



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

Order of Worship for November 24, 2024
The Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 93, Revelation 1:4-8, John 18:33-37

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "To-For-With-By-A-Thanksgiving-Tribute" 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

Now Thank We All Our God -Cruger/Ashdown

Call to Worship

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
All: We glorify God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

Leader: God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.
All: God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.

Leader: We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, 'Thank you!' to the One who loves us.
All: We will sing our praises, celebrating God's presence in our lives.

***PRAISE SONG** For the Fruit of All Creation #36



Unison Prayer of Confession

Because we live in this modern and tech-driven age, we often forget what You have done for us, God of every blessing. But we know that life is more than our machines and entertainment.

We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more.

**Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.
Have mercy on us. Forgive us, Restorer of life.**

**As you clothe us with Your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little.
As our hearts overflow with Your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy.
We are blessed, for we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 93 Please open to Old Testament, page 675

Revelation 1:4-8 Please open to New Testament, page 297

CHOIR ANTHEM Our Grateful Song -Besig



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 the Offering

Leader: Let us bring our resources for our common life and for communal good as a reflection of our commitment to the way of Jesus.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth -Kocher/Mansfield

***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 Thanksgiving and Dedication

All: Holy God, may these offerings make a difference in this life of the community we love.

May these offerings extend beyond the boundaries of the bricks that enfold us to the world that needs us.

May these offerings be a balm to a world in need of comfort and a fire to a world in need of refining.

May all this begin within us, and flourish beyond us.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you all the days of your life.
May thoughts of Jesus fill your mind, and thanksgiving be your response.

May the eyes of your heart be open to the blessings which surround you;
may this awareness produce a harvest of gratitude and generosity in your spirit.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

*PRAISE SONG

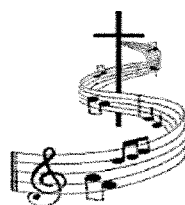
We Gather Together #336



POSTLUDE MUSIC (Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

-Elvey/Gaspard and Hayes



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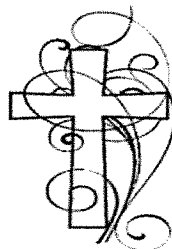
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Prayers written by Thom Shuman and adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka. Permission granted at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

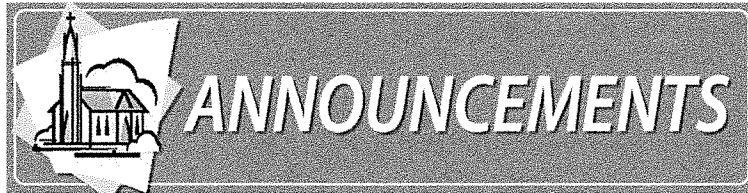
Contributions Received on 11/17:

Regular Offering: \$1267 / Loose Change Offering: \$70
Building Fund Donations: \$110

Worship Attendance on 11/17: In-House: 44 / Online: 9



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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Week of November 24, 2024

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Jack Shoemaker **Reader:** Patty Stepler

Christmas Poinsettia orders are now due. They cost \$11 each. Order forms and envelopes can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area. Please drop off your orders, along with payment, in today's collection plate, or drop off at the church office tomorrow. **The deadline to order is Monday, November 25th by 12 noon.**

Church Decorating – Everyone is invited to join us in the joy of decorating and fellowship following today's worship. We will be decorating for Advent and the Celebration of Christmas with a light meal served afterwards.

Community Thanksgiving Service at Trinity Lutheran Church will be held this evening, November 24, at 6pm. They have a community choir for the service. Everyone is invited to join them at 1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle.

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser was a great success. We thank everyone who volunteered their time to help us! We will tally up totals and let you know the profits next week! Thank you!

Church Bulletin Board – Please check the bulletin board weekly for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more!

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.

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.

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.

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. Donations are accepted during their open hours. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions.

Live Streaming of Worship Services - Sunday Worship begins at 9:30am. Join us on YouTube or Facebook at 9:30am to watch us live.

Join us as the **Penn State Mont Alto Chorale**, under the direction of Patricia Stepler, will present their Christmas Concert on Sunday, **December 8** at 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Greencastle, followed by creamery ice cream. They will present the same concert on Tuesday, **December 10** at 7:00 pm in the auditorium in the General Studies Building on the Penn State Mont Alto campus. A variety of holiday music for all to enjoy!

Men's Fellowship & Breakfast - The men of Grace UCC are welcome to join the men of Church of the Apostles for their monthly breakfast. They meet the First Saturday of the month at 9am at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. Mark your calendars to join them on December 7th.

Lunch Bunch is meeting on November 26, at 11:30am, at Sunrise Diner, 1110 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg. Women and men are all invited to join them.

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving. Enjoy your holiday!

Activities & Fundraising Committee is holding a meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7pm. Everyone is welcomed to join them.

First Saturday Free Community Meal is being held on Saturday, December 7, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. They are planning on serving hot turkey sandwiches with sides.

Refreshments & Fellowship is scheduled for Sunday, December 8th. Please plan on joining us in the social hall after worship service.

Our **Angel Tree** is now decorated with numbered Angel ornaments which will have a child's age, genders, and some gift suggestions listed on the back side. Please take an Angel and be sure to write your name down on the list next to the Angel number you picked. You can wrap your gifts, or use decorative gift bags, just be sure to attach your Angel to the gift package. All gifts need returned by December 8th. You can drop them off on Sunday or stop by the church office during the week. Nancy Myers will schedule a time for the families to pick up the gifts before Christmas. We thank you for helping the children in this community to have a brighter Christmas! Any questions, please see Nancy.

The next **Social Seniors** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th, at 2pm. The group will be "Singing Christmas Songs Together" at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro. Please join in for some Holiday fun!



Grace UCC will be participating in **Heritage Christmas** on Friday, December 6th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. We will have holiday cards available to sign that will then be distributed to our Veterans. We are collecting unused Christmas cards for this event. Lorna and Marg will be accepting card donations any Sunday prior to December 6th, or you can drop them off at the church office. If you have cards that are already signed, you can place them in the decorated box located near the angel tree in the hallway. Signed cards will be accepted up until December 1st, you can bring them to church next Sunday or drop them off at the office during the week. We will also need some volunteers to staff the booth during Heritage Christmas. Lorna or Marg can give you further information about volunteering.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, December 1st, 2024:

Greeters/Ushers: Marg Stouffer & Lu Miller **Reader:** Lu Miller

Communion Servers: Marg Stouffer & Lu Miller

Advent Candle Lighter: Tim Bryan

Advent Reader: Steve Miller & Lu Miller

