

2025

ANNUAL REPORTS



FOR THE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 18, 2026

GRACE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA



Grace EC Church

Christ + Church + Community

Annual Report

Congregational Meeting Agenda

January 18, 2026

9:30 AM Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary

Meeting called to order

Presentation of the minutes

Approval of Officers of the Ministry Council

Report from Ministry Council for 2026 Director Positions

Report of the Treasurer

Reports of the Commission Directors

Report of the Pastor

Old Business

New Business

- Review and adoption of the 2026 budget

Reading of the Minutes for approval

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Grace E.C. Church
2025 Congregational Meeting
Jan. 19, 2025

The annual Congregational Meeting of Grace E.C. Church was held at 9:30 am January 19, 2025 with Pastor Ted Rathman presiding.

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the 2024 Congregational Meeting, along with commission reports, candidates for offices, Pastor's report and the proposed 2025 budget were distributed in the information packet. There were no questions on the presentation of the 2024 minutes.

2024 Ministry Council Officers (one-year term):

Lay Delegate: Jill Kulbitsky
Alternate Lay Delegate: Dave Horst
President: John DeWitt
Vice-President: Ed Zipay
Treasurer: Diane O'Neill
Secretary: Rosanne Chesakis

Officers approved on motion of Beth Zipay and Jill Stahl.

2024 Commission Director positions:

Connectional Ministries Commission: Courtney Fasnacht
Discipleship Commission: Rick Deal
Fellowship and Service Commission: Jodi Sitcosky
Operations Commission: Gary Wehr
Outreach Commission: Julie Wisner
Worship Commission: Tyler Pritiskutch

The directors have been approved by the Ministry Council, and are presented for information. Rick Deal with Discipleship and Tyler Pritiskutch with Worship are our new commission directors for this year.

Treasurer's Report:

2024 actual totals were presented. The Treasurer's Report was approved on motion of Jill Kulbitsky and Gary Wehr.

Commission Reports:

Approved on motion of John DeWitt and Liz Reed.

Pastor's Report:

Approved on motion of Ed Zipay and Rick Deal.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Budget:

The budget was reviewed and discussed by Pastor Ted and Diane O'Neill.

- Total income for 2024, including reimbursements, was \$300,166.64. Actual income minus reimbursements was \$258,212.78, of which \$247,149.99. The budgeted income for 2014 was \$257,000.
- Actual expenses for 2024 were \$276,566.58.
- The budgeted revenue for 2025 is \$272,900. Diane noted that there is a new revenue line appearing in the budget for dividend and interest income. She explained that funds have been moved from a non-interest-bearing checking account to investments through Edward Jones in order to allow us to put the proceeds of these investments to work in supporting ministry efforts.
- Gary Wehr for the Finance Committee answered questions regarding the investments, noting that they are about 80% mutual funds, 20% stocks. Sufficient cash is being retained to cover day-to-day needs.
- Diane noted that giving involves more than money—so many people do work around the church or purchase supplies with their own funds, which keeps expenses down. God has provided, allowing us to meet our expenses, provide benevolent care, and take on a new missionary.

The 2025 budget was approved on motion of Rick Deal and Chris Trimper.

Sanctuary renovation project:

- The committee hopes to have final plans for the proposed sanctuary renovation project by March. The plans will be presented at a Sunday Huddle on March 23. Pastor Ted encouraged anyone with questions, concerns, or ideas about the project to talk now with committee members Dave Horst and Gary Wehr.

Other business:

John DeWitt thanked Pastor Ted and the Commission Directors on behalf of the congregation for all they have done this year.

Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting were read by Rosanne Chesakis and approved on motion of Julie Wisner and Charles Buehler.

Pastor Ted closed in prayer.

For Congregational Approval:

Ministry Council (One year terms)

- **Lay Delegate**
 - Jill Kulbitsky

- **Alternate Lay Delegate**
 - Dave Horst

- **MC President**
 - John Dewitt

- **MC Vice President**
 - Ed Zipay

- **Church Treasurer**
 - Kurt Brown

- **Secretary**
 - Rosanne Chesakis

Directors approved by Ministry Council for 2026:

- Director of the Connectional Ministries Commission- **Courtney Fasnacht**
- Director of the Discipleship Commission-**Rick Deal**
- Director of the Fellowship and Service Commission- **Jodi Sitcosky**
- Director of the Operations Commission- **Gary Wehr**
- Director of the Outreach Commission- **Julie Wisner**
- Director of the Worship Commission- **Tyler Pritiskutch**



