



***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

Sunday, September 1, 2024: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 / James 1:17-27 / Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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 Novelette -Purvis

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 15)

Leader: Lord, who can live in your sacred tent? Who can stay on your holy mountain?
**All: Anyone who tries to do what is right. Those who speak the truth from their heart.
Those who don't tell lies about other people.**

Leader: Lord, who can live in your sacred tent? Who can stay on your holy mountain?
**All: Those who don't do wrong to their neighbors. Those who honor those who have respect for the
Lord. Those who keep their promises even when it hurts.**

Leader: Lord, we want to live like that and always be secure.
All: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation

All: Loving God, we rejoice to be with You and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus...the highs and lows of life. Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** I Sing the Mighty Power of God #32



Unison Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, we confess that we aren't very good at entrusting our lives to You.
Have mercy on us.**

Help us to discern what needs to be left in our past with gratitude, what needs to be eradicated with repentance, and what needs to be envisioned for the future.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, welcome with meekness the implanted word of God that has the power to save our souls.

All: In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Please open to Old Testament, pages 200, 201

James 1:17-27 Please open to New Testament, page 278

VIDEO "MLK Day (Do Justice)" by Freebridge Media

Gospel of Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Please open to New Testament, pages 51-52

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: James 1:17 reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above."
May we receive all the gifts from God with gladness, share the gifts with hospitality and compassion,
and celebrate the kingdom of God's abundance with boldness.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC I Want Jesus to Walk with Me -traditional spiritual/Sewell

***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: Generous God, bless these gifts that we share for the flourishing of the kingdom.
Prosper the work of our hands, order the steps in our days, and align the balance of our resources. In
our time, talent, and treasure, may You be glorified. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Leader: Beloved, may God be with you!

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the One who loves us beyond all expectations.

Leader: Let us offer our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

All: Our voices unite in joy and thanks to the One who brings us hope and healing.

Leader: Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving, God, our God!

You would anoint us with the oil of joy and clothe us in the robes of mercy and goodness.

But we break Your heart by embracing the very wickedness You hate, staining our lives with sin and death.

Still, You love us and seek us out, for in Christ Your grace has defeated sin and the Risen Lord has opened the way to life in Your kingdom.

So, we lift our voices in joy and hope, singing with the choirs of angels in heaven,
and with all the faithful of every place and time, singing of your glory forever.

All Sing “SANCTUS” (Seraphic Hymn)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth

Heaven and earth are full,

are full of the majesty of thy glory,

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, our Companion, the joy of Your Heart.

Gazing into our souls, Jesus sees our emptiness and fills us with Your grace;

listening to our pain, Jesus is quick to speak healing and hope to us all;

Jesus declares that sin is past, death is over and gone, and resurrection blossoms in our hearts from now on.

As you have called him Beloved at his baptism,

and as You raised him from death to give us life,

so we give ourselves to live for him in praise and service.

In grateful wonder, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (by the Pastor)

Generous God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon those who gather around Your Table,
and upon the gifts of the Bread and Cup.

As they are the body of your Servant and the Spirit of Your compassion,
may we become the healing and hope the world longs for in our time.

As You pour grace into our hearts, may we become doers of Your Word, those whose hands are used to show
Your kindness: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, lifting the fallen to their feet,
and comforting all who are broken.

Then, when Your Spirit unites us at Your Table in heaven, as we clasp hands with all Your beloved,
we will sing your glory for all eternity: O God in Community, Holy in One.
Come for all things are now ready.

Distribution of the Elements
(We partake together at the cue of the pastor)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and
have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show
forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: We have been challenged to be doers of the word, not hearers only.

All: We will act out our faith.

Leader: We have been challenged to care for orphans and widows in their distress
and keep ourselves unstained by the world.

All: We will act out our faith.

Leader: As we do our best to live with integrity, we ask God's blessing on our efforts.

All: We leave this time of worship in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** For the Beauty of the Earth #14



***POSTLUDE MUSIC** Cavatina -Gluck/Blake



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For Tradition: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

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

Contributions Received on 8/25:

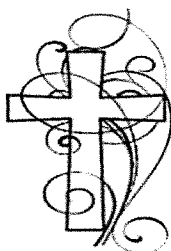
Regular Offering: \$622 / Loose Change Offering: \$20

Building Fund: \$10 / Boiler Fund: \$50

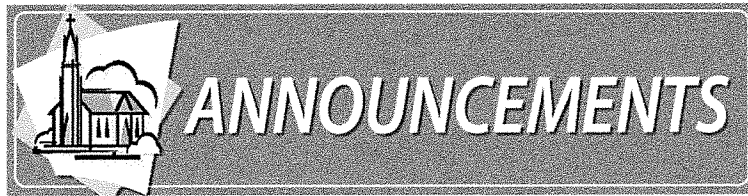
Regular Offering Received at Office: \$200

Total Tithes for the month of August: \$5317

Worship Attendance on 8/25: In-House: 38 / Online: 2



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of September 1, 2024

Greeters/Ushers : Nancy Myers & Cathy Keefer

Communion Servers: Nancy Myers & Lu Miller

Reader: Steve Miller

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.

