

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

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

November 19, 2023 Order of Worship
Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 47, Q&A 122
Scriptures: Psalm 115:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-25

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

"Praise His Name Call to Worship" by The Skit Guys

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

We Gather Together -Dutch melody/Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: All things wrenching and difficult,
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**

Now Thank We All Our God #643



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 115:1-8 Please open to Old Testament, page 693

1 Thessalonians 5:12-25 Please open to New Testament, page 250

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Reader: This is the Word of God for the People of God!
All: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR ANTHEM

All Good Gifts -Schwoebel



Lord's Day 47 of the Heidelberg Catechism: Q&A 122
(Leader will read questions, ALL will read answers)

Question 122: What is the first petition?

Answer 122: Hallowed be your name. That is: Grant us first of all that we may rightly know you, and sanctify, glorify, and praise you in all your works, in which shine forth your almighty power, wisdom, goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth. Grant us also that we may so direct our whole life – our thoughts, words, and actions – that your name is not blasphemed because of us, but always honored and praised.

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

Ash Grove *with* Thanks Be to God -Welsh melody and Handel/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**

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought #712



***POSTLUDE MUSIC**

Trumpet Tune -Boyce/Wolff



Copyright 2004-2021 Skit Guys, permission granted to watch and download videos for sermon illustrations, announcements, and teaching for use in church, small groups, or events. All rights reserved.

“Call to Worship” written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.

Heidelberg-Catechism.com is sponsored by the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, Copyright 2023. All rights reserved.

Holy Communion Liturgy used with permission and written by Thom M. Shuman and found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>, adapted slightly.

Copyright 2022 CCLI #2992794, 17205 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Suite 150, Vancouver, WA 98683. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

Contributions Received Week of 11/19: Regular Offering: \$1317 / Loose Change Offering: \$12
Communion Offering: \$30 / Building Fund: \$20

Worship Attendance on 11/19: In-House: 35 / Online Viewers: 6



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 E. Baltimore Street - PO Box 448 - Greencastle, PA 17225

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 November 19, 2023

Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Thomas & Darlene Bitner

Reader: Steven Miller

**We welcome today's guest preacher: Rev. Peter Emig
Thank you Rev. Peter for joining us!**

We need Greeters/Ushers for worship service next week, November 26. Additional volunteers are also needed for other upcoming services in December. Please sign-up today!

Annual Luncheon & Christmas Decorating will be held following today's worship service. We will be gathering for a light meal, then we will decorate the church for Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Everyone is welcome to join us!

The Greencastle Community Thanksgiving Service is being sponsored by the Greencastle Ministerium. The service is being held this evening, Sunday, November 19th, at 6:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle. Everyone is welcome to join them.

Our **Annual Apple Dumpling Sale** was a great success! We thank all the volunteers who helped put this all together and prepared and baked all the dumplings! We also thank everyone for their support in placing orders. Hope you enjoyed them!

Condolences: Our prayers go out to Nancy Myers and her family, as her beloved husband, Charles passed away last Wednesday.

Upper Room daily devotional brochures for November/December are available in the library room and elevator area. Please pick up your free copy after worship service.

Christmas Poinsettias – We are now taking orders for Christmas poinsettias. Order forms with special envelopes can be found on the table in the library and the elevator area. The cost is \$10.50 each. Payment is due at time of ordering. You can place your orders in the collection plates during today's service and on November 26, or drop them off at the church office during the week. The deadline to order is November 29, by 12 noon. The poinsettias are dedicated to our loved ones and will be displayed in the sanctuary for our Cantata Service on December 24, and kept in place for our evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm.

Grace Notes – Our newsletters can be downloaded from our website at any time. There are a few extras available in the library room and elevator area if needed.

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.

Advent Volunteers are needed to light the candles during Advent Season and recite a small reading. Advent season begins on December 3. Please see the sign-up sheet on the front table in the vestibule.

Christmas Eve Communion Servers are needed for December 24, at our 7pm worship. The sign-up sheets are located on the table in the front vestibule. Thank you.

Chancel Choir – 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 updated book from Jack Webb about the German Reformed Cemetery! You can download our weekly worship programs, bi-monthly newsletters, or donate from our website.

Grace's Free Closet will be closed this coming week (Nov 20 & Nov 22). They expect to re-open on Monday, November 27 with their regular hours of 9:30am to 12:30pm. Check their Facebook page for further updates.

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.

Laundry Love - If you can volunteer some time each month, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker. Our next laundry love is scheduled for December 13, from 5pm to 8pm, at the Laundry Spot. We need help handing out pre-made bags containing quarters and washer pods.

Continued prayers requested for Jan Shafer and Ron. Jan is now at Manor Care. If you would like to send well wishes or notes to Jan, please send them to her home address and Ron will be sure she gets them. You can find her address in your church directory or call the church office.

Commemorative Ornament – Our church is being featured on this year's Chamber of Commerce Ornament. This will be a beautiful addition to your holiday memorabilia, commemorating our anniversary. Ornaments are available at the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce, Lumber Direct and The Shop. They will also be available at the Holiday House during Heritage Christmas on the evenings of December 1 and 8. Cost is \$20 each.

First Saturday Free Community Meal is being held on December 2, from 11-1pm. The menu includes turkey over waffles, with gravy, mashed potatoes, apple crisp and bottled water. Please take a flyer located on the front table in the vestibule or elevator area to help us spread the word.

Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on December 5, at 7pm, in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Church Office will be closed for Thanksgiving Day on November 23. Hope everyone has a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!





Holiday Events – Help is needed with our upcoming Holiday events. Please check the sign-up sheets in the vestibule and elevator area.

- **Christmas Caroling during Heritage Christmas**, December 1, from 6:45-7:45pm. We will be meeting at the church social hall and walking to the square.
- **Holiday Concert**, December 9, at 4pm. Please help us spread the word and invite your family and friends to join us. This is going to be a very special event.
- **Chamber of Commerce House Tour**, December 10, from 1-5pm. We need lots of help this day to have hosts/hostesses in various areas of the church.

We will need Christmas cookies for refreshments on December 9th and 10th. If you can volunteer to make cookies, please sign-up on the sheets provided.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 26, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: To Be Announced (pending volunteers)

Reader: Joann Snider

