

***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  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Peter Emig  
Choir Director: Patty Stepler  
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson  
Ministers: All Those Present

**Order of Worship for July 5th, 2026: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scriptures: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 / Romans 7:15-25 / Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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**

Battle Hymn of the Republic -American melody/DeCou

**CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 145)**

*Leader:* The Lord is gracious, compassionate, and rich in love. God is good to all.

***All:* We praise You, Lord! You are faithful in all Your promises and trustworthy in all You do.**

*Leader:* The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

***All:* Come, let us worship the Lord together!**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

My Country, 'Tis of Thee #337



**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess to the war raging inside our hearts.**

**Frankly, we do not understand our own actions.**

**We fail to do the good we want to do, and instead, we do the very evil we hate.**

**We delight in Your law, and yet sin holds us captive.**

**Who will rescue us from this inner turmoil?**

**Have mercy on our weakness and deliver us by Your grace.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Leader:* Hear the good news: there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Through Him, we are rescued and set free from the heavy burden of our failings. In Christ, we are forgiven.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

***WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER***

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE***

**SCRIPTURES**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Please open to Old Testament, pages 24 & 25

Romans 7:15-25 Please open to New Testament, page 191

**Video:** "1776: Independence Day" by 231 Worship

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 Please open to New Testament, page 14

**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.**

**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:* Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

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

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

Over the Sunset Mountains -Peterson

**\*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 present these offerings that they may be used to extend Your liberating kingdom.**

**With them, we offer our own varied ministries in the days ahead  
that each of us may be part of Your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.**

## *Holy Communion Liturgy*

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Leader:* Holy God, we praise You for creation and the gift of life and for Your abiding love which brings us close to You. We thank You for revealing Your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank You especially that in the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom he loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave, You raised Christ with power to become Sovereign in Your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather Your church and by which Your work may be done in the world. Through the Holy Spirit, we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy Your holy name:

### **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!**

*Leader:* Holy are You, God of Grace,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Bringer of mercy.

He walked among us, calling us to follow  
that we might know the way to Your heart.

Sitting with the outsiders, he fed them with that love which welcomed  
and embraced them as siblings from different parents.

Following Your hopes, he went into the grave,  
so he might take us by the hand and lead us into life forever with You.

We recall the mystery of our faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Leader:* We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave You thanks, broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying:  
“This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying:  
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Consecrate, therefore, by Your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer You our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

Come, for all things are now ready.

### **Distribution of the Elements**

*(We partake together at the cue of the pastor)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

**All: We thank You, God for inviting us to this table  
where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

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

### **BENEDICTION**

*Leader:*

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honor all people;

love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And may the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

**All: Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies #338



**POSTLUDE MUSIC**

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

God of Our Fathers -Warren/DeCou



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Service Prayers adapted from *The UCC Book of Worship*.

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**Contributions Received 6/28/26**

Regular Offering: \$941 / Loose Change Offering: \$100  
Building Fund Donation: \$3000 / Boiler Fund Donation: \$5000

**Worship Attendance on 6/28/26**

In-House: 26 / Online: 12

**Tithes for the Month of June 2026:**

\$4278



**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 JULY 5, 2026

Guest Pastor: Rev. Peter Emig

Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Patty Stepler

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Patty Stepler

Scripture Reader: Steven Miller

**We welcome Rev. Peter Emig** leading our worship service today! He is a retired UCC Pastor who served Solomon's UCC in New Franklin for about 40 years. He lives in Chambersburg with his wife, Julia (who is the current treasurer for the Mercersburg Association).

**Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale is this weekend, Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, from 8am to 4pm and Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, from 8am to 2pm in our social hall.** We will finish organizing and setting up the yard sale items this week, July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>, between 9am to 2pm. If you can help volunteer contact Marg or see the available times on the sign-up sheets located in either vestibule area. We thank you for all the donations these past two weeks.

**Activities & Fundraising Committee** is not holding a meeting this month. If you have any questions about our upcoming yard sale, or can volunteer to help us, please contact Marg or Chet.

**Pastor's Time Off** Pastor Mark is currently on vacation through July 12<sup>th</sup>. If there are any pastoral emergencies during his time off, you can contact Rev. Dani Neff at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro (between July 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>), and for the other dates, contact Rev. Caroline Saxton at St. Johns UCC in Chambersburg.

**Grace's Free Closet** is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm, and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month from 11:30am to 2:30pm. (The Closet will be closed during our Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.) Donations are accepted anytime during open hours. Please contact Nancy Myers with any questions or needs. Thank you to all our Closet volunteers.

**Church of the Apostles** is hosting Sunday evening summer concerts under their pavilion. Their next concert is scheduled for Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, with "Drew Adams". He plays a vast selection of acoustic pop and rock hits spanning over many decades. Bring lawn chairs and invite your friends to enjoy a nice evening. In case of bad weather, the concert will be held inside the church.

**Blessing Baskets/Totes** have been temporarily removed from the steps while we work to build an enclosed food box like those seen around town. Please contact Marg with any questions.

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

**Social Seniors** will not be gathering during the summer months of July or August. They will resume in the Fall on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Trinity UCC in State Line.

**Board Meetings** will not be held during the summer months of June, July or August. Impromptu meetings will be called if needed. Meetings will resume in the fall.

**July Birthday Wishes** go out to Mary Frances Myers, Clarisse Hicks, Bill Storms, Samantha Ruzicka, Earl Bodes, Nancy Myers, Ethel Fisher, Faye Baker, Nancy Stine, and Deborah Alston.

**Refreshments & Fellowship** will be held in the social hall on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, following worship service.

The latest issue of **Grace Notes** is now available. A few extra copies are in the vestibule areas, and it can also be downloaded from our website. If you did not receive it by email, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

Next **First Saturday Free Community Meal** will be held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall with Hot Dogs on the menu.

**August Worship Volunteers** are needed. The sign-up sheet is on the front welcome table.

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, July 12th, 9:30am:**

**Worship Leader:** Michael Spielman

**Greeters/Ushers:** Dave & Kathy Fillman

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Fillman



# 6th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale!!!

## Where:

Grace UCC, 128 E. Baltimore Street, Greencastle  
in the Social Hall

## When:

Friday, July 10, from 8am to 4pm  
Saturday, July 11, from 8am to 2pm

## Rain or Shine!

Sale will be held indoors in our social hall.  
We have lots of treasures waiting for you!



Treasures for Everyone! Stop by!

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MINISTRIES OF GUCC**