

***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 10, 2026: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Psalm 66:8-20 / Acts 17:22-31 / John 14:15-21

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video: "The Mom Behind The Wonder" 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

A Festive Trumpet Tune -Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples! Let the sound of God's praise be heard!

All: For God has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Leader: Come and hear, all you who fear God, as we tell what God has done for us.
All: Blessed be God, who has not rejected our prayers or removed His steadfast love!

All: Let us worship the Lord!

***PRAISE SONG**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #012



***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and Eternal One, we proclaim that You breathe life into us and know us fully. Yet, sometimes, we confess that there are times when we refuse to seek You and refuse to search for You.

**There are times when we rather keep You in a little compartment
so that You will not fully impact our lives.**

**There are moments when we close ourselves off from Your revealing Word,
Your guiding hand, and Your nudging Spirit.**

Have mercy on us, Lord.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News: God knows and loves you as you are.
Draw near to our God who sees your struggles and offers you grace.
Come to our God who doesn't reject His children but renews them in love.
In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 66:8-20 Please open to Old Testament, page 650

Acts 17:22-31 Please open to New Testament, page 168

CHOIR ANTHEM

You Are Always There -Larry Stepler

John 14:15-21 Please open to New Testament, page 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 Stand Amazed in the Presence -Gabriel/Jordan

*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

Righteous God, receive these gifts we offer from our hearts and hands that they (and we) might be of service in Your kingdom. Blessed be Your name. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader:

Go forth, knowing that you are never alone.
May the Spirit of Truth dwell within you, the love of the Father surround you,
and the presence of Christ guide your every step.

May you find peace in the promise that Christ is in you, and you are in Christ.
Go in power and in love.

All: Amen.

*PRAISE SONG

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest #824



POSTLUDE MUSIC
(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Festiva -Christopher



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Service prayers adapted from the resource “Coming to You: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday in Easter Year A,” written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Contributions Received 5/3/26

Regular Offering: \$2064 / Communion Offering: \$27 / Loose Change Offering: \$20
Building & Grounds Donations: \$90 / Strengthen the Church Offering: \$35

Worship Attendance on 5/3/26

In-House: 37 / Online: 8



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

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

Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF MAY 10, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers

Scripture Reader: Steven Miller

Happy Mother's Day!

We are thankful for the gift of mothers – for their love, strength, and endless sacrifices. Bless them with peace, joy and health. May they always feel appreciated, cherished, and surrounded by love today and every day.

Social Seniors Group is meeting this week, **Wednesday, May 13th, 2pm**, at Trinity UCC Church in Waynesboro. Pastor Dani Neff is offering a way for the community to be “for others” at this gathering. In addition to a time of food & fellowship, they will be assembling hygiene kits for Church World Service (CWS). This Social Seniors group includes 4 local UCC churches of southern Franklin County. Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering to help assemble these kits. They are hoping to have enough donations to complete 24 kits. Donation baskets are available in the vestibule areas for those who wish to contribute items. (If you haven't brought in your items today, and would still like to donate, please drop them off at the church office, no later than tomorrow, Monday, May 11th.)

They asked if we could donate:

- (24) fingernail or toenail clippers
- (24) deodorant sticks, 3.4 ounces or less, non-aerosol
- (24) toothpastes, 3.4 ounces or less, with expiration dates of at least a year out

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

Consistory & Committee Reports are due to the church office tomorrow, Monday, May 11th.

Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, at 8am, in the small meeting room.

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.

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. They could use donations for spring/summer decor. 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.

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. This offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. We are accepting these offerings during the month of May. If you would like to contribute, special offering envelopes are located on the front welcome table and in the elevator area.

The **June Volunteer** sign-up sheet for greeters, ushers, and communion servers is now available on the welcome table located in the front vestibule. We encourage you to review your schedules and sign-up at your earliest convenience.

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 have been temporarily removed from the steps, until we find a better way to protect the food items from sun exposure. Contact Marg Stouffer or the church office with any ideas or questions.

Choir Practice is ending for the season. Last week was most likely the last rehearsal, keep in contact with Patty in case one more was scheduled. The last choir anthem will be held on Sunday, May 24th.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Brochures for May/June can be found on the welcome table and in the elevator area. Please take home a copy today!

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Tuesday, May 26th, 11:30am, at Vinnies on 11. (Please note we switched Vinnies to May, as they are closed the last week in June). June 30th lunch bunch will meet at the Parlor House in Waynesboro.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will not be meeting during the summer months (June, July & August).

First Saturday Free Community Meal for next month 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.

General Primary Elections will be held in our social hall on Tuesday, May 19th, from 7am-8pm.

Church Office & Pastor's Office will be Closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

Church of the Apostles is hosting Sunday evening summer concerts under their pavilion, start in June. Please see the flyer on our bulletin board in the lower hallway for further details.

Otterbein UB Church in Greencastle is hosting a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theater on Wednesday, August 26th, to see Joshua. Further details and reservation forms have been placed in the vestibule areas, please take one home with you if you are interested.

The flyer is divided into two vertical sections: a light green left section and a red right section. In the top left, there is a logo of a house with a cross inside, followed by the text "Strengthen the Church". In the center, a large black dove with red-tinted wings is shown in flight. To the left of the dove, the text "SENT FORTH IN" is in black, and "LOVE" is in large, bold, red letters. Below this, a paragraph reads: "A Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ supporting new church, leadership, and youth cultivation through our Conferences and National Ministries." In the bottom right corner of the flyer, there is a small logo for the United Church of Christ and the text "UCC.ORG/STC". On the far right edge of the red section, the words "STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH" are written vertically in white.

Worship Volunteers for Next Sunday, May 17, 9:30am:
Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer **Scripture Reader:** Tony Homer

