

GRACE UCC Newsletter

Serving Justice, Loving Kindness

A [United Church of Christ](#) Congregation in Flemington, NJ

Helping friends of [Grace United Church of Christ](#) stay informed.

March 1, 2011

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Grace UCC e-newsletter, an electronic bulletin brought to you by the Grace UCC ministers and council. Our aim is to help keep you up to date on the church's news and events. (For this and other information please visit the [Grace UCC web site](#).)

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP; MARCH 9 AT 7:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP; APRIL 22 AT 7:30 PM
EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION; APRIL 24 AT 11:00 AM**

TAIZE GATHERINGS BEGINNING- TUES., MARCH 1, 2011

If you have never been involved with Taize now is your chance. A great time of meditation and prayer is being held the first Tuesday of every month. Our leader is Chris Syltevik and the gatherings will be at her home from 7-7:45 pm. For more information about Taize, the Taize gatherings at Grace UCC, and to contact Chris, go to the [Grace UCC Taize web page](#).

GRACE UCC FACEBOOK PAGE

Find us on [Facebook](#)! Joining the [Grace UCC group](#) is a great way to interact, to discuss and to share our mission and vision.

WOMEN'S RETREAT- MARCH 5-6, 2011

A Women's Retreat is to be held at the [Fox and Hound](#) in New Hope, PA from 3:00 pm Saturday through 12:00 pm Sunday. Registration is full. For more information, contact [Pastor Sue](#).

EASTER WORSHIP- SUNDAY, April 24, 11:00 AM.

Please join us on Easter morning. Not only will we gather to celebrate Christ's Resurrection but during worship the [Rod Rogers Dance Company](#) will be performing. Afterwards, we will have a potluck and Easter egg hunt!



GRACE UCC TO RECEIVE *FULL STANDING* STATUS

On Saturday, April 2, the annual meeting of the [New Jersey Association \(NJA\)](#) of the [Central Atlantic Conference \(CAC\)](#) of the [United Church of Christ \(UCC\)](#) will be held at [Community Congregational Church](#) in Short Hills, NJ. One of the items on the agenda will be Grace United Church of Christ! To date we have been considered a church with *in-care* status of the Association. At this meeting the ministers and delegates present will hear a presentation from Grace UCC and then vote on whether or not to grant us *full standing* status. Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting. It should be a time of celebration as we move forward as a community of faith. The meeting starts around 9:30 am and lasts until about 2 pm. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to carpool, please contact [Dan](#) or [Sue](#).

A NIGHT OF IGUANA MUSIC- SAT., APRIL 9, 2011

From Michael Steinbruck: "We are taking a trip back in time for our spring Iguana event. We have three great bands playing three sets of 60's British Invasion tunes, classic 70's Neil Young, and 80's rock and pop hits."

The event will be held at the [Flemington Elks Lodge; 165 State Route 31; Flemington, NJ](#) and will be from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm.

The night will benefit the [Flemington Area Food Pantry](#). A \$10 minimum donation is requested at the door (\$5 for children under ten years old).

100% of proceeds go directly to the charity at the event. Canned goods to be donated to the food pantry are also welcomed. As always, this is a very family friendly event. Admission includes food (pizza, salads, desserts, coffee and water). The Elks will also run a cash bar at this event.

Please email [Michael](#) if you can bring a fruit/veggie platter, salad or dessert. For more information on *Iguana at Flemington* go to the [Grace UCC Iguana web page](#) or to the [Iguana at Flemington Facebook event](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

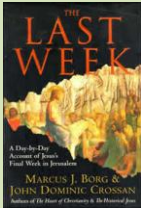
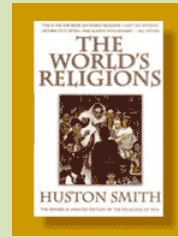
We were recently rejected from airing an ad on a local Christian radio station because of our Christian witness of being [Open and Affirming?](#)

GRACE GIVING

Thanks to all the individuals, couples, families and friends that have given to Grace over these past months and years. We are very grateful and blessed to have the support of so many who believe in Grace's vision and mission. If you would like more information on pledging to Grace UCC contact [Bill Taylor](#), our financial secretary.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY, 9:15 AM.

