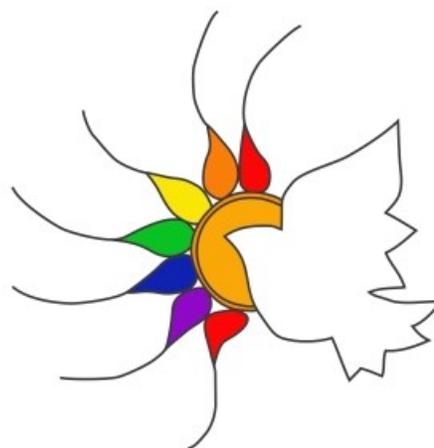


Shalom

September 2013

Newsletter of Grace United Church of Christ
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and help with collating and mailing.*

Meet Grace's Interim Pastor... Rev. Chris Hart

Greetings everyone,

Well if you don't know yet, I am **Pastor Chris**, and I have the joy to be your Intentional Interim Minister. I am so excited to begin my work with you, and begin the process of getting to know each of you!



The interim period, in simplest terms, is the time between settled pastors. This period is, however, far from simple. Grace UCC must continue to function, worship needs to happen, our staff continues to work, special projects need to progress, and to complicate things even more our universal understanding of "Church" is within a re-emergence into something new. **There is a lot going on!**

Much of our work together will revolve around three understandings of ourselves as a community of faith. One, who we were, our history; two, who we have become, where we are now; and three who we will be, our future. It will be my challenge and joy to journey with you through this self rediscovery.

In the coming months there will lots to do and plenty of opportunity to get involved. **Your involvement is important.**

Don't be surprised when you see me and my YouTube camera hanging around! To start off I know I will be in the office 9:30am to 12 Tuesday and Thursday; and Wednesday nights from 6 to 9pm. I would love it if you would stop by and spend a few minutes talking. (You can always, call, text, or email for an appointment too).

Can't wait to meet you and get to know you better!

Shalom,
Pastor Chris

A Quick Look at Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris has lived in southern California, Washington state, St. Louis, and now resides in Wernersville. His degrees focus on sign language interpreting, developmental psychology, and drug and alcohol counseling. He earned his Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary.

He and his wife have three children, ranging in age from 16 to 4. He loves long road trips, good coffee, science fiction, and things "made at home from what you have."

President's Message

September is typically a month of excitement and change. Children are returning to school, fall sports are underway, and the evening light somehow seems to fall toward sunset earlier.

Just as we look forward to the changes that fall brings, I am looking forward to a change right here at Grace! On September 1, Pastor Chris Hart will begin his interim ministry with us. We will begin our 12-18 month journey with Pastor Chris by fostering a trustful and committed relationship. We will work cohesively to envision our hopes and dreams, and the discernment of our future ministries at Grace.

This is our time to rest, and to be at peace with what was — a time of revitalization to what can be. Let us be alert and responsive to the Holy Spirit so that we can be a faith community of vitality seeking peace and justice for all!

I challenge Grace friends and family to embrace this time with joy and excitement with where the spirit will take Grace.

Peace,
Amy Southall, Council President



Sunday, September 8 Worship Events

Choir rehearsals resume at 9am Sundays ...

Youth Worship resumes ...

AND a Soup & Bread luncheon will be held following worship!



*Grace upon Grace
for a second century*

Centennial Capital Campaign Update

As of July 31, we have received \$58,465 and have partially completed one of the three campaign projects. Fellowship Hall and Christian Education wings of the church building have been re-roofed. This bill has been paid. The sanctuary still needs re-roofing. The other two campaign projects, the Memorial Garden and organ repairs, are proceeding with a \$100,000 line of credit from the UCC Cornerstone Fund. Construction on the Memorial Garden and accessible entrance and walks will begin this fall and organ updates are scheduled for next summer.

If you have pledged for the three-year capital campaign, thank you for pledging and continuing to make those contributions. If you have not yet pledged, it's not too late. Please contact Jeff or Jessie Dombach, Jeff Bomboy, or the church office. Green "Grace Upon Grace" envelopes are located in the sanctuary pews and on bulletin boards for your convenience in making contributions. We will need to repay the \$100,000 line of credit and welcome everyone's participation throughout the campaign.

