

# February 2024 Newsletter

## **Some Thoughts of the Season** from Pastor Bob Gutekunst

*This February, in an interesting coincidence, Ash Wednesday falls on the same date as Valentine's Day, February 14th. We get an interesting contrast between a religious "holiday" and a secular holiday on the same day.*

*On the one hand, Valentine's Day is a celebration, a celebration of love - we celebrate romance and beauty, and the special people and relationships in our lives. We celebrate by buying gifts for those special people - cards and flowers and, usually, lots and lots of candy.*

*Ash Wednesday, on the other hand, is the beginning of the season of Lent, a season that I often marked, growing up, by giving up candy, among other things. It's not a religious "holiday" that we celebrate, per se - more like observe. I don't know that too many of us actually enjoy observing Ash Wednesday.*

*On the surface, there seems to be a stark contrast between these two holidays - one is all about love and romance and beauty and gift-giving, the other is all about the recognition that we are mortal, that we are going to die someday, a serious and somber call to sacrifice, to giving up some things in our lives.*

*As I was reflecting on this coincidence and this contrast, I couldn't help but think of some recent weddings that I've officiated. The reason I was thinking of weddings is that these are occasions that obviously call to mind love and beauty and romance, so these celebrations have a lot in common with Valentine's Day. One of the scripture readings that is a very popular choice for weddings is taken from the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13- "The Gift of Love."*

## 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](http://www.graceuccchurch.com)

### **Find Us on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/Graceucc](http://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...*

*This reading is a popular choice for weddings, because it appears to be a very beautiful, eloquent, and romantic description of love. But, as I always point out to couples getting married, the Apostle Paul, in his letter, is actually referring to the love that God demonstrates for us in Christ Jesus - a love that is unconditional, and selfless, and sacrificing. According to Paul, at least, love and sacrifice are not contrasting at all, but are intertwined. And, as I always point out to couples getting married, this kind of sacrificing love usually makes for a good relationship, romantic or otherwise.*

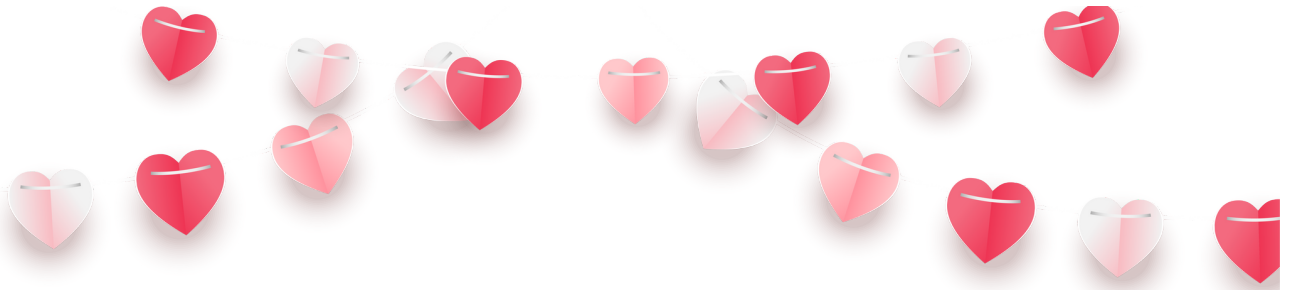
*In the musical, Fiddler on the Roof, two of the main characters, Tevye and Golde were married by an arrangement. After twenty-five years, the husband asks his wife if she really loves him. She resists answering, but he persists, and, eventually she answers him with a song:*

*Do I love you? For twenty-five years I've washed your clothes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house, given you children, milked the cow, after twenty-five years, why talk about love right now? Do I love him? For twenty-five years I've lived with him, fought him, starved with him, twenty-five years my bed is his, if that's not love, what is?*

*Maybe these two February holidays have more in common than I thought.*

*Have a blessed Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday,  
Pastor Bob*





# Grace United Church of Christ

## Message from Consistory

February 2024

Our next consistory meeting is Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Services, February 14, 2024 will be held 7:00 pm. Pastor Bob will also be doing drive-thru ashes between the times of 1:00-4:00 pm.

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.

The total amount received from the Remembrance Tree was \$4,460, which will be used towards the church building's heating costs. Thank you to everyone who sponsored Christmas ornaments!



### **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](mailto:bogash@ptd.net) or 484-201-0412, to sign up. Your time and stewardship are appreciated!

