



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

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

June 9<sup>th</sup> Liturgy - Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Educational Sunday  
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, John 15:1-8

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**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**

Sinfonia -G.F. Handel/Williams

**Call to Worship (based on Psalm 121)**

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills— from where will our help come?

**All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: The Lord is our keeper; The Lord will keep us from all evil; he will keep our life.**

Leader: The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

The Branch That Bends with Clustered Fruit  
(tune: Amazing Grace)



*(Refrain)*

*Amazing Grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost without good fruit,  
Among God's vineyard vine.*

The branch that bends with clustered fruit  
Still needs the pruner's blade  
To keep it close to vine and root  
Or else its strength will fade.

The spindly, twisted, tangled coil  
Of branches overgrown  
Produces nothing from its toil  
But feeds itself alone.

The pruner's hook with gentle play  
Where fruitful growth is seen  
But like an axe will slash away  
The empty net of green.

O God, who fills with rain and sun  
The grapes we press for wine,  
Cut off the growth our fears have spun  
And prune us to your vine.

*(Refrain)*

*Amazing Grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost without good fruit,  
Among God's vineyard vine.*

**Unison Prayer of Confession (Please read together)**

**God, we confess that sometimes we close windows  
against the fresh air of new ideas,  
against the noise of other people's worries  
against the winds of change.**

**God, we confess that we often draw the curtains  
against people who are different,  
against world news or community concerns.**

**Forgive us our insulation in our own homes,  
our shuttered churches,  
the security systems on our hearts.  
Open up our lives, especially to Your Spirit.**

*(silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance**

Leader: Forgiveness is the threshold. First, we are forgiven in Christ.  
Then we step out with the Good News of Jesus on our lips.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE**

**SCRIPTURES**

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20 Please open to Old Testament, page 311

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Please open to New Testament, page 220

**VIDEO**

**"Near" By Freebridge Media**

John 15:1-8

Please open to New Testament, pages 133-134

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**  
“Pruned and Prepared”

**A RECOGNITION OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Kathryn Didier Scholarship Recipients:

Eli Sterling

He will be attending Penn State Altoona majoring in Business.

Madisen Trugleo

She will be attending West Chester University majoring in English & Music Performance

Mackenzie Wingert

She will be attending Shippensburg University majoring in Early Childhood Education

**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: 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**

Only Trust Him -Stockton/Hughes

**\*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 for the Offering**

**All: O God, with gratefulness that You have entrusted these gifts to us personally, we return and dedicate these gifts to the church...for the continuation of Christ's work. Amen.**

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

**Benediction**

Leader: May we leave this time of worship aware of just how blessed we are. Blessed with the love of God the Father who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us. Go in peace and share the Good News.

**All: Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

Because He Lives



## Because He Lives

1. God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus;  
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by,  
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er;

he came to love, heal, and for - give;  
 and feel the pride and joy that gives;  
 I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

he lived and died to buy my par - don,  
 but great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,  
 and then as death gives way to vic - tory,

an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.  
 this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.  
 I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he reigns.

TRUST AND ASSURANCE

*Refrain*

Be- cause he lives, I can face to - mor - row;

be- cause he lives, all fear is gone;

be- cause I know he holds the fu - ture,

and life is worth the liv- ing just be- cause he lives.

**\*POSTLUDE MUSIC**

The Power and The Glory -Birchwood



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Prayer of Confession written by Maren C. Tirabassi on page 123 of Before the Amen (Pilgrim Press, 2007)

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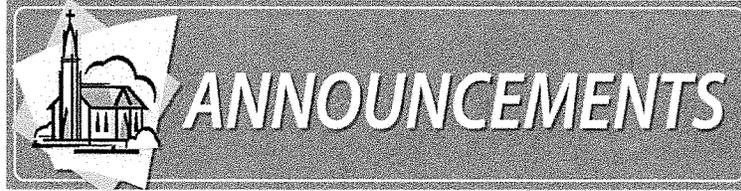
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**Contributions Received Week 6/2:** Regular Offering: \$1494 / Loose Change: \$36  
Communion Offering: \$84 / Building Fund: \$65 / Boiler Fund: \$4000 / Organ Fund: \$4225  
First Saturday Free Meal Donations: \$50 / Special Donation (for electric bill) \$100  
**Worship Attendance on 6/2:** In-House: 36 / Online: 5

**Monthly Tithes for May:** \$4620



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



**Grace United Church of Christ**

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

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

Week of June 9, 2024

**Greeters/Ushers:** Sydnae Vanner & Jim Thomas

**Reader:** Patty Stepler

**We welcome Pastor Doug Wagner** during today's service, as Pastor Mark is attending the Annual Penn Central Conference Meeting in State College. Pastor Doug Wagner and his wife Renee currently live in Hedgesville West Virginia. Doug served as pulpit supply and pastor at Grace UCC for nine months 2013-14. Doug has served as assistant chaplain at Homewood at Williamsport and has recently celebrated his 10 year anniversary serving in that capacity. While serving at Grace, Renee said she fell in love with the pastor, and they were married here at Grace church in October 2014.