Grace UCC Committees 2013-2014

Thank you, volunteers! Council president is Amy Southall; the secretary is Suzy Luber; and the treasurer is Holly Keller. The following people were elected at the June 2 Congregational meeting:

Christian Education Committee

Chairperson: Shawn Robbins; Scribe: Shawn Robbins; Council rep: Shawn Robbins

Members: Joe Buchert, Barb Smentek, Shawn Robbins, Amy Southall

Meeting time/date: via email or 2nd Sunday after church

Congo Life Committee

Chairperson: Dottie Book; Scribe: Kay Charles; Council rep: Jessie Dombach

Members: Joanne Leayman, Jessie Dombach, Kay Charles, Jennifer Dennis, Dottie Book

Meeting time/date: 2nd Thursday 9:30am

Endowment Committee

Chairperson: Verna Labrador; Scribe: Jeff Hackenberger

Treasurer: Karen Wentz; Council rep: Don Leayman

Members: Jeff Hackenberger, Verna Labrador, Don Leayman, Kelvin Sensenig, Karen Wentz

Meeting time/date: Quarterly

Evangelism Committee

No chairperson; Scribe: Shawn Robbins

Members: Doug Frank, Shawn Robbins, Nick Santaniello, Amy Southall

Meeting time/date: 2nd Thursday 6pm

Property Committee

Chairperson: Jim Wentz; Scribe: Don Leayman

Council rep: Rob MacGregor and Jim Wentz will alternate

Members: Rob MacGregor, Tom Miller, Don Pfeiffer, Bob Tineri, Jim Wentz, Jeff Wolfe

Don Leayman & Deb Becker (custodian), ex officio

Meeting time/date: 1st Wednesday at 7pm

Spiritual Life & Growth Committee

Chairperson: Christen Chew; Scribe: Herb McCollom; Council rep: Amy Fishburn

Members: Joe Buchert, Robin Cain, Christen Chew, Amy Fishburn, Herb McCollom,

Kellie Wilson; Jeffrey Hamilton, ex officio; Pastor Chris Hart ex officio

Meeting time/date: 2nd Monday at 7pm

Stewardship-Mission Committee

Chairperson: Denise Pfeiffer; Scribe: Beth Bowers; Council rep: Jeff Bomboy

Members: Jeff Bomboy, Beth Bowers, Cathy Hainley, Suzanne MacGregor, Denise Pfeiffer.

Dottie Book (ex officio), Holly Keller, treasurer (ex officio)

Meeting time/date: 2nd Tuesday at 7pm

Clearances Needed for Child Care Volunteers

Nursery and Youth Worship volunteers, the members of the Christian Education Committee greatly appreciate your willingness to work with our children. As we begin the new school year, it is important that we have your updated clearances on file in the church office.

If you are a teacher who already has your clearances, please make sure the church office has copies. Those of you who do not have active clearances, or if you are unsure, please complete the two forms:

- ✓ Pennsylvania Child Line form CY-113
- ✓ Pennsylvania Form SP 4-164 (Request for Criminal Record Check)

(Both are available on the internet; form SP 4-164 can be completed on-line at <https://epatch.state.pa.us/>. Form CY-113 must be printed and mailed.)

The information should be returned to the church office in care of the Christian Education Committee. If you would like the church to reimburse you for the clearances, that can be arranged. Please contact Shawn Robbins with any questions.

~ Christian Education Committee

Youth Worship Teachers September & October

September 8:	Joe Buchert Shawn Robbins
September 15:	Jeff Clouser Brent Weaver
September 22:	Barb Smentek Amy Fishburn
September 29:	Amy Southall
October 6:	Family Sunday
October 13:	Joe Buchert Shawn Robbins
October 20:	Holly Keller Barb Smentek
October 27:	Jeff Clouser Brent Weaver

Welcome to Deb Becker

Greetings, everyone. I am your new church custodian. Most of you probably know me as Christen Chew's partner. We live with our dog Kekoa in Lancaster. I am a mixed media artist, working with stained glass combined with carved wood and natural objects such as stones, bamboo and shells. I also have a commercial cleaning business, Grace UCC being the newest client.



