

***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

April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday
Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 * Luke 19:28-40

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

"Triumph (Palm Sunday)" by Freebridge Media

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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
-Teschner/Paxton

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 118)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: With the Lord on our side, what can we fear? What can humankind do to us?

All: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: We shall triumph over those who surround us...and stand in confidence in the Lord!

All: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our might. The Lord has become our salvation!

All: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

***PRAISE SONG**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #197



Prayer of Confession

All: Jesus, on this day, we shout hosannas to praise You.

With eager hands, we place our cloaks and palms on the path before You.

Yet, Lord, if we are being honest, we confess that there are times when our hearts deny You.

We confess that there are times when our actions defy You.

Lord, hear us as we confess in silence.

(time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Christ came into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world through him should be saved.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.
and walk in love. In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Please open to Old Testament, pages 694, 695-696

Luke 19:28-40 Please open to New Testament, page 101

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

CANTATA by CHANCEL CHOIR

There's Room at the Cross: The Story of Compassion

By Dave Clark and Tony Wook

Arranged by Russell Mauldin

Opening Medley

Room at the Cross for You

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

That's the Heart of God

Narrator: Tim Bryan

Open Arms

Narrator: Pastor Mark Ruzicka

Surely He Cares for Us *with Does Jesus Care?*

Narrator: Lu Miller

Soloists: Patricia Stepler & Margaret Stouffer

Great Is the Lord our God

Could There Be Any Room for Me?

Narrator: Steve Miller

Soloist: Steve Miller

Room at the Cross for You

Come and See *with Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Narrator: Margaret Stouffer

Apostles' Creed (Please Stand and Recite Together)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Generosity

Leader: Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Were You There? -spiritual/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.**

Prayer of Dedication

**All: Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from Your servants
and use them for the breaking in of Your Kingdom of love and light.
In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

Benediction

Leader: May God go before you to lead you,
May God go behind you to protect you,
May God go beneath you to support you,
May God go beside you to befriend you.
Do not be afraid.

May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you always.
Go in peace...to love and serve the Lord.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! #198



POSTLUDE MUSIC

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
-English tune/Kosche



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Prayers taken from *The Worship Sourcebook* by Faith Alive Resources. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

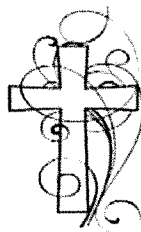
Contributions Received Week of 4/6:

Regular Offering: \$1437/ Loose Change Offering: \$50 / Communion Offering: \$62

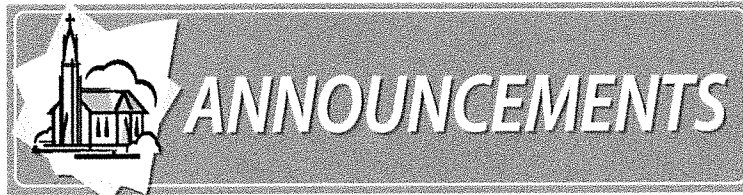
Building Fund Donation: \$150 / Lenten Offering: \$10

Regular Offering received by mail: \$100

Worship Attendance on 4/6: In-House: 37 / 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

Pastor's Cell Phone & Email: (717) 504-2923 & markruzicka3349@gmail.com

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

Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of April 13, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Kate Kennedy, Mark Stahl, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer **Reader:** Steve Miller

Welcome to our Palm Sunday / Cantata Worship Service! Our choir has prepared a special performance for you to enjoy. We thank Patty, Susan, and all our choir members for sharing their musical talents with us. The Loose change received during offerings will be donated to the choir. Refreshments and fellowship will be held in the social hall following service.

Sunday Volunteers – We need (1) one more **Greeter/Usher for Sunday, April 27th**. The May list is also available and has lots of open spots that need filled. For information about volunteering, contact the church office or any board member. Thank you.

Our Easter Season Service Schedule is available on the welcome table in the vestibule and elevator area. Please take a copy and invite a friend to join us during this Lenten Season!

Maundy Thursday Worship is being held on April 17th, at 7pm. Take a flyer from the welcome table or elevator area to pass on and invite your family and friends. This is a shared service, as Greencastle Presbyterian Church in Greencastle will be joining us.

Day of Prayer is on Thursday, April 17th, from 9am to 5pm. We would like to have members fill up one hour slots to keep the prayers all day. You will find the sign-up sheets on the front welcome table and in the elevator area. The Maundy Thursday service is scheduled to commence at 7pm.

On **Good Friday**, April 18, there are no services at GUCC. However, Pastor Mark will be leading a Community Service at the YMCA in Waynesboro at 7:30am at their pavilion. Also, the Church of the Apostles in Waynesboro will host a Good Friday service, starting at 7 pm. This will be led by Pastor Mark Ruzicka and Pastor Dani Neff of Trinity UCC in Waynesboro. Everyone is welcome to attend either of these services.

Easter Service & Breakfast is planned for Sunday, April 20th. Breakfast will begin at 8:15am, in our social hall. Easter Worship will follow in the sanctuary, starting at 9:30am. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us!

Easter Flower Dedications – The Easter flowers that were ordered will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may take them home after Easter Service or contact the church office to make other arrangements.

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.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be holding their last study session on April 16th, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. We are studying from the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose.

Chancel Choir – Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. Please contact Patty regarding any questions.

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

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Stop by if you are looking for some new spring clothing. Donations are accepted during their open hours. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions.

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 May/June are now available. Pick up your free copy from the front vestibule, elevator area, or stop by the office during the week.

GUCC Scholarship Applications are being reviewed by our Educational Committee. The recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday on June 8th. Contact Lorna if you have any questions.

New Member Sunday - We will receive new members on Sunday, May 11th. If you are interested in joining our church family, please let Pastor Mark or church office know by April 27th.

Appreciation – We thank Marg Stouffer for organizing the recent movie outings for The Chosen: Last Supper. We hope everyone had a good time.

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 for 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.

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.

Newsletter deadline! You still have time to submit articles for the upcoming issue of Grace Notes. Please submit any articles, news, or family updates you would like to share. If you have any activities and fundraisers happening in May or June, be sure to get the information to Elaine in the church office as soon as possible.

Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27th, 8am, in the meeting room. Please turn in your committee reports if you haven't done so yet.

Grace Snyder Circle is holding a meeting on April 14th, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Called to Care Committee is meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd, at 1pm.

Our next **Worship & Spiritual Life Committee** meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4th, at 8:30am. It will be discussed at that time if we will continue quarterly meetings, or every other month.

The **Lunch Bunch** is meeting on Tuesday, April 29th, at 11:30am at Il Costello's. Everyone is welcome to join them for good food and fellowship!

Worship Volunteers for Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Carolyn Shoemaker, Lu Miller, Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer

Communion Servers: Carolyn Shoemaker, Lu Miller, Marg Stouffer, Cathy Keefer

Reader: Patty Stepler

Worship Volunteers for Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer, Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Communion Servers: Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer, Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Reader: Tim Bryan