REVENUE

	2025	2025	2026
	Actual	Budget	Budget
Tithes and Offerings	268,366.71	260,000	268,000
Property Use	1,760.00	3,000	3,000
Interest & Dividends	10,666.80	4,500	9,000
Fundraising & Misc. Income	538.89	1,000	17,000
Misc. Reimbursement (not income)	71,400.45	0	0
Memorial Fund	903.62	500	0
Homeschooling for Him	2,559.06	2,400	2,400
Coffee and Worship	1,637.09	1,500	4,000
MomCo	0.00	0	1,000
Denominational Support	0.00	0	15,000
Total Brought In	357,832.62		
Less Misc. Reimbursement	71,400.45		
Budget Income	286,432.17	272,900	319,400

OTHER FUNDS

First Citizens Savings Acct.	\$149,809.77
Capital Fund	\$3,829.26
Stocks/Mutual Funds	\$139,346.05

Total

EXPENDITURES

	2025	2025	2026
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<u>Pastoral Expenses</u>			
Pastor's Salary	53,536.08	59,479	61,561
Pension: Employer Contrib	4,800.00	4,800	5,040
Employer Flex Contribution	5,000.00	5,000	5,000
Hospitalization	15,842.24	15,627	16,922
Travel/Professional Reimbursement	2,086.47	2,000	2,000
Continuing Education	80.20	1,000	1,000
FICA- SS & Medicare	6,840.00	6,840	6,840
PA Tax	1,346.25	1,997	2,068
Local- HAB/EIT/LST	583.68	591	614
ECC Benefit Corp Service Fee	125.00	125	125
Part time Pastoral Assistant	0.00	0	33,040
Employee Taxes	0.00	0	4,960
Travel/Professional Reimbursement	0.00	0	1,000
Total	90,239.92	97,459	140,170



Grace EC Church
Christ + Church + Community

**Grace EC Church
2026 Budget**

EXPENDITURES

	2025	2025	2026
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<i>Employee Expenses</i>			
Employee Salaries	28,147.67	30,516	31,338
Employee Taxes	6886.87	6,835	7,015
Disability & Workers Comp	422.71	700	700
Payroll Processing	0.00	1,500	1,500
Employee Gifts	600.00	600	600
Total	36,057.25	40,151	41,152
<i>Operations Commission</i>			
	2025	2025	2026
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<i>Operating Expenses</i>			
Church Oil	9,267.00	8,000	8,000
Church Electric	2,960.86	3,000	3,000
Church Water	366.83	400	400
Church Sewer	449.63	350	450
Church Phone & Internet	3,417.28	3,000	3,400
Parsonage Electric	3,012.79	3,200	3,200
Parsonage Water	515.37	600	600
Parsonage Sewer	671.32	550	600
Parsonage Phone	360.00	360	400
Parsonage Garbage	330.00	300	378
Church Repairs	1,006.04	5,000	3,500
Parsonage Expense	1,941.74	3,500	2,000
Church Building Insurance	7,193.00	7,900	7,500
Office Supplies	2,422.32	2,000	2,200
Church Supplies	370.16	800	500
Maintenance Contracts	105.00	500	250
Furnishings	659.06	1,300	1,000
Janitorial Supplies	1,689.22	1,200	1,500
Landscaping/Groundskeeping	407.73	500	500
Piano & Organ Maintenance	1,435.00	2,200	2,000
Snow Plowing	5,035.00	3,000	3,000
Mower Expense	758.10	1,500	1,000
Security/Safety	692.99	3,000	5,000
Ministry Funds	14,407.92	14,000	15,000
Total	59,474.36	66,160	65,378



**GRACE E.C. CHURCH
2026 BUDGET**

EXPENDITURES

	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
<u>Worship Commission</u>			
Guest Speakers & Programs	625.00	1,000	1,000
Multi-Media	2,796.07	5,000	5,000
Seasonal Decorations	0.00	500	500
Worship Supplies/Equipment	1,314.83	1,000	1,000
Music/Choir	462.82	1,000	1,000
Special Music	100.00	800	800
Total	5,298.72	9,300	9,300

