

***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 September 20, 2026: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 145:1-8 / Jonah 4 / Matthew 20:1-16

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Billions of Reasons" by Freebridge Media

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

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
-spiritual/Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 145)

Leader: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

***All:* One generation shall declare Your mighty acts to the next!**

Leader: We will celebrate Your abundant goodness and sing of Your righteousness.

***All:* For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in love! Let us worship God!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship #396



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of amazing grace, we confess that we are prone to keep a calculated account of our devotion. We have looked upon our brothers and sisters with envious eyes, measuring their late arrival against our long hours under the heat of the day.

In our pride, we have begrudged Your boundless mercy toward others, forgetting that our own place in Your vineyard is a gift we could never earn.

Forgive the narrowness of our hearts.

Cleanse us of the resentment that turns Your blessings into a grievance.

Free us from the tyranny of comparison, and learn instead to rejoice in the sheer wonder of Your grace.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news! The Master of the house looks upon you not with a ledger of your shortcomings, but with a heart of absolute grace. He says to you,

"Take what belongs to you and rejoice, for I choose to give to all out of my goodness."

In Jesus Christ, our sins are completely forgiven.

We can step back into the vineyard with joy!

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

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 145:1-8 Please open to Old Testament, page 714

Jonah 4 Please open to Old Testament, pages 1054-1055

CHOIR ANTHEM

Go Now In Peace -Don Besig

Matthew 20:1-16 Please open to New Testament, page 26

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 and ever. Amen.

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: As Christ's disciples, we believe that when we share our resources with others,
God transforms our gifts into holy blessings.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

It Took a Miracle -Peterson/DeCou

*WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD

(Please Sing Together)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

Lord of the Harvest, You call us to work side-by-side in your world, offering Your full grace to all who answer. Accept these tokens of our labor. May they be used to sustain the weary, uplift the broken, and declare Your good news to a world trapped in comparison. Bless both the giver and the gift, we pray.
Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth now into the world as workers in God's vineyard.
Be swift to love, slow to judge, and completely free from the trap of envy.
May the overwhelming grace of God the Father, the self-giving love of Jesus Christ,
and the unifying fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest upon you, both now and forevermore.
All: Amen.

*PRAISE SONG

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure #42



POSTLUDE MUSIC (Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Postlude Dialogue -Gawthrop



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Service Prayers written by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received 9/13/26

Regular Offering: \$615
Communion Offering: \$5
Loose Change Offering: \$100
Building Fund Donations: \$145
Mail-in Offerings Received: \$460

Attendance on 9/13/2

Outdoor Service at Apostles: 22
Watched on Apostles Online Sight: 2



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



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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Cathy Keefer & Stacy Schweitzer

Scripture Reader: Patty Stepler

Welcome Back, Choir! – We are excited to welcome back our choir today for their first anthem of the season. If you have interest in joining the choir, please contact Patty Stepler. They welcome any new voices! Rehearsals take place weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.

Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser – We extend our gratitude to all supporters for our Fall Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser! The homemade soups and sandwiches were not only delicious but also a testament to the culinary skills of our volunteers. We sincerely appreciate the effort, whether you volunteered to collect orders, prepared the soups, or purchased a meal to support us. Your contributions have been instrumental in making this event a success. Profits will be shared once all receipts and donations are tallied. Once again, thank you for your support.

Volunteers Needed for October Worship Services – Greeters/Ushers, Communion Servers & Scripture Readers are needed for the month of October. The sign-up sheet is available on the front welcome table. Please help Elaine in the office get this filled out!

Next Sunday evening, September 27th, we cordially invite you to join us at 4pm for a special organ dedication event. The centerpiece of this event will be the recently refurbished Moller Pipe Organ. Guest organist, Jonathan Leonard, will present an enchanting concert, showcasing the magnificent capabilities of our newly restored instrument. Please pick up a flyer from the welcome table to invite family & friends to join us!

Lunch Bunch is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th, 11:30am, at The Original Arturo's Pizzeria located at 4261 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro (Zullinger). Please contact Glenda Stenger or Joann Snider if you have any questions.

Fall Small Group Book Study – We are reading and discussing *Fully Beloved* by Timothy Jones. Together, we will explore what it means to live securely in grace and to find our true identity in Christ. This group meets Wednesday evenings, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. We started on September 16, and will continue till October 28. If you would like to join us, books can be purchased online through Amazon. Whether you are looking to deepen your faith or connect with others, you are welcome to join us even for one session.

Grace's Free Closet – They are open on Monday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm, and the second and fourth Saturdays each month from 11:30am to 2:30pm. If you have any fall decorations you no longer need, please consider donating them to the Closet. Donations accepted anytime during their open hours. We extend an invitation to everyone to visit and say hello to Nancy and all the volunteers!

The shipment of our **Upper Room Brochures** has been delayed. It is anticipated that we will receive the September/October edition within the next few days.

Upcoming October Events:

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship is being held on Saturday, October 3rd, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. Guys, we encourage you to mark this date in your calendars and join the men from Church of the Apostles for a delicious breakfast and fellowship!

First Saturday Free Community Meal is scheduled for October 3rd, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. Menu includes meat loaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, applesauce and bottled water. Contact Chet if you are able to volunteer and serve the community with us.

Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on Tuesday, October 6th, at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

Social Senior Gatherings are held on the second Wednesday each month from September through May. Next gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, 2pm, at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 27, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Marg Stouffer & Cathy Keefer

Scripture Reader: Lu Miller

Special Organ Concert Volunteers for Sunday Evening, September 27, 4pm:

Greeters/Ushers: Marg Stouffer, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer & Ron Shafer

