

Grace United Church of Christ

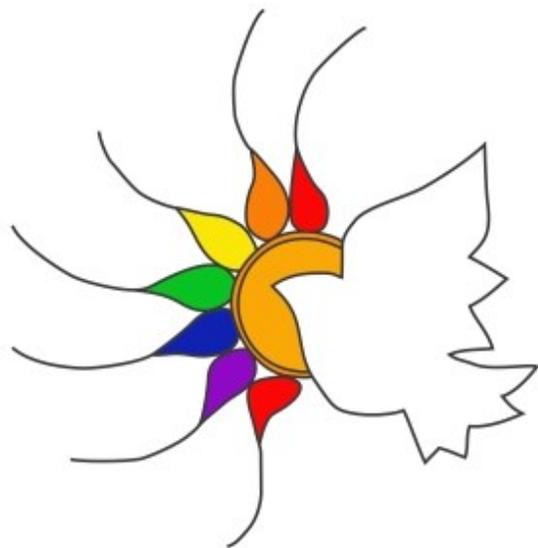
# Shalom

January 2015

**Intentional Interim Pastor:** Rev. Chris Hart

**Editor:** Lynn K. Miller

Thank you to story contributors and proofreaders.



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## Happy New Year!

February 1 will be my last Sunday at Grace! Our time together FLEW by; it feels like I just got here and now it's time to say good-bye. Being with you for this part of your journey has truly been an experience of God's grace, and though we all knew it would end, I am still sad to see it conclude. Alas, the time is upon us to say good-bye and to look with hope and anticipation to the future. I truly believe Grace is a unique place filled with God's presence, and that hand-in-hand with your next pastor you will sail into the truth of who you are as a Grace-filled community.

In this phase of our ministry together let's take time to reflect. Let's take time to look to the future, and let's take time to say good-bye well. Saying good-bye well is really an anti-cultural task, but nevertheless an important one. Our time together has been challenging and we have worked through some tension; we saw a change in musical leadership, we changed lots of operational things, and we experienced new formats and styles in our worship; and through it all we remained dedicated to being a church that is truly open to all people. We have remained dedicated to listening to how God is leading us into new possibilities! For me, saying good-bye is hard because it's emotional, and it marks the end of something that has been a source of joy and comfort. I don't know where my next call is yet; I will share as soon as I know. It may be nearby or across the country — only God knows. I am so thankful for all the support you have shown me and my family.

A new chapter is about to begin. Out of respect to you and your new pastor, after I leave, I will be gone. I won't stay in touch nor will I linger. This will be hard for me and no doubt hard for you because I have grown to love you all very much. However, this will give your new pastor a full opportunity to get to know you and to live into being your pastor.

**Shalom**  
Pastor Chris

## Meet Grace's Candidate for Pastor

The Search Committee is pleased to present our candidate, Katherine (Katie) Cort, as the new pastor of Grace United Church of Christ. Katie is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater production from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. While in seminary, she became a member of the United Church of Christ because of our dedication to inclusion and justice as well as the balance in UCC polity between covenant and autonomy. After graduation, she served as co-pastor at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, Lancaster.

We are very excited to introduce Katie to you. Please plan to attend a drop-in reception with light refreshments Saturday, January 3 in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 – 7:30pm for an informal opportunity to meet Katie and her wife, Ellen. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to read her Statement on Ministry posted in the narthex and in the hallway outside the church office.

Sunday, January 4 at 10:30am Katie Cort will serve as our Worship Leader and preach her trial sermon. Immediately following the worship service, a special congregational meeting will be held for the election of Katherine Cort as pastor of Grace UCC. We urge you to attend both of these events to participate in this most important decision.

~ Search Committee

## Christmas Thanks & New Year Hopes

By the time you are reading this, the last Christmas bell will have been rung, the last carol will have been sung, and we will be settling into our deep winter respite, well deserved as it may be. It was a great and glorious Christmas filled with music, laughter and community. Thank you for letting me share it with you.