	2025	2025	2026
<u>Outreach Commission</u>			
Global Ministries Office	300.00	300	300
Global Giving Intl. Churches	4,000.00	4000	4000
World Emergency	200.00	200	200
Stoltzfus Family	4,008.00	4,000	4,000
Anderson Family	4,008.00	4,000	2,000
Toy Family	4,008.00	4,000	4,000
Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe	4,008.00	4,000	4,000
Detwiler Family	4,011.34	4,000	4,000
Missionaries Christmas Gifts	1,250.00	1,250	1,250
Grace Outreach Ministries	5,374.95	5,000	5,000
Local/other Ministries	1,300.00	3,000	3,000
Coffee and Worship Ministry	853.72	1,500	4,000
Stone Ridge Benevolent Care	100.00	100	100
Church Planting	0.00	0	100
Student Aid	0.00	0	0
Manna Fund	0.00	0	0
Twin Pines	100.00	100	100
Benevolent Care	8,640.32	4,000	5,000
Total	42,162.33	39,450	41,050

	2025	2025	2026
<u>Connectional Min. Commission</u>			
Printing & Promotions	572.69	1,000	800
Gifts	233.94	600	350
Guest Services	324.03	550	500
Planning & Church Center	963.33	0	1,650
Servant Keepers		780	0
Total	2093.99	2,930	3,300



**GRACE E.C. CHURCH
2026 BUDGET**

EXPENDITURES

	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
<u>Discipleship Commission</u>			
Sunday School Curriculum	511.59	1,000	1,000
Sunday School Supplies	0.00	100	100
Vacation Bible School	2,653.83	2,500	2,500
Discipleship Programs	2,597.71	3,000	3,000
Women's Ministry	838.22	1,500	1,500
Jr Church/Simply Loved	1,477.83	1,000	1,000
Youth Ministry GYM	1,668.80	1,000	1,000
Nursery	0.00	100	100
Homeschooling for Him	1,759.06	2,400	2,400
MomCo	0.00	0	1,000
Total	11,507.04	12,600	13,600
<u>Fellowship & Service Commission</u>			
Fellowship Events	3,752.42	3,000	3,300
Kitchen Supplies	1,186.05	1,000	1,300
Total	4,938.47	4,000	4,600
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Attendance At National Conf.	307.82	500	500
EFT Services Charge	285.85	250	250
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	100	100
Reimbursable Expense	74,839.07		
Total	75,432.74	850	850
	327,204.82	272,900	319,400
	Budget to Budget increase:		17.04%

GRACE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MEMORIAL FUNDS

12/31/2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Designated Use</u>
Bruce and Norma Hummel			740.00	
Lois Becker			1621.38	Kitchen & Choir
Bernice Troy			2025.00	Wall Mount Screens
Donna Potts			220.00	
Kyle Cleary			100.00	
Shirley Dierwechter			350.00	
Jenny Ruch			225.00	
Sandy Darcangelo	825.00		825.00	
Interest			233.69	
Totals	825.00	0	6340.07	

Allocations

Kitchen and Choir	1621.38
Wall Mount Screens for Sanctuary	2025.00
Unspecified Memorials	2460.00
Accumulated Interest	233.69
Total	6340.07



Connectional Ministries Commission Report 2025
Director – Courtney Fasnacht

Commission Members:

Pastor Ted Rathman, Liz Brensinger, Brenda Brown, Vince Kulbitsky, and Denise Reifsnnyder

2025 Year in Review:

The Connectional Ministries Commission exists to connect people to Grace Church and includes the Visitation Team, Prayer Circle, Welcome Table and the New Members Class. 2025 brought discussions about helping folks to find and utilize their spiritual gifts and applying them in different areas to serve. Sunday Huddles continued throughout the year and the CMC participated. This will be a continued focus in the new year as the Commission continues to explore ways to empower others for disciple making.

A big undertaking was researching and selecting a new software program to replace Servant Keepers. Church Center/Planning Center was selected and implemented in 2025. Planning Center is a suite of church management tools designed to streamline operations, volunteer coordination, event planning, and communication. Church Center is a mobile and web app interface for congregants, allowing easy access to various features powered by Planning Center. This continues to be a priority of the CMC as we build our church directory, explore giving options, and utilize Workflows to better coordinate across all commissions. The new website and updates were also completed this year.

The Welcome Table continues to be a fixture every Sunday during both services. Thank you to Vince for always keeping the table staffed and greeting all who come to worship. New this year, the CMC coordinated the Welcome Table to be present at all Coffee & Workshop events, Borough Day, and other outreach commission events. This was well received and will continue in 2026.

Todd Frehafer has continued coordinating the Visitation Team and there are new members who have become involved in making visits as the number of people on our visitation list continues to grow. There is interest in a second team, which is primarily focused on visiting shut-ins.

Thank you to Denise Reifsnnyder who has agreed to coordinate meal trains for congregants who are experiencing surgery, illness, grief, and delivering babies. We have coordinated a few this year and it has been a blessing to those who received meals and gift cards.

