



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

February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday
Scripture Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12 * 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 * Mark 9:2-9

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

"Love In Abundance" 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

Prelude in F Major -J.S. Bach

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 29)

Leader: Ascribe to God glory and honor!

All: The Voice of God hovers over the waters and speaks creation into being.

Leader: Ascribe to God strength and peace!
All: The Voice of God calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

Leader: Ascribe to God power and gentleness!
All: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**
Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining #192



Prayer of Invocation
All: Triune God, You come among us in the fullness of Your being
and affirm our humanity—mind, body, and spirit.
In You, we find joy.
In You, we claim peace.
In You, we arise to greet a new day with hope.
Shape us in this time together that we might reflect Your goodness and Your ways. Amen.

Prayer of Confession
All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name and what our hearts can no longer bear.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(silence)

Words of Assurance
Leader: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say that in Jesus your sins are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

2 Kings 2:1-12 Please open to Old Testament, pages 412-413

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Please open to New Testament, page 220

CHOIR ANTHEM

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus -Kirkpatrick/Kingsmore



Mark 9:2-9 Please open to New Testament, page 54

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

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 Generosity

Leader: Let us return a portion of our abundance to the creative and liberating energy and work of God in the world. May our resources be used for the glory of God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho -spiritual/Kim

***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

All: Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves.

Increase these gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights.

May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

Benediction

Leader:

May God go before you to lead you,
May God go behind you to protect you,
May God go beneath you to support you,
May God go beside you to befriend you.

Do not be afraid.

May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright #666



***POSTLUDE MUSIC**

Postlude on “Beatitudo” -Dykes/Scott

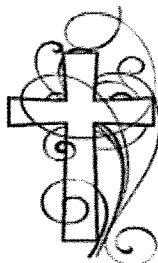


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Contributions Received 2/4: Regular Offering: \$1591
Communion Offering: \$57 / Building Fund: \$90 / Loose Change: 105
Additional Offerings received at office during the week:
Regular Offering: \$120 / Communion Offering: \$5
Building Fund: \$20 / Special Offering: \$100

Worship Attendance on 2/4: In-House: 43 / Online: 6



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



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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of February 11, 2024

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Gladys Doyle

Reader: Steve Miller

Refreshments and Fellowship is being held in the social hall following today's worship. We thank Kate Kennedy and Mark Stahl for helping us with the refreshments!

Annual Pie Sale - We thank everyone for their pre-orders! Your delicious *Apple* and *Cherry* pies can be picked up this Friday, February 16, between 3-6pm, in the social hall. Payment is due at the time of pick up. Proceeds benefit Grace Snyder Circle. Contact Lorna with any further questions. Thank you.

Easter Flower Dedications – If you would like to place an Easter flower in dedication or in honor of your loved ones, we are accepting orders at offering time during worship services in February. Pink or yellow tulips will be available at \$12.25 each, and white lilies are \$13.25 each. Payment is due with your order. Order forms and envelopes can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area or stop by the office during the week. Deadline to order is Sunday, February 25. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, and can be taken home following Easter service. If you have any questions, call Elaine at the office.

Consistory Board Members – We welcome our new board members, Mark Stahl and Barry Shoemaker!

Chancel Choir – Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Contact Patty to keep updated on any changes.

Upper Room daily devotional brochures for March/April are now available on the front table in the vestibule and elevator area. Please pick up your free copy today.

Grace Notes – **Deadline to submit articles is February 15th**. Be sure to send us any details for upcoming events, activities or fundraisers being planned for March or April, and any save the dates for May. All members are welcome to submit anything they would like to share with our church family. Thank you.

Laundry Love is being held at the Laundry Spot at 111 N. Carlise Street, Greencastle, on Thursday, February 15, from 5:30pm to 8pm. Please contact Carolyn if you can volunteer your time to help us hand out packets filled with coins and laundry pods.

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.

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. Our weekly services are live streamed through our Facebook page.

Grace Church Website: The history of our church, Moller organ and updated book from Jack Webb about the German Reformed Cemetery and be found on our website! Plus you can download our weekly worship programs, newsletters, or donate online.

Grace's Free Closet - Weekly hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Donations are accepted only during their open hours. In case of inclement weather, the Closet will be closed when Greencastle schools are closed. Contact Nancy or Jean for further information.

Live Streaming - If you're unable to attend service, or you're out of town, please watch our live stream from our Facebook page. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching along with us!

Spring Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale is being held on March 14. Ham sandwiches are \$4.50 each and soups are being sold by the quart for \$9 and by the pint for \$4.50. Choice of soups are chicken noodle or ham & bean. Order forms can be found in the front vestibule and by the elevator area. Deadline to order is March 10. Order pick up is scheduled for March 14, between 11-1pm and 4-6pm, in the social hall. We have some awesome cooks in the church who will be making the soups! Please take a flyer and help us get some orders!

Lunch Bunch – Our first lunch get together was postponed due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled for February 20, 11:30am, at the same location, El Castillo's, in State Line. We hope the weather will cooperate with us this time! Contact Joann Snider or Glenda Stenger for any updates or changes.

Grace Snyder Circle is meeting on Monday, February 12, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Ash Wednesday is on February 14. This is also the first evening of our bible study sessions. Imposition of ashes will be held in our Chapel, beginning at 6pm, during the first 15 minutes of our bible study. We will not be holding a full service. Everyone is welcomed!

Six Week Lenten Bible Study is being led by Pastor Mark on the Gospel of Matthew. The sessions will begin on February 14 through March 20. The evenings will begin with soup or a light meal served in the social hall at 5:30pm, followed by the bible study from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. We will be using the N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide called *Matthew: 25 Studies for Individual and Groups*. This is the same booklet we used during our fall sessions. Sign-up sheets for bible study and those who can help provide a light meal can be found on the welcome table in the vestibule and by the elevator area. Anyone new joining us, please indicate on the sign-ups if you need a booklet. Contact Marg Stouffer for any further questions. Thank you.

GUCC Scholarship Applications are now available. We offer the following three scholarships: 1) **Kathryn Didier Scholarship** which is available to members of GUCC who are pursuing a higher education, 2) **Julie M. Bodes Scholarship** which is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC who are planning on majoring in either the business education or computer science fields, and 3) **Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship** which is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster. Applications can be found in the folder placed on the welcome table in the front vestibule. Please pick up an application for yourself or if you know of somebody who may qualify. All applications are due back to the church office by Monday, April 1. Contact Lorna Thomas if you have any further questions.

Monthly Committee Reports – We need your reports for the month of January. Please submit them to the church office by Monday, February 12.

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for February 18, at 8:30am, in the meeting room. We will be voting for our 2024 officers. We thank everyone for their commitment and time spent helping GUCC.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, February 18, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Reader: Patty Stepler