

***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 19, 2026 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 / 1 Peter 1:17-25 / Luke 24:13-35

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video: "The Easter Seed" 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

Nostalgia -Hwang

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 116)

Leader: I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplications.

***All:* Because God has inclined his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.**

Leader: The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, God saved me.
All: Return, O my soul, to your calm, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Leader: I am Your servant. You have freed me.
All: I will praise You and call on Your name.

***PRAISE SONG**

Baptized in Water #482



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we cut You to the heart with the senseless choices we make.
We had hoped our lives would reflect Your presence,
but those around us can see how empty we are.

We had hoped our words might bring healing, but they end up hurting those we love the most.
We had hoped to find Jesus, but we fail to see Him in all those You send to us.

How foolish we are to think we can go on without Your grace, O God.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

(a time of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Colossians 2:13-15)

Leader: This we know for certain – this has been revealed by Jesus Christ:
our God is a gracious God.
This good news never ceases to amaze us!
In Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: This reconciliation is passed on to us, so we may share it with those around us.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Please open to Old Testament, page 694

1 Peter 1:17-25 Please open to New Testament, page 282

CHOIR ANTHEM
Blessed Be the Name
-Benjamin Harlan

Luke 24:13-35 Please open to New Testament, pages 109-110

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: Jesus, our Master says, "It is better to give than to receive."
Let us take this opportunity to give to Christ's work today.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus Paid It All -Grape/Pethel

*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

As we offer our treasure and hearts to You, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of Your peace, Your life, and Your community to those who need it. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: The stone has been rolled away!

***All:* We will go to share this good news!**

Leader: Jesus walks with us on our journey.

***All:* We will go with Him wherever the road takes us.**

Leader: Jesus has opened our eyes.

***All:* We will go to serve everyone we meet.**

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***All:* Amen.**

*PRAISE SONG

More Love to Thee, O Christ #828



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Recessional on “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” -Welsh melody/Wagner



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Service prayers adapted from Thom M Shuman and permission granted at
<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Contributions Received on 4/12/2026

Regular Offering: \$1164 / Building Fund: \$45 / Communion Offering: \$5
Loose Change Offering: \$10

Worship Attendance on 4/12/2026

In House: 34 / 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

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Scripture Reader: Dave Fillman

The **May Church Volunteer Sign-up Sheet** can be found on the welcome table in the front vestibule. We have a few open spots that still need filled.

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.

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Tuesday, April 28th, 11:30am, at Stoner's Family Restaurant on Wayne Avenue in Chambersburg.

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

Called to Care Committee is meeting on Tuesday, April 21st, at 1pm, in the small meeting room.

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.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 9am. The gathering will take place at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro, and all men from Grace are welcome to attend!

First Saturday Free Community Meal is being held on May 2nd, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. Menu includes turkey salad sandwiches and turkey noodle soup. The committee will be preparing the food on Friday, May 1st. If you can help them out, please contact Chet or Lorna.

Grace UCC Scholarships - Greencastle-Antrim High School Awards Ceremony is being held on Thursday, May 21st, from 9:15-10:30am, in their auditorium. We will be honoring the recipients during worship on Educational Sunday, June 14th.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures for May/June are now available. You can find them on the welcome table and in the elevator area. Please take home a copy today!

Lost & Found: Baseball cap has been turned into the church office. If you are missing one, it has been placed on the bench in the elevator area.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, April 26, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Cathy Keefer & Nancy Myers **Scripture Reader:** Tim Bryan

