

***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 February 2, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1 Corinthians 13, Luke 4:21-30

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "1st Corinthians 13 Video | Church Intro Video" 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

Prelude in C (*from the* "Well-Tempered Clavichord") -J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: With powerful words and dramatic gestures,
with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,

All: we respond to God's call to offer healing and hope to our world.

Leader: With courage to face the injustices around us,
with the willingness to go into the brokenness with others,

All: we hear Jesus' call to engage in faithful obedience.

Let us worship and learn the ways of love!

***PRAISE SONG** Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee #629



Unison Prayer of Confession

Ah, Lord God, we confess that instead of listening to You,
we so often listen to the purveyors of fear around us.
You teach us to love others, but we prefer to engage in ridicule and anger.

You've taught us how to forgive, God,
but we find it difficult to offer similar forgiveness to others.
Have mercy upon us.

May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as You have served us;
may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with Your compassion;
may love abide in us, even as Christ abides in us.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the good news: In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.
In Jesus' acceptance, we discover true and everlasting love.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Please open to Old Testament, page 854

1 Corinthians 13 Please open to New Testament, pages 212-213

CHOIR ANTHEM He Is Here in the Breaking of Bread -Larson



Luke 4:21-30 Please open to New Testament, page 75

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 O Come, Little Children -Schultz/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.

Amen.

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

All: We do not need to speak in tongues, but we can offer words of encouragement.

We do not have to know everything, but we can lift the burdens of those around us.

**We do not need to give everything, but we will join our gifts with those of others to reach out, in love,
to others. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Leader: Come, everyone who thirsts and hungers; come and be satisfied with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation that Christ offers us now.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May the God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Always and forever... here and now...every day and everywhere,
we will offer our songs to the God who sees us.

Leader: With the simple words 'let there be,' all creation sprang forth from the depths of Your heart.
Mysteriously, You chose to create us in Your image.
You knew we might reject You, which we did and still do.

Prophets came speaking Your words, but we disregarded their pleas.
So, in the fullness of time, You gave us the priceless treasure of Your heart, Jesus of Nazareth, who gave
everything He is to show us Your Love.

With those who worry they cannot do what You ask,
with those who believe Your word is fulfilled,
we join our voices in singing Your praises:

Sanctus (Please Sing Together)

**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: In sending Christ, the light of the world, You revealed Your glory to the nations.
You sent a star to guide seekers of wisdom to Bethlehem, that they might worship Christ.
Your signs and witnesses in every age lead people from every place to worship him.
We praise You that in him we become your children, baptized into Your service.

And on the night in which he was betrayed,
he took bread and blessed it, gave thanks and broke it, saying, "This is my body, broken for you.
Take, eat, do this in remembrance of me."

In the same manner, he took the cup, blessed it, and said, "Drink from this, all of you.
This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

God of wisdom and light, send Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup.
As we come together to eat at Your table, we offer ourselves to You
in praise of your mighty acts and the great mystery of faith:

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

Leader: Jesus showed us love in so many ways.
He never blew his own horn or wished he was someone else;
He never bullied the vulnerable, didn't whine, and let go of every grudge.
And yet, He didn't look the other way when we were foolish,
and encouraged everyone to own up to their mistakes.
Ultimately, He picked up all of our burdens.
He looked beyond our sins to meet our needs.
He wanted all of us to experience God's resurrection love.

Consecrate by Your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us that as we receive them at this table,
we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may
continue faithful in all things.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
In the shared cup, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

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: Loving God, we thank You that You have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in Your eternal kingdom.
Send us out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your glory and for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: God touches our mouths,
All: so we may go to share the good news.

Leader: Jesus touches our hands,
All: so we may serve all in need of life and hope.

Leader: The Holy Spirit touches our hearts,
All: so we may be a haven for those who yearn for acceptance and love.

