

***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 August 16, 2026: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 67 / Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring -J.S. Bach/Lorenz

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 67)

Leader: God has been merciful to us in Jesus.

***All:* God's face has shone upon us through Him.**

Leader: In Christ, God has shown us His Salvation. Let all the peoples praise You, O God.

***All:* We will sing for joy, for You guide the earth with justice.**

Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim #299



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be Your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world.**

**Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
callous than compassionate, and obstinate than obedient.
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sin.**

**Remove the obstacles preventing us
from being better representatives of You to our broken world.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of Your indwelling Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus' name.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (based on Romans 11)

Leader: As the Apostle Paul wrote,
God has allowed all people to be trapped by sin so that He can extend His grace to all people.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 67 Please open to Old Testament, pages 650-651

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Please open to New Testament, pages 195 & 196

Video: "What Love Actually Looks Like" by Freebridge Media

Matthew 15:21-28 Please open to New Testament, pages 20-21

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: The offering is an opportunity to show generosity and support the work of the church.

Let us give to foster God's restorative work in this place.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Beyond the Sunset

-Slack/Brock

***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**

Gracious God, receive these gifts, taken from our daily labor
and offered to You with deep gratitude. Use them for Your Kingdom's sake,
especially to highlight Your great love for all You have made. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face shine upon you.
May the Lord be gracious to you and grant you peace.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #435



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
-Beethoven/Shepherd



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The Prayer of Confession adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*,
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Other prayers written by Rev Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received 8/9/26

Regular Offering: \$1277 / Loose Change Offering: \$15

Worship Attendance on 8/9/26

In-House: 33 / Online: 9



THE REVEREND RALPH S. GEIMAN, PASTOR, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Scripture Reader: Tony Homer

Sunday Worship Volunteers Needed for September – Please sign up to greet, read Scripture, or help prepare and serve communion. The sign-up sheet is on the welcome table in the front vestibule. For more information, contact Elaine in the church office—we would be grateful for more helpers!

Church of the Apostles is hosting their next summer concert this evening, August 16th, at 6pm, under their pavilion. This evening “Catocin Promise Band” will be performing. 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. Next Sunday, August 23rd, is their last summer concert with “Second Chances”. Bring your lawn chairs, invite friends and family to enjoy some outdoor music. In case of bad weather, the concerts will be held inside their church.

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.

Social Seniors will not be held in August. They will resume next month on September 9th.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, 11:30am, at Vinnies' on Rt 11 in Marion.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will not be held in September because it falls on Labor Day weekend.

Fall Book Study will begin in September. Details will be shared soon.

Choir Members – We hope you're enjoying the summer and giving your voices a rest! Rehearsals will resume after Labor Day. If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Patty Stepler.

Upcoming Events.....

Sunday, September 13th, we are gathering at the Church of the Apostles Pavilion for a combined outdoor worship service followed by our annual picnic. Worship will begin at 10:30am; followed by a covered dish picnic at 12noon. We would like to get a count of those attending, as we will be providing fried chicken; and we were asked to bring side dishes of fruits, desserts and drinks. Please see the sign-up sheets located on the front welcome table and elevator area..

Thursday, September 17th, we will hold our fall Soup & Sandwich Sale. More details are coming soon!

On Sunday, September 27th, join us at 4pm for a special organ dedication and concert featuring a guest organist. More details are coming soon—please plan to attend and enjoy this memorable evening of music!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, August 23, 9:30am:

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



Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic



Church of the Apostles *and* Grace United Church of Christ



The Pavilion at Apostles

**Combined
Worship
Service
at
10:30 A.M.**



**Covered
Dish
Picnic
at
12 Noon.**

Sunday, September 13th

A sign-up sheet for food will be available at both churches.

Help is needed at 9:45 AM to set up tables and chairs.