The [Wednesday morning adult Bible Study](#) meets at the [Shaker Café](#) in Flemington. The group is currently reading [Huston Smith's](#) book, [The World's Religions](#).



On March 23 the group will begin another book written by [Marcus Borg](#) and [John Dominic Crossan](#) titled [The Last Week](#). This study will last through the Easter Season.

WED. EVENING LENTEN ADULT STUDY, 7 - 8:30 PM.

Beginning Wednesday, March 2, there will be an (at least) eight week Lenten

Study, based on [Jim](#)

[Wallis' book](#)

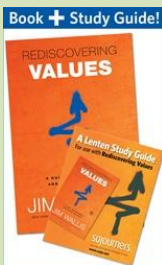
[Rediscovering Values](#),

held on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm.

in the church office (18 Court St.). (The *Journey through the Bible* series

will pick up again after Easter.)

[For more information on the Wednesday evening Bible Study click here.](#)



QUOTED

“The journey to Easter is not a mournful denial of our humanity. Rather, Lent embraces our humanity- our deepest fears, our doubts, our mistakes and sins, our grief, and our pain. Lent is also about joy, self-discovery, connecting with others, and doing justice. Lent is not morbid church services. It is about being fully human and knowing God’s presence ... of blessing and bane. And it is about waiting, waiting ... for resurrection.”

-Diana Butler Bass

SUNDAY MORNING TEEN STUDY

The primary purpose of the class is to offer teenagers a chance to get together and read the Bible within a structured program. The program is designed to allow them to gain a better understanding of how the Biblical message applies in their lives. Lively class discussions of issues are the key teaching tool. All teenagers (ages 13 through 18) are welcome to participate. For more information visit the [Grace UCC teen Bible Study web page](#).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY, APRIL 16

We will again be participating in a Habitat for Humanity workday! We have room for ten people to help work on a Saturday morning, April 16, 2011. Please contact [Dan](#) if you would like to sign up for this great mission workday. Please visit the [Grace UCC Habitat web page](#) for directions, waiver forms, and pictures and videos of past workdays and site dedications.

COMMUNITY DINNERS

It's that time again- the fourth annual [Grace UCC community dinners](#)! This is where folks from the church offer to host a dinner and others sign up to join them at their homes for a gathering of fun and the sharing of bread. We have the list of hosts, their dates and times and number of guests they can accommodate. Each guest will bring a contribution to the dinner. The host would be responsible for the menu, contacting their signed up guests, confirming the date and time, and assigning the food item that each guest will contribute. If you would to sign up for a dinner, or have your name added to the host list, please do so by contacting [Marianne Fimbel](#). The dinners have begun and will last through June. Enjoy!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Each month (usually the second Saturday of the month) an open invitation is given for men to come together and share a breakfast and time together. We meet at 8 a.m. at the Country Griddle restaurant in Flemington. If you have not been receiving the e-mails announcing the next time we meet, please request that you do so by contacting [Dan](#).

RELAY FOR LIFE, JUNE 24-25, 2011

Mark your calendars for our next Relay for Life ([American Cancer Society](#)) cancer research and treatment fundraiser, support, and awareness event. This year's walk is scheduled for June 24-25. Led by our team captain, Alice O., *Grace for Life* (as our team has been named over the years) has consistently raised some of the top Greater Flemington team amounts of money. Please visit the [Relay for Life web page](#) found on the Grace UCC web site for more information and past events.

"CAN" HELP

On numerous occasions, individuals and families from the community approach the church for help. Many times we "can help" but other times we ask each other "how can we help"? What a great question and one we need to ask of ourselves and of our church community on a regular basis. In response, Ed Fimbel has been running a program called **"CAN" HELP**. The idea is for each of us to save our aluminum cans and bring them to church on Sunday (hopefully crushed) or to bring them during the week and put them in one of the rubber trash cans in the back of the office (18 Court St.) where they can be stored until Ed picks them up. With the aluminum scrap, Ed continues to generate needed money (**over \$1,200.00 was raised in 2010**) for Grace UCC to be better able to help (e.g., pay for food or energy emergencies) those in the community. What a great program. One that not only assists those in need but one that helps the environment too! [Click here for more information about CAN HELP or to contact Ed about the program.](#)

