

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
128 East Baltimore Street
Greencastle, PA 17225
(717) 597-2983



Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka
Choir Director: Patty Stepler
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson
Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: September 18, 2022

Amos 8:4-7 | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | Luke 16:1-13

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

All: United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith and serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.

PRELUDE MUSIC

The Lord Ascendeth -Parker

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, our Divine Parent, You feel what we feel.

All: Our joys and our pains are Yours too.

O God, our Divine Healer, You delight in our wholeness.

All: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.

O God, the Giver of life, You are able to renew us.

All: We open ourselves to You, let us worship You!

***PRAISE SONG**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies #327



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: O God, Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to You any time.

You have made it possible for us to come as we are...however we are.

**We rejoice in knowing that You walk with us whether the road
is rough or smooth.**

**In this time of worship, help us to nurture our relationship with You.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND TRANSFORMATION

**All: O God, the Source of All Wholeness,
we confess that sometimes our goals don't align with Yours.**

We go our own way and we get lost.

**At times, we have pursued things like power, knowledge,
and wealth instead of You.**

Have mercy on us, O God, the Source of All Good Things.

We know that You are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves towards You.

(Silence is Kept)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND GRACE

Our God is steadfast in love, justice, and righteousness.

In Jesus Christ, we know forgiveness and peace.

In this chaotic world, we can be at peace in Christ.

May God's grace be a balm for us, and may we be a balm to and for others.

Amen.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

Amos 8:4-7 Please open to Old Testament, page 1049

1 Timothy 2:1-7 Please open to New Testament, page 254

CHOIR ANTHEM

(Title to be announced)



WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Luke 16:1-13 Please open to New Testament, pages 96-97

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

This is the Word of God for the People of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

(All please read)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

God's love is steadfast and abundant.
We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance.
May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed,
wherever it is needed.
May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all.

(Please sign the attendance pads found in the pews,
and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

God Leads Us Along - Young/Smith

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD** (All please sing)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**All: O God, Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them.
Thank You that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need
is met.**

**May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to
bring a balm of justice. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received from God...
be the balm that you gladly share with others.
Go forth in the wholeness of God's steadfast love and pray for and serve others.
In the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Take My Life #697



POSTLUDE MUSIC

Contemplation -Thygerson



No Balm in Gilead: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost III were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.



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Contributions Received on 9/11:

Regular Offering: \$866 / Loose Change: \$25
Communion Offering: \$15 / Building Fund: \$20

Worship Attendance 9/4: In-House: 25

Facebook Viewers: Live Streaming Unavailable



Pastor Emeritus - The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church Office: (717) 597-2983

Email: gucc128@outlook.com Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of September 18, 2022

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Deb Homer

Attendance Pads are located in each pew. We ask everyone who attends worship to please sign and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.

Chancel Choir – Rehearsals are held weekly, on Wednesday evenings, in the Sanctuary, beginning at 7:15pm. If you have been thinking of joining the choir, now is the time, as we have just started our singing season! We welcome any members to join us and would love to hear some new voices! Please contact Patty Stepler for further information.

New Church Email – We are transitioning over to a new email address. Please add our new email address to your contacts and send all correspondences to our new address of: gucc128@outlook.com

Sept/Oct issue of the **Upper Room** daily devotional brochures are available on the front table in the vestibule and by the elevator area. Pick up your free copy today.

Grace United Church of Christ Facebook: Please like our Facebook page to keep updated on our church activities and connect with others in the community. You can join us weekly, at 10am on Sundays to watch the live streaming of our worship service. Please comment or say hello on our live stream so we know you are watching with us.

GUCC Website: Please look us up on the web to see the history of our church, Moller organ and German Reformed Cemetery! You can download our weekly worship programs, bi-monthly newsletters, or donate from our website.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We are accepting gently used fall and winter clothing and holiday décor items for our seasonal room located downstairs. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions or if you can volunteer your time to help us sort, clean and tag items. We thank everyone for their continued support of the Closet.

Church Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets - We need **Greeters/Ushers** for October 23. We need **READERS** for open dates in October. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the vestibule. We appreciate your help!

Grace Notes – There are a few extra copies of our latest newsletter on the front table in vestibule and by the elevator area. Pick-up a copy after worship service or download from our website. Copies were sent out to everyone with an email on file and via USPS. If you didn't get your copy, please call the office.

Outdoor Worship & Annual Church Picnic was rained out at the park last Sunday; but we were thankful to hold the picnic in our social hall. We all had a great time of fellowship and good food. Thank you everyone for joining us and sharing your covered dishes.

Fall Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale was a great success. We thank all our volunteers for their efforts in collecting orders from local businesses in this area. We also thank all the helpers who made the soup and sandwiches, and all the work they did in putting this fundraiser together. We are thankful for all the orders from our family and friends in the congregation and we hope you all enjoyed the meals!

Lancaster Theological Seminary thanks us for the scholarship donation we made in honor of Reverend Ralph S. Geiman. Please see the thank you note posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Live Streaming of our services are available to watch from our Facebook page. If you can't make it to worship or you're on vacation, please try to join us on Facebook. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching with us! If you are unable to view our live streaming, please contact Elaine at the office and we will provide you with a copy of the bulletin.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on September 1, between 11-1pm, in the social hall. Menu includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas, brownies, and bottled water. Dine-in or request a take-out meal. Limited quantities, free will donations accepted. If you or know of anyone in need of a delivered meal, please contact Chet Nye to make arrangements or call the church office.

Neighbors in Need Offering will be received on Sunday, October 2nd. **NIN** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2022, with inflation impacting all of our households, the NIN '**Behold**' offering focuses on an economic justice through a faith lens. Flyers and special offering envelopes can be found on the table in the front vestibule and elevator area.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 25, 10am:

Greeters/Ushers: Jim Thomas & Sydnae Vanner **Reader:** Patty Stepler

