

**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

**September 10, 2023 Order of Worship**  
**Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 37: Q&A 101, 102**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 119: 1-10, Matthew 5:34-35**

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME**

**VIDEO**

"Anxious" By Freebridge Media

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Leader: 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**

Tocatta in C -J.S. Bach/Thompson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: All things bright and beautiful,  
**All: God created for our enjoyment.**

Leader: All things wrenching and hard,  
**All: God holds with tender care.**

Leader: You and I, neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies,  
**All: God loves without condition.**  
**So let us worship God.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**  
Arise, Your Light Is Come!  
#744



**CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Q&A 37)**

Leader: During his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained (in his body and soul) the anguish of God towards the sin of the whole human race.  
In response to Jesus' loving sacrifice, let us confess our sins to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name.**

*(silence)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Q&A 21)**

Leader: The righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.  
By faith, I have a deep-rooted assurance...that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, I have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.  
This promise is to me...and to all who believe.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE**

**SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 119: 1-10 Please open to Old Testament, page 696

Matthew 5:34-35 Please open to New Testament, page 6

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

Sing Joyful Praise! -Mary Lynn Lightfoot

### Lord's Day 37 of the Heidelberg Catechism: Q&A 101, 102

(Leader will read questions, ALL will read answers)

Question 101: But may we swear an oath by the name of God in a godly manner?

**Answer 101: Yes, when the government demands it of its subjects, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote fidelity and truth, to God's glory and for our neighbor's good. Such oath-taking is based on God's Word and was therefore rightly used by saints in the Old and the New Testament.**

Question 102: May we also swear by saints or other creatures?

**Answer 102: No. A lawful oath is a calling upon God, who alone knows the heart, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.**

## SERMON

### SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### LORD'S PRAYER (Please Pray Together)

**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 OFFERING (based on Q&A 86)

Leader: We do good because Christ by his Spirit is renewing us to be like himself,  
so that in all our living,  
we may show that we are thankful to God for all God has done for us,  
and so that God may be praised through us.  
Let us receive this morning's offering.

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

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

Shall We Gather at the River?  
-Lowry/Sewell

**\*WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD (Please Sing Together)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

**All: O Mighty One, You have done great things for us, and holy is Your name.  
Bless all we offer You—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us  
Your grace and love may be made known to this world,  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

Leader:  
Go forth into the world in peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast that which is good.  
Render to no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.  
Love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**All: Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**  
Kum ba Yah #472



**\*POSTLUDE MUSIC** Postludium -Young



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**Contributions Received Week of 9/3:** Regular Offering: \$1682 / Building Fund Donation: \$35  
Communion Offering: \$50 / Loose Change Offering: \$25 / Loose Check Offering: \$100

**Worship Attendance 9/3:** In-House: 39 / Online: 10

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



## **GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/](http://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/)

### **Church Announcements for Week of September 10, 2023**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Ed & Gladys Doyle      **Reader:** Patty Stepler

**Today is the Deadline for Ham Sandwich and Soup Orders.** Order forms and boxes to place your orders are in the library room and elevator area. Sandwiches are \$4.50 each and soups are being sold by the pint for \$4.50 or by the quart for \$9. Sandwiches will be made and available to be picked up on Thursday, September 14, from 11am-1pm and 4pm-6pm, in the social hall. Payment will be due at time of pick-up. Cash or checks (with valid ID) are accepted. Please contact Chet or Marg if you would like to volunteer your time to help us during the sale! We always appreciate your help!

**Refreshments & Fellowship** will be held in the social hall, **following today's worship service.** We thank Kate Kennedy and Mark Stahl for providing and preparing the snacks and drinks for us.

**Silent Auction of Church Plaque** - We are auctioning off a beautiful laser engraving of our church on an oak plaque in celebration of our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the highest bidder! We are accepting silent (sealed) bids. The plaque is on display in the elevator area, along with bidding forms and envelopes. Place your bid in a sealed envelope, then put it inside the box provided. Nobody will know what you bid. The person who bid the highest will be announced at the banquet on September 24<sup>th</sup>! If you decide you want to increase the amount you bid, just bid again! We thank Jeff Stouffer for donating this plaque to us. Any questions, contact Marg or call the church office. Have fun bidding!

