



January 2024 Newsletter

Some Thoughts of the Season from Pastor Bob Gutekunst

As we embark on another journey into a new calendar year, I reflect that one of the tried and true traditions, at this time of year, is to make some New Year's resolutions. There are some tried and true resolutions that make it on to people's lists, year after year, but, according to one article that I read, the most popular resolutions for 2024 are the following:

1. To save more money
2. To exercise more
3. To eat healthier
4. To spend more time with family/friends
5. To lost weight
6. To reduce spending on living expenses (e.g., food energy)
7. To spend less time on social media
8. To reduce stress on the job

I've definitely made some of these resolutions in the past. I'm not sure that I've enjoyed much success in keeping them. The article that I read said that only 8% of people actually stick with their New Year's resolutions. Why, then, do we insist on making them, year after year?

Another article that I read suggests these as reasons -

- *Resolutions give us a fresh start - New Year, New You! It's like hitting a reset button. Whatever it is, resolutions can help to reflect and refocus.*
- *Resolutions can provide clarity for goals. They can help to give direction, and avoid wasting time, energy and money.*

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor:

Bob Gutekunst

- office phone: 610-262-7186
- cell: 484-714-9245
- email: revgraceucc@rcn.com

Minister of Music:

Marisa Deshler

- cell: 484-226-7298
- email: mdeshler@ptd.net

Church Office:

Mary Dobish

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

Church Website:

www.graceuccchurch.com

Find Us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Graceucc
Northampton

Hospital Code: #436

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

Some Thoughts Continued...

- *Resolutions can make us feel good - accomplishing something that seemed impossible at first. Nothing feels better than proving to yourself that you can do anything you set your mind to.*

In my experience, however, New Year's resolutions generally leave me feeling bad about myself. Now, don't get me wrong - I'm all for personal improvement. I mean, as people of faith, we hope that our faith in God helps us to learn, and grow, and change for the better. Our faith and relationship with God is meant to be transformative. But, it seems to me that making New Year's resolutions every year always focuses on what we aren't, on what we don't do, on what we don't have. They have kind of a negative emphasis.

As part of a team that I serve on for the Penn Northeast Conference, we sent out surveys recently to several churches in the Conference, trying to learn more about them. Part of the survey asked the churches to talk about some of their challenges, and we got a lot of the same kinds of answers - not enough money, not enough members, not enough young people. But I was happy that the survey actually began with asking the opposite - What are you good at? What do you do well? What makes you unique? What can we celebrate? We received some interesting and inspirational responses to those questions.

As we embark on the journey of another calendar year, instead of focusing on what we are not, on what we don't have, perhaps we might reflect on these questions in our faith community here at Grace United Church of Christ- What are we good at? What do we do well? What makes us unique? What can we celebrate? I would love it if you would send me some of your responses, whether via text, email, or the old-fashioned written letter.

If you are starting some resolutions this New Year, I wish you luck with them. But know that, whether you keep them or not, God loves you and accepts you, and you are pretty great just the way you are.

*Happy New Year,
Pastor Bob*

Happy New Year

Grace United Church of Christ

Message from Consistory

January 2024

Our next consistory meeting is Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18th, immediately following the worship service. If the church service is cancelled due to inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will take place the following Sunday, February 25th. Reports for the meeting need to be submitted by February 9, 2024.

Consistory has a few positions to be filled in 2024. Requirements include attending the monthly Consistory meetings and being on duty on Sundays at least two different months during the year. If interested, let one of the Consistory members know, or contact the church office. There are forms on the back table if you want to be contacted for further information. The new Consistory year begins in March. If interested in joining, please let someone know prior to the Annual Meeting, which is on Sunday, February 18th.

A Thank You from Grace's Staff

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

-Mary, Marisa, Trish, Lynn, Mark & Pastor Bob



Greeters Needed for 2024

Would you serve as a Greeter for worship services for a one-month period; arrive at church ½ hour prior to church services, welcoming and handing out bulletins to members and guests as they arrive. Please consider helping, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or contact Bonnie Horwith, bogash@ptd.net or 484-201-0412, to sign up. Your time and stewardship are appreciated!

Highlights from Consistory Meeting December

In 2023, there were 451 hoagies and 157 sandwiches purchased. The total profit of \$1079.00 went to the General Fund. Thank you to Mary Dobish, Administrative Assistant, for organizing the monthly hoagie & sandwich fundraiser. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser.

A motion was made to increase the Music Fund budget of \$460.75 to \$500.00. All of Consistory were in favor of said motion.

The Church's Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024. The Meeting will be held immediately following worship service. If inclement weather, then Meeting will be held the following Sunday (February 25, 2024).

Fellowship Committee will be hosting the following fundraisers: Soup sale in January 2024 and Zook's meat pies & apple dumplings in February 2024 and crab cake dinners during the Lenten Season in March 2024.

