

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor:

Michael McGowan

- office phone: 610-262-7186
- cell: 610-739-7497
- email: revgraceucc@rcn.com

Minister of Music:

Jim Matz

- home: 610-367-8094
- email: jamatz@msn.com

Church Office:

- office phone: 610-262-7186
- email: graceuccchurch@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.graceuccchurch.com

Find Us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GraceuccNorthampton

Hospital Code: #436

Use this code when you're admitted so that we know you're in the hospital.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SEASON

from Pastor Mike McGowan

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. Similarly, no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." - Mark 2:21-22

Happy New Year everyone! It is always exciting to get a fresh start each year. While we know the ongoing events of the previous year do not magically disappear just because we change from one year to another, it is certainly uplifting to think about what WE may hope to change in our own life. Changing the things in our life that no longer seem to help us or give us the same thrill they once did can be both exciting and beneficial to our well-being and spirit. Finding a new hobby or maybe even a new career can bring about a swift jolt of optimism that uplifts us and gives us hope.

This same excitement can also permeate the church when something new is in the works. As you know by now Grace UCC has new things that have begun or are on the horizon. That is because the church has been navigating its own transition since the time I arrived to be your contracted transitional pastor. I hope that I have been able to help you in the changes that have come about during this time. I know you had to release your connection to a pastor you spent so many eventful moments enjoying together over the course of a decade. You also had to overcome the loss of a minister

Continued...

Some Thoughts Continued...

of music who spent four decades bringing glory to God through his talent and leadership. I also know the church lost some of its oldest members; members who had spent their entire life being Grace UCC. While all of these are sad occurrences, they also can help us to see how God is always there to bring us into new life. Just as we are assured that God was there to escort our oldest members into their new life in God's realm you too can be assured God will escort YOU as the church into newness and excitement.

So you now have a new music minister who brings new skills and a new personality into the community. And shortly you will have an opportunity to meet with a new pastor to hear what kind of ministry they hope to lead Grace UCC in as you continue into a new and exciting future together. While this can feel unsettling at first, some of what you may understand as feelings of unsettledness actually can be channeled into excitement and wonder about the future of the church and the legacy you hope to leave for the next line of saints in a long line of saints of Grace UCC.

As God leads you into the unknown future not only in this new year but also into a new era in the life of Grace UCC, my hope is you will not try to sew new cloth on top of old cloth or pour new wine into old wineskins. My hope is you accept that God has plans that can't be known but if left to blossom will most assuredly bring about excitement and a feeling of well-being. That is because God loves the church and does whatever is needed to keep it vibrant and relevant. This promise from God of leading us to well-being and peace is a thread that is woven throughout our scriptures and is a promise that God has made to all believers. All you have to do is let God take the lead and simply experience what new things God is doing. Never an easy task but one that God promises will be fulfilling and fruitful. Blessings to all of you as you journey into this New Year and all of the excitement it holds as you look to this fresh start with optimism and excitement.

Peace,
Pastor Mike

An Open Letter to Grace's Congregation

Dear family and friends of Grace,

After much consideration, I will be stepping down as your Administrative Assistant on December 30, 2022. Although I have very much enjoyed the two plus years spent with the church, I've decided now is the correct time to pursue a new career as a real estate agent.

Please accept my deepest gratitude for all that the church and congregation have done for me during my time here. There are a million ways you have all shown me kindness—from a friendly smile to an appreciative "Good job!"—that never failed to brighten my day. I hope you always left my office with a smile as well.

I wish Grace all the best moving forward.

Sincerely,

Courtney Brodeur

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Thank You from Grace's Staff

Thank you to everyone that contributed towards the Staff Appreciation Gifts this Christmas. It truly means a lot to receive recognition for all of our hard work not only during the busy Christmas season, but all year long. We are all so very grateful and blessed. Thank you!

- Courtney, Steve, Trish, Lynn, & Mark

Winter Weather Update

In the event of inclement weather, church service delays and/or cancellations will be posted on WFMZ 69 News Storm Center stations (TV and online) and on Grace UCC's Facebook page. However, please use your discretion whether you can make it to church safely.

Calling All Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Grace family and friends are invited to volunteer with Pastor Mike at the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen, located at 457 W. Allen St., Allentown. Our day to volunteer is the third Tuesday of every month. This month, that date is January 17th. The day begins at 9:30am, with lunch being served at 11:45am. Please contact the church office if you're interested in participating. We can't wait to see you there!

Have you picked up your 2022 offering envelopes?

