

***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

March 2, 2025 "Transfiguration Sunday" Order of Worship

Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, Luke 9:28-36

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: God's Majesty: Prayer -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 from "*The Well-Tempered Clavier*" -J.S. Bach/Blake

Call to Worship

Leader: Great is the Lord—
All: exalted among the nations.

Leader: Mighty is the Lord—
All: King of heaven and earth.

Leader: Holy is the Lord—
All: beyond our understanding.
Let us worship our God and King!

***PRAISE SONG** From All That Dwell Below the Skies #327



Unison Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, we confess that we have praised You with our lips
but have not glorified You with our lives.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray,
for our weak faith that fades under pressure,
for our quick enthusiasm that just as quickly dies,
for the hopes we proclaim, but do not pursue.**

**Forgive us, Lord God, and give us new trust in Your power,
that we may live for justice and tell of Your loving-kindness
by our acts as by our words, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: On mountaintops and in valleys, God knows us better than we know ourselves,
and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves!

By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 34:29-35 Please open to Old Testament, pages 101-102

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 Please open to New Testament, page 219

CHOIR ANTHEM Old Time Religion Medley -Hayes



Luke 9:28-36 Please open to New Testament, page 85

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: With joy, we offer our gifts to God as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC Grace Alone -Brown and Nelson/Hayes and Gaspard

***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: In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
we bring our gifts to You, O God.
Help us to give with them
a ready mind,
a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Creating God, You spoke and mountains were topped with mist,
singing brooks meandered through fields.
Created in Your image, we had the audacity to demand our way.

We were tempted by sin who came to us masked as life and joy.
Yet, You did not turn Your face away, You sent the prophets into all
those ordinary places we lived to call us back to You.

Though they spoke boldly of Your hopes and dreams, we did not listen to them.
So, in the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, Your glory,
to become flesh and blood so we might be reshaped
as Your beloved children.

With those in every time and place,
with those gathered here,
at this moment, we sing in praise of You:

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: Holy are You, God of Wonders.
Your Beloved, Jesus, set aside His glory
to lavish on us the riches of Your grace and peace.
He went to the cross, disarming death,
so we could see could live in the Spirit's freedom.

As we celebrate Your Chosen One, our Lord, we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
In all these things, Christ gives us life.**

Leader: As we gather around Your Table, pour out the blessings of Your Spirit,
transforming these simple gifts into that grace which changes our lives.
As we feed upon the Bread of Life, may we go forth offering His life to the world.

As your Cup of peace fills us, may we go out into the world as peacemakers.
So then, when all time comes to an end
and we are gathered in Your glory with our sisters and brothers
around the Great Feast of Grace, we will sing of Your love forever and ever.

Come, for all things are now ready.

Distribution of the Elements
(we partake as one at the cue of the pastor)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; rough Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining #192



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

Allemande from "Cathedral Suite" -Young



Copyright 2004-2025 Skit Guys, permission granted to watch and download videos for sermon illustrations, announcements, and teaching for use in church, small groups, or events. All rights reserved.

Copyright 2025 CCLI #2992794, 17205 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Suite 150, Vancouver, WA 98683.
Permission granted to reproduce or adapt Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

"Holy Communion Liturgy" and "Assurance of Pardon" were written by Thom M Shuman and used with permission from <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

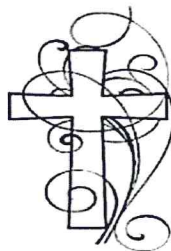
All other written prayers from *The Worship Sourcebook*. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2004.

Contributions Received on 2/23:

Regular Offering: \$922 / Loose Change Offering: \$30
Regular Offering received in Mail: \$375

Attendance for 2/23: In-House: 32 / Online: 8

Tithes for the Month of February: \$6212





Grace United Church of Christ

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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

Pastor's Cell Phone & Email: (717) 504-2923 & markruzicka33349@gmail.com

Office Phone & Email: (717) 597-2983 & gucc128@outlook.com

Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of March 2, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers **Communion Servers:** Lu Miller & Nancy Myers
Reader: Steve Miller

Greeters/Ushers are needed for March 16th, 23rd and 30th. Please sign-up today.

Refreshments & Fellowship is scheduled for March 9th. We need volunteers to provide and prepare the snacks 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.

Social Seniors is being held on Wednesday, March 12, at 2pm. It will be held at Trinity UCC in State Line. The program is 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 the worship service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page.

Chancel Choir – Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. In inclement weather, please contact Patty to confirm if the rehearsals will be cancelled.

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.

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.

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 be closed if Greencastle Area school district is closed or on a 2-hour delay. This will allow time for plowing and salting if needed and keep everyone safe if there is ice or snow in the parking lot. 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.

We thank our volunteers who helped out this past weekend during our 1st Saturday Free Community Meal. If you would like more information about volunteering with us, please contact Chet Nye or Lorna Thomas.

Inclement Weather – If Worship Service is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page. 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.

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

Easter Flowers – We are now accepting Easter flower orders during worship today and on March 9th and 16th. Order forms are in the front vestibule and elevator area. The cost for tulips is \$12.75 and lilies are \$13.75. The deadline for orders is March 16th. You can place your orders in the collection plate during service, or drop off at the church office during the week. Payment is due at the time of ordering. Contact the church office with any questions.

Consistory Reports for February are due to the church office by March 6th. The board meeting is scheduled for March 16th, at 8am, in the meeting room.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Begins this week, on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm in the Chapel! **Starting on Ash Wednesday (March 5)** and continuing Wednesday nights 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. Ensure your books are ordered through Amazon to receive them on time. For those who requested us to place orders, it was done last week. Total due with taxes is \$19.10. Please drop off payment to Elaine in the church office.

ASH Wednesday is being celebrated on Wednesday, March 5th. A small service with the imposition of ashes will be held in the Chapel starting at 6pm.

March Birthday Wishes go out to Susan Alsip-Lawson, Kendra Koons, Robin Stahl, Darlene Bitner and Chet Nye! Happy Birthday!

SPECIAL MUSIC SPONSORSHIP: *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.

Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale – We are now accepting pre-orders for our Spring Ham Sandwich and Soup Fundraiser. Sandwiches are \$4.50 each, and soups are \$4.50 per pint, and \$9 per quart. Homemade soup choices are Chicken Rice and Ham & Bean. The deadline for pre-orders is March 9th. Pick-up orders on Thursday, March 13th, between 11-1pm and 3-6pm, in our social hall. Payment is due at time of pick-up.

GUCC Scholarship Applications are available. We offer the following three scholarships: 1) Kathryn Didier Scholarship which is available to members of GUCC who are pursuing a higher education, or any Greencastle-Antrim High School senior who plans on enrolling in college, 2) Julie M. Bodes Scholarship which is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC who are planning on majoring in either the business education or computer science fields, and 3) Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship which is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Theological Seminary in Lancaster (now part of the Moravian University). Applications can be found in the blue folder on the welcome table in the front vestibule. Please pick up an application for yourself or if you know of somebody who may qualify. All applications are due back to the church office by Monday, April 1. Contact Lorna with any further questions.

Grace Snyder Circle is holding a meeting on Monday, March 10, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Our Condolences to Cathy Keefer and the family, in the passing of her beloved Mother, Jean Rice. She was a wonderful person, loved by many, and will be missed.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, March 9, 2025:

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