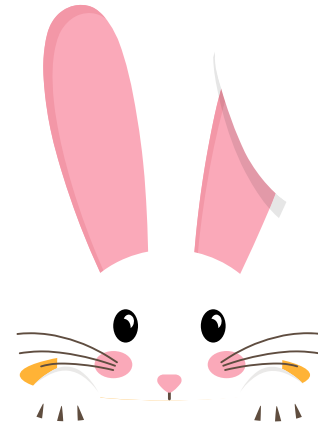


News from the Fellowship Committee:

Fellowship Committee Soup Sale will be held on Saturday, January 20th with pick up from 3-4:00 pm and after worship on Sunday, January 21st. Orders and payment are due by Sunday, January 14th with cash or check payable to Grace UCC. Please return your orders to the office or to a member of the Fellowship Committee. Soups for sale are Chicken Noodle \$12/quart, Vegetable Beef \$12/quart and Mary's Seafood Bisque \$15/quart. Please see the order form on the next page.

COMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 24th - Zook's Meat Pies and Apple Dumpling Sale. More information to follow in the February Newsletter.

CRAB CAKE DINNERS - Our annual crab cake dinners will be taking place during the Lenten Season during the month of March 2024. More Information in the February Newsletter.



Heavenly Chocolate Easter Candy Sales

With Easter being early this year, the Easter candy sale will be taking place in February. Dates to remember:

Order & Payment Deadline: Feb 25, 2024

Pickup Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Sunday, March 24, 2024 after worship

For your convenience, an order form is enclosed in this newsletter.



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 14th
Cash or check payable to "Grace UCC"

Ready for Pick Up: Saturday, January 20th 3-4pm and
Sunday, January 21st after worship

Please return your orders to Sue Kutzler, Lee Ann Hortman,
Sandy Andrews, Donna Damiter, Charlotte Leindecker, Karen
Kresge, 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 _____

Announcements, continued



Inclement 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. In the event of inclement weather Monday thru Friday, the office may be operating under various hours.



Monthly Hoagie Sale

Once again, we will begin having our monthly hoagie sale. Our sale is held once a month. Orders and payment are due by January 14th. Pick-up date is Wednesday, January 17th between 4:00 - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. An order form is enclosed in this newsletter.

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!

Have you picked up you 2024 offering envelopes?

If not, please pick them up after worship service or call the church office 610-262-7186 to schedule a time during the week. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Redner's Receipts

Don't forget to save your Redners'

receipts. 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.



Turning Point
of Lehigh Valley

444 East Susquehanna Street
Allentown, PA 18103

Phone: 610.797.0530
Fax: 610.797.0585
www.turningpointlv.org

December 18, 2023

24-Hour Helpline: 610.437.3369
Toll Free: 877.438.4957

Rev. Bob Gutekunst
Grace United Church of Christ
902 Lincoln Ave.
Northampton, PA 18067

Dear Friends,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your recent donation of Gift Cards valued at \$450.00 to Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc. Your donation shows our clients that our community genuinely cares. Thank you for supporting survivors by providing them with the everyday essentials they need in order to move forward in their lives.

No one should ever have to worry about their safety. Your contribution allows us to make sure we have the resources and trained advocates available to provide nonjudgmental, supportive programs and services at no cost. We have seen an increase in those seeking help and refuge, and your generosity enables us to continue to provide support to more people in a myriad of new, innovative ways.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support of our mission and work across the Lehigh Valley. It is because of your support that we are able to make a difference in the lives of others and be there for them as they reclaim and rebuild their lives. We truly appreciate your support and we are incredibly fortunate to have you as an ally in the community.

In peace,

Lori Sywensky
Executive Director



Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization as defined under the Internal Revenue Service code section 501c(3). Tax exemption entity ID 23-2100651. Please consult with your professional tax advisor as to what deduction may be available to you. The official registration and financial information of Turning Point may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Our Mission is to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley through survivor empowerment and community education and engagement.



Northampton Food Bank Donations

The first Sunday of every month is our Food Bank Donation collection. Please be supportive for our community Northampton Food Bank. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Calling All Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Grace family and friends are invited to volunteer with Pastor Bob 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 19th. The day begins at 9:30 am, with lunch being served at 11:45 am. Please contact the church office if you're interested in participating. We can't wait to see you there!

12/10/23

NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK

1601 Canal Street, Northampton, PA 18067
(610) 262-8030 • fax (610) 440-0774
www.northamptonareafoodbank.org

Grace U.C.C. (date)
9th & Lincoln Ave.
Northampton PA 18067



Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Thank you for your recent contribution to the Northampton Area Food Bank, as described below.

