

Grace United Church of Christ

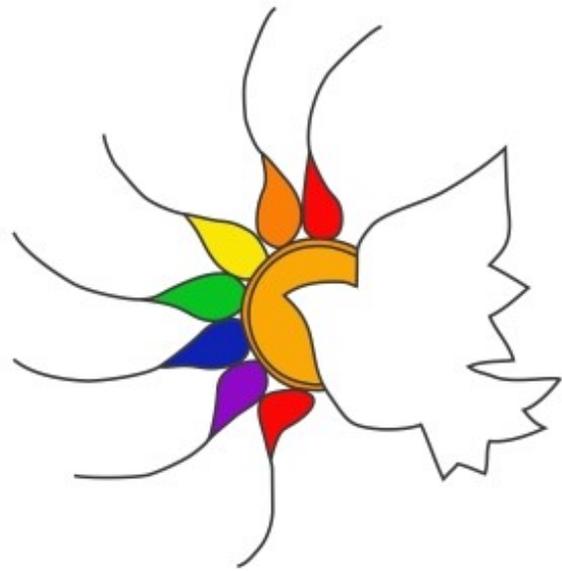
Shalom

July-August 2016

Rev. Katie Cort, Pastor

Lynn K. Miller, editor

Thank you to story contributors and proofreaders.



In the Summer in the City

For thus the Lord said to me: I will quietly look from my dwelling like clear heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

– Isaiah 18:4

Here comes the heat! Those days you sweat while you are just sitting still, and you never want to leave a temperature-controlled environment. Isaiah teases us by saying that God is “like clear heat in sunshine.” As if that were just delightful and a charming place to be. While the rest of us are sitting and sweating and wondering why God couldn’t be in a nice glass of iced tea instead.

On June 19th Grace had a table at the Lancaster Pride event, where the heat came in waves off the asphalt, and the Italian ice stand always had a line. It was an act of rebellion to stand up for love in that weather, and so soon after the mass shooting at a gay club in Orlando, Florida, leaving 50 dead and 53 wounded. The city of Lancaster came together and chose to see God in the swelter and sweat, in the shadow of increased police presence, and in the love offered by free hugs. Performers put on heavy costumes, full makeup, and large wigs in order to walk right out into that heat and entertain the cheering crowds. People stood in direct sun at remembrance altars, an interfaith worship service, and individual displays honoring the victims of the shootings.

In a sad and scary time, and in 90-degree weather, 4,000 people came together and showcased the largest attendance of any Lancaster Pride event in recorded history. At least seven faith-based organizations opened their hearts to the LGBTQIA, and ministers stood shoulder to shoulder with atheists in the name of love. Indeed, God was found in the heat of sunshine, as *Love Won* against so many odds.

So, look for God in the heat this summer. Look for God in the shade and in the rain, the wind and the water. Look for God on the bad days and the good. Because God is there, in all things and all times.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Katie

Little Shepherds Update



June 12 was the last day of class for the Little Shepherds for the summer. We studied the Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep.

Much thanks to our teachers: Melissa Keares, Holly Keller, Verna Labrador, Amy Southall, and Karen and Jim Wentz.

We had started with the Lenten season following the story of Jesus until the Resurrection, and continuing through Pentecost and Ascension.

The Little Shepherds enjoyed making many crafts including an angel bookmark, a donkey for Palm Sunday, a Last Supper from egg cartons, a sun visor and a pin wheel.

The Little Shepherds will resume the second Sunday in September. They will be working on the Old Testament starting with the story of creation. See you on Sunday, September 11.



Upcoming Campfire Dates

Enjoy summertime outdoors at our campfires Friday, July 29 and August 19 starting at 7:30pm.

Congo Life will provide the fire and marshmallows. Bring your own snacks and drinks, and a campfire chair.

“Hope Upon Hope” Group to Meet

A mental wellness, friendship, and support group, “Hope Upon Hope,” for members and friends attending Grace UCC, will be meeting monthly on Wednesday evenings.