# Highlights from Consistory Meeting January

LeeAnn Hortman presented and explained the 2024 Budget Proposal to Consistory for their review.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 after worship service. If there is inclement weather and worship service is canceled, then the Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024 after worship service.

The Church is planning to volunteer to distribute food at the Northampton Area Food Bank on a Saturday in February 2024. Once this is confirmed, then additional information will follow.

The safe deposit box is now closed. Items, such as documents and film negatives, were brought to the Church for review.

**COMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 24th** - Zook's Meat Pies and Apple Dumpling Sale. Price will remain the same as last year and the **orders and payment are due by Sunday, February 4. Pickup date is Saturday, February 24 from 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, February 25 after worship.** Please see the order form included in this newsletter.

**Fellowship Committee** - The Fellowship Committee is looking for new members to join their group. Help is needed with various fundraisers through out the year. If you would like to join, please see Lee Ann Hortman, Sue Kutzler, Betty Miller, Sandy Andrews, Donna Damiter, Karen Kresge, Charlotte Leindecker, Gail Miller and Cindy Trively.



## 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.



# CRAB CAKE DINNER

Crab Cake Dinners will be held the first three Fridays in Lent: March 1st, 8th and 15th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall!

Dine-in & take-out. Pay at the door - no preorders.

The Crab Cake Dinner includes 2 crab cakes, baked potato, cole slaw, roll and brownie for dessert and the cost is \$15. The Adult Chicken Finger Dinner includes chicken fingers, baked potato, cole slaw, roll and brownie for dessert at a cost of \$10. Children Chicken Finger Dinner cost is \$4. Dine-in or take-out. Pay at the door.



## Easter Flowers

Orders due by February 26th

Purple Tulips \$6.50

Yellow Daffodils \$6.50

White Lilies \$9.50

Easter Flower Order Forms: Please help us adorn our Sanctuary for our Easter Service. Order forms are in the weekly bulletins and also posted in the back of the church. Reminder to fill in the Sponsorship Information section for each flower purchased. All flowers must be picked up after the 10:30 am worship service on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 unless arrangements haven been made with the office. Reminder that the office will be closed on Monday, April 1, 2024 - **Deadline for ordering is February 26, 2024**

# EASTER FLOWERS

Please help us adorn the sanctuary for our Easter Services by sponsoring Tulips, Daffodils, or Lilies. **Deadline for ordering is February 25th.** Please return this form with payment to the church office Mon-Fri 9 am-1 pm or by mail. All flowers must be picked up after the 10:30 am Easter Service. Thank you!



# Purple Tulips (\$6.50 each) \_\_\_\_\_ # Lilies (\$9.50 each) \_\_\_\_\_

# Yellow Daffodils (\$6.50 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ due \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsorship Info

Please indicate how you want each flower sponsored in the Easter Bulletin. If you are ordering multiple flowers that have different messages, **please complete one "Sponsorship Info" section per flower.** Leave extra sections blank.

1. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)

Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

2. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)

Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

3. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)  
Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

4. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)  
Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

5. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)  
Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

6. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)  
Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

7. Circle One: (tulip / daffodil / lily)  
Circle One: (In Memory of / In Honor of)

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 and Website. 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 February 11th Pick-up date is Wednesday, February 14h between 4:00 - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. An order form is enclosed in this newsletter.

## **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.

## **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](http://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.



# Zook's HOMEMADE MEAT PIE & APPLE DUMPLING SALE

We are thrilled to offer Zook's delicious meat pies and apple dumplings again this year, homemade in Lancaster County. They will be frozen so you can just pop them in the oven whenever you want a quick, tasty dinner!



*Orders & Payment Due:* Sunday, February 4, 2024  
Cash or check made payable to Grace UCC. Our mailing address is 902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067.

*Ready for Pickup:* Saturday, February 24th from 3-5 pm or Sunday, February 25th after worship service in Fellowship Hall.

Please return your order form with payment to Lee Ann Hortman, Charlotte Leindecker, Betty Miller, Sue Kutzler, or church office.

## About Zook's



Zook's specializes in chicken, beef, or sausage pies that are made with chunks of meat, peas, carrots, and potatoes and have a crust on top and bottom. Available in 6" or 9" sizes. They also make their own apple dumplings. Both meat pies and dumplings come in microwave and/or oven safe containers..

