



# The Tree Climber

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## Grace United Church of Christ Uniontown, Ohio

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In Ohio and Pennsylvania during the early settlement of Lutheran and Reformed people, they worshipped together in what were known as Union Churches. In a given community, they shared a common house of worship. In Uniontown, from 1818 until the late 1800's the Lutheran and Reformed congregations worshipped together in part of the building now occupied by St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Eventually some differences caused the Reformed congregation to split and on 10 Mar 1843, several members of the Reformed constituency formed the Union Town New German Reformed Church. John R. Bowers and John Weimar became Deacons and Lemon Bowlin and John Buck were elected Elders.

The following were Charter Members:

Bowers, Ann E	Mason, Alexander
Bowers, Elijah F	Pontius, Benjamin
Bowers, John	Pontius, Frederick
Bowers, Mary M	Richards, Andres B
Bowlin, Isabelle	Straman, Lucy
Bowlin, Lemon	Swinehart, Anna
Buck, John	Swinehart, Daniel
Buck, Mary	Weimar, Catherine
Carl, Catherine	Weimar, John
Hoff, James	Winters, George
Lawson, Mary Ann	Winters, Polly Myers

At the organizational meeting, a subscription plan was approved to finance a building and on 20 May 1847 the new building was dedicated. The site was just south of what is now known as the Union Mission Church on Church Street, the building occupied by Grace Church before it moved to Cleveland Avenue.

There are some gaps in the continuity of the church's history -- some of its records have been lost or destroyed. But fortunately, many of its public records are intact.

When the New German Reformed Church in Uniontown was organized, neither English nor German synods had been instituted. Local churches were structurally related to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Progress was slow, tedious and difficult for the new congregation. Its humble size required it to share ministerial leadership for more than a hundred years with neighboring Reformed churches. Transportation was an obstacle. Roads were unimproved. Pastors were limited to foot travel or horse and buggy. Also the German language requirement limited leadership. In less than a year the Reverend Jesse Hines was dismissed because he could not speak German. Pastor George Schlosser resigned at the end of three years because the distance between parishes was too far.

Years of the Civil War and immediately afterward were years of hardship. Indefinite numbers of pastors enlisted while others increased the number of parishes served. Pastor Abraham Miller served 3 churches in 1865, 4 in 1866 and 6 in 1868. The parishes were small -- Uniontown was yoked with Suffield and New Berlin at this time -- but the travel was demanding. In 1863 the Uniontown parish was comprised of 50 women and 28 men.

About this time the English language was the predominant tongue and in 1864 the name was changed to Second Reformed Church. The Reformed pioneers who remained with the Lutheran Reformed organization were known as First Reformed Church. In 1878 the name became Emanuel Reformed Church and ten years later (1888) it was again the Second Reformed Church.

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Grace United Church of Christ

The spirit of togetherness was moving the Reformed Churches in Uniontown and in 1888 First Reformed Church withdrew from the Union Church and consolidated with Second Church and the name chosen for the union characterized its theology -- Grace Reformed Church; and Grace it has remained through the denominational name has been altered on two occasions by way of mergers -- first with the Evangelical Synod of North America (1934) and then with the Congregational - Christian Churches (1957).

In 1958 11 acres of land was purchased at 13275 Cleveland Ave for a new building. In 1962 an Educational Unit was finished and in 1978 a sanctuary was added.

The pastors of Grace Church are as follows:

1845-1846	A Kellar
1846-1846	Jesse Hines
1846-1849	George Schlosser
1850-1861	Peter J Spangler
1861-1870	Abraham Miller
1870-1871	J R Shepler
1872-1873	Caspar Scheel
1874-1876	Peter J Spangler
1876-1877	Charles M Schaaf
1877-1883	John H Beck
1884-1887	Records Incomplete
1887-1890	Jonathan Novinger
1891-1895	Silas B Mase
1895-1901	Henry Jacob Christman
1902-1904	George T N Beam
1905-1914	John Milton Kendig
1915-1916	M G Buchman
1916-1919	E S Jassler
1920-1921	Scott V Rohrbaugh
1921-1922	A B Acker
1922-1924	William S Adams
1924-1926	John G Gekeler
1926-1938	William S Adams
1939-1943	Henry Voss
1943-1949	Luben Kutuchief
1949-1950	William S Adams
1951-1953	Milton D Jones
1953-1966	Adrian O Kipp
1967-1968	Robert Turner
1968-1972	John D Hood
1973-1981	Raymond E Milligan
1981-	Donald L Powers

Some of the records have survived and are listed hereafter.