All are welcome to attend Wednesday, July 13 and August 17 from 7-8pm at the home of Marilyn Miller, 342 West Cedar Street, New Holland.

This is an informal “come-when-you-can” group.

For more information, speak to or call Cathy Hainley (471-9912) or Marilyn Miller (354-6178).

12 Years Open & Affirming

As an open and affirming congregation, Grace United Church of Christ welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons into the full life and ministry of the church. We invite all people to share their gifts as we journey together in faith and covenant to be responsible to God and to one another.

Dates to Note:

4th of July office schedule: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 5 for the 4th of July holiday.

Labor Day office schedule: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Notes from Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting

[Herb McCollom and Amy Fishburn were Grace Church's delegates to the annual meeting of the Penn Central Conference, June 10-11 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Herb's report is below.]

I attended an all-day meeting on environmental justice led by Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, United Church of Christ Environmental Justice Minister. He made a case that environmental issues should be part of the church's DNA. He successfully led a church effort in the state of Washington to deny the construction of the nation's largest petroleum storage facility on the Yakima River.

We learned Pennsylvania is third in the nation in the emission of carbon dioxide. If churches loudly proclaim they are environmental watchdogs, this will interest the millennials as this is their major concern. He concluded by stating that ministries focused on caring for God's creation - our common home - could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now.

Slate of Elected Leaders for 2016-2017

Council Members At-Large

Karen Wentz - President
Jeff Dombach – Vice-President
Ve Wolfe – Secretary
Jeff Hackenberger

Finance Team

Leader/Council Representative:
Denise Pfeiffer
Team Member: Donna Devine
Financial Secretary/Team Member:
Verna Labrador
Treasurer: Holly Keller – Ex officio
Treasurer in Training: _____

Endowment Committee

Beth Bowers
Bill Groff

Property Team

Leader/Council Rep.: Tom Miller
Team Member: Jim Wentz
Team Member: Jeff Wolfe

Spiritual Life Team

Leader/Council Rep.: Nick Santaniello
Team Member: Amy Southall
Team Member: Rick Chamberlin

Congregational Life Task Force

Leader/Council Rep.: Heather Eshbach
Team Member: Amy Southall
Team Member: Jen Swank

Wider World Task Force

Leader/Council Rep.: Herb McCollom
Team Member: Peg Allan
Team Member: _____

Memorial Garden Task Force

Suzy Luber
Verna Labrador
Kay Charles

Personnel Committee

Chairperson: Trudie Bacharach
Kellie Wilson
Kay Charles

July 2016 Worship Participants

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a substitute or swap dates with another participant as needed, and then notify the church office of any changes. A complete list of worship volunteers -- to help you know who else has volunteered for each role -- is posted in the narthex and also available from the church office.

July 3, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Jim & Karen Wentz
Ushers —
*Kellie Wilson, Verna Labrador, Jeff Wolfe
Lector — Amy Fishburn
Liturgist — Jeffrey Hamilton
Chancel Communion Set-up/Clean-up —
Denise Pfeiffer, Christen Chew
Prayer Candle Lighter — Jennifer Swank
Fellowship Host — Kellie Wilson
Bulletin Volunteer 7/1 — Doug Frank

July 24, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Jessie Dombach, Holly Keller
Ushers —
*Tom & Marilynn Miller, Amy Southall
Lector — Jeff Dombach
Prayer Candle Lighter — Herb McCollom
Fellowship Hosts —
Robin Cain & Jeffrey Hamilton
Bulletin Volunteer 7/22 — Karen Wentz

July 10, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Brian Eshbach, Cathy Hainley
Ushers — *Kay Charles, Laura Carey,
Suzy Luber
Lector — Nick Santaniello
Prayer Candle Lighter — Jeff Dombach
Fellowship Hosts —
Nick & Lori Santaniello
Bulletin Volunteer 7/8 — Verna Labrador

