allowance for Pastor Mark for \$25,000 was approved for 2026.
2. On a Tim/Barry motion approval was given for Lorna Thomas to remain as the third check signer for 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50am with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be February 15, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Lu Miller, Secretary

Grace United Church of Christ Financial Statement Income and Expense Balances Jan 1st - Feb 28th, 2026

General Operating Account:

Beginning Balance	\$4,333.49
Income	\$13,432.49
Expense	\$12,834.31
Ending Balance	\$4,931.67

Building & Grounds Maintenance Account:

Beginning Balance	\$20,366.97
Income	\$11,517.42
Expense	\$2,030.00
Ending Balance	\$29,854.39

Organ/Memorial/Trust Account:

Beginning Balance	\$6,032.42
Income	\$5,841.10
Expense	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$11,873.52

Special Account (Outreach/Other Non-Operating Funds)

Beginning Balance	\$4,071.57
Income	\$511.19
Expense	\$1,698.17
Ending Balance	\$2,884.59



JUNE:

EDUCATIONAL SUNDAY

UCC STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

JULY:

CHURCH HIDDEN TREASURES ANNUAL YARD SALE