

***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 September 14, 2025, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Gospel of Luke 15:1-10

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO

"Wandering" 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

Prelude and Fugue in G -J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 51)

Leader: O Lord, open our lips and our mouths will declare Your praise!

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Leader: Let us speak, hear, and embrace the great wisdom of God.

All: Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Leader: Let us experience again the joy of Your salvation.
All: Revive us again, O God, as we worship You today!

***PRAISE SONG**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #12



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we can get lost in a hundred different ways.

Yet, You seek us when we are lost.

Amazingly, You do not turn away from those whom our society minimizes and demeans.

Give us courage and curiosity to engage with those that others would ignore or isolate themselves from.

**As we seek restoration among each other, let us rejoice on earth as the angels rejoice
in heaven when we are indeed reconciled and healed.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Beloved, God seeks you and rejoices when you are found. In Christ, we are forgiven.
In turn, may we become more merciful people and learn to live in the joy of the kingdom of God.

All: Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 51:1-10 Please open to Old Testament, page 640

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Please open to New Testament, page 253

CHOIR ANTHEM

Be With Me, Lord
-Lloyd Larson

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: Let us give generously and lovingly to support the ministry of the gospel—loving our neighbors as ourselves through sharing the abundant gifts of God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

More Love to Thee, O Christ

-Doane/Wagner and Hayes

*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 THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

God our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people. We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment to being Your church. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Beloved, as you go,
rejoice that God knows you, recognizes you, and communes with you.
Rejoice knowing that you have the power to do the same
with all the people you encounter.
Go, and rejoice!
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

To God Be the Glory #634



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

A Trumpet Dialogue -Ritter



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Joy in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received Week of 9/7

Regular Offering: \$772
Loose Change Offering: \$5
Building & Grounds Fund: \$30
Mail-in Regular Offering: \$100

Sunday Outdoor Worship & Picnic Attendance on 9/7

In-House: 30 / Online: N/A



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 E. Baltimore Street – PO Box 448 – Greencastle, PA 17225

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Scripture Reader: Patty Stepler

Today, Sunday, September 14th, is the Deadline for Ham Sandwich & Soup Pre-Orders – Order forms can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area. Please place all your pre-orders in the boxes provided. Sandwiches are \$4.50 each. Homemade soups choices are Chicken Rice & Ham and Bean. Soups are \$4.50 per pint or \$9 per quart. Payment is due at time of pick-up. You can pick up your orders on Thursday, September 18, between 11-1pm and 4-6pm, in our social hall. Thank you for supporting GUCC.

Restoration of Our Organ has been successfully completed. We are delighted to welcome the return of its beautiful music!

Choir Anthems start today! **Chancel Choir** rehearsals are held on Wednesday Evenings, at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. If anyone would like to join us, contact our choir director Patty Stepler.

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.

Sunday Service Volunteers – We need Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers and Readers for October. The sign-up sheet is now available in the front vestibule.

East Broad Top Railroad Fall Trip – We thank everyone who signed up for this event. The trip is planned for Friday, October 17. If you have any further questions about it, please contact Linda Ritchey, at the Church of the Apostles at 717-762-4113.

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

Grace's Free Closet has been busy these past two weeks cleaning the rooms and putting out fall/Halloween items. We thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Closet. They will re-open this week with their regular hours of Monday & Wednesday, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Stop by if you need some warmer clothes or fall decorations.

Fall Wednesday Evening Book Study continues Wednesday evenings through October 29th. We meet from 6-7pm in the Chapel. Everyone invited for one or all the sessions. We are using a book called '*A Little One Shall Lead: Small Congregations Create New Ways of Being Church.*' If you need a book, you can order them from Amazon for \$21.95 or from the Pilgrim Press of the UCC for the same price (plus shipping). We hope you can join us!

Consistory & Committee Reports are due to the church office by Monday, September 15th. Since we haven't held regular meetings over the summer, any reports for the month of June, July and August need submitted to the church office.

Consistory Board Members – Monthly board meetings will resume, starting Sunday, September 21st, at 8am in the meeting room.

Appreciation Note: To my wonderful church family, I am deeply grateful for your prayers and comforting words during the past few months and the recent loss of my brother. Your love and support reminded me of God's comforting presence. Thank you, Pastor Mark, for your faithful guidance, wisdom, and support. I am deeply grateful for your dedication to serving God and His people. -Joann Snider

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 21, 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Darlene Bitner

Scripture Reader: Steve Miller

