



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

March 17, 2024 Fifth Sunday in Lent (A Healing Service)
Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 * James 5:13-18 * Matthew 26:6-13

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

“Encounters With Christ: Mary of Bethany” 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

Holy, Holy, Holy -Dykes/Wagner and Hayes

Call to Worship

Leader: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, “You are my beloved, and I love you.”

All: We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

Leader: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong,
it is tempting to forget who we are.

**All: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any
wilderness or desert that would draw us away from God.
We rejoice in God's unending love for us!**

***PRAISE SONG**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross #223



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: O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of
our own. We are tempted to forget Your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the
destructive and seductive voices of power. We confess that we, at times, have given in to those
temptations. Have mercy on us.
Help us again by planting and rooting us in Your love.**

(silence)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Friends, remember that you are a child of God, held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator.
Remember your baptism. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole.
All: Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Please open to Old Testament, page 899

James 5:13-18 Please open to New Testament, pages 281

CHOIR ANTHEM

Not a Word Did He Speak -Dengler



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

A TIME OF INDIVIDUAL ANOINTING WITH OIL AND HEALING PRAYER

OPEN SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

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: Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
-spiritual/Page

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

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

Prayer of Dedication

**All: Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from Your servants
and use them for the breaking in of Your Kingdom of love and light.
In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. 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**

Were You There #228



***POSTLUDE MUSIC**

Festive Postlude on "St. Theodulph" -Teschner/Wagner



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Holy Communion Liturgy written by Thom Shuman, permission granted at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>
Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

“Temptation: Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent Year B” was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference (UCC). Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received Week of 12/31: Regular Offering: \$956 / Loose Change: \$15
Building Fund \$10 / Organ Fund: \$30 / OHGS Offering: \$40
Worship Attendance on 12/31: In-House: 37 / Online: 7



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



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Church Announcements for Week of March 17, 2024

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker **Reader:** Lu Miller

Special Healing Prayers being held during today's worship - To remember that Jesus was anointed (that oil was placed upon him) before Holy Week, we will have a time of anointing and prayer which will take place in our Pastoral Prayer Time during today's service. From the Book of James, we see the early church practiced anointing and prayerful laying on of hands for those who were sick in the congregations. We will do this too. Those interested will be invited to come forward where Pastor Mark and another person from our Called to Care Team will be present. You can ask for prayers for yourself (being as specific as you choose to be) or you can ask for prayers for another person. Then, they will place olive oil on your forehead in the sign of the cross using their finger, put their hands on your shoulder, and pray aloud for you. After this, you can return to your pew. We hope this will be a meaningful time for all involved. Pastor Mark

Brief Congregational Meeting Today - Following today's service, we will be holding a brief meeting to distribute a packet of information in preparation for a congregational meeting, which will be held on April 14th. Please pick up your packets today, and plan on attending our meeting next month.

Ham Sandwich and Soup Fundraiser - Our sandwich and soup fundraiser was a great success! We thank all our volunteers, the cooks, the kitchen help, the organizers, and everyone who helped support us by making a purchase! We will tally up and announce the profits once all the receipts are received. Hope you all enjoyed the delicious meal!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was received last Sunday. This is the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in a crisis. The theme for 2024 is '***It's time to share the light***'. We received an additional \$40 this past Sunday, which brings the total offerings received to \$50. These funds will help the UCC provide resources to those in need.

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.

Holy Communion is a powerful way to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross and to remember that He is "the bread of life." If you are unable to attend worship in person in this Easter Season or would like to have communion in your home, please contact Pastor Mark or Elaine in the church office to schedule a home communion visit.

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.

Six Week Lenten Bible Study is being led by Pastor Mark on the Gospel of Matthew. Our final session is being held this Wednesday, March 20th. The evening will begin with soup, or a light meal served in the social hall at 5:30pm, followed by the bible study, in our Chapel, from 6-7pm. We are studying from 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. We need a volunteer who can help provide a light meal for this evening. Please see the sign-up sheet or contact Marg for any questions. Even if you missed our prior sessions, you are welcome to join us this Wednesday!

Grace's Free Closet - Weekly hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Donations are accepted only during their open hours. Please do not leave donations outside the doors or on the sidewalks when the closet is 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!

Greeters/Ushers and Readers are needed for April. The sign-up sheet is on the front table in the vestibule. If anyone new would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or consistory board for further information.

Update to Grace Notes Calendar of Events – The Ladies Lunch Bunch meets on the **last Tuesday of each month**, at 11:30am. Their next Lunch gathering will be held on March 26, at Stoner's Family Restaurant, on Wayne Avenue in Chambersburg. Their April luncheon will be held on April 30, location to be determined. Contact Joann Snider or Glenda Stenger with any questions.

Grace Notes – There are a few extra copies of our newsletter available in the front vestibule and elevator area. The newsletter can also be downloaded anytime from our website.

Laundry Love is being held at the Laundry Spot, 111 N. Carlisle Street, in Greencastle, from 5:30-8pm on March 21. If you can volunteer your time to help us hand out pre-made bags containing quarters and detergent pods, please contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

GUCC Scholarship Applications are available. We offer the following three scholarships: 1) **Kathryn Didier Scholarship** which is available to members of GUCC who are pursuing a higher education, or any Greencastle-Antrim High School senior who plans on enrolling in college, 2) **Julie M. Bodes Scholarship** 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 with any further questions.

Palm Sunday/Cantata Service is March 24. Chancel choir is preparing a special Cantata presentation for us on this special day. Loose change offerings received on Palm Sunday will be donated to the choir.

On **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, we are excited to be worshipping together with Greencastle Presbyterian Church, at 57 West Baltimore Street. The service with communion will start at 7pm. Our choir and theirs will be singing a piece together. (The choir is to report for practice at 6:20pm that night at the Presbyterian Church.) Offerings received during this worship will be donated towards their food pantry. We hope you can all join us and show our unity in Christ on this very important night of our faith.

Easter Communion Sunday is March 31. The beautiful Easter flowers that were ordered will be displayed in the sanctuary in dedication and honor of our loved ones. The flowers can be taken home following our Easter service. If you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please call Elaine at the office.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, March 24, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Sydnae Vanner & Jim Thomas

Reader: Lu Miller

