

***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 16, 2025, Order of Worship - Second Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "Psalm 27" 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

Gigue -Wagner

Call to Worship

Leader: When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?
All: The psalmist says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Leader: When I am afraid, what can I count on?
All: "The Lord is a fortress protecting my life."

Leader: We gather today in the light of God's protection.
**All: We come to pray, praise and sing.
Let us worship God together!**

***PRAISE SONG** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded #221



Unison Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, our Protector, we confess that in times of danger or chaos, we can be easily startled.
Like little animals we can be distracted or distraught. Have mercy on us, Lord.
Forgive us, God, for our wandering from You.**

Forgive us, when our own fears draw other people's attention away from You.

**Help us to act, not from anxiety, but from faith in Your presence.
Help us to slow down and recognize You within and around us.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back in,
as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.
Receive God's embrace and this good news: you are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 27 Please open to Old Testament, pages 619-620

Philippians 3:17-4:1 Please open to New Testament, page 242

CHOIR ANTHEM When I Survey the Wondrous Cross -Mozart



Luke 13:31-35 Please open to New Testament, page 93

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

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

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: In gratitude for what we have received, and for the joy of giving and sharing,
let us offer our gifts to God's work through this church.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

In the Garden -Miles/Peterson

***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: Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives.
Bless them, multiply them for Your purposes in the world.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:
All: we will take the Word of grace into our world.

Leader: Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:
All: we will provide shelter to those who need it.

Leader: Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:
All: we will gather the forsaken into our hearts.

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory #213



POSTLUDE MUSIC (Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Festive Postlude on "St. Theodulph"
(*"All Glory, Praise and Honor"*)
-Teschner/Wagner



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“Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent” was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood and permission granted by UCC Worship Ways. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

“Benediction” written by Thom Shuman and found at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com
Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received on 3/9:

Regular Offering: \$782 / Loose Change Offering: \$40
Lenten Offering: \$30 / Building Fund Donations: \$20

Attendance for 3/9: In-House: 35 / Online: 3



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



Grace United Church of Christ

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Week of March 16, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer **Reader:** Lu Miller

Sunday Volunteer Sheet for April has been placed on the front table in the vestibule. Please sign-up today! We have a lot of open dates for greeters/ushers, communion servers and readers. Thank you.

Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale - We thank everyone for supporting this fundraiser! It was a great success and we appreciate everyone's help.

Easter Flowers – Please be reminded that today is the deadline to place your flower orders. Order forms are available in the front vestibule and elevator area. The cost for tulips is \$12.75, and lilies are \$13.75. Kindly submit your orders in the collection plate during service. Payment is due with your orders.

The Activities & Fundraising Committee is hosting **First Saturday Free Community Meal** on April 5th. The menu will include pot roast with potatoes, carrots and onions, biscuits, fruit cup, and bottled water. Please contact Chet Nye if you would like to volunteer with us.

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 is being held on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm, from March 5th continuing through April 16th in the Chapel. We are studying from the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose. 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.

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.

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. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions, or if you can volunteer some time to help us out.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on March 25th, at 11:30am, at Vinnie's on 11, 5210 Molly Pitcher Highway, Chambersburg, PA. Everyone is welcome to join them for lunch and fellowship!

The **Activities & Fundraising Committee** will be meeting on April 1st, at 70pm, in the meeting room. **Men's Breakfast & Fellowship** will be held on April 5th, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. Church of the Apostles invites the men of GUCC to join them and bring a friend!

One Great Hour of Sharing - We will be accepting donations for **OGHS** during the last two weeks of March. OGHS is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. This year the theme is "Shining the Light on Food Security". **OGHS** offering envelopes can be found on the table in the front vestibule and the elevator area.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, March 23, 2025:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Cathy Keefer **Reader:** Patty Stepler

