



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, November 3, 2024
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "Today We Remember - Communion" 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

Voluntary on "Ein' Feste Burg" (*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*)
-Luther/Young

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 146)

Leader: Praise the Lord as long as we live.

All: We praise the Creator God, who makes our days, who trails our paths, and who gives us breath.

Leader: Praise the Lord with our whole selves—mind, body, and soul.

All: We trust in God's wisdom and honor, truth and love, grace and mercy.

Leader: Praise the Lord for God is just, generous, compassionate, liberating, and near.
All: Our God reigns: lifting up the lowly, humbling the proud, and sustaining the righteous from generation to generation. Praise God!

***PRAISE SONG** Give to the Winds Thy Fears #815



Unison Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, you write Your commandments on our hearts...not as a list of do's and don'ts... but as a vision of the people we can be and the world we may create.

We confess that we daily fall short of Your calling. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

**Even so, help us to become more faithful.
Write better understanding on our hearts.
Etch liberation for the oppressed on our hearts.
Emblazon Your law of love in our hearts.**

Transform us with Your love... so that we may reflect Your love toward our neighbor and toward ourselves.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: Beloved, in Christ, God loves you, accepts you, forgives you, and welcomes you home.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have power to choose love in every moment and every encounter.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 146 Please open to Old Testament, page 715

Hebrews 9:11-14 Please open to New Testament, page 271

CHOIR ANTHEM

Remember Me -Penney



Mark 12:28-34 Please open to New Testament, page 60

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: The call to generosity is a charge to love with our resources in material ways. When we give, we express our gratitude to God our Provider, we assert our trust in God our Sustainer, and we affirm our communal commitments to God our Creator.
Let us give in spirit and in truth.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Fairest Lord Jesus *with* As the Deer -Crusaders' Hymn and Nystrom/Page

***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 for the Offering

Leader: Great God, receive these gifts of love. May You bless those who give and those who receive. Magnify our ministries, enlarge our circles of care, and amplify our love in the world. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May the God of all hope be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift your hearts to the God who comes to feast with you.

All: We offer our hearts to God who is in our midst.

Leader: Children of God, sing praises to the God who feeds you with goodness and hope.

All: Our hearts and voices resound with joy.

Leader: In Your heart, O God of wonder, You wrote the vision of creation,
and the Word shaped all things,

Your Spirit breathed life into everything which sprang forth from your imagination.

Although we were welcomed into Your Garden of Eden, we forgot Your words of hospitality.

Instead, we ran to catch a glimpse of the parade of seductions that sin and death brought to town.

Prophets came, Your voice standing behind their words... which sought to bring us back to You, but we took no
delight in their invitations.

So You sent Your Beloved, Jesus the Christ,
to be the guest of sinners in every time and place,
that we might receive the gift of salvation.

So, with reformers and saints who have gone before us,
with friends and neighbors sitting around us,
we lift our songs of praise to You:

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!**

Leader: In the fullness of time and out of the fullness of Your heart, You sent Jesus to be Your Servant of Righteousness, to Your people.

When our zeal for sin consumed us, Jesus came to feed us with the bread of life;
when our souls were hollowed out by the corrupting influences, Jesus he came to grow abundant faith in us;
when we saw only destruction on the horizon, Jesus came to stand at his watch post, defeating sin and death so
they could never harm us again.
Jesus came inviting us to find life and peace in Your heart's home for all eternity.

Words of Institution (Pastor)

We remember that on the night of betrayal and rejection, Jesus took bread....

As we remember Jesus' life, his teachings, his words,
as we celebrate the good news of his resurrection,
we speak of our faith, which often seems a mystery:

**All: Christ died, faithful to the end;
Christ is risen, our righteousness realized;
Christ will return, our hope and peace.**

Leader: O God of Blessing, pour out Your Spirit of life and grace upon the gifts of the Bread and Cup,
and on Your people gathered for Your Feast.

As we are fed by Your Word become life, give us understanding so we might hear those
who are crying out for hope; as we are nourished by Your Spirit of peace,
may we bring justice and peace to the places where it is needed.

Help us look forward to the day when we will join our sisters and brothers
from every time and place, forever praising You, God in Community, Holy in One.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
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: Bountiful God, we give You thanks that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: As we leave this time of worship, may we go with God's blessing.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*PRAISE SONG More Love to Thee, O Christ #828



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

Festal Postlude -Powell



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You Shall Love: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fourth 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.
Adapted by Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

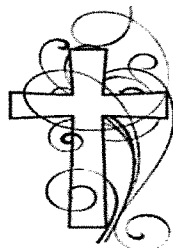
Holy Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Thom Shuman and permission granted at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> Adapted by Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received on 10/27:

Regular Offering: \$1203 / Boiler Fund: \$50 / Loose Change Offering: \$101
Communion Offering: \$5 / UCC Hurricane Helene Donation: \$25
Neighbors In Need Offering: \$115 / Regular Offering received at office: \$95

Worship Attendance on 10/27: In-House: 49/ Online: 4

Total tithes for the month of October: \$4225



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Week of November 3, 2024

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer

Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer

Reader: Steve Miller

Grace Notes – November/December newsletters are now available. Please check your emails or find it on our website to view. There are a few extra copies in the front vestibule and elevator area for those who would like a printed copy.