SPONSORSHIP

Grace UCC sponsors a young girl named Messia and she lives in Zambia. We sponsor her via [Child Fund International](#). You have an opportunity to contribute to the support of Messia each Sunday during the offering as a small bag, usually carried around by one of the children, with Messia's name on it is brought around the worship space. [For more information about her and our sponsorship of her click here.](#)

FLEMINGTON FOOD PANTRY

Each month (usually the last Sunday of the month) a collection for the Flemington food pantry is brought to the church. They are then delivered to the pantry by Elaine D. that week. The needs vary month to month. A list of requested items is emailed earlier in the month to give us an opportunity to pick up some of the pantry goods during our shopping outings. The hunger needs are great in Hunterdon and Mercer counties and continue to grow. Please try "making it a habit" of picking up some things next time you are out shopping. [For more information and the latest need items list click here.](#)

PENNIES AND NICKELS

Our pennies and nickels program continues to flourish. What is it? It is one of the mission projects at Grace UCC. Members and friends bring their loose change to church on Sunday mornings and place it in the silver *Change Bowl*. With the proceeds we then buy various items, fund microloans, etc. Through it we are learning how even our smaller possessions can be turned into larger ones for those in need. [For more information on the Pennies and Nickels program, including seeing the items and causes funded, click here.](#)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#), as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is one of the four special mission offerings (to which Grace UCC has consistently given) of the United Church of Christ. Working in more than 80 countries, the offering provides hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners, and together we provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives. This offering will be held in Lent.

DATES TO REMEMBER

[Grace UCC Calendar](#)

- March 1: [Taize Gathering](#), 7 pm
- March 5: Council Meeting, 9 am
- March 5-6: Women's Retreat
- March 9: Ash Wednesday, 7:30 pm
- March 12: Men's Breakfast, 8 am
- April 2: NJA Meeting, Short Hills
- April 9: [Iguana](#), 6:30 pm
- April 16: [Habitat for Humanity](#)
- April 24: EASTER SUNDAY

DID YOU KNOW?

- Peter S. is getting the Hunterdon County Coalition for Peace Action going again?
- We have a council comprised of a moderator, vice-moderator, deacons, trustees, treasurer, financial secretary, a clerk, as well as others, who keep the church running? A great deal of thanks is extended to them. [Click here for more information about the council.](#)
- You can volunteer to be a [Sunday School](#) teacher substitute?
- We have teams to help with [setup and cleanup](#) each Sunday?

MUSICIAN LINKS

- [Dorothy's Music](#)
- [Duncan's Music](#)
- [Howard's Music](#)
- [Jack's Music](#)
- [Michael's Music](#)

GRACE UCC MISSION STATEMENT

"Serving Justice, Loving Kindness"

GRACE UCC VISION STATEMENT

"Grace UCC, a church without barriers to God, is a welcoming, inclusive, open and affirming congregation, rooted in the ministry of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that God is still speaking in the world and in our midst. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

GRACE UCC ONA STATEMENT

"Grace UCC, a church without barriers to God, is a welcoming, inclusive, open and affirming congregation, rooted in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. In the spirit of Paul's words in Galatians we recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the diversity in which God has created us, each in the image and likeness of God and loved and embraced by God. We welcome into full community our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender sisters and brothers. As we live out our mission of "serving justice, loving kindness" we invite all, regardless of sexual orientation, to join us in hearing Jesus' call to share God's love through full participation in the life, ministry, and witness of our church. We acknowledge that discrimination of any kind is incompatible with Christ's example and gospel of unconditional love. Following Jesus' example we hereby declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Church. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

PRIVACY POLICY

Grace UCC will not share its email list. All communications will be sent via blind copy (bcc) to further protect the privacy of those participating. To remove, add or change email addresses for Grace UCC email correspondence, please send a message with your name, relevant email address, and desired action to [Grace United Church of Christ](#).

Grace United Church of Christ

[Grace UCC Web Site](#)

Phone: 908-237-2025

E-mail: gracehappensucc@aol.com

Mtg.: Flemington Woman's Club, 43 Park Ave., Flemington, NJ

Mailing Address: 18 Court St., Flemington, NJ 08822

[United Church of Christ web site](#)