Soon we will be starting new — a new year, a new pastor and a new vision for the future. Let's build on the momentum we started and reach even greater heights in the months to come. Take a breath, relax, in a moment we will start again. I'm willing, are you? Choir rehearsals resume Tuesday, January 13 at 7pm.

An aside: in the spirit of pure unbridled self-promotion: Friday, January 9, from 7-9pm, I will be performing at the Coffee Station in the Landis Valley Market, near Giant. Come join me as I sing, play and perform an evening of Bach to rock (with some jazz in between) in this charming venue. Admission is the price of a coffee. Hope to see you then!



~ Suzanne Delahunt, Director of Music

## Centennial Capital Campaign Update

Thank you Grace members, families, and friends for giving generously in 2014! In November we gave just over \$8,500. As the second year of our three-year capital campaign drew to a close, we needed to have contributions totaling about \$120,450 to be on track to reach our goal of \$180,859. We did that with one month to spare! As of November 30, we have given contributions totaling \$120,937.



*Grace upon Grace  
for a second century*

We owe \$9,000 to Brunner & Co. for organ repair parts and we will be able to pay this without using more money from the Cornerstone Fund line of credit we have established. And, if December giving continued strong, we may be able to repay the approximately \$7,000 previously borrowed from the Cornerstone Fund.

Thank you again, one and all, for your continuing support! This year we'll repair and update the organ and re-roof the sanctuary. To complete these projects as scheduled, we will need to finish strong in this third and final year of our capital campaign.

~ Centennial Capital Campaign Committee

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### Come to the Congregational Meeting (and Lunch)

Coming soon: Congregational meeting Sunday, January 11 after worship. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Votes will be held for a constitution and bylaws change (to make the Memorial Garden Task Force into a standing committee), and proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Lunch will be provided by the Congregational Life Committee.

### Holiday Support Group Meets

The last gathering of the holiday support group is January 4 at 4:30pm. An informal time of companionship, story sharing and support, the group is led by Jeffrey Hamilton.

Please, if you feel the gathering would be helpful, join us...and pass the word to those you know who may be needing this support as well.

~ Jeffrey Hamilton

### Is This Support Group for You?

Come and find out... 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join several members who started a mental health support group for our church family. If you or a loved one is impacted by mental health challenges, or anyone wanting to support others, please join us for a time of conversation and support. Snacks will be provided. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cathy Hainley or Marilyn Miller.



## New Year is Time to Join In Congo Life Events

Happy New Year! Make a New Year's resolution to join Congo Life for the social activities they are planning and helping with in the coming months. The committee puts time and effort into planning events that are fun for the whole family (and have yummy food) and we'd love to have you join us.

Thanks to those who stayed after church November 30 for the Deck the Halls party and to those who came for Carols and Cookies (our revised version of Christmas Caroling) on Saturday, December 6. Special thanks to Director of Music Suzanne for playing the piano and directing us in some old favorites, as well as a resounding edition of the 12 Days of Christmas.

Looking ahead to the winter of 2015, Congo Life wants to know if anyone is interested in going snow tubing at Avalanche Xpress in York County. We are looking at organizing an outing in January or February. Pricing would be around \$15 for night tubing or \$32 for Saturday or Sunday tubing. If you are interested in snow tubing, please talk to a member of Congo Life or check the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

For those who bake or make soup, start dusting off those recipes for our annual Lenten Sunday lunches starting February 22. If you want to bring soup or bread to share, keep your eye out for the sign-up sheet that will be coming.

Congo Life has more activities coming in 2015 so stay tuned to *Shalom*, the Sunday bulletins and Sunday announcements for details.

~ Congregational Life Committee

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### Did You Know...

Matt Daniels and Chris Helm welcomed new baby Chloe, born November 20, to their family. Congratulations!



### Worship Participants Wanted

Volunteers are needed for nursery and ushering Sunday mornings. Please see Amy Fishburn if you are able to help with this important ministry.

~ Spiritual Life & Growth Committee

### A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends at Grace Church,

Thank you for your card and your words of comfort, also your prayers. The prayers and caring of friends are so helpful. Thanks lots.

