



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 29, 2024: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Acts 1:1-8 / Hebrews 13:1-2 / Matthew 28:18-20

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO "Changed (Our Work After Easter)" by Freebridge Media

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

Let All Things Now Living -Welsh melody/Hayes and Gaspard

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 145)

Leader: Come, let's praise God together!
All: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's tell stories of God's mighty acts throughout history:
All: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's remember the compassion He has shown us;
His mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation:
All: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's pass these stories along to others so that they may come to know and love our God.
All: For God is great, and worthy of our praise! Let's worship God together!

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**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! #804



Unison Prayer of Confession

**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. Amen.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:1-8 Please open to New Testament, page 143

Hebrews 13:1-2 Please open to New Testament, page 276

CHOIR ANTHEM

A New Name In Glory -Camp Kirkland



Matthew 28:18-20 Please open to New Testament, page 41

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

(Please follow new suggested guidelines)

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: The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual worship."
Let us make our offerings now as a sign of our worship.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Children of the Heavenly Father *with* Jesus Loves Me
-Swedish melody, Bradbury/Linker

***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 (based on Romans 12)

**All: Holy and Living God, 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 may be made known to the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (based on 1 Peter 3)

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, make sure to honor Christ as Master in your hearts.
Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have.
Be ready to give the reasons for your different way of life and do it respectfully.
Try to live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong.
And go with God's blessing: in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! #839



***POSTLUDE MUSIC** Solemn March -Mendelssohn/Blake



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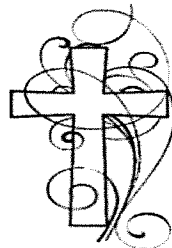
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“Prayer of Confession” from the *PCUSA Book of Common Worship*, printed by *Westminster John Knox*. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka. Other prayers written by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

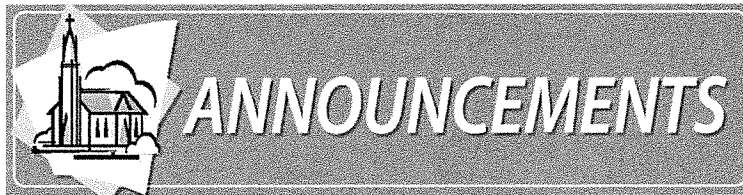
Contributions Received on 9/22

Regular Offering: \$1281 / Loose Change Offering: \$341
German Reformed Cemetery Donation: \$100

Worship Attendance on 9/22: In-House: 40 / Online: 0



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/

Week of September 29, 2024

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Tony Homer

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.

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 is open on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. 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 if you are unable to drop off at the Closet when they are open. Contact Nancy if you can volunteer your time to help at the Closet, or if you have any questions.

Chancel Choir – Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Anyone new interested in joining the choir, please contact Patty. We would love to hear some new voices!

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.

Activities & Fundraising meeting is being held on October 1st, at 7pm, in the meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Church Bulletin Board – You will find our ***new bulletin board*** located in the lower hallway, just outside Pastor Mark's office. We have placed pictures of our GUCC leadership team on the board, so you can get to know them. Check the board weekly for information about our upcoming events, fundraisers, bible studies, community news and more. We thank Marg for putting this board together for us!

Wednesday Night Book Study Group: "An Introduction to Covenant and the United Church of Christ": Our 8-week book group lead by Pastor Mark continues Wednesday evenings through October 30th, from 6-7pm in the Chapel.

Live Streaming - We are now live streaming our Sunday worship services on YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. Our new YouTube channel is Greencastle Grace UCC. We thank everyone who helped and donated to this project.

Hoss's Fundraiser: We thank our church family for choosing to have dinner at Hoss's Restaurant during our community day with them. The total food sales for the day were \$704.86 and the corporate office will be sending us a donation of \$140.97, which is 20% of the sales. Hope everyone enjoyed their meals!

Ham Sandwich and Soup Fundraiser! We thank everyone for their pre-orders. Pick up is on Thursday, October 3, between 11am to 1pm, and 4pm to 6pm, in the social hall. Payment is due at the time of pick up. Cash or checks (with valid ID) will be accepted. Checks can be made payable to Grace UCC.

We **NEED HELP** to prepare the chicken for the soup sale! We need 10 roasting chickens cooked, deboned, cut up & frozen along with the broth. Please see the sign-up sheets if you can help us.

We also **NEED HELP** in the morning of the sale, October 3, to help make the ham sandwiches and put the orders together. Contact Marg Stouffer or Cathy Keefer if you can volunteer with us.

Men's Morning Fellowship: Gentlemen, you are invited to attend a morning of fellowship and food on *Saturday, October 12, at 8:30am in the church social hall*. A breakfast buffet will be provided, which will include a breakfast casserole, sausage gravy, meats, fruit and baked goods to name a few. Please mark your calendar, bring a friend, family member or neighbor and join us! Sign-up sheets are in the front vestibule and elevator area.

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.

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee is meeting on October 6th, at 8:30am, in the meeting room.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on October 5th, from 11am to 1pm, in social hall.

Penn Central Conference – Merger Motion Vote on November 9: This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to have 2 delegates, along with Pastor Mark, involved in their Fall Meeting; whether in person, at a watch party, or from the comfort of your own home. Please consider coming together to vote. Further information to register, participate and make your vote count, can be found on the website: <https://psec.org/keystone/>

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, they are including folks from Grace UCC (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 Wednesday, *October 9th*, we will be meeting at Trinity UCC in State Line, and the program will be "Tweets and Treats", a session on birding let by Dale Gearhart. If you are a senior, please consider coming! It will be nice to meet new people and have a great time!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held in the social hall, following worship on October 13th. If you can help prepare or serve refreshments, please see the sign-up sheets. Thank you.

Grace Snyder Circle will be meeting on Monday, October 14, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Sunday Volunteers – ***November*** sign-up sheet is on the table in the front vestibule for greeters/ushers, readers and communion servers. Please check your calendars and sign-up today! Thank you.

October Birthday Wishes go out to Patty Stepler, Jack Shoemaker, Loretta (Doll) Koons, Elaine Scheffer, Teresa Myers, Christopher Wilhide, Edward Doyle, Larry Burger and Tammy Hockenberry. Happy Birthday!

Trinity Lutheran Church located at 1186 Jason Drive, in Greencastle, invites the women of GUCC to join them on Tuesday afternoons beginning October 1st from 1-2 pm in their Adult Sunday School Room. They will be studying the book of Hebrews. Feel free to join them and bring a friend. If you have any questions, see Phyllis McCullough at Trinity. They also invite us to their ***Halloween Baked Potato Bar*** on Saturday, October 19, from 4-7pm. Menu includes a baked potato with all the fixings, along with soup, salad, brownies, and ice cream. Cost is by donation. Have some fun at the Trick or Treat corner and the Halloween photo booth. Flyer is posted on our community bulletin board.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, October 6th, 2024:

Greeters/Ushers: Cathy Keefer & Lu Miller

Communion Servers: Cathy Keefer & Lu Miller

Reader: Steve Miller