Looking forward into 2026:

Please connect with us if you are looking to identify your spiritual gifts and how you can serve here at Grace E.C. Church. Our prayer is that our Grace Church family embarks on a transformative journey of spiritual growth as we go deeper on our mission with God by being and making disciples of Jesus in order to love people that desperately need to see and hear the Good News!

Thank you to the commission members and all the people involved in serving!

Respectfully submitted:

Courtney Fasnacht



Discipleship Commission Report 2025

Director: Rick Deal

2025 Year in Review:

This past year we have seen God at work forming lives, strengthening faith, and calling people into deeper relationship with Jesus and with one another. Discipleship is not a program—it is the everyday journey of following Christ together.

The Commission rolled out the Discipleship Pathway, which we follow a simple, biblical approach of Follow, Learn, Adopt and Model or FLAM.

- **Follow** – Saying yes to Jesus and beginning a life with Him
- **Learn** – Growing in God’s Word and Christian community
- **Adopt** – Living out faith through service and spiritual practices
- **Model** – Helping others follow Jesus by discipling them

This pathway helps us stay focused on spiritual growth, not just activity.

We have seen many in our congregation take meaningful next steps in their faith, including baptisms, joining studies and groups, serving for the first time, and new leaders emerging. Together, these steps show a church that is **moving forward in faith**, not standing still.

Following Jesus

Many new faces connected with Grace EC Church this year, and several made the decision to follow Christ through baptism. We celebrate each life transformed by the gospel.

Learning in Community

Bible studies, Connection Groups and Life Groups continued to be a primary place where relationships deepened, and faith was strengthened. Learning together remains a cornerstone of discipleship.

Adopting Our Faith

More people stepped into serving roles this year—using their gifts to bless others and build up the church. Serving is one of the clearest ways faith becomes active and visible.

Modeling our Faith

God is raising up leaders and disciple-makers within our church family. Groups were led, new leaders were trained, and people intentionally invested in the spiritual growth of others.

This multiplication is a powerful sign of a healthy, maturing church.

Looking forward to 2026

As we look ahead, we also recognize opportunities to grow in our connections, engagements in groups and service, and development of future leaders and disciple-makers.

We will continue to focus on helping people take their next step with Jesus, while providing mentoring relationship and equipping more leaders to disciple others. Our intention is to keep discipleship relational, intentional and Christ-centered.



We thank God for His faithfulness and for every volunteer, leader, and participant who made discipleship possible this year. Your prayers, service, and willingness to walk with others are making an eternal impact.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

— Hebrews 10:24

With Gratitude,

Rick Deal – Discipleship Commission Director



Fellowship Commission Report 2025

Director- Jodi Sitcosky

Commission Members:

Kim Hasenauer, Jill Armenise, Jill Kulbitsky, Chuck Springer

Year in Review:

The Fellowship and Service commission seeks to create an environment where relationships can grow and discipleship can happen naturally over shared meals or even just coffee and sweets. Many of those moments happen throughout the year thanks to Grace Adult and Men's and Women's ministries and their activities.

Fellowship and service kicked off our busy season in June with the return of summer connection cafes and the annual church picnic. The picnic was a great day with record attendance! Connection cafes continued through July and August with a bonus in September for the Sunday Huddle. Our annual Friendship Sunday luncheon was very well attended and fellowship hall was bursting at the seams for our Christmas luncheon.

Many thanks to my dedicated and hardworking commission members as well as many others who are always willing to lend a helping hand. I appreciate you all.

Looking forward:

In 2026, we are committed to continue supporting Grace Church activities with food and fellowship. After all, disciples gotta eat.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Sitcosky



Operations Commission Report 2025 Director- Gary Wehr

2025 Commission Members:

Steve Zimmerman, Gerry Reichert, Mike Reifsnyder, Mark Stefura, Joe O'Neill, Shane Hausenauer, Bill Ambrose, Chuck Sattizahn, Kyle Kuehn, and Brian Strausser.

Year in Review:

2025 was another busy year for the OC. The aim of this year's projects was to improve/maintain the building, maintain the outside appearance of our grounds, improve our parsonage property, improve safety, and increase the use of technology. Through the generous donations made to the capital fund, many improvements were made in 2025.