If not, please pick them up after worship service or call the church office to schedule a time during the week.

Or, have you considered E-Giving?

Electronic giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Skip filling out your envelope every week by having contributions automatically transferred from your checking or savings account to Grace's bank account. Not only is it one less thing for you to think about, but it also helps your giving stay consistent even if you can't make it to service every week.

If you want to sign up, simply visit graceuccchurch.com/support/graces-mission, download the form, and return it in a sealed envelope to the church office. That's it!

Office Hours Update

Office hours may differ until a new Administrative Assistant is hired. Please call the office for availability before visiting.

Senior Choir Announcement

Grace is hoping to add some new voices to the Senior Choir! In the effort to expand our adult choir, Choir Director Jim Matz has offered to add an additional rehearsal time either before or after Sunday morning worship services. This rehearsal group would practice the same music as the group that rehearses on Thursday afternoons so both groups could sing as one choir on Sundays. Please see Jim Matz in person before or after Sunday services to let him know if you are interested in his offer.

Altar Vase Announcement

As many know, Grace announced a few months ago that the cost to sponsor an altar vase will change to \$20 at the beginning of 2023. That change has officially gone into effect with the start of the New Year. This decision was made because Grace's florist had to increase the price to cover higher costs on their end. As always, Grace sincerely appreciates all of our altar vase, bulletin, and newsletter sponsors that help us bring these services to our congregation.



Grace United Church of Christ
FELLOWSHIP SOUP SALE
902 Lincoln Ave. Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-7186 / graceuccchurch@gmail.com

Orders & Payment Due: Sunday, January 15th

Cash or check payable to "Grace UCC"

Ready for Pick Up: Saturday, January 21st 3-4pm and
Sunday, January 22nd after worship

Please return your orders to Sue Kutzler, Lee Ann Hortman,
Sandy Andrews, Donna Damiter, Charlotte Leindecker, Betty
Miller, Gail Miller, Cindy Trively or the church office. Thank you for
your order!

I would like...

_____ Chicken Noodle (\$12/quart)

_____ Vegetable Beef (\$12/quart)

_____ Seafood Bisque (\$15/quart)

Total # Quarts _____ Total Due \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Pick Up Person _____

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Consistory Meeting Highlights - December 14, 2022

Highlights:

- John M. Olson, Financial Adviser (with Janney Montgomery Scott LLC), met briefly with Consistory. Mr. Olson has previously assisted non-profit organizations with investments; and provided a handout titled Fiduciary roadmap for non-profit organizations.
- Update on sale of rental properties as result of the Special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, November 13, 2022. The sale of the 903 Washington Avenue rental property will be proceeding. The sale of the 912 Lincoln Avenue rental property will not be proceeding at this moment in time since this rental is not ready for immediate sale.
- Fellowship Committee will be hosting the following fundraisers: Soup sale in January 2022 and Zook's meat pies & apple dumplings in February 2022.
- A job description for Administrative Assistant was developed. Courtney Brodeur, (current) Administrative Assistant, provided notification of her resignation.

CANDIDATE WEEKEND INVITATION

Dear Members and Friends of Grace UCC,

The Search Committee has been working diligently over the last year and has submitted their candidate selection for position of Pastor, to be considered by the congregation at a special Congregational meeting Sunday, January 8, 2023, following worship. We are grateful to Penn Northeast Conference representatives, Bonnie Bates and Yvette Mattina, who worked closely with us in the Search and Call process.

Earlier in the Search and Call process, the Search Committee sought your perspectives on our church's ministry through a questionnaire. Your insights and ideas were incorporated into the church profile that candidates read. The Search committee reviewed pastor profiles and conducted interviews, ultimately reaching a unanimous decision.

In addition to the above-mentioned Congregational meeting, we would like to extend an invitation to Meet & Greet the candidate at a luncheon Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 12 noon, in Fellowship Hall. (Note: in the event of inclement weather, the events would be rescheduled to January 14th and 15th.)

Yours in Christ,

Grace UCC, Consistory and Search Committee members



Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) of the USA is collecting monetary donations. Contributions can be sent directly to the UOC of the USA - PO Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880 - payable to the UOC of the USA and marked "Let's Help Ukraine." Donations may also be made via a secure online link Donate to Humanitarian Aid at the UOA of the USA website: uocofusa.org.

If you would like to include Ukraine in your prayers, you can visit Assumption of the Virgin Mary's website: holyassumption.org for a prayer they have listed.



