

***No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***



**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 January 12, 2025
First Sunday after Epiphany**

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "Our Mess, God's Masterpiece" 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
Toccata in C Minor -Leo

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 95)

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,

All: let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

Leader: for he is our God

All: and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG** Sing Glory to the Name of God #10



Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, in baptism You unite us with Christ,
promising us forgiveness of sin and newness of life.**

But we confess that we often fail to live as forgiven and renewed people.

We keep destructive habits and hold grudges.

We allow our past to hold us hostage.

In Your loving-kindness, have mercy on us and free us from what is holding us back.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the Good News Letter to the Romans:

“You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father,” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

If we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

In Christ, we see the boundless love of God and reassured of our forgiveness.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD’S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 43:1-7 Please open to Old Testament, page 822

Acts 8:14-17 Please open to New Testament, pages 153-154

CHOIR ANTHEM
Teach Us to Pray -Choplin



Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Please open to New Testament, page 73

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 (based on Hebrews 13)

Leader: The Book of Hebrews encourages us,
“Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
Let us give and receive this morning’s offering.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot -spiritual/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 Dedication for the Offering

**All: Ever-present God, with this offering we present also ourselves:
all that we have been,
all that we are,
all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in Your ways.
This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD’S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Holy Spirit of energy and change,
be poured upon us without reserve or distinction,
that we may have confidence and strength
to plant justice and joy on this earth, through Jesus Christ.
All: Amen.

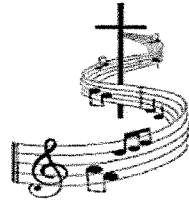
***PRAISE SONG**

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee #816



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

A Festal Postlude -Barr



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Prayers from *The Worship Sourcebook* © 2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources, adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received on 12/29/2024:

Regular Offering: \$591 / Loose Change Offering: \$9
Christmas Eve Donations: \$25 / Boiler Fund Donation: \$10
First Saturday Free Meal Donations: \$360

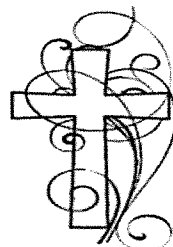
Attendance for 12/29: In-House: 26 / Online: 7

Total Tithes for the Month of December 2024: \$6930

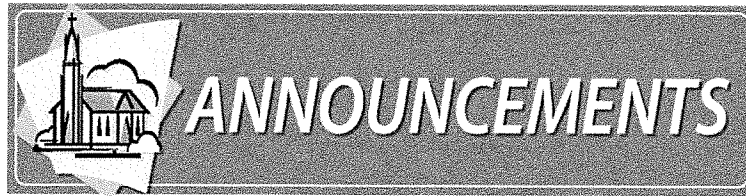
Contributions Received on 1/5/2025:

Regular Offering: \$1691 / Loose Change Offering: \$25
Communion Offering: \$25 / Initial Offering: \$143
Building Fund Donations: \$190 / First Saturday Free Meal Donations: \$120

Attendance for 12/29: In-House: 28 / Online: 4



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of January 12th, 2025

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

Refreshments & Fellowship is being held after today's worship service in the social hall. We need volunteers to help prepare and provide refreshments for our upcoming services. Please sign-up today or contact Carolyn for further information.

2025 Consistory Board Members & Officers: Lorna Thomas & Mark Stahl (co-presidents), Deb Homer (Secretary), Larry Stepler (Treasurer), Tim Bryan, Ron Shafer, Barry Shoemaker, and Steve & Lu Miller. We thank them all for dedicating their time to help serve at our church. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with any of the board members.

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.

Greeters/Ushers and Readers are still needed for February. Please sign up after today's service.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides for January/February are available on the front welcome table and in the elevator area. Please pick up a free copy after today's worship.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. In case of inclement weather, the Closet will be closed when Greencastle schools are closed. The closet needs some more volunteers to help them take in donations and carry items up and down the stairs. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions.

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

Committee Chairpersons & Board Members – Please submit your year-end reports for 2024 to the church office. We need reports from the following committees and ministries: Co-Presidents Report, Activities & Fundraising (which includes 1st Saturday Free Meals), Building & Grounds, Called to Care Committee, Grace's Free Closet, Grace Snyder Circle, Laundry Love, Scholarship Committee and Worship & Spiritual Life Committee.

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, at 8am, in the board room.

Grace Snyder Circle is meeting on Monday, January 13th, 1pm, in the meeting room.

Social Seniors is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, at 2pm. It will be held at Trinity UCC in State Line. The program will be an interactive presentation on "Enoch Brown, a Schoolmaster in Greencastle in the 1700's." Everyone is invited to join them.

2024 Contribution Statements – If you would like a copy of your yearly contribution statement, please see the sign-up sheets on the welcome table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area. Statements will be available to pick up during service on 19 & 26 for your convenience. You are also welcome to request us to mail your statement or hold at the office for pick-up. Contact Elaine in the office if you have any further questions.

We thank Evangelical Lutheran Church for donating \$360 to First Saturday Free Meals.

Thank you from Susan Alsip-Lawson for the monetary gift at Christmas. Please see her thank you note posted on the church bulletin board.

Thank you from Elaine Scheffer for the Christmas gift money. I appreciate being thought of and I'm very thankful to work for such a great church family. Hope everyone has a wonderful 2025!

Thank you from Patty Stepler for the Christmas gift. Please see her thank you note posted on the bulletin board.

Called to Care Committee is meeting on January 21st, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Lunch Bunch is meeting on January 28th, 11:30am, at John Allison Public House in Greencastle.

Our next **First Saturday Free Community Meal** will be held on February 1st, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. The menu includes spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic bread, salad & bottled water.

Pastor Mark's birthday is approaching on January 28th. Let's shower him with birthday wishes! You can drop off cards at the office or you can find his address in the church directory. We are thankful and appreciate all he does for us!

***** **Annual Pie Sale** *****

Grace Snyder Circle is hosting their Annual Pie Sale on February 21, from 3-6pm, in the social hall. Pies are \$10 each. Cherry, Cherry Sugar Free and Apple pies will be available. We are taking pre-orders up till February 10th. Order forms and boxes to place your orders have been placed in the front vestibule and elevator area. Payment is due at time of pick-up. Proceeds benefit Grace Snyder Circle. Contact Lorna Thomas or the church office if you have any further questions.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, January 19th, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Tony Homer

