

***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 24, 2026: Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34 / Acts 2:1-21 / John 20:19-23

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video: "The Fellowship of Believers: Pentecost" by The Skit

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

America, the Beautiful -Ward/Decou

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive Readings)

Spirit of the living God, visit us again on this day of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,
come, Holy Spirit.

Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,
come, Holy Spirit.

With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,
come, Holy Spirit.

With power from above to make our weakness strong,
come, Holy Spirit. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save #008



***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, You send us the Spirit of Courage, but we act afraid.
You send us the Spirit of Truth, but we cling to our illusions.
You send us the Spirit of Healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord.
Holy Spirit, help us to live in the way of Your justice and love.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: All the promises of God find their “Yes” in Christ.
It is God who has put His seal upon us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD’S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 104:24-34 Please open to Old Testament, page 683

Acts 2:1-21 Please open to New Testament, pages 144-145

CHOIR ANTHEM

Take Me To Higher Ground -Carl Strommen

John 20:19-23 Please open to New Testament, page 141

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: We have received freely, let us give freely as well.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Only Trust Him -Stockton/Hughes

*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

**God, we give You thanks for all the gifts, great and small,
that have been poured out upon Your children.**

**Accept these gifts and helping us to be witnesses to Your love wherever we go.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (Based on Acts 1)

Leader: Church, may the boldness of God's Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of God's Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of God's Spirit equip us
to serve the Lord in all the ways we are able.

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

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory #354



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

America (“My Country ‘Tis of Thee”) -English melody/Bock



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Prayers are taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, published by Faith Alive Christian Resources, copyrighted in 2004. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received 5/17/26

Regular Offering: \$872 / Loose Change Offering: \$153
Regular Offering received by mail: \$350

Worship Attendance on 5/17/26

In-House: 36 / Online: 2



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 MAY 24, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan

Choir Practice has ended for the season. The choir will sing its final anthem today. We thank the choir, director, and organist for a wonderful season of music. Choir rehearsals will resume in the fall.

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

Grace's Free Closet is closed on Monday, May 25th, and Wednesday, May 27th for a holiday break. They will reopen on June 1st. Please contact Nancy if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Lunch Bunch: We had to change our location for our luncheon this month due to restaurant hours. This Tuesday, May 26th, we are meeting at the Trojan Diner, Chambersburg, at 11:30am, instead of Vinnies. June 30th lunch bunch will still be held at the Parlor House in Waynesboro. We plan to reschedule Vinnies for a future date.

The **June Volunteer** sign-up sheet is on the front welcome table. We still need Greeters/Ushers for June 15 and June 28, as well as a Scripture Reader for June 28. Please sign up today to help fill the remaining June volunteer spots. Thank you.

Activities & Fundraiser Committee is meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd, 7pm, in the small meeting room.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on June 6th from 11am to 1pm in the social hall. Hoagies, chips, and dessert cookies will be served. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chet or Lorna.

Educational Sunday will be held on Sunday, June 14th. During this worship service, we will recognize the students chosen for the scholarships. 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.

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.

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.

Church of the Apostles is hosting Sunday evening summer concerts under their pavilion. Their first concert of the season will be held on June 7 at 6:00 pm, with Harmony Hymns performing. In case of bad weather, the concert will be held inside the church. Invite friends and bring lawn chairs. Flyers with details about each concert are posted on the bulletin board in the lower hallway.

Otterbein UB Church in Greencastle is sponsoring a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theater on Wednesday, August 26th, to see Joshua. Reservations and payment are due by the end of June. Reservation forms and additional details are available in the vestibule areas. Please take one if you are interested.

Social Seniors will not be gathering during the summer months of June, July or August. They will resume in the Fall.

Strengthen the Church Offering - The Holy Spirit gathers us together. From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all. The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leaders across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a more just world for all. The challenges many of our congregations face vary, including:

- Seeking ways to strengthen youth ministry
- Hoping to start new congregations
- Looking for innovative ways to renew existing congregations
- Need help in developing leaders

The giving in your congregation can ensure congregations get the help they need from their conference and the national ministries of the UCC. Together we can answer the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a just world for all.



Worship Volunteers for Next Sunday, May 31, 9:30am:
Greeters/Ushers: Dave & Kathy Fillman
Scripture Reader: Dave Fillman



**Strengthen
the Church**

SENT FORTH IN
LOVE

Creating ministerial excellence

Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support the work of the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA) team at the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. This team supports the critical implementation of denominational polity for authorized ministry, especially equipping the Committees on Ministry that determine authorization of those persons who hold or are pursuing ministerial standing.

What does this mean?

In 2025, the MESA team hosted 23 Zoom trainings for Committees on Ministry (COMs) on the following topics, including:

- COM orientations for new and continuing COM members, particularly in how to offer hospitality to ministers and Members in Discernment;

- Specialized work on Fitness Reviews;
- The Endorsement Process for professional and governmental chaplaincy;
- Among other one-off trainings

In addition, MESA hosted

- Boundary Awareness Trainings focused on retired clergy and ministers serving in specialized settings such as hospital or university chaplaincy;
- Specialized learning for Members in Discernment;
- Regularly recurring online affinity groups for Campus Chaplains, Spiritual Support for Members in Discernment, Military Chaplains, Members in Discernment in Cross-Cultural Contexts, and VA chaplains;
- Targeted trainings with Conference staff focused on the search and call process, ongoing resource development, and working with ecumenically ordained ministers.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/mesa. Your gifts to Strengthen the Church build up strong leaders across our church.

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