~ Loretta Risser

## January 2015 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.*

### **January 4, 2015**

Greeters (10am) —  
 Suzanne MacGregor, Denise Pfeiffer  
 Ushers — \*Christen Chew, Jim Wentz,  
 Cathy Hainley & Beth Bowers  
 Lectors — Search Committee  
 Acolyte — Sevi Keares  
 Prayer Candle Lighter — Matt Daniels  
 Fellowship Hosts —  
 Heather Eshbach & Amy Southall  
 Nursery Volunteers —  
 Jessie Dombach, Bill Montgomery  
 Bulletin Volunteer 1/2 — Doug Frank

### **January 25, 2015**

Greeters (10am) —  
 Amy Fishburn, Brad Trostle  
 Ushers — \*Jessie Dombach, Joanne Leayman,  
 Beth Bowers & Cathy Hainley,  
 Lectors — Amy Fishburn, Jeff Hackenberger  
 Acolyte — Danny Sensenig  
 Prayer Candle Lighter — Suzanne MacGregor  
 Fellowship Hosts — Jeff & Jessie Dombach  
 Nursery Volunteers —  
 Bill Montgomery, Shawn Robbins  
 Bulletin Volunteer 1/23 — Suzy Luber

### **January 11, 2015**

Greeters (10am) —  
 Jeffrey Hamilton, Dottie Book  
 Ushers — \*Brad Trostle, Kay Charles &  
 Gerda Mooney, Holly Keller  
 Lectors — Barb Smentek, Joe Buchert  
 Liturgist — Robin Cain  
 Chancel Communion Set-up/Clean-up —  
 Joe Buchert, Robin Cain  
 Acolyte — Brian Eshbach  
 Prayer Candle Lighter — Jennifer Swank  
 Fellowship Host — Kellie Wilson  
 Nursery Volunteers —  
 Robin Cain, Chris Helm  
 Bulletin Volunteer 1/9 — Ve Wolfe

### **February 1, 2015**

Greeters (10am) —  
 Herb McCollom, Shawn Robbins  
 Ushers — \*Nick Santaniello, Christen Chew,  
 Tom & Marilyn Miller  
 Lectors — Bill Montgomery, Kellie Wilson  
 Liturgist — Jeff Dombach  
 Pew Communion Set-up/Clean-up —  
 Dottie Book, Denise Pfeiffer  
 Acolyte — Elene Keares  
 Prayer Candle Lighter — Denise Pfeiffer  
 Fellowship Hosts —  
 Rob & Suzanne MacGregor  
 Nursery Volunteers—  
 Jessie Dombach, Robin Cain  
 Bulletin Volunteer 1/30 — Dottie Book  
 Shalom volunteer 1/30 — Ve Wolfe

### **January 18, 2015**

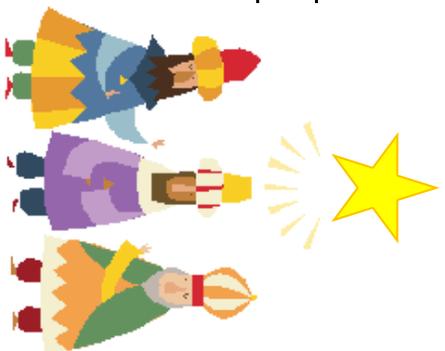
Greeters (10am) —  
 Christen Chew, Brian Eshbach  
 Ushers — \*Bill Montgomery, Dottie Book,  
 John Markley, Amy Southall  
 Lectors — Rick Chamberlin, Jennifer Swank  
 Acolyte — Owen Henry  
 Prayer Candle Lighter — Jeff Dombach  
 Fellowship Hosts —  
 Jeffrey Hamilton & Robin Cain  
 Nursery Volunteers —  
 Rob & Suanne MacGregor  
 Bulletin Volunteer 1/16 — Jessie Dombach



**\* Indicates head usher**

# JANUARY 2015

Sun



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Pastor on vacation through January 5.

