

***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 17, 2026: The 7th Sunday of Easter**

**Scriptures: Psalm 68:1-10 / Acts 1:6-14 / John 17:1-11**

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Video: "All Things New" 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**

Prelude in B Flat Major -J.S. Bach

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 24)**

*Leader:* Lift up your heads, O gates!

Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

**All: Who is the King of glory?**

*Leader:* The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

**All:** Lift up your heads, O gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

*Leader:* Who is this King of glory?

**All:** The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Let us worship God!

### **\*PRAISE SONG**

In Christ There Is No East or West #318



### **\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life  
and crowned him Lord of all.**

**We confess that we have not always bowed before Him  
or acknowledged His rule in our lives.**

**We have gone along with the ways of the world  
and failed to give Him glory.**

**Forgive us and raise us from sin,  
that we may be more faithful people who obey Christ's commands.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Ephesians 2)**

*Leader:* Hear the good news of the gospel: God, who is rich in mercy,  
out of the great love with which He loved us,  
has made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—  
and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him  
in the heavenly places in Christ.

In Christ, God has shown us His great kindness toward us.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE**

### **SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 68:1-10 Please open to Old Testament, page 651

Acts 1:6-14 Please open to New Testament, page 143

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

Lord of the Dance -Sydney Carter & Don Hart

John 17:1-11 Please open to New Testament, page 136

### **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 (Based on Hebrews 13)**

*Leader:* May we do good and share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.  
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**

Near to the Heart of God -McAfee/Smith

**\*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**

**Ever-present God,  
with this offering we present also ourselves,  
all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept these offerings, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

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

**BENEDICTION (Based on Acts 1)**

*Leader:* Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?  
This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

***All: Alleluia!***

*Leader:* Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;  
I am with you always, to the end of time.

***All: Alleluia!***

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

***All: Amen.***

**\*PRAISE SONG**  
Fight the Good Fight #846



**POSTLUDE MUSIC**

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Postlude on "Invention in F Major" -J.S. Bach/Wagner and Young



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**Contributions Received 5/10/26**

Regular Offering: \$491 / Loose Change Offering: \$120  
Strengthen the Church Offering: \$40

**Worship Attendance on 5/10/26**

In-House: 27 / Online: 8

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**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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YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

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

### WEEK OF MAY 17, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer      Scripture Reader: Tony Homer

**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. The Closet will be closed the last week of May for a holiday break and will reopen on June 1st. Contact Nancy if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

**Lunch Bunch Update:** We had to change our location for our luncheon this month due to restaurant hours. On Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Trojan Diner (Chambersburg), at 11:30am, instead of Vinnies. June 30<sup>th</sup> lunch bunch will still be held at the Parlor House in Waynesboro. We will schedule with Vinnies at a later time.

**Grace UCC Scholarships** - Greencastle-Antrim High School Awards Ceremony is being held on Thursday, May 21st, from 9:15-10:30am, in their auditorium. Pastor Mark will represent Grace and hand out scholarship certificates.

**Educational Sunday** will be held at Grace on Sunday, June 14th. During this worship service, we will recognize the scholarship recipients. A meet-and-greet with refreshments will follow in the social hall. Loose change offerings collected on this day will be donated to our Educational Fund.

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. Thank you.

Our **June Volunteer** sign-up sheet for greeters, ushers, and communion servers is 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** has concluded for the season. The final choir anthem will be sung on Sunday, May 24th. Please contact Patty with any questions.

**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!

**Men's Breakfast & Fellowship** will not be meeting during the summer months of 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.

**Church Office & Pastor's Office will be Closed** on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day. Pastor will also be out of office this Monday & Tuesday, May 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Church of the Apostles** is hosting Sunday evening summer concerts under their pavilion, starting 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**General Primary Elections** will be held on Tuesday, May 19th. Voting hours for those using our facilities are 7am to 8pm.

**Activities & Fundraiser Committee** is meeting on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, in the small meeting room.



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Worship Volunteers for Next Sunday, May 24, 9:30am:  
Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker  
Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan



**Strengthen  
the Church**



SENT FORTH IN  
**LOVE**

## **Supporting next generation leaders**

Through the Church Assessment, Support, and Advancement (CASA) Program, new and renewing ministries receive grant funding to establish and strengthen transformative faith communities within the United Church of Christ.

One of these grant recipients is the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program at Kailua Christian Church. Their mission to cultivate a loving, Christ-centered community is reflected in their investment in young adults discerning pastoral and social service vocations. By partnering with The Institute for Human Services and offering hands-on, community-centered learning, housing support, and spiritual formation, KCC is developing the next generation of compassionate, justice-oriented Christian leaders.

A participant of the program shared, "This experience has prepared me to pursue ministry with greater intentionality, creativity, and resilience, equipping me to serve diverse communities with both grace and practical leadership."



Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support ministries like the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program all across the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

*The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.*

*Learn more at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc)*

