

***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 July 19, 2026: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 28:10-19a / Romans 8:12-25 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Pleading Savior (*"Spirit, Come, Dispel our Sadness"*) -German hymn/Philip Young

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 139)

Leader: In this quiet space, take a deep breath and remember: you are fully seen.

***All:* The Lord has searched us and knows us.**

Leader: Whether you have felt close to God this week or far away, God's Spirit is right here.

***All:* There is nowhere we can flee from God's holy presence.**

Leader: Whether you are walking in the bright morning light or navigating a dark night of the soul.

***All:* God's hand leads us, and God's love holds us fast. Let us worship God!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand #834



***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, we confess that we have often tried to hide from You.

We look for escape in many different ways, too numerous to name.

**We have climbed high mountains of adventures and fled into deep caverns of distractions,
yet we remain entirely unable to rescue ourselves.**

We desperately need Your mercy and forgiveness.

Thank You that no matter how far we run, You are always there waiting to welcome us home.

(a time of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even in sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out, God cradles us in comfort.

Even in moments so dark that we stumble over ourselves, God lights the way for us.

God alone can fill us with healing.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

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

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 28:10-19a Please open to Old Testament, pages 30-31

Romans 8:12-25 Please open to New Testament, pages 191-192

Video: "Psalmist (A Worship Intro)" by Freebridge Media

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Please open to New Testament, pages 17 & 18

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: Jacob woke from his sleep and realized, "Surely the Lord is in this place." In that moment of wonder, he set up a pillar and vowed to give back a portion of all that God provided.

As we recognize God's presence and faithfulness among us today,
let us also respond with grateful hearts as we bring forth our offerings to the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Kum ba Yah -African melody/Mickelson

***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**

Lord God, You meet us in unexpected places and cover us with Your blessings. Like Jacob, we realize that surely You are in this place, providing for our every need. We dedicate these offerings to You in deep gratitude for Your unshakeable faithfulness. Use these gifts to open doors of hope between heaven and earth. All we have is Yours, and we give it gladly in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth now in freedom, and live as adopted children of God.

May the Holy Spirit remind you every day that you are heirs in Christ.

Do not be discouraged by present sufferings. They cannot compare to the glory waiting for you.

Stand strong and anchor your heart in the hope of God's final renewal.

May God's Spirit lead you into all life and peace, now and forever.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Day Is Done #676



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Marche -Gordon Young



Copyright 2026-2027 **321 Worship**, permission granted to watch and download videos for sermon illustrations, announcements, and teaching for use in church, small groups, or events. All rights reserved.

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. Copyright 2026-2027, CCLI License #2992794. Permissions granted to reproduce or adapt praise songs for use in service or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

Copyright 2026-2027, **CCLI Streaming License #21816597**. Permissions granted to project, live-stream or upload recordings of worship service, including the music, to website or social media channels for archived or limited distribution to those unable to attend in person. All rights reserved.

Service Prayers are adapted from Thom M Shuman and permission granted at www.lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com.

Contributions Received 7/12/26

Regular Offering: \$510 / Loose Change Offering: \$15
Communion Offering: \$10 / Building & Grounds Donation: \$25
Regular Offering Received at Office: \$60

Worship Attendance on 7/12/26

In-House: 28 / 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 JULY 19, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Cathy Keefer & Lu Miller

Scripture Reader: Lu Miller

Welcome back, Pastor Mark! We missed you and hope you had a wonderful vacation with your family!

6th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale – Grace's Free Closet opened the social hall during their hours this past week to help make a few additional sales. Profits will be tallied once all proceeds are turned in. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Activities & Fundraising Committee will not be holding any further meetings till September.

Church of the Apostles is hosting their next Sunday evening summer concert tonight, July 19th, at 6pm, under their pavilion. This Sunday they feature "Catoctin Promise Band". They are a contemporary praise & worship group whose desire and mission is to share the life-changing Gospel message of Jesus Christ with all the world. Bring lawn chairs and invite your friends & neighbors to enjoy a nice evening. In case of bad weather, the concert will be held inside the church.

Called to Care Committee is meeting this Tuesday, July 21st, at 1pm, in the meeting room.

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. Donations are accepted anytime during open hours. Please contact Nancy Myers with any questions or needs. Thank you to all our Closet volunteers.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on Saturday, August 1st, 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.

Lunch Bunch will meet next Tuesday, July 28th, at 11:30am at The Velvet Café on 3rd Street in Waynesboro.



Sunday Evening Concerts, 6 PM at

THE PAVILION



Church of the Apostles, UCC, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro, PA

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

Rain or Shine, concerts will be held inside the church building in inclement weather.

JULY 19

CATOCTIN PROMISE BAND

1st Show



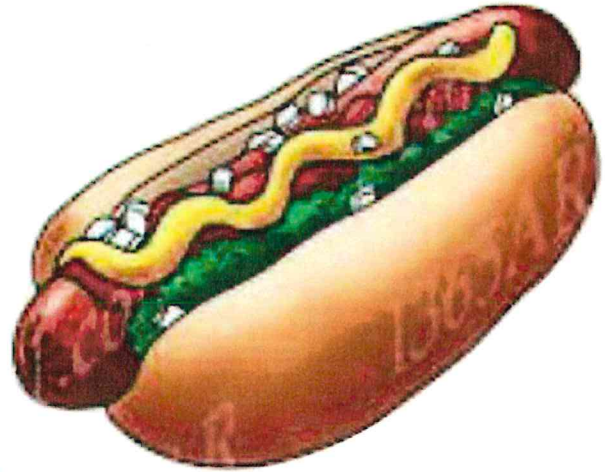
*A Contemporary Praise & Worship
group whose desire and mission is
to share the life-changing Gospel
message of Jesus Christ
with all the world*

1st Saturday **FREE** **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

August 1st
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MENU:

Hot Dogs in Roll,
Homemade Baked Beans,
Watermelon Wedges & Bottled Water
(Limited Quantities)



Grace United Church of Christ
128E Baltimore St., Greencastle, PA 17225.
717-597-2983. • www.graceuccgreencastle.com

ALL WELCOME! DONATIONS ACCEPTED. EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, July 26, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Carolyn & Barry Shoemaker

Scripture Reader: Lu Miller