The largest undertaking this year was the renovation of our sanctuary. Phase 1 included the addition of a platform up front, new carpeting, paint, pew reupholstering, and an upgrade to technology. Services were held in fellowship hall from June to September. So, the hall needed to be prepped for this to happen, mostly technology. Other improvements to the church building include new carpeting in the hallways and lobby area, finished installing new LED ceiling light fixtures throughout the building, H.R. Bensinger (our plumber) serviced and made repairs to the oil burner and heating system. Additional electric outlets were added to some of the SS rooms. The organ and pianos were tuned and maintained. And, as always, there were running/clogged toilets to fix, light bulbs/tubes replaced as needed. Outdoor projects included: John DeWitt, Tim Allison, Gerry Reichert, Jim Chesakis, Ed Zipay Sr. and me keeping our grass trimmed all summer long. Mulching, planting, trimming, and weeding, were done throughout the summer by volunteers including the Allisons and Ross Mullin. Our Cub Cadet mowers are serviced and maintained regularly. Shoveling, plowing, and salting were done in 2025 by TB Landscaping to keep our lot as safe as possible from the weather's elements. Thank you to all who aided this commission throughout 2025 through your sweat equity and/or by making donations to our capital fund.

Improvements were made to the parsonage in 2025 as well. Included are a new window and insulation in the master bedroom, new flooring, baseboard and air vents in Lily's bedroom, and a new toilet, new tiled floor, cleaned and repaired the exhaust fan, and new baseboard and air vents in the master bathroom. Pastor Ted and Jess do most of the work. Thank you, Pastor Ted and Jess, for the loving care you give to the parsonage!

As for future needs, due to our building being almost totally upgraded, no big projects are planned for 2026. I plan to paint the parking lot lines, add additional electric outlets in SS rooms, and continue to maintain the campus to the best of my ability. The improvements to the buildings and grounds are very noticeable. We are truly blessed to be able to worship in such a great facility. Praise be to God.

I look forward to serving in 2026 and plan to continue following God's dream for our church. There will be challenges, I am sure, but with your help and your prayers, the operation commission will do its best to make our church building, grounds and parsonage properties the best that they can be.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Wehr
Director of Operations



Outreach Commission Report 2025

Director- Julie Wisner

Commission Members:

Kim Hasenhauer, Tyler Pritiskutch, Jess Rathman, Pastor Ted Rathman, Chris Trimper, Jill Armenise, Jill Kulbitsky, Yvonne Nester, Aimee Zimmerman, Jenny Koch, Ashley McJunkin, Amanda Deal, Pam Voydik, Gene Voydik, Carol Ann Trimper

Year in Review:

Outreach continued with the vision adopted in 2024 from Acts 1:8. It reads, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Outreach continues to see how the group can best serve Schuylkill Haven and vicinity (Jerusalem), Schuylkill County (Judea/Samaria) and beyond (ends of the earth). All events are viewed through this lens.

In honor of Celebration of Life Day, Grace Church partnered with Jewel Womens Center in January to host a free screening of the movie *Unplanned*. Money raised from the event went back to Jewel.

Grace Church participated in a Souper Bowl Sunday food drive on 2/9 sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches. A total of \$263 was raised from this event alone, along with many baskets of food. Grace representative, Tim Allison, has been very appreciative of the amount of food donated to the Food Pantry this year, in light of decreasing funding and donations normally expected from other sources!

Coffee & Worship events were held the second Friday of select months throughout the 2025 year in March, June, July, August, and November. These events continue to be a place where people have given their lives over to Jesus Christ. Bubeck Park and the Walk-In Art Center were the venues chosen to accommodate the ever growing crowds with caterers/food trucks providing meals. This year, Bubeck Park's circular stage was utilized with the benches in front of it. The gazebo in the park served as the Prayer Tent, and a steady stream of people needing prayer visited throughout the nights. Help is always needed in the Prayer area and with set up, tear down, donations and service at the event. The theme continued with worship music accompanying an atmosphere conducive to talking about Jesus Christ. Guest appearances by Auburn Church of God and Faith Church in Orwigsburg worship teams were featured in 2025. The Connectional Ministry Table was also set up and continues to be in need of people to help. Coffee & Worship even went on the road to One Rock, One Community in September, as well as a tent at Borough Day. Many hands helped to make these events a success. A new coffee was featured this year, called Abednego Coffee. It was still given out for free at all events! This new coffee and t-shirts continue to be available for purchase.

Chris & Carol Ann Trimper offered free art classes to children in the community this year on two separate occasions. (Valentine's Day, 4th of July). Approximately 15-25 kids were in attendance at each session.