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
All: Amen

***PRAISE SONG**

Take My Life #697



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Trumpet Tune -Greene/Wolff



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Service prayers written by Thom M Shuman and adapted by Rev. Mark Ruzicka,
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Contributions Received on 1/26:

Regular Offering: \$1167 (includes 1/19 offerings as church was cancelled that day due to snow)
Loose Change Offering: \$15 / Building & Grounds Donation: \$160
Regular Offering Received in Mail: \$2000

Attendance for 1/26: In-House: 32 / Online: 4



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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Week of February 2, 2025

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

Communion Servers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Annual Reports: The 2024 committee and ministry reports, including the proposed budget and expenses for this past year, are now available. Please see one of our greeters/ushers to pick up your copy today. You are welcome to stop by the office during the week for a copy, or we can email it to you upon request. If you have any questions, or would like further details, please contact any board member.

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. Our next **Refreshments & Fellowship Sunday** is scheduled for February 9th. We need one more volunteer for this date. Please see the sign-up sheet or contact Carolyn for further information.

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.

Sunday Volunteers: Sign-up sheet for March is now available on the welcome table in the front vestibule.

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.

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 missed the sign-up sheet for year-end contribution statements and need a copy for tax purposes, please call Elaine at the office.

We thank all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the meals during **First Saturday Free Community Meal** this past Saturday. It was a nice turnout. Contact Chet or Lorna if you would like more information about volunteering with them. The next free meal is scheduled for March 1st.

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

Inclement Weather – If Worship Service is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on Facebook. If you don't have internet access, please contact any of the board members for updates.

Consistory Reports for the month of January are **due to the church office by February 6th**. Next board meeting will be held on February 16th at 8am.

Grace Snyder Circle is holding their next meeting on February 10, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Newsletter Deadline is February 13th. Please submit any items, news, or activities that you would like to share in our upcoming March/April issue of Grace Notes. We encourage any photos you would like to share!

Happy Birthday Wishes for the month of February go out to Erma Foley, Marg Stouffer, Marguita Storms and Susan Dietrick. Happy Birthday!

Lost & Found: Brown pair of sunglasses was found in the church hallways. They have been placed on the welcome table in the front vestibule.

2025 Consistory Board Members & Officers: Lorna Thomas, Mark Stahl (Co-Presidents), Deb Homer (Secretary), Tim Bryan, Ron Shafer, Barry Shoemaker, Steve & Lu Miller and Larry Stepler (Treasurer). 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 them anytime.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:

Come join us on Wednesday Nights from 6-7 pm in the Chapel for our Lenten Book Study! **Starting on Ash Wednesday (March 5)** and continuing Wednesdays through April 16, we will examine the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose.

This is the description by the author: "Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah...The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus's own scriptures, **offering both him and us** strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the **heartbeat of our humanity** with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us." We will watch short videos for these sessions as well.

You can purchase the book on Amazon: new (\$18) or used. Call Elaine at the church office if you want the church to order it for you. The deadline for us to order the books is February 25th.

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.

California Wildfire Relief Notice from the National UCC:

The fires in Los Angeles County are unprecedented in size with widespread destruction. Many people have lost their homes and possessions, as well as their feelings of security and stability. We are encouraged to respond with generous hearts. There are ways to respond effectively, such as providing financial support for recovery needs and extending thoughts and prayers to those affected.

The Global HOPE team is also helping to connect Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC staff, churches and others affected by the wildfires with immediate resources while also preparing to support long-term recovery efforts. The World Central Kitchen have started feeding people right away.

We invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts by donating either at Sunday service or using the links below. If you donate during service, please be sure to mark your donation "For CA Wildfire" and include your name and envelope number if you would like the donation to be credited to your annual statement.

UCC's California Wildfire 2025 Appeal: <https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025>

The World Central Kitchent: <https://wck.org/relief/california-fires-jan25>



Worship Volunteers for Sunday, February 9, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Lu Miller

Reader: Tim Bryan

