

***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 April 5, 2026 - Easter Sunday

Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20: 1-18

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video: "Resurrection Creed" 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

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done
-Palestrina/Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the Good News-the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the Good News—the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the Good News—Christ is our peace,
the everlasting and indestructible peace shared with the whole world.

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

***PRAISE SONG**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #232



PRAYER OF INVOCATION (A prayer by the theologian Karl Barth)

Leader: O Lord God, our Father, You are the light that can never be put out;
and now You give us a light that shall drive away all darkness.

You are love without coldness, and You have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all we meet.
You are the life that defies death, and You have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But Your grace is enough for us.

Arouse in us a great degree of joy and thankfulness.

Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter,
but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our darkened hearts.

All: Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

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

Colossians 3:1-4 Please open to New Testament, page 246

CHOIR ANTHEM

I've Just Been with Jesus

-by Tony Wood and Joel Lindsey, arr. by Russell Mauldin

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.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: We do good because Christ by his Spirit is renewing us to be like himself,
so that in all our living,
we may show that we are thankful to God for all God has done for us,
and so that God may be praised through us.
Let us receive 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

Beneath the Cross

-Maker/Thygeron

*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

**O Mighty One, You have done great things for us, and holy is Your name.
Bless all we offer You—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us
Your grace and love may be made known to this world,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Holy Communion Liturgy

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: All are who seek peace with their neighbor and who seek to follow Christ's way
are welcome to the Lord's table.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

Leader: Holy are You, O God of Easter, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Jesus releases from us sin's grip.

He walks us through darkness...into Your Kingdom Light.

He humbled himself and, therefore, is fit to rule over us all.

Therefore, with the entire company of the saints in heaven and on earth,
we praise You with joy, singing:

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!**

Leader: On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus, took bread; gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, and eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took up the cup, saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, we celebrate the mystery of our faith:

***All:* Christ has died...but death does not have the final word.
Christ is risen...and even today, Christ calls us by our names.
Christ will come again...and lead us into God's greater glory.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit...upon this bread and cup...and upon us gathered here in Your name. At Your table...renew our joy in You. Help us to commit ourselves to You...and to lovingly serve others in Your name. To You be glory and honor, now and forever.

***All:* Amen.**

Leader: Let us all pray together as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**All: 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.**

Leader: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the shared cup, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready.

SERVE ELEMENTS IN THE PEWS
(We 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:

Lord, now let us depart in peace according to Your word, for our eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have prepared before the face of all people,
a light to brighten the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son...and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Thine Is the Glory #238



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

-Williams/Page



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“Call to Worship” from Iona Community’s Resource called *Eggs and Ashes*.
Personal copy of Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

“Prayer of Invocation” from *Prayer: 50th Anniversary Edition* by Karl Barth. Edited by Don E. Saliers.
2002 Westminster John Knox Press.

Contributions Received on 3/29/26

Regular Offering: \$1514 / Building Fund: \$10 / Communion Offering: \$5
Maundy Thursday Offering: \$25 / Lenten Offering \$5
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$30 / Loose Change Offering (donated to the choir): \$99
Greencastle Food Pantry Donations: \$428

Worship Attendance on 3/29/26

Morning Service: In-House: 49 / Online: 4
Evening Service: In-House: 84 / Online: 6

Tithes for the Month of March 2026: \$8606



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller, Marg Stouffer, Patty Stepler, Nancy Myers
Communion Servers: Lu Miller, Marg Stouffer, Patty Stepler, Nancy Myers
Scripture Reader: Steven Miller

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

Easter Flowers displayed in the sanctuary are dedicated to our loved ones; see the attached list for family dedications. Please take your flowers home after worship or contact the office for alternate arrangements. Ask Cathy Keefer if you need to confirm your tulip color.

Our choir is grateful for your support during last week's wonderful Cantata performance. The choir also appreciates all the loose change donations. Altogether, \$99 was collected and contributed to the choir fund.

Thank you to Greencastle Presbyterian Church for hosting us on Maundy Thursday. It was a meaningful service and a great chance to connect with their congregation.

One Great Hour of Sharing - We express our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to this UCC fund. A total of \$150 was collected during the month of March, which will support ministries in providing health services, education, emergency relief, and many other important initiatives. Special envelopes are available in both vestibule areas, and donations are welcome at any time.

Grace's Free Closet is open on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am–12:30pm, plus the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month, from 11:30am–2:30pm. Donations accepted during open hours. Contact Nancy if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Blessing Baskets are on the front church steps for anyone in need. To support this project, donate non-perishable food or personal care products in the tubs; there is a suggested list of needed items on the bulletin board. For monetary contributions, contact Marg Stouffer or leave your donation at the church office. Thank you for supporting this outreach program!

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

Activities & Fundraising Committee Meeting will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7th, at 7pm, in the small meeting room.

Birthdays in the Pews: Happy April Birthday Wishes to Darren Vannoy, Bobbie Sponseller, Grace Gearhart, Steven Miller, Sydnae Vanner, Marilyn Walck, Jean Oliver and Lu Miller! Enjoy your special day!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held on Sunday, April 12th, in the social hall, following worship.

Committee & Consistory Reports for March are due next week, by Monday, April 13th. Please start putting them together and submit them to the church office. **Board Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, at 8am.

Social Seniors will not meet in April as they are taking an Easter break. Further updates regarding the May gathering will be provided once it is confirmed.

Next **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th at 11:30am. Location will be announced soon.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will be held on May 2nd, at 9am. They are meeting at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on May 2nd, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. Menu includes turkey salad sandwiches and turkey noodle soup. Mark your calendar and join us!

Scholarship Applications that were received will be reviewed by our Educational Committee. Chosen recipients will be announced during **Educational Sunday**, which is scheduled for June 14th.

The **Newsletter Deadline** is coming up. Please submit any photos, events, or information to share with the congregation to the church office by Monday, April 20th.

Penn State Mont Alto Chorale is performing on Tuesday, April 28th, at 7pm, in the General Studies Building Auditorium located at Penn State Mont Alto Campus. "Echoes of Freedom: 250 Years in Song" directed by Patty Stepler. Everyone is invited, as this may be the last performance of the PSU Mont Alto Chorale. Flyer with program details posted on bulletin board in lower hallway.

Appreciation: We thank everyone who participated in the Greencastle Community Palm Sunday evening worship. The Greencastle-Antrim Ministerium received \$428 in donations which is being donated to the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry located within the Greencastle Presbyterian Church.

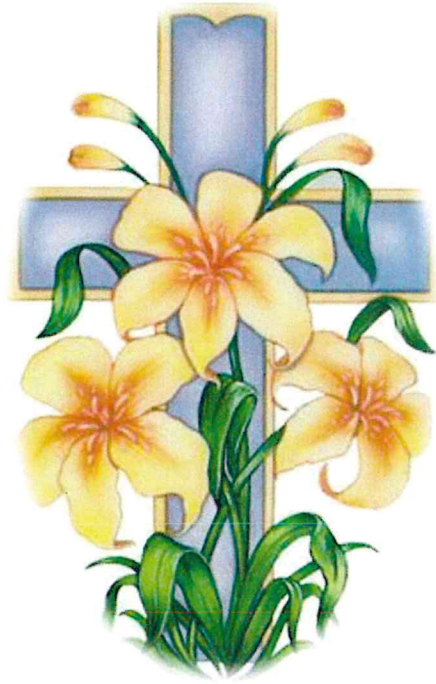
Worship Volunteers for Sunday, April 12, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Mark Stahl and Kate Kennedy **Scripture Reader:** Lu Miller



Easter Sunday Flower Dedications

April 5, 2026



Each Easter Flower displayed in the sanctuary holds a special place in our hearts. They are dedicated in Loving Memory and in Honor of your loved ones. Please take a moment to say a special prayer for each of the families listed below.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Roberts Sr., from Sydnae Vanner

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Chip Thomas from Jim Thomas

In memory of my husband, Donald Patrick and Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Goetz
from Carolle Patrick

In honor of Adam & Heather Stouffer from Marg & Jeff Stouffer

In honor of Ben & Stacey Hosfelt Stouffer from Marg & Jeff Stouffer

In memory of Jack Barnhart and Mr. & Mrs. C.P. Barnhart
from Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Barnhart and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Shoemaker
from Jack Shoemaker

In memory of my parents, Jean & Robert Rice, from Cathy Keefer

In memory of my grandmother, Beulah Lindsay, from Cathy Keefer

In memory of my parents, Ida B. & Lawrence N. Alsip Sr.,
from Susan M. Alsip-Lawson

In memory of our daughter, Brenda Sue Wilhide, from Robert & Grace Gearhart

In memory of my mother, Brenda Sue Wilhide, from Christopher Wilhide & family

In memory of James & Almeda Barnhart from Tony Homer & family

In memory of Robert & Olive Homer and Diane Homer Norris
from Tony Homer & family

In memory of my husband, Edward R. Doyle, from Gladys Doyle & family

In honor of our grandchildren from Gladys Doyle & family

In memory of my father, Edward Jars, and my brother-in-law, William Scheffer,
from Elaine & John Scheffer

In memory of my wife, Jan Shafer, from Ron Shafer

In memory of Frank & Dorothy Tresler from Ron Shafer

In memory of Francis & Betty McIntire from Ron Shafer

In memory of Gary E. Fillman from Dave & Kathy Fillman

In memory of Chauncey & Rozella Eisenhower from Dave & Kathy Fillman

In memory of our parents and grandparents from Larry & Patty Stepler

In memory of Our Loved Ones from Glenda Stenger & family

In memory of my brother, Todd Moyle, from Stacy Schweitzer

In memory of my mother, Karyn Long, from Stacy Schweitzer

In memory of Our Loved Ones from Pat Zimmerman & family

In memory of Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Edwin H. Sponseller from Bobbie & Tim Sponseller

In memory of Mrs. & Mrs. Robert Burkholder from Bobbie & Tim Sponseller

In memory of Jack & Thelma King and Chip & Grace Thomas
from Roy & Lorna Thomas