4	9am Education Hour 10:30am Worship <b>Candidate Sunday</b> Pastor Katie Cort Special Congregational Meeting	5	6pm Congo Life Committee 6:30pm Stewardship-Mission Committee 7pm 4Grace Ringers	6	 Epiphany 7pm Prayer Shawl	7	7pm Property Committee	8	7pm Lanc. Assoc. Executive Committee	9	7pm ROSE	10	8am Breakfast at 1st Reformed
11	9am Education Hour 10:30am Worship Congregational Meeting & Luncheon 6:30pm Support group	12	9:30am MOMS 6:30pm Spiritual Life & Growth Committee 7pm Memorial Bells	13	7pm PFLAG (off-site) 7pm Choir	14	6pm Evangelism Committee 6:30pm Executive Committee	15		16		17	10am-12:30pm Mountain Dulcimer Players of Lancaster
18	9am Education Hour 10:30am Worship 11:30am Bible Story time Shalom articles due	19	1pm Pinochle 7pm Memorial Bells	20	7pm Choir	21	7pm Dulcimer Players	22	6:30pm Women of Grace (off-site)	23		24	
25	9am Education Hour 10:30am Worship 6:30pm Support group	26	7pm Memorial Bells	27	7pm Choir	28	6:30pm Council	29		30	Mail Shalom	31	



## **Thirty Years ONA: Join us in Cleveland for National ONA Gathering**

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ's National ONA Gathering meets in Cleveland June 24 and 25 — right before General Synod. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the historic General Synod resolution endorsing the Open and Affirming movement. Since then, we've grown from six to 1,200 congregations, ONE-FOURTH of the United Church of Christ, nearly 250,000 people!

Join in this reunion for our nationwide ONA community, with inspiring worship, music and preaching, workshops to strengthen ONA ministry in your congregation, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones! Celebrate our growth, and renew your commitment to grow the ONA movement until we reach every congregation in the United Church of Christ with the Gospel of God's inclusive, welcoming love!

The inspiring line-up of speakers includes: Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Waters United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, will preach at our opening worship Wednesday night. The Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de González is our keynoter on Thursday. She is pastor of Manantial de Gracia (Spring of Grace) United Church of Christ in West Hartford, Connecticut, a leader in the Council for Hispanic Ministries, and a member of the UCC's board of directors. The Rev. Dr. Edward Davis is keynoter at the Synod ONA Banquet Friday night. Conference Minister for the UCC's Southern Conference, Dr. Davis is a leader in the "Moral Mondays" movement in North Carolina and an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ rights in the church and beyond.

These speakers and our program of informative workshops will help you discover new ways to reach out to LGBTQ seekers and to connect your ONA covenant to wider movements for justice, inclusion and peace. We'll offer two workshop tracks: one for ONA churches, and the other for congregations planning an ONA process. The full schedule will be posted in April.

And if you're staying on for General Synod, don't forget to reserve your seat at the Coalition's Open and Affirming Banquet Friday night! Banquet reservations are available both on the Coalition National ONA Gathering and UCC General Synod registration pages. Register today at [www.openandaffirming.org](http://www.openandaffirming.org), or call (216) 736-3228 or email [office@openandaffirming.org](mailto:office@openandaffirming.org) for more information.



## New Year's Thanks from Memorial Bells of Grace

I would like to thank the Memorial Bells of Grace UCC and 4Grace Ringers for making beautiful music unto the Lord and for sharing their time and talent with the church and the community during the fall season. Also I would like to thank our faith family for your continued support of the bell program. I look forward to more music making in 2015. Merry Christmas and best wishes in the New Year.

~ Jeffrey Clouser, Director of Bells



### Questions? Concerns? Suggestions?

Talk with a Council member:

President: Amy Southall

Secretary: Ve Wolfe

Congregational Life Committee: Jessie Dombach

Endowment Committee: Karen Wentz

Evangelism and Outreach Committee: Nick Santaniello

Property Committee: Rob MacGregor

Spiritual Life and Growth Committee: Carol Welsh

Stewardship–Mission Committee: Denise Pfeiffer

Member-at-Large: Suzy Luber

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Chris Hart

*Grace* United Church of Christ

*Welcoming All  
Sharing Love  
Proclaiming God's Grace*

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