The annual Easter egg hunt was held at Grace Church on the Saturday before Easter. This event was a success with 142 children registered for the event. Pastor Ted got to deliver an Easter message to participants and their families prior to unleashing the eager children to hunt for over 2500 eggs in five different age categories! The annual GYM bake sale fundraiser made over \$877 for their fund. The new Connectional Ministry Table was featured at this event and was well received, as this partnership between committees led to the intake of new members!

Grace held a Yardsale on premises on Saturday, May 17 with proceeds benefiting the playground fund. More than \$5400 was raised. This event was a huge contribution towards making the playground a reality for Grace Kids in 2025 and a conversation starter for people who came onto Grace Church property. A Bible was even given out to a patron of the event. Food was sold and clean bathrooms were provided.



A small group of Grace Church members gathered together as a team to participate in the Jewel Jog in Landingville in June.

Celebrate Your Faith Night at the R Phils in Reading was an outreach event where members were encouraged to come hang out together to watch a baseball game and bring guests. Some players discussed how important their faith was on the field prior to the start of the game. Grace had a nice crowd of folks representing the church.

The annual Worship Service/Picnic at Knoebels was a huge success with 117 people in attendance. There was acoustic music and shared fellowship over a meal that followed the service. Many families took the opportunity to stay until 8pm to ride on the rides in the park during this beautiful August day.

The Back-2-School initiative saw Outreach partnering with Discipleship to again have apples available so that church members could adopt kids from the church to be prayed for throughout the school year. All apples were adopted and relationships continued to be fostered within the church thanks to this program. The Back-2-School date also saw the ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the new playground and the blessing of the 100 Penn State blessing Bags that were distributed to students on campus on Thursday, August 28th to kick off the new semester. Grace Church continues looking for ways to reach students over on the Penn State Schuylkill campus.

Grace EC Church again registered participated in Friends Helping Friends events through Boscov's. Passes were sold at \$5 each. One pass entitled the holder to a discount at Boscov's on a date in October both in store or online. Profit from this was used to continue to add to the playground and fencing.

The Church Has Left The Building was a success with many completed jobs performed by Grace and Bethesda EC Church members throughout the area held on Sunday, October 12th. Food and prayer was also offered by volunteers.

Kaila Smith and family hosted a clothing drive at the church on Saturday, September 13th. They were previously held in the community at the Schuylkill Haven Recreation Center. There were approximately 500 people from the community there to get clothing needed for colder months. All leftover clothing was donated to local shelters and charities.

Grace Church again helped with free kid activities on Borough Day on Parkway. Church members and GYM kids helped from 8am-4pm on the last Saturday of the month in September with bubble machines, a duck pond, canvas bags that could be colored, crafts, and Smores in a bag. The Borough Day Committee struggles to get organizations to provide free entertainment from within the community to help run this. The reliable presence of Grace Church is always very much appreciated, and it provides a way for the church to interact with families in the community.

This was the first year that Grace Church participated in the annual Schuylkill Haven Halloween Parade. Adults and children from the church filled a giant float with VBS decorations from this summer (Wonder Junction themed) and then marched with the float and matching music down Main Street throwing candy. The kids had so much fun, and our presence within the community was made known to all!

Trunk or Treat featured 14 trunks this year, even after all the weather and scheduling conflicts! An estimated 300-400 participants passed through the Grace Church trunk line, with information given out to families along with candy, hot chocolate and cookies.

In order to meet the global mission, Outreach partnered with MomCo to participate in the Operation Christmas Child ministry through Samaritan's Purse, where kids all over the world are presented with gifts and the good news of Jesus Christ. The goal was to fill 50 boxes, but an astounding 82 boxes were delivered to the drop off center from Grace Church! By partnering with MomCo for this event, the number of boxes sent last year increased significantly from 16 boxes to the 82 boxes.

The Trimper Family along with Outreach put together a Craft Show and Vendor Fair on the last Saturday in November throughout the beautifully decorated church to help get in the Christmas Spirit. There



was food served in the kitchen, a bake sale, hot cocoa station, picture stations and approximately 20 vendors filling the Fellowship Hall, hallways and connection rooms of the church. Profit of \$1158 from this event was used towards the playground.

The Outreach Commission is always in search of new ways to try to reach residents within our community. If you are interested in helping or have any ideas, please see a member of Outreach!