	6" chicken \$6.50	9" chicken \$11.00	6" beef \$7.00	9" beef \$11.50	6" sausage \$6.50	9" sausage \$11.00	apple dumpling (single) \$4.25	apple dumpling (double) \$8.50
quantity								

Pickup Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Items: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ Due: \_\_\_\_\_



# Hoagie Order Form

<b>Grace UCC Church</b>			
902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067			
Phone: 610-262-7186 ---- Office Hours M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm			
Website: <a href="http://graceuccchurch.com">graceuccchurch.com</a>			
Email: <a href="mailto:graceuccchurch@gmail.com">graceuccchurch@gmail.com</a>			
<b>Orders &amp; Payments due to the office by Sunday, February 11, 2024</b>			
Pickup Date: Wednesday, February 14th between 4:00 - 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall			
Customer Name:		Phone #:	
Pick up Person:			
	<b>All Hoagies on a 9" Lusitana Roll</b>		
Qty.	Italian Hoagies	Band Color	Total
	Everything	Red	
	Onions - No Peppers	Blue	
	No Onions - No Peppers	Yellow	
	Peppers - No Onions	White	
	Tuna Hoagie	Green	
	<b>Next Month date</b>		
	<b>Wednesday, March 13th</b>		
	Type of Sandwiches - on a Egypt Star Kaiser Roll		
	Ham & Cheese	Blue	
	Tuna	Green	
	Total Hoagies	\$5.00	
	Total Sandwiches	\$3.50	
	Total \$\$ Due		

Organization:		Name	
Pick-up person:		Phone #	

**Heavenly Chocolates 2024**  
 Grace UCC Church, 902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067  
 Office Phone 610-262-7186

**Order deadline February 25, 2024**

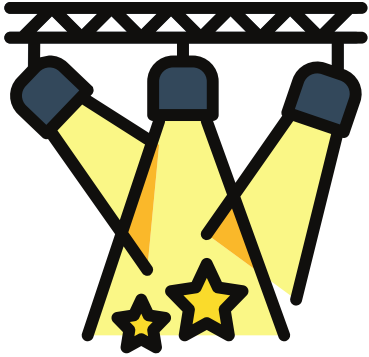
Turn orders in to church office 9 am to 1 pm- M-F, mail in or give to Trisha Daniels  
 Pick up Saturday March 23, 2024 from 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon or after church on March 24, 2024

	Milk Chocolate		Dark Chocolate		Amount Due
	Lbs.	1/2 Lbs	Lbs.	1/2 Lbs.	
Peanut Roll Eggs	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Coconut Cream Eggs	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Peanut Butter Eggs	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Nonpareils	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Nonpareils White chocolate only	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00			<input type="text"/>
Raisin Clusters	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Peanut Clusters	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Peanut Butter Delights	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00	<input type="text"/>
Peanut & Pretzel Cluster White Chocolate Only	<input type="text"/> \$16.00	<input type="text"/> \$8.00			<input type="text"/>
				Total Amount Due	<input type="text"/>
<b>Thank You For Your Order</b>				Number of items	<input type="text"/>
Please pay when ordering, make checks payable to Grace UCC					
PLEASE NOTE - THIS CANDY IS NOT MADE IN A PEANUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT					

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Choir Practice 6:00 pm 1 Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	2	3
9:00 Sunday School 4 10:30 Communion Worship Service Zook Meat Pies & Apple Dumplings - order due	5	6	7 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	8 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	9 Annual Reports Due to office	10
9:00 Sunday School 11 10:30 Worship Service Hoagie Orders Due	12	13	14 Hoagie Orders Pickup 4:00-6:00 pm	15 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	16	17
9:00 Sunday School 18 10:30 Worship Service Annual Meeting after Worship	19	20	21	22 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm	23	24 Zook Meat Pies & Apple Dumplings - 3:00 - 5:00 pm
9:00 Sunday School 25 10:30 Worship Service Inclement Weather Date for Annual Meeting Easter Candy Orders & Payments Due	26 Easter Flower Order Deadline	27	28	29 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:15 pm		

# 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!



610-264-5507

[www.DakuAutoBody.com](http://www.DakuAutoBody.com)

Click on "EZ Estimate Tool" Collision/Insurance Estimates Many Factory Certifications Family Run - Est. 1948



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: Sharon Braker

“Happy Valentines’ Day”

Visit our Website  
[www.graceuccchurch.com](http://www.graceuccchurch.com)

Find Us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/graceuccnorthampton](http://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**