### Baptisms

Children of Michael A Miller and Anna S Miller were baptized 16 Jan 1862: Henrietta Miller, William A Miller, Perrey E Miller and Olive E Miller.

Child of Joseph & Rebecca Royer, 1862: William H Royer.

Child of Hosler Pontious, 5 Oct 1862: Elizabeth Pontious.

Children of John & Elizabeth Pontius, 25 Dec 1862: Alexander Pontius, Milton Pontius, Samuel Pontius, Amanda Pontius, Sarah Pontius, Mary Pontius.

Child of Jacob & \_\_\_\_\_ Stees, 17 Mar 1863: Cleveland Stees.

Children of Benjamin & Elizabeth Bolender, 22 Mar 1863: Milton Bolender age 11y7m, Hiram Bolender age 8y8m10d, Mary Ellen Bolender, age 2y1m22d.

Parents are not listed for children at end of list, no date listed: William Cramer, Ellen Cramer, Isaac Cramer.

### Deaths

Henrietta Miller 14 Oct 1862

Olive E Miller 26 Oct 1862

Catharine Miller 31 Oct 1862

William H Royer 14 Nov 1862

Mary A Fry, age 22, 30 Jan 1863

Loiza A Hart, age 3y3m8d, 30 Dec 1862

Clara M Young, age 3y1m15d, 13 Mar 1863

\_\_\_\_\_ Frank, age 48, 30 Jan 1863

\_\_\_\_\_ Deafendorfer, age 40, 11 Mar 1863

Jacob Weaver 15 Mar 1863

John Stauffer

### List of Members

There are a number of membership lists in the oldest record book spread out over the years 1846 to 1875. Some are a complete list of members and others are for a confirmation class. All lists were typed with the date shown for each person. After being alphabetized, duplicate names were deleted, leaving each different name with the earliest date. These are contained on the following pages.

The minute book contains much information on the running of the church and the listings of the officers. Apparently complete records of baptisms were not kept. Only 4 marriages were found and only those deaths listed above were recorded although a few funerals were shown. Many spellings were found for the names. In most cases the original spelling is retained.