Looking forward:

- Souper Bowl Sunday food drive, Sunday, February 8th, 2026
- Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3, 2026
- Community Yardsale date and Church Yardsale in Fellowship Hall, Saturday, May 23, 2026
- Coffee & Worship, Friday, June 12, 2026 at Bubeck Park
- Coffee & Worship, Friday, July 10, 2026 at Bubeck Park
- Celebrate Your Faith Night at R Phils, Tentative, Friday, July 17, 2026
- Knoebels' Picnic and service, TBD in August
- Coffee & Worship, Friday, August 14, 2026 at Bubeck Park
- Coffee & Worship at Borough Day (9/26) and One Rock, One Community event TBD
- Borough Day Free Kid Events, Saturday, September 26, 2026
- Coffee & Worship, Friday, November 13, 2026 at Walk-In Art Center
- Schuylkill Haven Halloween Parade, October TBD
- Trunk or Treat at the church, Saturday, October 31, 2026
- Operation Christmas Child, TBD in November 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie L. Wisner

2025 Worship Ministry Annual Report

Director : Tyler Pritiskutch

Commission Members : Tristan Grubb, Dave Horst, Jodi Sitcosky, Tim Allison, John DeWitt,
Judy Devlin, Dorothy Rowe, Beth Zipay

Worship Team

Members : Tyler Pritiskutch (Keys/Vocals), Tristan Grubb (Guitar/Vocals), Dave Horst (Bass/Vocals), Nick Wisner (Drums), Jodi Sitcosky, Kim Hasenhauer, Lily Rathman, Erika Barnes, Francesca Modica, Dawn Cooper (All vocals)

The Worship team continues to lead the 2nd service in worship each Sunday. We have been amazed at the growth seen in all of the members of the team. Whether it be physical gifts, or spiritual maturing, the team has committed to putting God first in all that they do. If you would like to join us in worshipping the Lord through song by joining the Worship Team, please see Tyler Pritiskutch for more information.

Choir

Members : Judy Devlin, Beth & Ed Zipay, Charlie Buehler, Dorothy Rowe, Lynn & Judy Bodenburg.

The choir continues to faithfully lead the 1st service in worship each Sunday. Please see Judy Devlin if you are interested in worshipping God through song by being part of the Choir.

Audio / Video Team

Volunteers : Chris Trimper, Denise Reifsnyder, Gary Wehr, Evan Wisner, Bobby Cooper and Roy Murton.

Our team has grown this year. We were faced with some challenges due to the renovation. As the needs of the ministry are growing, we are seeking more volunteers. If you have any interest in sound, music, video, please see Tyler Pritiskutch to learn how you can be part of this team.

Cantata

The annual Christmas Cantata was held on December 21st. It was a wonderful service directed by Judy Devlin. The attendance for that service was 313 - the highest attended service of the entire year, right alongside Christmas eve. The commission was able to borrow risers for free this year, however, we are looking into buying / building risers for 2026.

Coffee & Worship

C&W technically falls under the Outreach Ministry, however, both Worship and Outreach ministries play an integral role in making Coffee & Worship possible. This year C&W has continued to blossom into something wonderful. We led worship at the Walk In Art Center in March and November, and at Bubeck Park in June, July and August. We were joined by the Auburn Church of God multiple times, as well as Faith Church, Recovery Church, and many other local Christian ministries. We saw two people give their lives to Christ, praise God.

We pray that God would continue to use this ministry in a mighty way to touch many lives in Schuylkill Haven and beyond. If you would like to become part of the Coffee & Worship ministry, there are many needs and ways in which you can serve. We need help with decoration, promotion, photography, videography, prayer warriors, intentional greeters, setup/tear down crews, food providers, and many other areas. Please see Tyler Pritiskutch if you are interested in this ministry.

Renovation

In an overlap with the Operations Ministry, Phase 1 of the sanctuary renovation was completed over the summer. There is still work to do, but everything is operational and functioning properly. Praise God for all the volunteers who made it happen.

Other Notes

The worship ministry held multiple events throughout the year in order to build relationships and comradery. In April we held our 1st Annual Worship team Night, in which we participated in worship, devotional, had some good food and shared around the campfire. In December, the entire Worship Ministry participated in the 1st Annual Worship Ministry Christmas Party. There was food, a gift exchange, fun games, and an award ceremony that celebrated Christ-likeness in all of the volunteers in the ministry. We plan on continuing these team-focused events for years to come.

Now that my 1st year is complete, I must say that it has been an honor to serve as the Worship Commission Director. My desire and goal as director is to maintain a continuous focus on the God we serve. To help focus the teams, the commission, and the congregation at Grace EC on the reason why we do all that we do. We have a savior, His name is Jesus. He died for our sins, and we have nothing without Him. He brings transformative power to our lives. He did it for me, He did it for millions of others, and He can do it for everyone out there who is wandering and suffering in brokenness.

