

Grace United Church of Christ

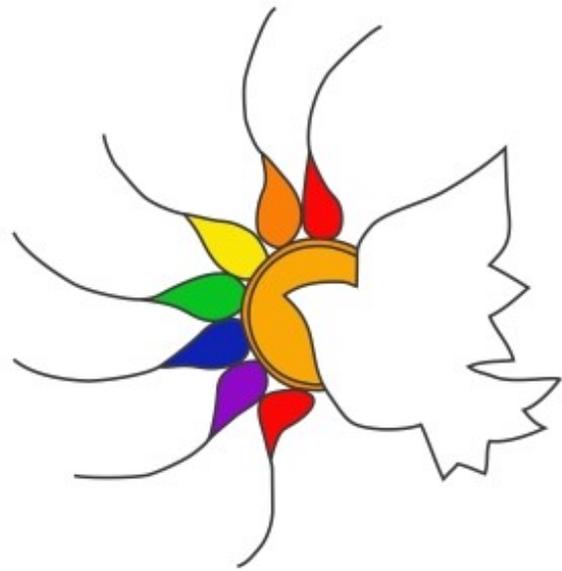
Shalom

October 2016

Rev. Katie Cort, Pastor

Lynn K. Miller, editor

Thank you to story contributors and proofreaders.



Votes of the Heart

For the first time in my life, I recently took a break from social media because I was watching my friends tear each other apart over politics. My heart was hurting. Maybe yours is too. Members of each major political party are 100 percent convinced that if their rival gets elected, it will be the end of the world. Apocalyptic predictions and dire prophecies abound.

So I took a break. But as an educated and responsible voter, I peeled back all the layers of hate and fear and insult, dug through misinformation and misdirection, and tried to get to the heart of what it means to choose a leader.

The gospel tells us stories of the formation of early Christian communities, and an important piece of that is selecting leaders. The recommendation is to find seven people “full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” I don't know about you, but I haven't seen a CNN poll about who is full of Spirit and wisdom. So how do we faithfully determine who should be our “leaders”?

Now I will never downplay voting, or tell you it doesn't matter. Things *will* change, based on who we elect in November, but the world will not end. Because we won't let it. No matter our government, we will continue to love Christ. No matter our government, we will continue to live by the gospel, love by the gospel, and to work towards peace and justice in the name of the gospel.

Vote responsibly for your government. Please do. But remember that the gospel is above and beyond all of that, and part of that means respecting those of opposite beliefs. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever...the same November 7th and November 9th.

Thanks be to God.

~ Pastor Katie



Marking a Joyful Event

On Sunday, August 28, we celebrated the baptism of Kenna Anne, daughter of Rob and Suzanne MacGregor. It was a joyous celebration followed with a lovely luncheon.

The MacGregors wrote:

“Dear Grace Family,

“Thank you so much for your support and hospitality as we baptized our Kenna Anne this past weekend. Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. She will cherish it always! Looking forward to when we can all be together again!”

*Mark Your Calendar
for the Congregational
Meeting Sunday,
November 20, after
worship and
a luncheon*

International Chorus Wows Grace

Grace welcomed the Matsiko World Orphan Choir with a get-acquainted dinner Saturday, September 10 and a concert during the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, September 11.



Their enthusiasm and spirit were inspiring to all who attended! Grace Church was very blessed by their presence.

*(Photo by
Karen Wentz).*

Shop to Help Community Breakfast

It's time to go shopping and support the breakfast at First Reformed! The annual *Friends Helping Friends* day will be Tuesday, October 18 from 10am to 10pm at Boscov's. It is an event where we can earn money to be used to purchase supplies for the breakfast, and you can get a 25% discount shopping pass to shop all day at Boscov's. They usually have great sales that day, too!

Please see Jessie or Holly for your shopping pass – cost is \$5 and the entire \$5 helps fund the important mission of supplying a breakfast on the second Saturday of each month at First Reformed Church in Lancaster.

“Hope Upon Hope” Group Sets October Meeting Date

The next meeting of “Hope Upon Hope,” a mental wellness, friendship, and support group for members and friends attending Grace United Church of Christ, is Thursday, October 20 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).



Book Study Groups Meet

All are invited Sundays at 9am to join us in discussing *Downtime: Helping Teenagers Pray* by Mark Yaconelli (Recommended for people of all ages who seek to grow spiritually.) The class is led by Pastor Katie.

Click or copy-paste this link to Amazon <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6429628> so that Grace gets a percentage of the purchase price).



A book study group meets Sundays at 9:15am to discuss *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton. The book, a video and study guide provide for us an opportunity to learn, experience, and practice some traditional aspects of faith: solitude, scripture, prayer, honoring the body, self-examination, discernment, Sabbath and the rule of life. For more information call Jeffrey Hamilton at (717) 419-1152.