## Membership List Grace United Church of Christ 1846-1875

ACHER, ELLEN 1871  
 BAUGHMAN, CHRISTIAN 1866  
 BAUGHMAN, GEORGE 1866  
 BAUGHMAN, MARY 1867  
 BEASECKER, MRS 1853  
 BEEK, HARRIET 1859  
 BIDLEMAN, GEORGE 1867  
 BOLDENDER, JUDITH 1875  
 BOLENDER, ALMYRA 1867  
 BOLENDER, BENJAMIN 1857  
 BOLENDER, ELIZABETH 1859  
 BOLENDER, FRANK 1867  
 BOLENDER, GEORGE K 1866  
 BOLENDER, JOHN 1857  
 BOLENDER, JUDITH 1853  
 BOLENDER, KEZIAH 1866  
 BOLENDER, LEVI 1858  
 BOLENDER, MARGARET 1867  
 BOLENDER, MARY 1860  
 BOLENDER, MARY C 1867  
 BOLENDER, S J 1871  
 BOLENDER, SOPHIA 1858  
 BOLIN, ISABELA 1860  
 BOLIN, MARGRET 1860  
 BOWERS, AMELIA 1858  
 BOWERS, BARBARA 1847  
 BOWERS, BENJAMIN 1847  
 BOWERS, C W 1853  
 BOWERS, CATHARINE 1847  
 BOWERS, JOHN R 1846  
 BOWERS, MARY M 1846  
 BOWERS, RACHEL 1857  
 BOWERS, URIAS 1860  
 BOWERSOX, BENJAMIN 1860  
 BOWERSOX, CATHERINE 1860  
 BOWERSOX, RACHEL 1860  
 BOWLES, MARGERET 1858  
 BOWLIN, ISABELLA 1846  
 BOWLIN, L 1846  
 BRIDENSTINE, ELIZA 1859  
 BRIDENSTINE, ELIZABETH 1858  
 BRIDENSTINE, J M 1871  
 BRIDENSTINE, JOHN 1867  
 BRIDENSTINE, MAHALA 1858  
 BRIDENSTINE, WINTY 1867  
 BROWN, SARAH 1857  
 BUCK, JOHN 1846  
 BUCK, MARY 1846  
 CARL, CATHARINE 1846  
 CLAY, JERUTIA 1860  
 COALMAN, LOVINA 1851  
 COALMAN, LUCINDA 1851  
 COALMAN, WILLIAM F 1863  
 COLEMAN, \_\_\_\_\_ 1860  
 COLEMAN, ELIZA A 1866  
 COLEMAN, ELIZABETH 1860  
 COLEMAN, JOHN 1863  
 COLEMAN, SARAH 1868  
 COLEMAN, SOPHIA 1860  
 COLEMAN, WILLIAM F 1860  
 CRAMER, ABRAHAM 1866  
 CRAMER, CHRISTENA 1860  
 CRAMER, CHRISTIAN 1866  
 CRAMER, DANIEL W 1867  
 CRAMER, ELIZABETH 1866  
 CRAMER, ELLA 1871  
 CRAMER, ELMYRA 1851  
 CRAMER, HENRY 1851  
 CRAMER, JOHN D 1860  
 CRAMER, LEAH 1867  
 CRAMER, LEVINA 1860  
 CRAMER, LOVINA 1863  
 CRAMER, MARY 1860  
 CRAMER, MILTON 1860  
 CRAMER, MRS 1875  
 CRAMER, POLLY 1871  
 CRAMER, SAMUAL 1860  
 CRAMER, URIAS R 1867  
 CRAMER, W R 1871  
 DANNER, MARY 1871  
 DANNER, MICHAEL 1871  
 DEAL, MRS 1871  
 DICE, SOPHIA 1863  
 DICKERHOOF, J 1852  
 DIFFENDARFER, CORNELIUS 1867  
 DIFFENDARFER, ELLEN 1867  
 DIFFENDARFER, ANNA 1871  
 DIFFENDARFER, ELIZABETH 1860  
 EVANS, SARAH 1858  
 FEESE, MARYANN 1858  
 FISHER, CATHARINE 1858  
 FISHER, JOHN M 1858  
 FOSTER, ELIZABETH 1866  
 FOUS, MOTHER 1863  
 FOUST, MARYAN 1860  
 FRANK, CATHARINE 1871  
 FRANK, ISAAC 1863  
 FRANK, J H 1857  
 FRANK, J W 1860  
 FRANK, JOHN 1866  
 FRANK, MARY 1863  
 FRANK, MILTON 1867  