Upper Room – The September/October daily devotional guides are now available. Please pick up a free copy from the welcome table in the vestibule or the elevator area.

Live Streaming - If you're unable to attend service, or you're out of town, please watch our live stream from our Facebook page and soon from our YouTube channel.

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.

Activities & Fundraising Committee will hold their next meeting on *September 3rd, at 7pm*, in the meeting room. Contact Chet or Marg if you would like further information about joining them! We could use some new volunteers to help with our upcoming ham sandwich and soup sale in October!

You're Invited – The *Mercersburg Association* and congregation of *Church of the Apostles* invites us to the *Service of Installation on behalf of Rev. Mark Ruzicka* being held on *September 22, at 3pm*, in the sanctuary of the Church of the Apostles. Flyer with details posted on our new church bulletin board.

Good News: **Social Seniors is being restarted this Fall!** -- In the past, this was a gathering of folks from Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Trinity (State Line), and Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro). At this time, we are including folks from Grace UCC (in Greencastle). We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at one of our different churches. Generally, we meet at 2 pm for fellowship, have some snacks, and then enjoy a different program each month. On *September 11*, we will be meeting at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro and the program will be "having fun with games." If you are a senior, consider coming...it should be great!

Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic will be held on September 8th. It's a combined service being held at the pavilion at the Church of the Apostles. Worship will begin at 10:30am, followed by a covered dish picnic. (See the flyer posted on our new church bulletin board.) The Church of the Apostles will bring a warm/cold dish to share, and we were asked to bring drinks, fruits or dessert dish to share. Fried chicken and paper products will be provided. Sign-up sheets can be found on the welcome table in the vestibule and the elevator area. **Please sign-up today** if you plan on attending so we can get a head count for ordering the chicken. If you can bring a dish, please add that to the sign-up sheet too. Thank you!

Church Office will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd. Enjoy your holiday!

Grace's Free Closet will be **closed** the first two weeks in September to change over from summer to fall clothing. They need plastic bags. Please save your plastic grocery bags and drop them off on Sunday in the green box which can be found in the hallway outside the church office. You can also drop off any clothing donations in that box. Contact Nancy if you can volunteer some time to help them out or if you have any questions.

Our Streaming Equipment has been updated. Our technical volunteers will receive training on the new equipment. We now have the capability to live stream our services on Facebook and YouTube simultaneously. We thank everyone who helped and donated to this project!

Chancel Choir – Rehearsals will begin after Labor Day. The first practice is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Anyone new interested in joining the choir, please contact Patty. We would love to hear some new voices!

Church Bulletin Board – You will find a *new bulletin board* located in the lower hallway, just outside Pastor Mark's office. We are placing pictures of our GUCC leadership team on the board so you can get to know them; plus, you will find information about our upcoming events, fundraisers, bible studies, church, or community news and more, so be sure to check the board often! Thank you to Marg for putting this together for us!

First Saturday Free Community Meal is scheduled for September 7th, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. See the flyer posted on our new church bulletin board for the menu! Everyone invited!

Grace Snyder Circle – Hope everyone in the Guild has been enjoying their summer break. They will be holding their monthly meeting starting on September 9th, at 1pm, in the meeting room. If anyone new would like to join them, please contact Nancy Myers for more information, or just show up at the meeting! We would love to have some new faces join us!

Wednesday Night Book Study Group: "An Introduction to Covenant and the United Church of Christ": Beginning on *September 11*, Pastor Mark will lead a BOOK GROUP on Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Chapel. This study is an opportunity to learn about the United Church of Christ. The group will use JANE FISLER HOFFMAN'S book, COVENANT: A STUDY FOR THE UCC which begins with the UCC pamphlet WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE then moves into the book which contains 3 to 4 page chapters followed by discussion questions for each of the THOUGHT-PROVOKING SESSIONS that explore the concept of covenant as it relates to the Hebrew Testament, Jesus, God, the UCC Heritage, the wider UCC, and more! This 8-week study will conclude on October 30th. Sign-up sheets can be found on the welcome table in the front vestibule and the elevator area. Call Elaine at the Church Office (717-597-2983) to let us know if you want us to order the Covenant Book (\$8 on Amazon). (We already have the pamphlets). Hope to see you there!