Everyone is welcome to come to a book study group Mondays at 7pm. We'll be reading *Banned Questions About Jesus* by Christian Piatt. Gatherings October 10 and 24 are at the home of Beth Bowers and Cathy Hainley.



A book group meets Thursday October 20 at 10:30am at the Fruitville Pike Starbucks. For book updates, contact Suzy Luber, Verna Labrador, Jessie Dombach, Marilyn Miller or Ve Wolfe.

October 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.

October 2, 2016

Greeter (10am) —
Ve Wolfe
Ushers —
*Jeff Wolfe, Nick Santaniello, Verna Labrador
Lector — Tim Whitney
Liturgist — Kellie Wilson
Pew Communion Set-up/Clean-up —
Robin Cain, Denise Pfeiffer
Prayer Candle Lighter — Kay Charles
Fellowship Hosts —
Amy Southall & Heather Eshbach
Bulletin Volunteer 9/30 — Ve Wolfe
Shalom volunteer 9/30 — Doug Frank

October 23, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Jeffrey Hamilton, Holly Keller
Ushers —
*Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley, John Markley
Lector — Peggy Allan
Prayer Candle Lighter — Herb McCollom
Fellowship Hosts —
Nick & Lori Santaniello
Bulletin Volunteer 10/21 — Herb McCollom

October 9, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Christen Chew, John Markley
Ushers — *Holly Keller, Don & Peggy Allan
Lector — Jennifer Swank
Prayer Candle Lighter — Laura Carey
Fellowship Hosts —
Tom & Marilynn Miller
Bulletin Volunteer 10/7 — Verna Labrador

October 30, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
John Markley, Verna Labrador
Ushers —
*Jessie Dombach, Laura Carey, Kay Charles
Lector — Herb McCollom
Prayer Candle Lighter — Holly Keller
Fellowship Hosts —
Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley
Bulletin & *Shalom* Volunteer 10/28 —
Ve Wolfe

October 16, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Cathy Hainley, Herb McCollom
Ushers —
*Kellie Wilson, Bill Groff & Tim Whitney
Lector — Jeff Hackenberger
Prayer Candle Lighter — Jeff Dombach
Fellowship Hosts —
Robin Cain & Jeffrey Hamilton
Bulletin Volunteer 10/14 — Jessie Dombach

November 6, 2016

Greeters (10am) —
Don Allan, Ve Wolfe
Ushers —
*Jeff Wolfe, Holly Keller, Nick Santaniello
Lector — Kellie Wilson
Liturgist — Rick Chamberlin
Pew Communion Set-up/Clean-up —
Tom & Marilynn Miller
Prayer Candle Lighter — Verna Labrador
Fellowship Hosts — Jeff & Jessie Dombach
Bulletin Volunteer 11/4 — Jessie Dombach

Stewardship Sunday: “Give Until It Feels Good!”

As part of the new process for budgeting at Grace, each team and task force was asked to send their 2017 proposed budget to the Finance Team for inclusion in the budget. These budgets were prepared and sent out to the congregation for review and comments. Soon the Finance Team will make the final finishes to the expense portion of the budget.

The next step in the budget process is to ask our members to tithe a portion of their income to Grace UCC. We ask that you prayerfully think about how much you can tithe to Grace this next year. As our former interim pastor Mary Ann Ronan Lamson used to say “Give until it feels good”!

What we do with our money, our time and our other resources represents our deepest values and commitments, our hopes for Grace church, the community and the world. Please pledge with your heart!

Included within *Shalom* is a pledge card for you to send back to the Finance Team (see picture below). The card is also available in the lobby. Please make sure to fill out your pledge cards by Stewardship Sunday, October 9. Pledge forms can be placed in the offering baskets or in the Finance Team mailbox.

Thank you!

— The Finance Team

<p><i>Faith Promise To God</i></p> <p>With faith in God to provide and trusting in God's enabling power, I/We make the following faith-promise of weekly giving for this year:</p> <p>_____ \$100 _____ \$80 _____ \$60</p> <p>_____ \$45 _____ \$40 _____ \$35</p> <p>_____ \$30 _____ \$25 _____ \$20</p> <p>other \$ _____</p>	<p><i>Faith Promise to the Church</i></p> <p>I/We have made a faith-promise to God to assist our church in the work of Jesus Christ throughout the world.</p> <p>Name (Names) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><i>Your Faith Promise Record</i></p> <p>Out of gratitude for God's gifts and trusting God's enabling power, I/we have made the following faith-promise:</p> <p>_____ \$100 _____ \$80 _____ \$60</p> <p>_____ \$45 _____ \$40 _____ \$35</p> <p>_____ \$30 _____ \$25 _____ \$20</p> <p>other \$ _____</p> <p>for 52 weeks beginning in January.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS)</p>
 <p style="font-size: 2em; color: #c07040;"><i>and do the same.</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Luke 10:37</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">God is still speaking, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> </div>  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #c07040;"><i>Go and do the same.</i></p> </div>  </div>		



Parish and Community Health Resources

Ask Dr. Trudi: "The Living Dead"

Spoiler alert; this is NOT about the zombie apocalypse. Several years ago, I was visiting my brother the night of the Hershey Halloween Parade. When my sister-in-law and nephews returned, they had some info on organ donation. It sort of struck me funny at the time, since a popular Halloween costume is the creature created by Dr. Frankenstein. He was probably the first to gather up random body parts, cobble them together, and give them a second, although not very successful, chance. Organ harvesting and transplant has come a long way with far less creepy results.

