

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

Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Carrie Call (Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference of the UCC)

September 24, 2023 Order of Worship for our 275th Anniversary Sunday
Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 39: Q&A 104
Scriptures: Romans 13:1-7, 1 John 3:1-16

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

SPECIAL VIDEO
"Grace UCC Through the Years"

WELCOME

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

A Festal Fanfare (*from the "Fourth Concerto"*)

-J.S. Bach/Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Red 1974 Hymnal)

Leader: O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

All: Serve the Lord with gladness!

Leader: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you.
All: Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

The Church's One Foundation
#321



CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Heidelberg Catechism 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 (Palatinate Liturgy, 1563)

(Please Pray Together)

**I, a poor sinner, confess before You, my God and Creator,
that I have grievously sinned against You in many ways,
not only by gross outward sins,
but much more through inward natural blindness, unbelief, doubts, despondency, impatience, pride,
covetousness, secret envy, hatred, malice,
and other sinful affections which You see in me,
my Lord and God,
and which, alas, I cannot always see in myself.
I repent of these,
and cry to You for Your mercy, through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ.**

(silence)

Assurance of Pardon (Palatinate Liturgy, 1563)

Leader: Harken now unto the comforting assurance of the grace of God promised in the gospel to all who believe. Thus saith our Lord Jesus Christ: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that all who would believe in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Romans 13:1-7 Please open to New Testament, page 197

1 John 3:1-16 Please open to New Testament, pages 291-292

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

Faith Song -Paterson

Lord's Day 38 of the Heidelberg Catechism: Q&A 104

(Leader will read questions, **ALL** will read answers)

Question 104: What does God require in the fifth commandment?

Answer 104: That I show all honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all those in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to their good instruction and discipline, and also have patience with their weaknesses and shortcomings, since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.

SERMON

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND RE-DEDICATION

Introduction: The Dedication Service of this building in 1855 and the Rev. Henry Harbaugh

Please Sing Together

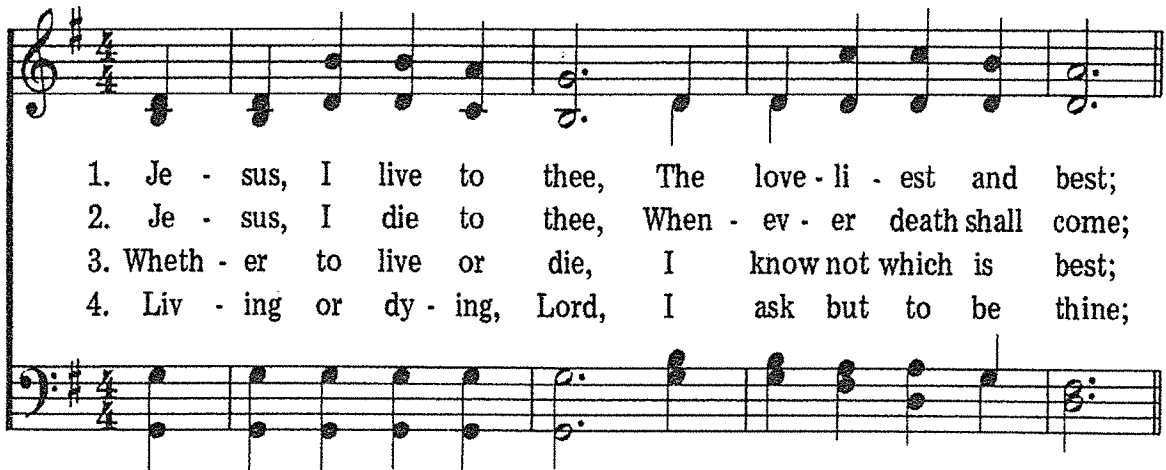
“Jesus, I Live to Thee” #225 (from 1974 UCC Hymnal)

Jesus, I Live to Thee

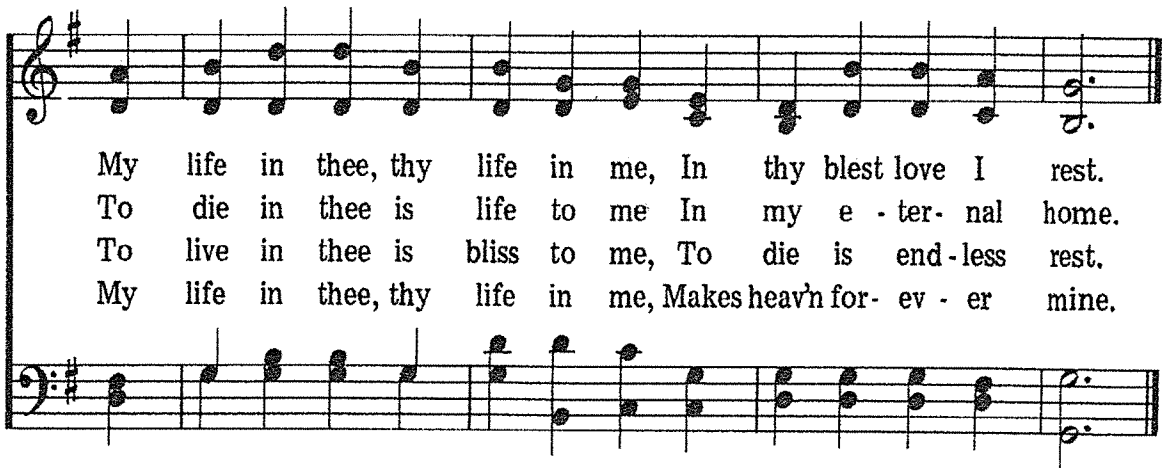
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Rom. 14:8
Henry Harbaugh, 1850

LAKE ENON S.M.
Isaac B. Woodbury, 1856



1. Je - sus, I live to thee, The love - li - est and best;
2. Je - sus, I die to thee, When - ev - er death shall come;
3. Wheth - er to live or die, I know not which is best;
4. Liv - ing or dy - ing, Lord, I ask but to be thine;



My life in thee, thy life in me, In thy blest love I rest.
To die in thee is life to me In my e - ter - nal home.
To live in thee is bliss to me, To die is end - less rest.
My life in thee, thy life in me, Makes heav'n for - ev - er mine.

