

***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 May 3, 2026: The Fifth Sunday of Easter with Communion

Scriptures: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 / 1 Peter 2:2-10 / John 14:1-14

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video: "Remembering Communion" 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 Love of God -Lehman/Thyngerson

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 31)

Leader: In You, O God, we seek refuge.

All: Holy God, for Your name's sake lead us and guide us.

Leader: You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in Your hands.
All: Holy God, for Your name's sake lead us and guide us.

Leader: Shine upon us this day. Save us in Your steadfast love.
All: Holy God, for Your name's sake lead us and guide us.

***PRAISE SONG**

O Christ, the Great Foundation #361



***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God:
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
All: In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Please open to Old Testament, page 622

1 Peter 2:2-10 Please open to New Testament, pages 282-283

CHOIR ANTHEM

In Remembrance of Me -Gary Lanier

John 14:1-14 Please open to New Testament, pages 132-133

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: God is always good and generous to us. Accept this invitation to share our resources today for the good of our neighbors and to the glory of God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger

-spiritual/Page

***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**

**Generous God may the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear.
Be glorified in our giving and our living. Amen.**

Holy Communion Liturgy

Introduction

Leader: Shared meals have the power to transform, to heal, to reorient us toward love.
This Communion meal can draw us back to God and to our place in the Body of Christ.

If you have come to this Communion meal today craving comfort and peace, hungering for justice and mercy,
thirsting for reconciliation and grace, the invitation to eat is for you.

Come to the table to remember that you are loved.

Thanks and Praise

Leader: O God who meets us on the lakeshore and at banquet tables, who huddles around bonfires and in
church kitchens, we give thanks that wherever we gather, You find us. When we feel lost, You offer us a home
in the comfort of Your love.

Whether we are strangers or friends, family or neighbors, help us to feel Your grace in the people around this
table. Thank You for the many ways You feed us, from early morning feasts to late night snacks. Thank you
for the food You offer for our spirits, food that nourishes and soothes, food that satisfies and delights.

We bless You with the faithful in all places and times.
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!**

Bread & Cup

Leader: We remember the supper shared with disciples the night before Jesus' arrest, and we remember another meal shared on the road to Emmaus, when the resurrected Christ met his disciples in their grief.

As he had done before, Jesus gave thanks, he broke the bread and offered it to his friends.
They ate, and instead of grief, they tasted grace.
They drank, and instead of despair, they recognized love in their midst.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Leader: Holy Spirit, take this bread and cup
and transform them into the bread of life and the cup of blessing.
In eating together, may we be one as the Body of Christ.

Invitation to the Table

Leader: Let us come to the table and eat,
knowing nothing can keep us separate from Christ's welcome and love.

SERVE ELEMENTS IN THE PEWS

(We partake together at the cue of the pastor)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Thank You for this meal shared in the company of friends.
Having rested and been fed, may we go from this place committed to feeding any person who hungers for
love, offering the kind of blessings we ourselves have received here. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader:

Let not your hearts be troubled.
Believe in the power of God working in you.
Do the work of loving God, your neighbor, and yourself.
Do the work of glorifying God by following the ways of Christ.
Do the work of living with faith, hope, and love.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind #169



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Jesus Loves the Little Children -Wollston/Gaspard and Hayes



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Do the Works: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Prayers of Confession and Assurance are from Iona Community of Scotland and from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, 2017.

Communion Liturgy "Eating with Jesus" by Liz Miller included in *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, edited by Mary Luti ©2023 The Pilgrim Press.

Contributions Received 4/26/26

Regular Offering: \$769 / Loose Change Offering: \$45

Worship Attendance on 4/26/26

In-House: 38 / Online: 6

Tithes for the Month of April 2026:

\$4599



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Ron Shafer & Cathy Keefer

Scripture Reader: David Fillman

Grace UCC is hosting the Mercersburg Association Spring Meeting this afternoon, from 3-5pm. The theme is "Coming to the Table". Megan Shreve, CEO of South-Central Community Action Program (SCCAP), will speak on food insecurity in our communities. Following her presentation, we will have communion together. Everyone is invited.

May Birthday Wishes are extended to Tom Stine, Betsy Green, Roy Thomas & Joann Snider. We wish your special day is filled with happiness.

Activities & Fundraising Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00pm in the meeting room. Everyone is welcome to attend. We need more volunteers for upcoming fundraisers, contact Chet or Marg for details.

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held next Sunday, May 10th, in the social hall following worship.

Social Seniors & Donations Requested – This group is gathering on Wednesday, **May 13th**, 2pm, at Trinity UCC Church in Waynesboro. Pastor Dani Neff is offering us a way to be "for others" at our gathering. In addition to our time of food & fellowship, we will be assembling hygiene kits for Church World Service. **We are being asked to donate** (24) fingernail or toenail clippers, (24) travel size deodorant sticks, 3.4 ounces or less, non-aerosol, and (24) travel size toothpastes, 3.4 ounces or less, with expiration dates of at least one year out. We are accepting donations today and next Sunday. Baskets to accept donations have been placed in the vestibules, or you can drop off items to the church office by Tuesday, May 12th. Flyer with further details is on the church bulletin board in the lower hallway.

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.

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. Meet & greet with refreshments will be held in our social hall after service.

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.

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.

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!


Lunch Bunch for next month will be held on Tuesday, May 26th, 1:30am, at Vinnies on 11. (Please note we switched Vinnies to May, as they are closed the last week in June). June 30th lunch will be at the Parlor House in Waynesboro.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will hold their next gathering on Saturday, June 6th, at 9am. The gathering will take place at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro, and all men from Grace are welcome to attend!

Next **First Saturday Free Community Meal** is scheduled for June 6th, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. If you would like to volunteer with them, please contact Chet or Lorna.

Sight & Sound Movie Matinee Day – Ron Shafer has generously offered to host movie matinees in his home in Greencastle. You can find his address in the church directory or call the church office. He has a series of 6 to 7, 2-hour movies from Sight & Sound films. Space is limited to 20 guests; so please sign up on the sheet in the elevator area. The first movie, "**Ruth**," will be shown on Saturday, May 16th at 2pm.


Support of the **Strengthen the Church offering** helps the UCC fulfill a commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We are accepting offerings during the month of May. Attached is an envelope for your convenience.



**Strengthen
the Church**


**SENT FORTH IN
LOVE**

A Special Mission Offering of
the United Church of Christ
supporting new church,
leadership, and youth
cultivation through our
Conferences and
National Ministries.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

UCC.ORG/STC



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Worship Volunteers for Next Sunday, May 10, 9:30am:
Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers
Scripture Reader: Steven Miller

