



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

Sunday, October 6, 2024
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost | World Communion Sunday
Scriptures: Genesis 2:18-24 / Psalm 8 / Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "A Vibrant Unity" 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 Adagio *from* Concerto in A Major -Mozart/Broughton

Call to Worship

Leader: Around the world, people gather to worship God in many languages and styles.
All: We gather with them in heart and mind.

Leader: Around the world, Christ is known in His broken body.
All: We gather with them in heart and mind.

Leader: Around the world, Christ is known in the shared cup.
All: We gather with them in heart and mind. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG** Holy God, We Praise Your Name #4



Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we come to this gathering mindful that this day particularly celebrates our human connectedness...our world-wide communion.

How far we are from the ideal.

We are miles away from Your dream of a beloved community.

We are more likely to demonize our differences rather than dignify our diversity.

Forgive us Lord and have mercy on us.

**Extend Your grace to transform our attitudes and actions...
and infuse us with more openness, curiosity, and love.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Grace

Leader: The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

God is with us: accepting, guiding and forgiving us as God's beloved children.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 2:18-24 Please open to Old Testament, page 3

Psalms 8 Please open to Old Testament, pages 605-606

CHOIR ANTHEM

Feed Me, Lord -Arr. Patrick M. Liebergen



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 Generosity

Leader: When we consider the gifts of God, stewardship of our resources rises among them. The psalmist marveled, "*What are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.*"

The Sovereign God has given us responsibility and care of our sibling, creation. May we respond to the call to glorify God by the work of our hands, the allocation of our resources, and the generosity of our hearts.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC Shall We Gather at the River? -Lowry/Paxton

***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: Our Father in Heaven, multiply these gifts we offer You today and increase their usefulness.
Distribute them in a way that helps Your kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

COMMUNION LITURGY

Words of Invitation

Leader: Faith communities around the Earth gather to observe World Communion Sunday today. Every language and tongue, every tribe and nation, every continent and hemisphere represented as the Body of Christ accepts the invitation to unity around Jesus who entered a body, the human condition, and the brokenness of the world. Let us join together in the name of Jesus the Christ to commune as one.

Leader: God be with you.

All: The Holy One is with us.

Leader: May our hardened hearts be softened.

All: We lift them up to God with thanksgiving and in hopeful expectation.

Words of Thanksgiving

Leader: Gracious God, You are holy, and You make us holy. We declare glory and honor that is due to Your precious name. Like generations before us and the heavenly chorus beyond us, we sing your praise:

SANCTUS (Seraphic Hymn – 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!**

Words of Remembrance

Leader: We join in remembrance of You, Jesus.

Your humble beginnings affirm that the strength of God is perfected in weakness. The years of obscurity left unrecorded and unknown to us remind us that good things benefit from preparation and patience. The record of Your baptism reminds us of our own baptism as we entered the waters of life and community with You.

Recalling Your ministry encourages us to engage in the work of healing, teaching, and presence.
Revisiting Your passion challenges us to expand our capacity to love generously, sacrificially, and relentlessly.

Words of Institution

Leader: For it was the night of betrayal when Jesus enjoyed a meal with his community of disciples. Imperfect people committed to follow his way encircled that table.

The one who would deny him was at the table.

The one who would betray him was at the table.

Many who would flee in fear of the risk to their own lives sat at that table.

Yet, all were welcomed and all were loved.

All were nourished as Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it.
As he offered the bread to the gathered, he declared, "This is my body. Take and eat in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and blessed it.

As he offered the cup to the gathered, he declared, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Take and drink in remembrance of me."

Ministering in the name of Jesus, we offer bread and cup as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ lived, Christ died, Christ rose, and Christ lives again.

Breaking of Bread & Pouring the Cup

Leader: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith.

We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor.

We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup and on us.

Strengthen your universal church that it may be a champion of peace and justice in the world. Restore the earth with your grace that I savor to make all things new.

The bread with we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

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: 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;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Holy One be an ever-present companion and partner to you.
May your softened heart break over the pains, pangs, and problems of the world.
May the strength of the Spirit fill you, embolden you, and lead you into God's kingdom...now and forever.
Go in abundant hope, peace and love.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** O God, in a Mysterious Way #30



***POSTLUDE MUSIC** Recessional -Saxton



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Hardness of Heart: Service Prayers for World Communion Sunday, the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

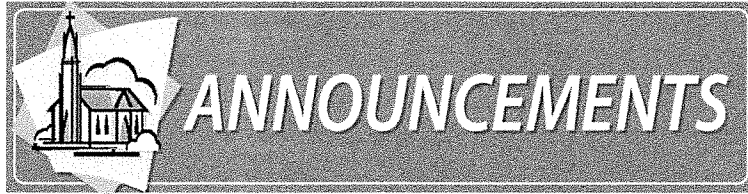
Contributions Received on 8/29: Regular Offering: \$722 / Loose Change Offering: \$10

Worship Attendance on 8/29: In-House: 34 / Online: 0

Total Tithes for the month of September: \$6563



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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Week of October 6, 2024

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Cathy Keefer & Lu Miller

Reader: Steve Miller

Men's Morning Fellowship: Gentlemen, you are invited to attend a morning of fellowship and food on **Saturday, October 12, at 8:30am in the church social hall.** A breakfast buffet will be provided, which will include a breakfast casserole, sausage gravy, meats, fruit and baked goods to name a few. Please mark your calendar, bring a friend, family member or neighbor and join us! Sign-up sheets are in the front vestibule and elevator area.