NAFB is a 501-c-3 charitable organization, operated entirely by volunteers. Financial support enables us to purchase necessary food and supplies, and to maintain the operations of the distribution and storage facility. Donations of canned goods and boxed food help us to sustain a stocked inventory on our shelves, but food is always needed – especially during the holidays and summer months. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

We appreciate your donation of: various items
and Thanksgiving.

Your support makes a significant difference in the lives of families in our community. On behalf of the board of directors, the volunteers, and especially the clients we are privileged to serve, many thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Thank
you

Very sincerely,

J. Krutz
for NAFB

New volunteers are always welcome! If you, your community group or business would like a tour of the Food Bank, please give us a call!

The Northampton Area Food Bank is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization serving residents of the Northampton School District and adjacent areas. The Food Bank is an individual 501-c-3 charitable organization, is affiliated with the Northampton Ecumenical Clergy Association and is a participating member agency of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania.

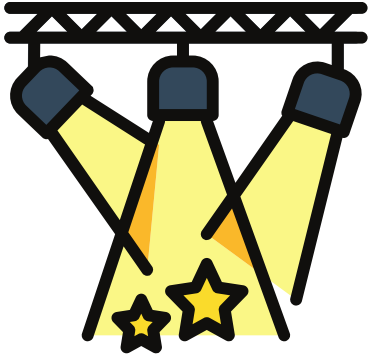
Hoagie Order Form

Grace UCC Church			
902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067			
Phone: 610-262-7186 ---- Office Hours M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm			
Website: graceuccchurch.com			
Email: graceuccchurch@gmail.com			
Orders & Payments due to the office by Sunday, January 14, 2024			
Pickup Date: Wednesday, January 17th between 4:00 - 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall			
Customer Name:		Phone #:	
Pick up Person:			
	All Hoagies on a 9" Lusitana Roll		
Qty.	Italian Hoagies	Band Color	Total
	Everything	Red	
	Onions - No Peppers	Blue	
	No Onions - No Peppers	Yellow	
	Peppers - No Onions	White	
	Tuna Hoagie	Green	
	Next Month date		
	Wednesday, February 14th		
	Type of Sandwiches - on a Egypt Star Kaiser Roll		
	Ham & Cheese	Blue	
	Tuna	Green	
	Total Hoagies	\$5.00	
	Total Sandwiches	\$3.50	
	Total \$\$ Due		

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	1	2	3	Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	4	5	6	
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service	7	8	9	Consistory Meeting 6:30 pm	10	11	12	13
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service	14	15	16	Hoagie Orders Pickup 4:00-6:00 pm	17	18	19	20 Soup Sale Pickup 9:00-12:00 pm
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service	21	22	23	24	Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	25	26	27
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service	28	29	30	31				

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!

Daku's
Auto Body Shop, Inc.



610-264-5507
www.DakuAutoBody.com
Click on "EZ Estimate Tool"
Collision/Insurance Estimates
Many Factory Certifications
Family Run - Est. 1948

John L. Obrecht
Attorney
1731 Main Street
Northampton PA 18067
610-262-0230
jlobrecht@verizon.net

Sales - Service - Parts - Bags - Belts - Filters
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
DAVE'S LEHIGH VALLEY
VACUUM CLEANER SERVICE
Since 1961
www.davesvac.com
125 South 7th Street Allentown, PA
Allentown Fairgrounds Farmers Market
610-433-6861 484-661-5100

"Special Order Services on more than 65,000 items!"
MILLER SUPPLY
ACE Hardware
Computerized Paint Color Matching Roofing • Siding Roof-Top Delivery Window & Screen Repair Key Cutting • Propane
Mon thru Fri 7-7 Sat 7-4
Rt 329 & Savage Rd Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-4566

Ed Szerencsits Eightyproof Screenprinting
229 S Front St Coplay, Pa 18037
Owner 484-767-5045
pingzingl@rcn.com

GROVE STREET PUB & GRILL
Thank you for Voting us The Best Neighborhood Bar!!!
Sunday - Wednesday: 11:30 am - 11 pm
Thursday - Saturday: 11:30 am - close
1092 Hometown Rd, Catasauqua, PA 18032, USA
info@grovestreet1094.com
www.grovestreet1094.com
610-477-3305
Readers' CHOICE 2022 THE MORNING CALL

3 DAUGHTERS
CONSTRUCTION
484 725 3296.
Anthony Kutzler

Kim's Styling Shop
Kim Szerencsits
229 S. Front St. Coplay, Pa 18037
610-261-2290

FRH Reichel Funeral Home
Northampton, PA
326 East 21st Street
Northampton, PA 18067
610-261-0440

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 627
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA
18002-9652



This edition of our newsletter
is presented by: Ed & Barbara Pany

"In Memory of Our Parents"

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: M-F 9 am-1 pm