July 31, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Herb McCollum, Ve Wolfe
Ushers —
*Christen Chew, Jim & Karen Wentz
Lector — Amy Fishburn
Prayer Candle Lighter — Kay Charles
Fellowship Hosts —
Jeff & Jessie Dombach
Bulletin Volunteer 7/29 — Suzy Luber

July 17, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Verna Labrador, Jennifer Swank
Ushers —
*Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley, John Markley
Lector — Jennifer Swank
Prayer Candle Lighter — Verna Labrador
Fellowship Host — Holly Keller
Bulletin Volunteer 7/15 — Jessie Dombach



* Denotes head usher

August 2016 Worship Participants

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a substitute or swap dates with another participant as needed, and then notify the church office of any changes. A complete list of worship volunteers -- to help you know who else has volunteered for each role -- is posted in the narthex and also available from the church office.

August 7, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Denise Pfeiffer, Kellie Wilson
Ushers —
*Jessie Dombach, Holly Keller,
Nick Santaniello
Lector — Tim Whitney
Liturgist — Jennifer Swank
Pew Communion Set-up/Clean-up —
Jeffrey Hamilton & Robin Cain
Prayer Candle Lighter — Denise Pfeiffer
Fellowship Hosts —
Heather Eshbach & Amy Southall
Bulletin Volunteer 8/5 — Doug Frank

August 28, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Jessie Dombach, Cathy Hainley
Ushers —
*Tom & Marilyn Miller, Jeff Wolfe
Lector — Karen Wentz
Prayer Candle Lighter — Herb McCollom
Fellowship Hosts —
Jim & Karen Wentz
Bulletin Volunteer 8/26 — Ve Wolfe
Shalom volunteer 8/26 — Doug Frank

August 14, 2016

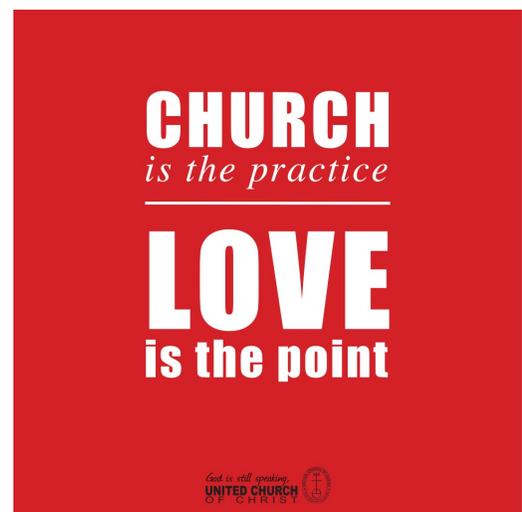
Greeters (10am) —
Brian Eshbach, Christen Chew
Ushers — *Verna Labrador, John Markley,
Suzy Luber
Lector — Kellie Wilson
Prayer Candle Lighter — Jeff Dombach
Fellowship Hosts —
Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley
Bulletin Volunteer 8/12 — Verna Labrador

September 4, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Herb McCollom, Verna Labrador
Ushers —
*Laura Carey, Jim & Karen Wentz
Lector — Nick Santaniello
Liturgist — Rick Chamberlin
Chancel Communion Set-up/Clean-up —
Denise Pfeiffer, Christen Chew
Prayer Candle Lighter — Kay Charles
Fellowship Hosts —
Jeff & Jessie Dombach
Bulletin Volunteer 9/2 — Jessie Dombach

August 21, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Jennifer Swank, Karen Wentz
Ushers —
*Kay Charles, Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley
Lector — Jeff Hackenberger
Prayer Candle Lighter — Verna Labrador
Fellowship Hosts —
Nick & Lori Santaniello
Bulletin Volunteer 8/19 — Suzy Luber





Parish and Community Health Resources

Ask Dr. Trudie: "Staying Afloat"