I look forward to working with you to make Grace UCC a clean and welcoming place for all.

~ Deb Becker

Save the Date: Fall Work Day

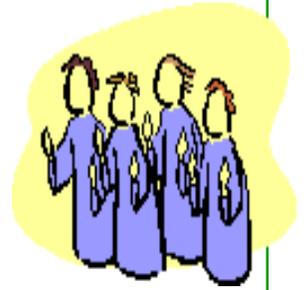
Mark your calendars for Grace UCC's Fall Work Day Saturday, October 26 from 8am to noon. Help prepare the church for winter inside and out by mulching, trimming, weeding, washing windows, minor indoor repairs, and polishing pews.

Coffee and donuts aplenty will be supplied by the Property Committee. A large turnout means less work for all: there will be a job for everyone!

~ Property Committee

Sing in the Choir — Be Happy

Many of us are familiar with the famous phrase by William Congreve, “Music hath charms to sooth a savage breast.” We all have our favorite music that we retreat to when the world becomes overwhelming or even when we feel joyous and want to give thanks and praise.



As always, I want to personally invite everyone to participate in choir starting September 8. Throughout this upcoming church year, we will be celebrating worship with an exciting blend of music: from spirituals, folk, classical, and even music from countries around the world (we even may sing in a foreign language or two).

I hope you will consider joining us. Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 8 at 9am (and occur each Sunday). We are flexible with participation. Please see Christopher Barnard with questions or email graceucc.music@gmail.com. And if you aren't the singing type, we always have opportunities for you to share your talents with your special music.

So come and partake ... and be happy!

~ Christopher Barnard, Director of Music



September Joyful Noise Benefits Heifer International

Your loose change can help end global poverty and hunger Sunday, September 8 through Grace's Joyful Noise offering. Third quarter offerings benefit Heifer International, which provides families in need with gifts of livestock.



(Usually received the first Sunday of the month, the Joyful Noise offering is being moved *for September only* to the second Sunday, Sept. 8, due to Labor Day weekend).



~ Stewardship-Mission Committee

Join in the Christmas Pageant

O Come All Ye Faithful, Rejoice, Rejoice, in the Little Town of Bethlehem by participating in the Grace UCC Christmas Pageant, "Jesus Our Brother," to be presented Sunday, December 8 at the 10:30am worship service.

We are in need of at least 30 participants including those who are young and in their prime. Memorization of lines is not required. Rehearsals will be held every Sunday through the performance date beginning with a read through October 27 and will start at 9:15am in the church sanctuary.

Please look for the sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Sign-up deadline is Sunday, October 13.

~ Jeffrey Clouser

Handbell Concert to Benefit Memorial Bells of Grace

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21 at 7pm as Grace Church hosts renowned handbell ringer, director, and clinician Ron Bellamy. Ron will be performing a solo concert to help raise funds for the Memorial Bells of Grace UCC. A freewill offering will be collected and light refreshments will be served after the hour-long performance.

Ron directs five handbell choirs at four Lancaster area churches. He has conducted several massed ringing festivals, including the Nittany Valley Handbell Festival, and he has guest directed the Bucknell University Rooke Chapel Ringers on several occasions. Ron was the conductor for the 2011 Area II Youth Handbell Festival in Kutztown, and co-director of the 2011 Ring-Fest, a youth handbell festival in Toledo.

Environmental Justice Training Offered

Environmental Justice Training will be held September 20-22, 2013 at Hartman Center Camp, Conference & Retreat Center in Milroy. The event begins with dinner at 5:30pm Friday and will conclude with lunch on Sunday. Participants will be expected to commit to the entire workshop in order to cover all subjects and build community.

Environmental Justice Training curriculum is designed for people to take what they learn home to their communities and communicate with knowledge of five core themes of environmental justice based on biblical and ethical principles: Gratitude; Humility; Justice; Responsibility; Community.