Neighbors In Need Offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. This year the theme is “**Mental Health Justice For All**”! We received total offerings of \$115 for this ministry. PCC thanks us for our support.

The Mercersburg Association will be holding their Fall meeting on November 3rd, at 3pm. The program will be “*Living in Covenant*”, presented by **Pastor Mark Ruzicka**. You can attend the meeting in-person at St. John's, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, or you can join the zoom meeting from the comfort of your home. Two delegates from each church are encouraged to attend. The Zoom link and dial information is attached. Please see Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

Church Bulletin Board – Please check the bulletin board weekly for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more!

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.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures for November/December are located in the front vestibule and elevator area. Please take home a free copy today.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting Update – The consistory has voted to hold our annual meeting next Sunday, **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 prorate 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. Please plan on attending.

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.

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

Live Streaming - We are now live streaming our Sunday worship services on YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. Our new YouTube channel is Greencastle Grace UCC.

Penn Central Conference – Merger Motion Vote on November 9th. 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. It starts at 9:30am. 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/>

The **Presidential Election** is being held on Tuesday, November 5th. Our social hall will be open from 7am till 8pm for those who use this location to vote.

Grace Snyder Circle is holding a meeting on November 11th, at 1pm, in the meeting room. Contact Nancy Myers for more information if you would like to join them.

Church Volunteers – The December sign-up sheet is located on the table in front vestibule. We need greeters/ushers, readers, communion servers, plus additional Advent readers and candle lighters. Please call the church office if you can help us out, or sign-up after worship service.

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser is being held on **November 22!** We are offering baked or baked sugar free apple dumplings at \$5 each. Pre-orders are now being accepted. Order forms and boxes to place your orders are located in the front vestibule and elevator area. The **deadline for pre-orders is November 13** and pick up is on November 22 between 3 and 6pm, in the social hall. Any extras after the sale will be sold the morning of the Christmas Parade on November 23, in front of the church, starting at 8:30am till they are sold out. We ask the volunteers who are rolling the dough and peeling apples to meet at 8am on November 22 (please bring your rolling pins & apple peelers), and the rest of the volunteers can meet at 9am. Contact Lorna or Marg if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

November Birthday Wishes go out to Gladys Doyle, Mark Stahl, Debi Pirtle, Nellie Stahl and Carolle Patrick. Happy Birthday!

Join us as the **Penn State Mont Alto Chorale**, under the direction of Patricia Stepler, will present their Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Greencastle, followed by creamery ice cream. They will present the same concert on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium in the General Studies Building on the Penn State Mont Alto campus. A variety of holiday music for all to enjoy!

Starting next Sunday, we will be accepting **Christmas Poinsettia** orders. The cost is \$11 each. Order forms and envelopes can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area. We will be accepting orders on Sunday, November 10, 17 and 24. You are also welcome to drop off orders at the church office during the week. Payment is due with your order. Deadline to order is November 25th by 12 noon.

The **Social Seniors Group** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm for a program and snacks. This month the meeting will be hosted by Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro) on Wednesday, November 13 with the program being chair yoga. This is a shared experience of folks from Trinity (State Line), Trinity (Waynesboro), Church of the Apostles (Waynesboro) and now Grace UCC (Greencastle). Please join them!

Men's Fellowship & Breakfast - The men of Grace UCC are welcome to join the men of Church of the Apostles for their monthly breakfast. They meet the First Saturday of the month at 9am at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. Mark your calendars to join them on December 7th.

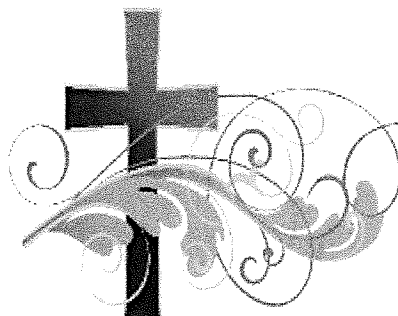
We thank the volunteers who helped out during First Saturday Free Community Meal this past weekend. They put together a delicious turkey meal with all the trimmings. If you want more information about volunteering for our next free meal in December, please contact Chet Nye.

Activities & Fundraising Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 5th, in the meeting room.

Consistory and Committee Reports for the month of October need turned in to the church office by November 11th. Next board meeting is scheduled for November 17, at 8am, in the meeting room.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 10th, 2024:

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Gladys Doyle **Reader:** Patty Stepler



The Mercersburg Association

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

<https://mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com>

2024 Fall Meeting Agenda

Sunday November 3, 2024

3 PM

“Living in Covenant”

This will be a HYBRID MEETING:

*Attend in-person at St. John’s Chambersburg
1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA*

OR

Join the ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86415096693?pwd=Dric0iKjmZla75poSDyXzmY7sx06Kz.1>

Meeting ID: 864 1509 6693

Passcode: 547517

Dial by your location

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)