 FRANK, P H 1875  
 FRANK, SALOMA 1857  
 FRANK, SAVILLA 1866  
 FRANK, TEANA 1853  
 FRITCH, EMALINE 1860  
 FRY, ANNE 1847  
 FRY, MARGARET JANE 1866  
 FRY, MARTHA M 1847  
 FRY, MARTHA O 1867  
 FRY, MARYANN 1860  
 FRY, OLEVIA 1867  
 FRY, SUSANNAH M 1847  
 FRY, WEIERMAN N 1847  
 FRY, W N 1860  
 FUNT, MARGRET 1871  
 GENTRY, MOLLY 1868  
 GIGGER, EMALINE 1868  
 GIMBER, SARAH 1860  
 GRABLE, MRS 1871  
 GROTZ, ALMIRA 1871  
 GROTZ, DAVID 1871  
 GROTZ, ELIZABETH 1871  
 HARES, EZRA 1866  
 HARGET, ALPEUS 1860  
 HARNER, MARY 1867  
 HARRIS, EZRA 1857  
 HARRIS, MARYANN 1871  
 HEISER, AMANDA 1868  
 HEISER, CYURUS 1868  
 HEISER, ELIAS 1868  
 HEISER, HANNAH 1868  
 HILLBISH, BENJAMIN 1858  
 HILLBISH, WILMINA 1858  
 HINEBAUGH, BARBARA 1860  
 HINEBAUGH, PETER 1860  
 HOFF, JAMES 1846  
 HOOVER, CATHARINE 1859  
 HOOVER, DANIEL 1863  
 HOOVER, ELIZABETH 1868  
 HOOVER, FRANK B 1867  
 HOOVER, FRANKLIN 1860  
 HOOVER, JONATHAN 1859  
 HOOVER, WILLIAM 1863  
 HOSSLER, CATHERINE 1860  
 HOSSLER, SARAH 1858  
 HOUSEL, M A 1871  
 HOUSEL, MARY A 1867  
 HOUSEL, THOMAS 1867  
 HOVLER, DANIEL 1860  
 HOVLER, MARGARET C 1860  
 HOVLER, SARAH 1860  
 HUBLER, DANIEL 1858  
 HUBLER, MARGRET C 1858  
 HUMBERT, WILLIAM 1866  
 JOHNSON, CATHARINE 1866  
 JOHNSON, MRS 1863  
 JOYER, JR, JACOB 1871  
 KALER, MARY 1867  
 KEISAR, ELIZABETH 1867  
 KEISAR, LEWIS 1867  
 KEISAR, WASHINGTON 1867  
 KISNER, MRS 1852  
 KRABELL, ANAND 1859  
 KREMER, CATHARINE 1847  
 KREMER, CHRISTIANA 1847  
 LAWSEN, FLORA A 1871  
 LAWSON, MARY ANNE 1846  
 LAWSON, MRS 1853  
 MANDABAUGH, JR, EZRA 1867  
 MARKEL, MARY ANN 1847  
 MARKLE, JONAS 1847  
 MASON, ALEXANDER 1846  
 MASON, MRS 1847  
 MAYERS, LEVESE 1860  
 MAYERS, MELVENA 1860  
 MAYERS, MICHAEL D 1860  
 MCQUADE, LUCY 1871  
 MCQUADE, SAMUEL 1871  
 METZ, SARAH ANN 1868  
 MEYERS, M D 1871  
 MILLER, ANNAS 1860  
 MILLER, CAROLINE 1871  
 MILLER, ELIZABETH 1871  
 MILLER, NATHAN 1871  
 MOHLER, CATHARINE 1863  
 MOORE, GEORGE W 1867  
 MOORE, MATILDA 1871  
 MOORE, JOSEPH 1867  
 MOORE, MARY 1867  
 MOTZE, CAROLINE 1866  
 MOYERS, ALMYRA 1867  
 MOYERS, AMELIA 1867  
 MOYERS, ANAY 1860  
 MOYERS, CATHARINE 1863  
 MOYERS, EMMA 1867  
 MOYERS, ESTHER 1860  
 MOYERS, GEORGE 1863  
 MOYERS, HIRAM 1867  
 MOYERS, JOHN 1860  
 MOYERS, LUSINDA 1860  
 MOYERS, MRS 1863  
 MOYERS, POLLY 1860  
 MOYERS, SAMUEL E 1867  
 MYERS, AMANDA 1866  
 MYERS, AMY 1863  
 MYERS, ANNA 1866  
 MYERS, CATHARINE 1866  
 MYERS, ELIZABETH 1860

