

***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**

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka
Choir Director: Patty Stepler
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson
Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for August 31, 2025, the 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13:1-8, Luke 14:1, 7-14

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" -traditional American spiritual/Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 112)

Leader: Praise to the Lord our God! Glory be to God's holy name!
All: With joy and thankfulness, we come to worship our God!

Leader: Praise to the Lord our God! Awe and wonder belongs to God!
All: With trust and confidence, we come to worship our God!

Leader: Praise to the Lord our God! We delight in our God!
All: In faith, hope and expectation, we come to worship our God!

***PRAISE SONG**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #611



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we often compare ourselves with others,
wondering if we are better than them.

We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves.

We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love each other
with a more humble, gracious spirit.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ,
God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Please open to Old Testament, page 855

Hebrews 13:1-8 Please open to New Testament, page 276

VIDEO: "A Common Table" by The Skit Guys

Gospel of Luke 14:1, 7-14 Please open to New Testament, page 94

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

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 THE OFFERING

Leader: As a response to God's Word, which we have heard read and proclaimed,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

On Jordan's Stormy Banks
-traditional American melody/Leatherman

***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**

Gracious God, we offer to You these gifts, both as signs of our gratitude and as instruments of Your kingdom. Use these gifts, and us, that Your way of love and peace, transformation and hope might flourish in this place. Amen.

Holy Communion Liturgy

(All are welcome at Christ's Table)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Invitation to the Table (by the Pastor)

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus,
Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.
At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor,
he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, Jesus is the host.
Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him,
those who want to follow him must first be fed by him,
those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst: for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.
Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

With the saints from long ago, with our loved ones who are gathered round Your heavenly table,
we praise You, singing the hymn of Your everlasting glory:

SANCTUS (All 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 Institution (by the Pastor)

On the night when Jesus was betrayed and handed over.....

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: God of All, as we do what Jesus once did, let Your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread
and this cup that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ.
And let that same Spirit stir our souls so that as we share this sacrament,
we may recognize our Lord and receive him that he may be in us and we in him forever.

All: Amen.

Call to the Supper

Leader: Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall
be healed.**

Leader: Come, for all things are now ready.

Distribution of the Elements

(We all 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: Go forth from this place to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you this day and always.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

For the Beauty of the Earth #14



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

Because He Lives -Gaither/Bock



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Contributions Received Week of 8/24

Regular Offering: \$669
Loose Change Offering: \$41
Organ Fund Donation: \$350
Regular Offering Received in Office: \$85

Sunday Worship Attendance on 8/24

In-House: 38 / Online: 1



THE REVEREND RALPH S. GEIMAN, PASTOR, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Patty Stepler & Mark Stahl **Reader:** Patty Stepler

Communion Servers: Ron Shafer & Cathy Keefer

New Safety Policy – The consistory board has implemented a new safety policy: all outside doors will be locked once the worship service starts to ensure everyone's security.

Restoration of Our Organ – The stop rail component was removed last Tuesday for manufacturer repairs, which are expected to take about a week. The organ should be ready for worship on September 14th!

Special Music Sponsorship: We have opportunities if anyone would still like to sponsor special music during worship. We have worked with the Cumberland Valley School of Music as a clearing house for musicians in the past. To sponsor a musician, please express your interest to Pastor Mark or call Elaine at the church office so that we can get started on this exciting initiative.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am–12:30pm, except for Monday, September 1st, as they will be closed for Labor Day.

Church Bulletin Board – Please check the bulletin board weekly for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more! Also check out our updated Welcome Board with pictures of our members during various events.

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday Evenings, starting September 3rd at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. If anyone new would like to join us, contact our choir director Patty Stepler.

The **Fall Wednesday Night Book Study** will begin September 3rd and continue through October 29th. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the Chapel. Everyone invited for one or all the sessions. We will be using a book called 'A Little One Shall Lead: Small Congregations Create New Ways of Being Church.' The book is available new on Amazon for \$21.95 or from the Pilgram Press of the UCC for the same price (plus shipping). We hope you can join us!

Building Projects – Dependable Roofing will start our roof replacement in 2-3 months. We thank Barry Shoemaker for taking the lead on this project.

Church Directory – We made some updates to the church directory. Check your emails, as a new copy was sent out to those listed in the directory. If you would like a printed copy, please contact Elaine at the church office.

Joint Outdoor Worship and Picnic at the Church of the Apostles will be held next Sunday, September 7th. Worship will begin at 10:30am under their pavilion, followed by a covered dish picnic. No communion will be held during this service. The Church of the Apostles will bring a warm/cold dish to share; we are asked to bring drinks, fruits or desserts to share. Fried chicken and paper products will be provided. **Deadline to sign-up is today, August 31st**, so we can get a head count of how much chicken to order. We still invite you to join us even if you are unable to bring a dish!

East Broad Top Railroad Fall Trip – Church of the Apostles is putting together a group train ride in Orbisonia, Pa. They need to have 20 participants to receive a group discount. The trip is planned for Friday, October 17. Apostle members will meet us here at Grace UCC at 10am, so we can carpool together. Plan on a full day, arriving back home around 5-5:30pm. Flyers have been placed in the front vestibule and elevator area which have all the details and prices. **The sign-up deadline is Sunday, September 7th**. If you plan to attend the combined church picnic with the Church of the Apostles, payment can be submitted on that day. Hope you can join us for a fun and adventurous day!

Activities & Fundraising Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 2nd, at 7pm, in the meeting room. We welcome anyone new to join this committee!

First Saturday Free Meal is being held on Saturday, September 6th, 11-1pm, in the social hall. Everyone invited to join us for lunch. Check the church bulletin board for the menu.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will be held on Saturday, September 6th, at 9am at the Velvet Café, in Waynesboro.

September Birthday wishes go out to Bob Gearhart, Larry Stepler, Jim Thomas, Duane Lawson & Tom Green! Happy Birthday!

Social Seniors will begin next month, with gatherings scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. Trinity UCC in State Line will host the first session on Wednesday, September 10, at 2pm. The event's theme is "Tall Tales and True". This should bring out our storytellers! We encourage you to join in! Light refreshments will be provided.

Closed for Labor Day – Pastor's office, church office and Grace's Free Closet is closed on Monday, September 1st for the holiday.

Grace Snyder Circle - Their first meeting for the season is scheduled for Monday, September 8th, at 1pm, in the meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them!

Consistory Board Members & Committee Leaders – Please start gathering your monthly reports. As we haven't held regular meetings over the summer, reports for the month of June, July and August submitted to the church office by Monday, September 15th. Board meetings will resume, starting Sunday, September 21st, at 8am in the meeting room.

Volunteers for Outdoor Worship at Church of the Apostles – Service Begins at 10:30am:
Greeters/Ushers: Ron Shafer & Cathy Keefer