Our dog was getting older; his vision and hearing were going, but he still enjoyed eating and being part of the family. One day he wandered off; we assumed he'd gone off to die. The kids were out on their own, and Roger had to go out of town. I was working one of my usual 12 hour shifts and came home ready for a shower and bed. I found a note on my door from the neighbor's son who lived across the street, stating that when he returned from school, he was shocked to discover our dog had drowned in his pool. As I dug a grave in the frozen February soil, my feelings ranged from sorrow at the loss of our beloved sweet dog, guilt that I hadn't been more vigilant as he had aged and become less responsive to his invisible fence collar, and anger with my neighbor's irresponsibility in not securing the gate to his pool enclosure. Years later, we now have young children on our street; our neighbor still leaves his gate unsecured.

Drowning is the sixth leading cause of accidental death for people of all ages, and the second leading cause of death for children ages 1-14, after motor vehicle accidents. Most drownings occur between May and August, so this seemed like a good time to weigh in on water safety. Prevention is key. While water wings and other flotation devices may be fun and help build a child's confidence in the water, they are NEVER a substitute for adult supervision. Both our kids were lifeguards, and I remember one day our son pulled the same child out of the pool three times. Now, you would think that after the first incident, mom or dad would have been a tad more vigilant; apparently, socializing with friends took precedence. Parents need to know the limits of their kids; children should never swim alone or unsupervised, and those 4 years old and younger should always be accompanied by a responsible adult within arm's reach. And while we're on the subject of responsible, that means sober.

Maybe you've wondered how someone can drown in a public pool. After all, wouldn't the

guard notice the victim flailing around, gasping for air? Well, that's not usually what happens. Drowning victims tend to be found floating in the water, or submerged for an unobserved period.

Swimming in the surf presents additional hazards, and I'm not talking sharks or Portuguese men of war. Adolescent and adult swimmers may feel more confident in their swimming, underestimate conditions, and overestimate their ability to get out of a rip current. A pre-existing medical condition and/or alcohol on board can compound the issue; these factors are often involved in boating and scuba-related drownings.

Swimming with a buddy is an important way to stay safe in the water. The buddy system is a cornerstone of safe scuba diving, along with good instruction and properly functioning equipment. While many tourists take "resort courses," I would strongly advise anyone wanting to learn to dive to do so through a qualified dive shop. Yes, this is a shameless plug for Lancaster Scuba. Boat owners need to carry appropriately-sized life vests for their passengers, be aware of water conditions, and stay sober.

Home pools need to be appropriately enclosed; this also means securing access from the house. Pool covers with sensors are available to prevent children and pets from slipping under and becoming trapped. If you own a pool or boat, learn to swim. This might seem obvious, but I've known more than one boater who could barely stay afloat. Of course, knowing how to swim doesn't guarantee you won't drown, but it might help you avoid panicking while help is on the way. If you see someone in trouble on the water, call 911 and remember to "throw, row, or tow before you go," and finally, learn CPR.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer, with or without the water.

(Contact Dr. Trudie c/o graceucc@comcast.net.)

It's Dulcimer-Mania!

at Grace United Church of Christ

Our good friend and award-winning mountain dulcimer player **Bing Futch** returns to Grace Church on Friday, July 1. The concert begins at 7pm.

If you play this wonderful instrument as well and would like lessons from Bing before the concert, call Jeffrey Hamilton at (717) 419-1152.

Then, Grace welcomes for the first time dulcimer player **Susan Trump** on Saturday, July 9 at 7pm. Bring the family to come hear this world-class performer.

It's all part of the annual Dutchland Dulcimer Gathering. Last summer's event was such a great success that it outgrew Grace Church and expanded to a new location at Willow Street Vo-Tech, from July 8-9 (but the concerts are here at Grace). Details are on their website, www.lancasterdulcimer.com, or talk with Jeffrey Hamilton.

Show Up and Smile!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 18 when we'll be taking a group photo of members and friends of Grace United Church of Christ. Watch for details in the Sunday announcements.



Grace United Church of Christ

*Welcoming All
Sharing Love
Proclaiming God's Grace*

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