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Membership List Grace United Church of Christ 1846-1875 (Continued)

MYERS, EMMA 1871  
 MYERS, ESTHER 1863  
 MYERS, GEORGE 1866  
 MYERS, JOHN 1847  
 MYERS, JOHN B 1871  
 MYERS, LOUISA 1863  
 MYERS, MICHAEL D 1852  
 MYERS, MRS 1847  
 MYERS, POLLY 1846  
 MYERS, REBECCA 1871  
 MYERS, WILLIAM 1871  
 OHLE, JR, JACOB 1866  
 OHLE, SR, JACOB 1866  
 OHLE, LYDIA 1867  
 OHLE, MRS 1866  
 PERSANE, MARY N 1860  
 PONTIUS, ALMIRA 1867  
 PONTIUS, BENJAMIN 1846  
 PONTIUS, ELIZA 1849  
 PONTIUS, ELIZABETH 1860  
 PONTIUS, FREDERICK 1846  
 PONTIUS, JOHN 1860  
 PONTIUS, JOHN M 1858  
 PONTIUS, LOISA 1863  
 PONTIUS, LOUIS 1860  
 PONTIUS, NICKALAS 1847  
 PONTIUS, SAMUEL 1847  
 PONTIUS, SARAH 1847  
 POWLUS, FRANK B 1867  
 PUTT, CATHARINE 1847  
 REAMASHIDER, ANNA 1871  
 REED, BARBARY ANN 1866  
 REHODES, SUSANA 1871  
 REISER, AMANDA 1871  
 REISER, CYRUS 1871  
 REISER, ELIAS 1871  
 REISER, ELIZABETH 1871  
 REISER, LEWIS 1871  
 RENINGER, MARGRETT 1871  
 RHODES, AMANDA C 1871  
 RICHARDS, ANDREW B 1846  
 RICHARDS, ANNE 1846  
 RICHARDS, NANCY 1866  
 RICHARDS, NOLVIA E 1867  
 RINKER, GEORGE 1871  
 RISER, LOVINA 1857  
 RITZMAN, LYDIA 1868  
 RHODES, JOSEPH 1871

ROYER, EDWARD 1858  
 ROYER, JACOB 1858  
 ROYER, JR, JACOB 1860  
 ROYER, M S 1871  
 ROYER, MARY R 1858  
 ROYER, REBECCA ANN 1866  
 ROYER, WILLIAM 1858  
 SAUSAMAN, ELIZABETH 1858  
 SAUSAMAN, JACOB 1868  
 SCHLOSSER, MARY S 1847  
 SCHRIVER, ELIZABETH 1867  
 SCHRIVER, ISAAC 1860  
 SCHRIVER, RACHEL 1863  
 SCULLY, LOVINA 1847  
 SEESDORF, HENRY 1866  
 SEESDORF, LUCETTA 1868  
 SELL, JULIAN 1860  
 SELL, REBECCA 1857  
 SELL, WILLIAM 1860  
 SEMLER, FREDRICK 1866  
 SEMLER, MARY 1866  
 SEVILLA, FRANK 1875  
 SHIPLER, CHRISTENA 1871  
 SHULLOFF, JOHN S 1860  
 SHUMAKER, JACOB 1871  
 SHUMAKER, MARGRETT 1871  
 SMITH, MARY A 1858  
 SMITH, SARAH 1852  
 SNIDER, SUSANA 1860  
 SPACHT, WILLIAM 1867  
 STEESE, AMANDA 1860  
 STEESE, JACOB 1860  
 STINE, DANIEL 1867  
 STINE, ELMORE 1867  
 STINE, FRANKLIN 1871  
 STINE, WILLIAM 1867  
 STRAWMAN, LUCY 1846  
 STRECKER, DANIEL 1858  
 STRECKER, PRESSILA 1858  
 STUTZMAN, AMANDA 1871  
 SWEETEN, ANNA 1866  
 SWEETEN, GEORGE W 1866  
 SWEETEN, HENRIETTA 1866  
 SWEETEN, LIZZE 1871  
 SWINEHART, CALVIN 1871  
 SWINEHART, GEORGE 1866  
 SWINEHART, LUCINDA 1866  
 SWINEHART, SAMUEL 1860