Amazon will donate .5% of your spending to Grace if you shop through their Smile program, at no extra cost to you! All you need to do is visit our website and click the link for Amazon Smile, or go directly to smile.amazon.com. Select "Grace UCC, Northampton, PA 18067" as the recipient of your donation, and that's it! Amazon will take care of the rest.

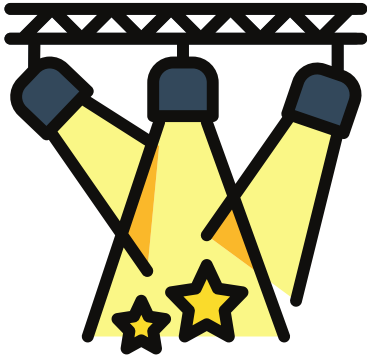
Redner's Receipts

If you shop at Redner's, submit your receipts to Grace and we will earn 1% of your purchase total. Use your Rewards Card as usual and save your receipts to give to the church office. It must be the full receipt for us to receive credit.







JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> 9am Sunday School w/ New Years' Day Celebration 10:30am Service	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> 3pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> 12pm Pastoral candidate Meet & Greet in Fellowship Hall
<div>8</div> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Communion Service Congregational Meeting after worship	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> Consistory Meeting	<div>12</div> 3pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <i>(rain date)</i> 12pm Pastoral candidate Meet & Greet in Fellowship Hall
<div>15</div> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Service Soup Orders Due! <i>(rain date)</i> Congregational Meeting	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> Soup Kitchen Volunteer Day	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> 3pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> 3-4pm Soup order pick up in Fellowship
<div>22</div> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Service Soup order pick up after worship	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> 3pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Service	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>				

GRACE'S SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS



Grace is committed to supporting our community, which is why we'd like to take a moment to shine a spotlight on some of our local businesses. By supporting local, you're helping your neighbors provide for their families, offer more jobs in the area, and keep more money circulating in the community where it can be reinvested. If you would like to join Grace in supporting local, please check out some of these great businesses below. And don't forget - please let them know you heard about them through Grace!

<p>D&S FLORIST 2145 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON PA 18067 WWW.BATHPAFLOWERS.COM <small>"MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY BRIGHTER: GIVE THEM A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT."</small></p> <p>FOR ANY OCCASION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEDDINGS • ANNIVERSARY • BIRTHDAY • SYMPATHY • MOTHER'S DAY • EASTER • VALENTINE'S DAY • THANKSGIVING • CHRISTMAS <p><small>DJRETROPRODUCTIONS MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT WWW.DJRETROPRODUCTIONS.GODADDYSITES.COM</small></p> <p>DOROTHY - 484.747.2715 SCOTT - 484.403.9554</p>	<p>Kim's Styling Shop 610-261-2290 <i>appointment only</i> 229 S Front St. Coplay, PA 18037</p> 	<p>TAX TIME</p>  <p>TILGHMAN ACCOUNTING + TAX SOLUTIONS</p> <p><small>Professional Tax Preparer</small></p>
<p>Daku's Auto Body Shop, Inc.</p> <p>610-264-5507 www.DakuAutoBody.com Click on "EZ Estimate Tool" Collision/Insurance Estimates Many Factory Certifications Family Run - Est. 1948</p> 	<p>3 DAUGHTERS CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>Anthony Kutzler 484-725-3296 3daughterconstruction.com</p>  <p>Ed Szerencsits Owner Eightyproof Screenprinting 229 S Front St. Coplay, PA 18037 484-767-5045 pingzing1@rcn.com</p>	<p>484-274-6979 3021 College Heights Blvd Allentown PA 18104 Individual + Small Business Tax Return Preparation</p> <p>JOHN L. OBRECHT Attorney at Law</p>  <p>1731 Main Street Northampton, PA 18067 610-262-0230 jlobrecht@verizon.net</p>
<p><small>"Special Order Services on more than 65,000 items"</small> Mon thru Fri 7-7 Sat 7-4</p> <p>MILLER SUPPLY ACE Hardware</p> <p><small>Computerized Paint Color Matching Roofing • Siding Roof-Top Delivery Window & Screen Repair Key Cutting • Propane</small></p>  <p>Rt 329 & Savage Rd Northampton, PA 18067 610-262-4566</p>		

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This edition of our newsletter
is presented by:
Grace Kutzler

"In memory of husband, Charles H. Kutzler."
– his wife, Grace

Visit our Website
www.graceuccchurch.com

Find Us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/graceuccnorthampton

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Holy Communion is the first
Sunday of every month.

Office hours: call for availability