**275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Join us on Sunday, **September 24** as we celebrate 275 years at Grace Church. We are having a special worship service beginning at 10am, followed by our banquet, catered by Mrs. Gible's, then a special history presentation at 1:30pm in the sanctuary by Rev. Dr. Carrie Call. The banquet is by free will donations.

**Building Caution** – Please excuse our appearance, and use caution over the next few weeks as you walk through the hallways. Our building and grounds committee is refreshing the hallways with new paint and new flooring.

**Painting and Flooring Project** – The **Building and Grounds Committee** has been busy with projects to spruce up the church during our 275<sup>th</sup> year. They are in the process of painting the front vestibule, main hallway, and replacing the carpeting. If you would like to donate to this project and the 'refreshing' of our church, please see Cathy Keefer, turn in your donation in Sunday's offering plate, or drop it off at the church office. Please be sure to mark it for the "Painting and Flooring Project". **We truly thank everyone who has contributed to this project!**

**We thank all the volunteers** who have been painting, cleaning, and working hard to refresh the church and grounds in preparation for our special 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. We appreciate all the hard work everyone has been doing for us!

**Upper Room** daily devotional brochures for September/October are available. They can be found in the library and elevator area. Pick up your free copy after worship service or stop by the church office during the week.

**Attendance Pads** are located at the end of each pew. We ask everyone who attends worship to please sign and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering. If it's found that your booklet is out of sheets, our greeters/ushers can refill your booklet, as extra pads are located on the back ledge in the vestibule.

**Chancel Choir** – We welcome the choir back! Starting today, choir anthems will be performed during our weekly worship services. Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. If you have an interest in singing, we would love for you to join us! Contact Patty Stepler for further information.

**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.

**Grace Church 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 open on Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We thank all our volunteers at the closet who help clean, sort, tag and organize items on a weekly basis. Donations are accepted during their open hours. Contact Nancy Myers for further information.

**Live Streaming** of our services is available to watch from our Facebook page. If you can't make it to worship or you're out of town, please 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.

**We thank our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee** for all their hard work on planning events throughout the year to celebrate our 275 years of serving the Greencastle Community.

**275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Throw** – We have just a few commemorative throws still available. Don't miss out on purchasing this beautiful blanket. See Jan Shafer to make a purchase. The cost is \$60 each. The proceeds from these purchases will go towards our upcoming anniversary celebrations.

**8 Week Fall Bible Study** has started last week. Sessions will continue Wednesday evenings up till October 25. You are welcome to join in on any session. A light meal will be served at 5:30pm, in the social hall, followed by bible study in the Chapel, from 6pm-7pm. We are studying from the Book of Matthew using *N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide called Matthew: 22 Studies for Individuals and Groups*. This is the same study guide we used during our Lenten sessions. Volunteers are needed to provide light meals. Please see the sign-up sheets in the elevator area if you plan on attending and/or if you can help provide a light meal. Contact Marg for any further questions.

**Laundry Love** has started up again! It will be held once a month at the Laundry Spot located at 111 North Carlisle Street, in Greencastle. We will rotate times each month with mornings and evenings. Our first Laundry Love will be held on September 14, from 9am to 12noon. We need volunteers to help hand out pre-made bags containing quarters and washer pods. If you can volunteer some time to help us, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

**Church Volunteers** are needed to help during worship services in September and October. The sign-up sheets for our **Greeters/Ushers, Readers, and Communion Servers** can be found on the table in the front vestibule.

**Consistory Board Meeting** will be held on September 17, 8:30am, in the meeting room. As soon as all the committee reports are received (for June, July & August), the agenda packet will be sent out to the board members by email.



**Grace Snyder Circle** is holding their first meeting of the season on September 11, at 1pm, in the meeting room. We welcome everyone to join us! Contact Nancy if you have any questions about joining.

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 17th, 10am service:**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Tony & Deb Homer     **Reader:** Tony Homer