SWOPE, ANDREW 1857  
 SWOPE, JOHN B 1867  
 SWOPE, MILTON 1867  
 SWOPE, SUSANA 1860  
 TANTLINGER, MARY ANN 1860  
 TEESE, MARION 1860  
 TESTARF, HENRY 1860  
 TREASH, ALMIRA 1871  
 TREASH, CATHERINE 1860  
 TREASH, CHARLOTTE 1871  
 TREASH, CHRISTIAN 1863  
 TREASH, ELIZA ANN 1860  
 TREASH, MARIAH 1860  
 TREASH, MARTHA M 1863  
 TREASH, MARY 1871  
 TREASH, PHILIP 1863  
 TREASH, POLLY 1860  
 TREASH, SARAH 1860  
 TREASH, SUSAN 1863  
 TREASH, WILSON 1867  
 WADE, ANN ESTER 1867  
 WAILE, THOMAS 1867  
 WAIT, ELIZA 1871  
 WARNER, JACOB F 1860  
 WARNER, MARYAN 1860  
 WARNER, WILLIAM 1867  
 WEARY, ELIZA 1851  
 WEARY, G W 1871  
 WEARY, LOUISA 1875  
 WEAVER, DANIEL 1871  
 WEIMER, CATHARINE 1846  
 WEIMER, JOHN 1846  
 WILLES, FATHER 1863  
 WILLES, JOHN 1866  
 WILLIS, PHEBE 1860  
 WINTERS, GEORGE 1846  
 WINTERS, MRS 1846  
 WISE, MARGARET 1860  
 WISE, MRS 1847  
 WISE, PEGGY 1875  
 WITZAMAN, ELIZABETH 1867  
 WOLF, LYDIA 1866  
 WOLF, WILLIAM 1853  
 WOODLING, RADIUS 1867  
 WOODS, SUSAN 1858  
 WOOLF, LANA 1867  
 WOOLF, PHILLIP 1867  
 YORK, LYDIA 1867

FUNERALS

21 MAR 1898 JOHN PONTIUS  
 AGE 80Y 10M 13D  
 31 MAR 1898 SARAH ANN STOLENBERGER  
 AGE 64Y 8M 6D  
 1 JUN 1898 CATHERINE STEVENS  
 AGE 63Y 4M 7D  
 16 OCT 1898 SARAH ANN RICHARDS  
 AGE 68Y 4M 4D  
 23 AUG 1899 WILLIAM H NEES  
 24 AUG 1899 MARGARET JANE FRY  
 10 FEB 1900 HENRY RABER  
 24 MAR 1900 ELIZA PONTIUS WEARY  
 23 SEP 1900 EVA LUCILE RICHARDS

BAPTISMS

10 APR 1898 AMELIA HECKMAN  
 BORN 15 OCT 1861  
 10 APR 1898 LOTTIE M BARRASS  
 BORN 25 MAR 1858  
 23 JUL 1898 GERTRUDE IONE WOODLING  
 BORN 28 SEP 1897  
 5 OCT 1898 SARAH ANN RICHARDS  
 7 JAN 1899 WHITNEY ELMER BUTLER  
 BORN 25 DEC 1897  
 8 JAN 1899 CLARA LUCILE CHRISTMAN  
 BORN 30 AUG 1898  
 8 MAR 1899 PEARL MARIE GRUBB  
 BORN 15 JAN 1899  
 2 APR 1899 JOHN RUSSELL HECKMAN  
 BORN 8 JUN 1894  
 2 APR 1899 JUDSON ELISHA BARRASS  
 BORN 1 APR 1893

BAPTISMS

7 JAN 1900 WALLACE HAMES HARTER  
 7 JAN 1900 MANILOUS SCHREINER  
 26 MAY 1900 GEORGE DEWEY SWINEHART  
 28 MAY 1900 GLEN ELMER SPADE  
 18 SEP 1900 EVA LUCILE RICHARDS

MARRIAGES

21 SEP 1899 ELLEN S HERBRUCK TO  
 WILLIAM E KELLER  
 11 JUL 1900 ANNA HUMBERT TO  
 ROSEWELL HOOVER  
 18 JUL 1900 ADA BOLENDER TO  
 HENRY KLEIN  
 25 DEC 1900 SAVANNAH HALL TO  
 NORMAN RABER