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER (led by Pastor Mark, from the Palatinate Liturgy, 1563)

LORD'S PRAYER

(In German in honor of our founding ancestors)

Vater unser im Himmel,

geheiligt werde dein Name;

dein Reich komme;

dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel so auf Erden.

Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.

Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern;

und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,

sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.

Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(In English in honor of our English speaking ancestors)

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 Heidelberg Catechism 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

Amazing Grace *with* Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone
-American melody, Tomlin and Giglio/Page

***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** Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us #280



***POSTLUDE MUSIC** Pisticcio -Langlais



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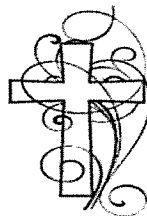
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Contributions Received Week of 9/17:

Regular Offering: \$897 / Loose Change Offering: \$81 / Loose Check Offering: \$150
Building Fund Donation: \$100 / 275th Anniversary Banquet Donations: \$40

Worship Attendance on 9/17: In-House: 45 / Online: 5



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



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Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka Cell Phone: (717) 504-2923

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 24, 2023

275th Anniversary Celebration

Greeters/Ushers: Barry, Carolyn & Jack Shoemaker

Reader: Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

We welcome our special guest today, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference UCC, as she is joining us for our 275th Anniversary Celebration. Rev. Call has prepared a special presentation for us, at 1:30pm, in the sanctuary.

Our 275th Anniversary Banquet will be held following **today's worship**, at 11:45am, in our social hall. We have a delicious meal planned, catered by Mrs. Gibbles. The banquet is by free will donations. The highest bidder for the beautiful oak plaque will be announced during the banquet. There will be some historical artifacts and pictures displayed in the chapel to peruse. Then we invite everyone to join us in the sanctuary, at 1:30pm, for a special presentation by Rev. Dr. Carrie Call.

Silent Auction of Church Plaque – Last chance to place your bid for the beautiful laser engraving of our church is today! 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. The highest bidder will be announced at our banquet **TODAY!** Good luck to the highest bidder! If you have any questions, please see Marg.

Sharing this information with you..... Did you know that the grapevine has a special meaning? The vine is a symbol for God's providential care and steadfast love toward his people. It is a symbol of life and blessing.

We thank Ethel Fisher for funding the grapevine wreaths from donations made in honor of her 100th birthday. The wreaths have been put up in the sanctuary and look beautiful. Thank you, Ethel.

We thank our building & grounds committee and all the volunteers who have helped refresh and clean the church, sanctuary, hallways, and grounds in preparation for our 275th Anniversary Celebration! The church looks beautiful. You have all done an amazing job!

Greeters & Ushers are needed for October 1st - Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the front vestibule.

Our annual ham sandwich and soup sale was a great success. Our expenses were minimal as members funded and donated towards the cost of the ham and soup ingredients. We thank them, and Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe for donating the rolls. We received a profit of \$3423, plus we are pending a matching donation of the cost of the rolls from Martin's. Thank you to everyone who helped with this fundraiser!

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 – Choir rehearsals are held weekly on 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 opened on Monday and Wednesday's from 9:30am till 12:30pm. The volunteers have recently put out fall clothing. Donations are accepted during their open hours. Stop by to say hello! 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 275th Anniversary Planning Committee for all their hard work in planning all our special celebrations! Thank you!

275th 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 anniversary celebrations.

8 Week Fall Bible Study -- Sessions will continue on Wednesday evenings 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 - If you can volunteer some time each month, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker. Our next laundry love is scheduled for October 10th, from 5pm-8pm, at the Laundry Spot, located at 111 N. Carlisle Street, Greencastle. We need help handing out pre-made bags containing quarters and washer pods. Pick up a flyer located in the library or by the elevator area.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of **NIN** funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. We will be receiving **NIN** offering on October 1. Special offering envelopes can be found in the library room and in the elevator area.

German Reformed Cemetery Presentation will be presented by Jack Webb during worship service on October 1st and 8th. Invite family and friends to join us.

The **Activities & Fundraising Committee** is holding their next meeting on Tuesday evening, October 3rd, at 7pm, in the meeting room. We can always use help. Please join us!

Consistory Reports - Please start gathering your thoughts, as the consistory & committee reports will be due at the beginning of October.

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held on Sunday, October 8th, in our social hall, following worship service. Please join us.

Volunteers are needed to help provide and serve the refreshments on October 8th. Please contact Carolyn Shoemaker for further information or see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held in the social hall on Saturday, October 7th, from 11am to 1pm. We plan on serving spaghetti & meatballs, salad, apple sauce, bread, and bottled water. Contact Chet if you, or someone you know needs a meal delivered.

Thank you note from Rev. Carole Kipe can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Unfortunately, she is unable to attend the banquet, but appreciates the invitation, and is always honored to serve with us as our supply pastor.

We thank each one of you for joining us each week at worship. We are thankful to have such a wonderful, supportive church community. We love and appreciate everything you do for GUCC and the community. We are proud to be celebrating 275 years with you! Thank you everyone!

Our **condolences** to Carolle Patrick, as her beloved husband, Don, passed away recently.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, October 1st, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: TBA **Reader:** Steven Miller

Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer

