

*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 January 11, 2026  
The Baptism of our Lord**

Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9 / Acts 10:34-43 / Matthew 3:13-17

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Video:** "Healing In His Wings" by 231 Worship

**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**

Hymn to Joy -Beethoven/Travis

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God anointed Christ to console the afflicted.  
**All: Come, let us worship the Lord our Comforter!**

Leader: God anointed Christ to bind up the wounded.

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord our Healer!**

Leader: God anointed Christ to deliver the troubled.

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!**

**\*PRAISE SONG**      Breathe on Me, Breath of God    #286



**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in baptism You promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to receive one another.

In Your loving-kindness, have mercy on us and free us from sin.

Remind us of the promises You make in baptism  
so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE (based on Romans 8:15-17)**

Leader: Dearly beloved, you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,  
but you have received a spirit of adoption.

God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Praise God that in the power of the Spirit we are joint heirs with Christ!

In Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE**

**SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 42:1-9    Please open to Old Testament, pages 820-821

Acts 10:34-43    Please open to New Testament, pages 157-158

## CHOIR ANTHEM

Matthew 3:13-17 Please open to New Testament, page 3

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

## SERMON

## INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY BOARD MEMBERS

Patricia Stepler & Carolle Patrick

## 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**

**d 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: Remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said:  
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."  
Let us give this morning's offering.

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

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

Master, Let Me Walk with Thee -Smith/Martin

### \*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 FOR THE OFFERING

God of wonder, we offer You these humble gifts,  
signs of your goodness and mercy.  
Receive them with our gratitude,  
that through us all people may know  
the riches of Your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen

## *WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE*

## BENEDICTION

Leader: May the peace of God, known in this sanctuary, go with you and empower you to meet adversity.  
**All: We carry God's peace into a troubled world,  
seeking to be peacemakers wherever we go.**

Leader: May the blessing of God, which sets you free, lift you up each day.  
**All: We carry God's blessing into our daily lives  
and dare to share the riches of God's Good News to us.**

Leader: May the strength of God, which thunders and yet does not break a bruised reed, give you vitality.  
**All: We commit ourselves anew to live by God's will  
as it is revealed to us day by day. Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG** There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit #408



**POSTLUDE MUSIC**  
(Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)  
Postlude in Early American Hymn Style -Smith



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**Contributions Received 1/4/25 and through the week**

Regular Offering: \$1812 / Building & Grounds: \$295 / Communion Offering: \$60  
Initial Offering: \$43 / Boiler Fund Donation: \$2000

**Tithes for the month of December 2025: \$7550**

**Sunday Worship Attendance on 1/4/2026**

In-House: 31 / Online: 7



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



## GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka: (717) 504-2923 – [markruzicka3349@gmail.com](mailto:markruzicka3349@gmail.com)

Church Office: (717) 597-2983 & [gucc128@outlook.com](mailto:gucc128@outlook.com)

Website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/](http://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/)

### WEEK OF JANUARY 11, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Ron Shafer & Nancy Myers

Scripture Reader: Steve Miller

**Grace's Free Closet** is open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am–12:30pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 11:30am–2:30pm. Donations are accepted during open hours. If Greencastle Antrim School District is closed or delayed due to weather, the Closet will also be closed. Thanks to our volunteers for supporting the extra weekend hours.

**2025 Year End Reports** will be distributed by the end of January. Please submit any outstanding committee reports promptly. Thank you.

**Blessing Baskets** are available on the church steps for anyone in need. If you would like to help support this ministry, please donate non-perishable food or personal care products in the collection tubs. A suggested donation list is on the hallway bulletin board. For monetary contributions, contact Marg Stouffer or drop off at the church office and we will purchase the items needed. Thank you for helping with this community outreach program!

**January Birthday Celebrants:** We extend our best wishes for a happy birthday to Glenda Stenger, Tony Homer, Noelle Homer, Cathy Keefer, Mildred Minnich & Pastor Mark.

**Social Seniors** – January's get together is this Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm, at Trinity UCC, 29 East Avenue, State Line.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** – If you haven't picked up your offering envelope sets, you will find them on the bench in the elevator area. Please pick them up after worship service or stop by the office during the week.

**Upper Room Devotional Brochures** for Jan/Feb 2026 are available. Large print and pocket size are available on the front welcome table and elevator area.

**Choir Rehearsals** are held weekly on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.

**Gratitude:**

To the Consistory & Church Members, thank you for the thoughtful Christmas gift. Your kindness and generosity are a true reflection of Grace Church. May the Lord bless each of you abundantly in the coming year. With appreciation.... Susan Alsip-Lawson. (Thank you note posted on the bulletin board.)

To Congregation, thank you for the Christmas gift money, it was so thoughtful of you. I'm grateful to work with such a wonderful church family. Wishing everyone a blessed 2026.... Elaine Scheffer

**Monthly Consistory Reports** (for December) are due to the church office by Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The next board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18, at 8am, in the small meeting room. Agenda packets will be sent out via email next week.

**2025 Contribution Statements** – To receive your annual giving statement, sign up at the front welcome table or elevator area and select your delivery method. You can pick up your statement on January 18th or 25th during service, arrange office pickup, or have it mailed. For questions, contact Elaine in the office.

**Pastor Mark's birthday** is approaching on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Let's shower him with birthday wishes! You can drop off cards at the office, or you can find his address in the church directory. We are thankful and appreciate all he does for us!

The **February Worship Volunteer Sign-up Sheet** is located on the front welcome table. We still have some open opportunities.

**Lunch Bunch** is meeting on Tuesday, January 27, at 11:30am. Location to be announced.

**Men's Breakfast & Fellowship** is being held on Saturday, February 7th, at 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

**First Saturday Free Meal** will be held on Saturday, February 7th, from 11-1pm, in our social hall. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Chet Nye or Lorna Thomas.

**Grace Snyder Circle** is meeting on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm, in the small meeting room. Everyone is invited to join them.

**Refreshments & Fellowship** will not be held in January.

**Volunteers Needed** to prepare and serve **refreshments for February 8th**. Sign-up sheet is located on the welcome table in the front vestibule or contact Carolyn Shoemaker.

**Activities & Fundraising Committee** will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm, in the small meeting room.

**Called to Care Committee** is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm.

**Worship & Spiritual Life Committee** is holding their next meeting on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:30am in the small meeting room.

**Welcome** to our new board members, Patty Stepler and Carolle Patrick. Thank you to Lorna Thomas and Deb Homer for their four years of service.

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Worship Volunteers for Sunday, January 18, 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers

Scripture Reader: Nancy Myers

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## January Blessings

"May this winter  
bring strength, love,  
and hope to every  
tired area of your  
life."

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