Annual Congregational Meeting Update – The consistory has voted to hold our annual meeting on *November 10th*, following worship, instead of in February 2025. This change will allow us to review and vote on the 2025 budget prior to the start of the year. This will make it easier to set-up any salary, pension, housing, or insurance changes prior to the new year, rather than having to pro-rate anything. We will also vote at this meeting to change the bylaws to make November the time of our annual meeting. Besides the budget, we will vote on new consistory members. We will still share committee reports and the final year's income/expense totals with the congregation when they are completed.

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.

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.

First Saturday Free Community Meal had a nice turnout this past Saturday. We thank all our volunteers. If you would like to help out in November, please talk to Chet.

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's Free Closet is open on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Please save your plastic grocery bags and drop them off on Sunday in the green box which can be found in the hallway outside the church office. You can also drop off any clothing donations in that box if you are unable to drop off at the Closet when they are open. Contact Nancy if you can volunteer your time to help at the Closet, or if you have any questions.

Past Board Members – We are missing some consistory books. If any prior board members have binders at home, please return them to the church office. Thank you.

Church Bulletin Board – You will find our ***new bulletin board*** located in the lower hallway, just outside Pastor Mark's office. We have placed pictures of our GUCC leadership team on the board, so you can get to know them. Check the board weekly for information about our upcoming events, fundraisers, bible studies, community news and more. We thank Marg for putting this board together for us!

Wednesday Night Book Study Group: "An Introduction to Covenant and the United Church of Christ": Our 8-week book group lead by Pastor Mark continues Wednesday evenings through October 30th, from 6-7pm in the Chapel.

Live Streaming - We are now live streaming our Sunday worship services on YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. Our new YouTube channel is Greencastle Grace UCC. We thank everyone who helped and donated to this project.

We thank everyone for supporting our fall ham sandwich and soup sale! It was another successful fundraiser! We thank all the volunteers who donated their time preparing, selling, and putting together all the orders for us. We also thank everyone who supported us by making a purchase. Proceeds will be announced as soon as everything is tallied up.

Penn Central Conference – Merger Motion Vote on November 9: This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to have 2 delegates, along with Pastor Mark, involved in their Fall Meeting; whether in person, at a watch party, or from the comfort of your own home. Please consider coming together to vote. Further information to register, participate and make your vote count, can be found on the website: <https://psec.org/keystone/>

Good News: **Social Seniors is being restarted this Fall!** -- In the past, this was a gathering of folks from Trinity UCC (Waynesboro), Trinity (State Line), and Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro). At this time, they are including folks from Grace UCC (Greencastle). We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at one of our different churches. Generally, we meet at 2 pm for fellowship, have some snacks, and then enjoy a different program each month. On **Wednesday, October 9th**, we will be meeting at Trinity UCC in State Line, and the program will be "Tweets and Treats", a session on birding let by Dale Gearhart. If you are a senior, please consider coming! It will be nice to meet new people and have a great time!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held in the social hall, following worship on **October 13th**. If you can help prepare or serve refreshments, please see the sign-up sheets. Thank you.

Grace Snyder Circle will be meeting on Monday, October 14, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

Sunday Volunteers – **November** sign-up sheet is on the table in the front vestibule. We need greeters/ushers and communion servers. Please check your calendars and sign-up today! Thank you.

October Birthday Wishes go out to Patty Stepler, Jack Shoemaker, Loretta (Doll) Koons, Elaine Scheffer, Teresa Myers, Christopher Wilhide, Edward Doyle, Larry Burger and Tammy Hockenberry. Happy Birthday!

Deadline to submit articles for our upcoming **newsletter** is Thursday, **October 17**, at 1pm. If you would like to share any upcoming information for November or December, please start gathering your thoughts and submit to the office or via email at: gucc128@outlook.com

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for October 20, at 8am, in the meeting room. Please submit your consistory reports to the church office by Tuesday, October 14. Thank you.

We are invited to Greencastle Church of the Brethren, located at 36 S. Carlisle Street, they will be showing Sight & Sound production of "**SAMSON**", on Friday, November 8th at 6pm. There is no charge. Refreshments will be provided. This event will be approximately 2 ½ hours. They will not be providing nursery services, but young children and babies can be taken to another room if needed.

A Hurricane Helene Relief notice from the national UCC setting:

Two United Church of Christ church buildings on Florida's Gulf Coast suffered significant flood damage because of the catastrophic storm surge, and a third experienced damage due to high winds and heavy rain.

We continue to communicate with conference staff in the Southern, Southeast, and Florida Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs. As we continue to pray for and support those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, we invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts in the following ways:

Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal: The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Your support of this appeal will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied *for years as they rebuild*. You can help support their relief efforts at : <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>

Our loose change today, and next Sunday will be donated to the UCC Helene Relief Fund. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194; or support their efforts by donating online at: <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief> Please be sure to note "Hurricane Helene" in your check's memo section if mailing to them.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, October 13th, 2024:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Lu Miller

Reader: Lu Miller