**Educational Sunday** -- We congratulate the recipients of our Kathryn Didier Scholarships! Eli Sterling will be attending Penn State Altoona majoring in Business. Madisen Trugleo will be attending West Chester University majoring in English & Music Performance. Mackenzie Wingert will be attending Shippensburg University majoring in Early Childhood Education. They will each be receiving \$1000 scholarships. Congratulations to them and all the graduates of 2024! We wish them the best in their future studies!

**Refreshments and Fellowship** will be held in our social hall following worship. Please join us in meeting and congratulating the scholarship recipients and their families. We thank Sydnae Vanner and Deb Homer for providing and setting up the refreshments for us to enjoy.

**Loose Change Offerings** received during today's worship will be donated to our scholarship fund.

**Pastor's Office Hours** – Pastor Mark has office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am till 12noon. You are welcome to schedule a time to talk with him, or just stop by to say hello.

**Pastor's New Email:** Be sure to update your records to reflect Pastor Mark's new email address of: [markruzicka3349@gmail.com](mailto:markruzicka3349@gmail.com)

**Church Worship Volunteers** – We need greeters/ushers and a reader for our June 30 service. The sign-up sheet is located on the welcome table in the front vestibule.

**Chancel Choir** – No rehearsals till the fall. We thank the Choir and all the members, including our organist for their dedication to the weekly rehearsals and special performances throughout the year. Looking forward to next season.

**Organ Refurbishing:** The refurbishing of our Moller organ will begin sometime in 2025, and it will take 3 to 6 months to complete. Our fundraising goal is \$62,000. If you would like to contribute to the organ fund to help with this upcoming expense, please make a notation on your offering envelope, marking as "organ fund" and amount. Towards the bottom of our announcements, we will keep you updated with our progress. Please direct any questions to our consistory board. We thank everyone for their donations.

**Upper Room** daily devotional brochures for June/July are still available. You will find pocket size and large print booklets in the elevator area and on the welcome table in the front vestibule.

**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!

**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 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.

**Wi-Fi Password** – If you need our Wi-Fi guest password to access the internet while at the church, please see any of our ushers and they will gladly provide you with the information.

Our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale** is being planned for **July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please save your gently used items for us. We will be accepting donations starting the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers to help clean, sort and organize the donations on **July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**, between 9am and 2pm. Sign-up sheets can be found on the welcome table in the front vestibule and in the elevator area.

**Consistory Board Meeting** will be held on Sunday, June 16, at 8am, in the meeting room.

**Gratitude** – We thank Grace Snyder Circle for providing us with a new freezer in our kitchen! It's a larger capacity and it's frost free! It was greatly appreciated and will be used for storing foods for our 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday meals and other events and fundraisers. Thank you for this wonderful donation.

**Newsletter Deadline** – Please submit any articles for the July/August issue of Grace Notes to the church office by June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Grace Snyder Circle** will not be meeting during the summer months.

**June Birthday Wishes** go out to Ron Myers, Kate Kennedy, Barry Shoemaker, Lorna Thomas, Kermit Hicks, Deb Homer, Rashaw Alston, Ben Thomas and Joseph Koons. Happy Birthday! If you would like to send them birthday greetings, you can find their contact information in our church directory. If you need an updated copy of the directory, please contact Elaine in the church office.

**Thank You Card from Mildred Minnich and Chet Nye** has been placed on the bulletin board outside of church office for everyone to read. They thank and appreciate all the cards, phone calls and flowers received during the passing of their granddaughter.

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<u>Organ Fundraising Goal - \$62,000</u>	
Total Amount Raised prior to formal approval	\$46,968
Total Amount Raised since approval	\$5,607
Anonymous Pledge	\$5,000
Total Raised to Date	\$57,575
Still Needed	\$4,425

*Worship Volunteers for Sunday, June 16, 9:30am service:*

**Greeters/Ushers:** Jean Rice & Cathy Keefer

**Reader:** Steve Miller

