

***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 9, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "Love In Abundance" 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
Song of Joy -Boodle

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart;

All: We give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness.

Leader: Great is Your glory, God; for You sit high, yet regard the lowly.

All: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Let us worship God.

***PRAISE SONG** Great God of Every Blessing #694



Unison Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we take Isaiah's words for our own today:

"Woe is me for I am undone

because I am a man of unclean lips

and live among a people of unclean lips,

and because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts."

Have mercy upon us, Lord.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the Good News:

God has touched your mouth with the holiness of Christ and your guilt has been taken away.

Your sins have been paid for.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 6:1-8 Please open to Old Testament, page 778

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Please open to New Testament, pages 214-215

CHOIR ANTHEM With God Nothing Is Impossible -Hughs



Luke 5:1-11 Please open to New Testament, page 76

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 Blessed Assurance -Knapp/Hayes and Wagner

***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: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives

to the care and redemption of all that You have made,

for the sake of him who gave himself for us—

Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the light of the 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**

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind #169



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

A Pompous March -Young



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“Prayer of Dedication” and “Benediction” from *The Worship Sourcebook*, copyright 2004 Faith Alive Christian Resources.

Other prayers written by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka

Contributions Received on 2/2:

Regular Offering: \$2056 / Communion Offering: \$51
Loose Change Offering: \$45 / Building & Grounds Donation: \$145
Regular Offering Received in Mail: \$300 / Regular Offering Received in Office: \$100

Attendance for 2/2: In-House: 31 / Online: 10

Monthly Tithes for January: \$6132



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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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of February 9, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Lu Miller **Reader:** Tim Bryan

Refreshments & Fellowship is being held following today's worship service. Please stay and join us! We need volunteers for upcoming Sunday's. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule or talk to Carolyn Shoemaker for further information.

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. **The deadline for pre-orders is 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.

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

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. If worship service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page.

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: We need greeters/ushers, readers and communion servers for March. The sign-up sheets are now available on the welcome table in the front vestibule.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides for March/April have been placed on the front welcome table and in the elevator area. Pick up your free copy today, or stop by the office during the week.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. In case of inclement weather, the Closet will NOW be closed the following times: Closure of Greencastle Antrim Schools and any 2-hour delays of G-A Schools (which includes extremely cold weather). This will allow time for plowing and salting if needed. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any questions.

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

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.

1st Saturday Free Community Meal is being held on March 1st, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. Contact Chet or Lorna if you would like more information about volunteering with them.

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. Grace's Free Closet will be closed if Greencastle Area school district is closed or on a 2-hour delay.

Consistory Reports – Please turn in your January consistory reports by Monday. The board meeting is scheduled for February 16th at 8am, in the meeting room.

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!

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.

Men's Breakfast and Fellowship is held the first Saturday of each month. Church of the Apostles invites the men of GUCC to join them at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro on March 1st, at 9am.

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 Kitchen: <https://wck.org/relief/california-fires-jan25>

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, February 16, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Patty Stepler