Let's have an awesome 2026!

God Bless,

Tyler Pritiskutch

**Grace Evangelical Congregational Church
Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania
Church Statistical Report 2025**

Average Attendance for Sunday Morning:

Traditional services: 36

Contemporary services: 107 (including the July services)

Joint services: 198 (average of 4 joint services not including July)

Livestream Average for all services in 2025: 18

Membership Changes

Membership as of December 31, 2024

510

Deaths (non-members):

**-Theresa Patente
-John Mootz**

Deaths of Members:

**-Donna Potts
-Kyle Cleary
-Shirley Dierwechter
-Janet (Jenny) Ruch
-Denise Wagner
-Sandra Darcangelo**

New Members:

**+ Liz Brensinger
+ Matthew Cleary
+ Tiffany Cleary
+ Tom Gordon
+ Eric Mullen
+ Pati Mullen
+ Jordan Murrell
+ Kayla Murrell
+ Jay Olan
+Destinee Olan
+Brian Strauser
+Elsie Strauser
+Joshus Waynick
+Karolin Waynick
+Kristin Windell**

Membership as of December 31, 2025

519

Pastor's Thoughts

2025 Year in review:

This coming July, my family and I will have served alongside you for 13 years and it feels like we are just getting started. It remains abundantly obvious to me that the Lord is at work here at Grace in many powerful ways. I have seen the Lord work in people's lives through the Discipleship Pathway, and it has been exciting to hear the stories of transformation and growth. We have seen God's blessing in bringing more people to Grace to be discipled, more families to pour into, and more children to allow us to lay the important foundation of faith in their lives. God has been good to us, and I fully anticipate we will see more of His blessing in 2026 as we fix our eyes on Jesus and the mission He has called us to as a church of disciples making disciples.

- **Discipleship Pathway**

- We launched the pathway this past year and we have already heard how God has been using it to transform lives through some of our testimonies in October. We currently have 18 people doing our Discipleship Pathway and we already plans to launch more this coming year.

- **Baptism and Re-dedications**

- We held another baptism and rededication service for those wanting to give their lives to Christ for the first time, those who have never been baptized, and those who did not follow Jesus though they were baptized as infants. We will be doing more of this throughout the year in 2026 not only in the summer.

- **Sanctuary Renovation Project**

- Praise God our first phase of this project has been completed! Through our denominational loan, people's generosity, and some grant money we were able to renovate our sanctuary. I want to thank the many people who make this possible but especially say thank you to Gary Wehr our Ops Director, Mark Stefura, Joe O'Neill, Chuck Sattizahn, Tyler Pritiskutch, Tristan Grubb, and Bobby Cooper who spent countless hours at this church during this project. It would not be where it is without them.



Where I see God moving in 2026...

God is answering prayer in regard to our disciple making to the point that we are seeing Him call people from our own church family to pastoral ministry. I believe the Lord wants to use Grace EC Church to further His kingdom in new, fresh, and powerful ways in Schuylkill County. In order for that to happen, and to handle the growth we have seen within our church Body, we need to add another pastor. I am excited that God has already answered the prayer for this need through calling Rick and Amanda Deal into pastoral ministry.

- **Pastoral Staff**

- On January 4th I made the announcement that Rick Deal will begin pursuing pastoral ministry within the EC Church. Rick has already begun classes with the denomination and will complete an application to attend Pastoral Assessment Center in January 2027. Following the completion of this assessment center Rick will pursue pastoral credentials and seek to be ordained within the EC denomination.
- While the process I mentioned seems like it is years down the road, the need for pastoral help is immediate. We sought to hire someone a couple of years ago due to the workload and obviously this has not changed but actually has increased. Therefore, bringing Rick on sooner rather than later is the goal in 2026. As you will notice in the budget, we have already set money aside for a part-time role that the denomination is partially funding. The Bishop believes in the vision of utilizing pastors to help lead the denomination and so is willing to provide support to the local church to alleviate some of the burden from men like me in shared ministry. I am actively praying that God provides in such a way that we can bring Rick onboard before 2027 and allow him to serve in the Pastoral Assistant role as he embarks on this journey to become an ordained pastor in the denomination.

None of what I've just shared happens without you and God moving in ways that makes it clear He is the one leading this vision. Let's pray the Spirit moves in us.

I believe God has big things in store for Schuylkill County and His kingdom in 2026!

Respectfully submitted by:

Pastor Ted Rathman