

***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 19, 2025
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-11

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "For Pete's Sake: Volunteer" 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

Someone's Praying, Lord ("Kum Ba Yah") -African-American melody/Wagner

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 36)

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All: All people may take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Leader: O God, You give us drink from the river of Your delights.

All: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Leader: O God, continue to show us Your steadfast love.

All: Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! #263



Unison Prayer of Confession (Iona Community)

Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:

To the ways we wound our lives,

the lives of others

and the life of the world.

May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News: God delights in you.

God will not remain quiet until we are saved and shine like a blazing torch.

God's steadfast love extends to the heavens, is found in the person of Jesus,

and reaches down to touch our hearts today.

All: Thanks be to God who forgives and saves us!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 62:1-5 Please open to Old Testament, page 847

Psalm 36:5-10 Please open to Old Testament, page 627

CHOIR ANTHEM God's Work -Besig



John 2:1-11 Please open to New Testament, page 113

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: As recipients of abundant life in Christ, we now offer our gifts to God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC The Lone Wild Bird -unknown/Lau

***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.

Amen.

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

**All: O Lord, combine these gifts with other gifts,
that they may become rivers of grace and justice flowing through the lives of everyone around us.
We offer our gifts to You in this hope, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.

And the blessing of God almighty,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

rest upon you always.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

We Are One in the Spirit #300



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

Trumpet Fanfare -Wetzler



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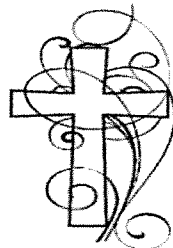
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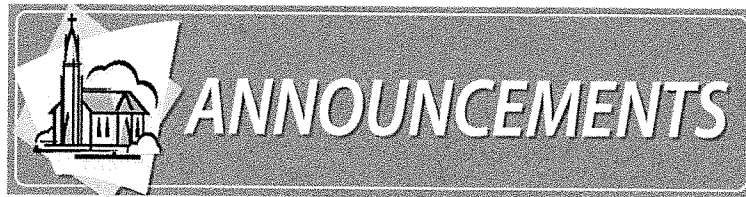
Contributions Received on 1/12:

Regular Offering: \$936 / Loose Change Offering: \$50 / Initial Offering: \$5
Communion Offering: \$10 / Building & Grounds Donation: \$5

Attendance for 1/12: In-House: 34 / 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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

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Week of January 19th, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer **Reader:** Tony Homer

Our Annual Pie Sale hosted by Grace Snyder Circle is being held 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, or you can drop off orders at the church office during the week. 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.

Monthly Refreshment Volunteers are needed to help provide and set up refreshments on the second Sunday of each month in the social hall, following worship. Please see the sign-up sheet or contact Carolyn for further information.

We welcome our 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 – We need one more volunteer to help us on February 9th. 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 can help us out.

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

2024 Annual Year End Reports – Our year end spreadsheet for 2024 along with annual committee and ministry reports will be available to GUCC members next Sunday, January 26th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or any consistory member.

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 – Year end contribution statements have been placed on the front welcome table and elevator area for those who requested to pick them up after worship. If you requested to pick them up at the office, please stop by during the week. The sign-up sheets are still out, so if you need a copy, please sign up and we will have them available for you next Sunday. Statements not picked up by Monday, January 27th, will be placed in the mail. Contact Elaine in the office if you have any questions. Thank you.

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.

Thank you from Marg & Jeff Stouffer to Consistory and friends for the generous gift card to Café del Sol. It was greatly appreciated. Please see her thank you card posted on the bulletin board.

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

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 here 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!

Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on February 4th, at 7pm, in the meeting room.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship is being held on Saturday, February 1st, 9am, at the Velvet Café, in Waynesboro. We thank the men of Church of the Apostles for inviting the men of GUCC to join them each month.

An Exciting Announcement from the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee:

In the months when our choir isn't singing, it would be great to have some special music in worship (June, July, and August). In the past, we have worked with the Cumberland Valley School of Music as a clearing house of musicians. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee has decided to offer the congregation the ability to sponsor Special Music in honor or memory of someone. This concept is well received for things like flowers at Christmas and Easter, so we thought it could be used for music too. Maybe it would be a way to celebrate a wedding anniversary or the birth of a grandchild.

To sponsor a musician for a Sunday service, you can work with Pastor Mark as to what you would like (what kind of instruments or singers), when, and how much it would cost. Please express your interest to Pastor Mark or call Elaine at the church office so that we can get started on this exciting new initiative.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, January 26th, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer

Reader: Patty Stepler