Hoss's Fundraiser – We are teaming up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Chambersburg on September 14 to raise money for our church. Please consider dining at Hoss's, located at 20 Falling Spring Road, between 11am and 9pm on Saturday, September 14, as GUCC will receive 20-25% payout based on the day's total food sales (pre-taxed food and beverage sales). This is a one-day event scheduled only at the Chambersburg restaurant. Gift card purchases will not be included as part of the food sale totals. For us to get credit, you must bring the coupon they have provided us. A Coupon is attached to the back of the announcements, and extras are available on our new community bulletin board. One coupon is good for everyone at the same table. Please pass along coupons to family, friends and neighbors! Contact Cathy Keefer if you have any questions! Thank you!

Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale -- Our activities & fundraising committee is preparing for our fall *ham sandwich & soup sale* in October! We will be selling delicious ham sandwiches made with Martin Potato Sandwich Rolls, and homemade soups. This year we are offering three soup choices: *Chicken Noodle, Chicken Rice and Ham & Bean*. The sandwiches cost \$4.50 each, soups are \$4.50 per pint or \$9 per quart. The ham sandwiches and soups will be available for pick up on **October 3**, between 11am – 1pm, and 4pm to 6pm, in the social hall. Order forms and boxes to place your orders will be placed in the front vestibule and elevator area, or you can drop off orders at the church office. All pre-orders must be turned in by September 26. Payment will be due at time of pick-up. Cash or checks (with valid ID) will be accepted. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC. We will need helpers to make the ham sandwiches in the morning of October 3 and help put the orders together. If you can volunteer your time to help us or have any further questions, please contact Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer or call the church office.

Past Board Members – We are missing some consistory books. If any prior board members have binders at home, please return them to the church office. Thank you.

Consistory Board Members - Our monthly meetings will be starting this month, with the first meeting held on September 15 at 8am, in the meeting room. Please put together your summer reports for June, July, August, and submit them to the church office by September 9th.

Our latest issue of Grace Notes is now available - Check your emails, snail mail or our website to see what's going on in September and October. Some extra copies have been placed in the front sanctuary and the elevator area.

Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship dropped off an updated pamphlet about their upcoming programs from September to January 2025. You will find it posted on our new community bulletin board for anyone who would like to attend.

Happy September Birthday Wishes go out to Bob Gearhart, Larry Stepler, Jim Thomas, Duane Lawson and Tom Green!

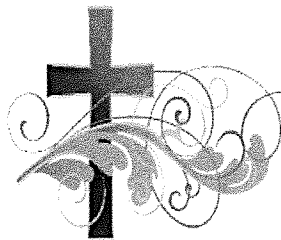
Some Guidelines for Sharing Prayer Concerns & Joys as our service will now be shared on YouTube, and accessible to anyone with internet access:

- * If it is not yourself, ask yourself, "Do I have permission from the person to share this request"?
- * Use **FIRST** names **ONLY!**
- * Do not divulge specific medical information (like cancer, COVID, heart surgery, etc.). So, what can be said is something like, "Richard is having surgery or Richard is having surgery on 8/28" Or, "Sue is dealing with a serious illness".
- * If you want more information about the concern shared, please talk to the person directly after the service.

Enjoy your Labor Day picnics! We thank God for the blessing of work. We ask for strength to complete each day. We ask for guidance for everyone seeking employment, and we ask that you be with those we might never see, but work tirelessly each day for the good of us all!

No Worship Volunteers needed for Sunday, September 8:

Combined Outdoor Worship beginning at 10:30am, followed by Church Picnic
will be held at Church of the Apostles



From: Hoss's Community Night <commnight@hosscorp.com>
To: cnckeeper@comcast.net **Cc:** 04@hosscorp.com

Hoss's Community Night

Dear Friend of Grace United Church of Christ:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 9/14/2024 to aid us in raising money to benefit Grace United Church of Christ.

Print this email and present it on **9/14/2024** at Hoss's in **Chambersburg**
Hoss's will then donate 20%* or 25%** of your total check paid to **Grace United Church of Christ**

*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

**To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!

Group #130504

Please print and present this email when ordering. See the attached file for the entire Community Night agreement.