Using video, discussions, and hands-on learning opportunities, each session will go beyond the traditional “greening” of our congregations and communities to promote a transformational message. Each participant will agree to teach this new approach to environmental justice at least twice per year and will be given all the necessary tools to communicate with “the folks in the pew.”

Justice and Witness Ministries is developing a unique curriculum for leaders in the local church; pastors and educators; seminary students; and members of Communities of Faith beyond the United Church of Christ.

The Biblically based curriculum is centered on the deep issues of justice and the beloved community. It will involve the learner in study, reflection, discussion, and hands-on learning opportunities.

Cost is \$130 includes lodging, meals, and program expenses. Information is posted on the hallway bulletin board, or call (717) 667-2431.



Due to the Labor Day holiday, the church office will be closed Tuesday, September 3.

All-Church Family Fall Retreat at Hartman Center

It's almost retreat time again. This retreat began about five or six years ago as a weekend spent at our Conference camp, Hartman Center, which is located in Milroy, about two and a half hours northwest of Lancaster. Last year, we made it a day retreat on the same Saturday as the Center's Fall Festival. We spent time together in group activities and discussion, but most of the day was spent enjoying the Fall Festival and exploring Hartman Center.



The Spiritual Life & Growth Committee would like to get feedback on how many of you are interested in going again this year. The date is Saturday, October 19, the day of the Center's Fall Festival. Most of us on the committee will not be able to attend, so we will need to do some planning if there are a substantial number of people who would like to go. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

~ Spiritual Life & Growth Committee

LANCASTER ASSOCIATION 2013 LAITY BANQUET

Cast your vote for the member of Grace Church who you would like to see recognized at the annual Lancaster Association Laity Banquet Tuesday, October 8 from 6–9pm at Salem United Church of Christ, Rohrerstown, 2312 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster. Doors open at 5:30 with meal served at 6:30pm.

The banquet's sponsor, Lancaster Association's Parish Life Committee, will pay for two honored guests from each congregation. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Thomas Webster, Penn Central Conference Associate Minister for Pastoral Leadership & Discernment.

Cast your vote by Sunday, September 15 in the ballot box in the narthex. And if you'd like to attend the banquet, sign up on the sheet in the narthex and give your check to the church office (Cost is \$13.25 per person).

~ Congregational Life Committee

Food & Clothing Bank Needs List

Food needs are: fresh produce, peanut butter, breakfast cereal, brown rice, juice, dried beans and canned beans. Because the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank can buy food for less from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, cash donations are especially welcome.

The Clothing Bank needs underwear, socks, sneakers, and street shoes for all ages and sizes. Pants and shirts for men are needed in smaller sizes. Children need rain and snow boots, and pajamas. Polo shirts are needed for back-to-school: white, light blue, and navy blue (without logos). Also needed are sheets for all bed sizes, and pillows.

Place donations in the basket in the narthex (Grace volunteers take them to the Food & Clothing Bank at 344 N. Marshall St. in Lancaster).

Prayer Requests

Are there times when you have a prayer request during the week that you would like to have sent to the prayer chain? Or maybe you don't feel comfortable sharing your request during Sunday worship. What can you do? Here are a few ways you can communicate your prayer request so that it is distributed to the list.

- 1) You can telephone or email the office and our administrative assistant, Lynn, will forward it to Pastor Chris.
- 2) You can contact one of the members of the Spiritual Life & Growth Committee and they will see that the request is forwarded to Pastor Chris and the list. Members of the committee are: Robin Cain, Christen Chew, Joe Buchert, Amy Fishburn, Jeffrey Hamilton, Herb McCollum, and Kellie Wilson.

Christmas in July: Thank You

In July, your donations of much-needed items for Milagro House were collected and delivered to their staff on August 2. Here's the message received from Milagro House:

“Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of much-needed items to Milagro House! All of these items will be put to good use and are such a blessing to our mothers, children, staff, and Milagro House as a whole! We cannot thank you enough for thinking of us and reaching out to us in this way! May God greatly bless each one of you in return!

Sincerely, The Milagro House Team”

On behalf of Stewardship/Mission Committee, we thank you too.

