

***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**

Order of Worship for May 18, 2025, the 5th Sunday of Easter
Scriptures: Revelation 21:1-6, Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "Psalm 96 (A New Song)" 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

Amazing Grace *with* My Chains Are Gone
-Newton, Tomlin and Giglio
-Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise God from the heavens!
All: Praise Him from the skies above!

Leader: Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!
All: Praise Him, sun and moon, and shining stars!

Leader: Praise God, all creatures great and small!
All: Praise Him, men and women, young and old!

Leader: Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord, at whose word creation came into being.

All: We gather to praise and worship our God!

***PRAISE SONG** Lead On, O King Eternal! #269



Unison Prayer of Confession

Who are we to get in Your way, Holy God?

**Yet, we confess we put people into neat, tidy boxes, but You rip open such efforts,
so folks can dance in Your joy.**

We limit others with our expectations, and You set them free with a Word.

**We build walls around those we don't know, and You tear them down,
so they can run free in the kingdom.**

Who are we to get in Your way, forgiving God?

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

We will show others who we are by the love poured out in our lives.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Revelation 21:1-6 Please open to New Testament, page 315

Acts 11:1-18 Please open to New Testament, page 158

CHOIR ANTHEM I Will Never Fail You -Cindy Berry



Gospel of John 13:31-35 Please open to New Testament, page 132

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God! **All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

UCC Statement of Faith (Please Stand and Recite Together)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our
common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service
of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism
and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for
justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

OPEN SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND 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 OFFERING

Leader: As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
-Maker/Thygerson

***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.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Risen Savior, responding to Your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings be used to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the vulnerable.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection!

All: We honor the God who calls us to new life!

Leader: May the goodness and faithful love of God pursue us always.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life #343



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

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken -Haydn/Smith



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Liturgy written by Thom M Shuman. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

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Contributions Received Week of 5/18:

Regular Offering: \$652 / Loose Change Offering: \$57

Special Offering: \$675 / Communion Offering: \$5

Regular Offering Received at Office: \$160

Sunday Worship Attendance on 5/18:

In-House: 41 / Online: 1



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Week of May 18, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Reader: Patty Stepler

Greeters/Ushers, Scripture Readers: June sign-up sheet is on the welcome table in the vestibule. There are lots of open spots. Please sign up today, or call Elaine at the church office. Thank you.

Restoration of our Organ is currently underway. The process is expected to take about 8 weeks to finish.

Chancel Choir – Choir rehearsals have ended for the season. We thank the members for a wonderful year! Choir anthems will continue till the end of this month. Rehearsals will resume after Labor Day giving everyone a summer break. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Stepler, our choir director.

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

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.

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.

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.

Scholarship Recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday, which is now scheduled for June 1st. Pastor Mark will also be presenting the awards at the GASD Awards Assembly on Thursday, May 22, at 9:15am in the school's auditorium.

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.

Municipal Primary Elections will be held in our social hall on Tuesday, May 20th, from 7am to 8pm.

Thank You to Nancy Myers and Grace Snyder Circle for organizing the Annual Family in Christ banquet. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Pastor's Hours, Church Office & Grace's Closet Closure Notification: The Pastor's hours, church office, and Grace's Free Closet will be closed on Monday, May 26th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Tuesday, May 27th, at 11:30am, at Historic Texas Lunch in Chambersburg.

1st Saturday Free Community Meal is on Saturday, June 7th, from 11-1pm, in the social hall.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship is gathering on Saturday, June 7th, at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, May 25th, 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Darlene Bitner

Reader: Steve Miller