While the story of Dr. Frankenstein is fiction, researchers actually experimented with organ transplantation on animals and humans since the 18th century. It wasn't until the mid-20th century that successful transplants were possible, thanks to research leading to such breakthroughs as tissue typing and immunosuppressant drugs. The first successful organ transplant was a kidney in 1954, followed by transplants of the pancreas, liver, heart, and then lung. In 1989, we saw the first successful living-related liver transplant, where part of a living donor's organ is removed and transplanted into a recipient. In 1990 this was followed by a living-related lung transplant.

Every 10 minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list; it could be a diabetic in need of a pancreas, a renal dialysis patient, a cardiac patient whose heart no longer responds to medical treatment, a child with cystic fibrosis whose lungs fill with sticky mucus making it difficult to breathe, someone whose liver can no longer clear toxins, or someone needing an intestine. On average, 22 people die every day waiting for a lifesaving transplant. Donations have increased but there is a growing gap between supply and demand.

When you apply for or renew your driver's license, you have the option of declaring yourself a donor. Maybe you feel it's not for you. Some people have reservations because they believe if they're seriously ill or injured, doc-

tors won't work as hard to save them. This is just not true; we have all taken an oath to preserve life. An open casket funeral is important to some people, and there is sometimes a misconception that organ donation makes this impossible. Again, this is not true. Some families fear that organ donation creates an additional expense, but it does not. When a patient dies in the hospital, we are required to contact Gift of Life, an organization that coordinates organ donation. A representative reviews the medical history and then, if there is no contraindication for donation, discusses donation with the next of kin. Naturally, this is a very emotional time; if a patient has made it known that he or she would like to be a donor, it makes it easier for survivors. If you oppose donation, it should be based on your personal beliefs, not on myths.

You might feel that your organs aren't in the best shape and nobody would want them, but hey, you might have great corneas, skin, bone, or other tissues that could be transplanted. Wishing you could be around to see the benefits of your donation? Great news! You don't need to be dead (brain or otherwise) to be a donor; if you're healthy and over 18, you can donate a kidney or part of your liver. This sort of donation typically occurs between biological relatives, but sometimes is made by a biologically unrelated person who knows the patient, or someone who's heard of the patient's need. In rare cases, a segment of lung, intestine, or pancreas can be transplanted from a medically-compatible living donor.

So next time you renew your license, think about saying "yes" to becoming a donor. Like the bumper sticker says, "Don't take your organs to heaven. Heaven knows we need them here."

p.s. Ok, I know I said this was not about zombies, but with Halloween coming, I felt I should pass this advice regarding the zombie apocalypse from *World War Z*: "Don't lose your head; cut off theirs!"

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

Immigration on Our Southern Border

Emily Carey and Greg Carey recently returned from a study trip to the Arizona-Mexico border. Leadership Now, Lancaster Seminary's youth leadership program, coordinated the trip with the educational center Borderlinks.

Emily and Greg will report on what they learned about immigration issues after church on Sunday, October 9 and 16, and discuss the causes for immigration, the current state of things on the border, and the current state of U.S. border policy.

Butch Ross

Mountain Dulcimer Concert
Saturday, October 8 at 7pm



Mountain dulcimer, guitar and banjo like you've never heard them before.

"It's almost impossible to put into words the multitude of chordal harmonies and interwoven diatonic cross-stitching one person can generate with just four strings." Gotofolk.com

You won't want to miss Butch Ross, a nationally acclaimed mountain dulcimer player, in an encore performance at Grace Church. Prior to the concert, he'll be leading a one-day workshop for mountain dulcimer players. Want to learn more about the instrument? Contact Jeffrey Hamilton at (717) 419-1152.

This We Believe: Neighbors in Need Offering Focuses on Hunger

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This year's theme for NIN is "This we believe" and connects the issue of child hunger to the work that congregations are doing to serve their community and address this injustice. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

The Neighbors in Need offering will be received Sunday, October 2. Offering envelopes are in the lobby.

Grace United Church of Christ

*Welcoming All
Sharing Love
Proclaiming God's Grace*

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www.gracechurchlancaster.org