

***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 27, 2026: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 25:1-9 / Philippians 2:1-13 / Matthew 21:23-32

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Love Like Jesus" 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

Marche Petite -G. Young

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25)

Leader: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls. In You we place our trust.

***All:* Lead us in Your truth and teach us.**

Leader: Show us Your paths, O Lord. Point out the right road for us to follow.

All: You are the God who saves us. All day long we put our hope in You.

Leader: O God, remember Your mercy and unfailing love.

All: The Lord is good and will teach us His ways. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name #263



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Philippians 2)

Gracious God, You have given us immense encouragement and comfort in Christ,
but we confess we often live for ourselves, instead of serving others.

Forgive our selfish ambition and vain conceit.

Forgive us for failing to count others as more significant than ourselves.

Forgive us when we look only to our own interests and ignore the needs of the people around us.

Lord, we confess that we do not always have the humble mind of Christ Jesus.

We cling to our own status, our own rights,
and our own comfort rather than taking the form of a servant.

Have mercy on us and teach us to love as Christ has loved us.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ humbled himself for us, even to the point of dying on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him as Lord of all. In Christ, our sins are completely forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 25:1-9 Please open to Old Testament, page 618

Philippians 2:1-13 Please open to New Testament, pages 240-241

CHOIR ANTHEM

Rise Up -Pamela Starr Thum, arr. Paul Johnson

Matthew 21:23-32 Please open to New Testament, pages 28-29

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: Through faithful and regular giving, we honor God's authority and we walk in obedience to His ways.

At this time, we will receive this morning's offerings.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Way of the Cross Leads Home -Gabriel/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 (based on Psalm 25)**

To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and dedicate these offerings. Lead us in Your truth and teach us Your ways, so that both our resources and our lives may align with Your wisdom. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (based on Philippians 2)

Leader: Church, go forth with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus—emptying yourselves in humility and looking first to the interests of others.

Do not fear, for it is God who works in you, giving you both the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. May the blessing of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you always.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Fairest Lord Jesus #630



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

Joyful Jig -Harris



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Service Prayers written by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received 9/20/26

Regular Offering: \$1076
Loose Change Offering: \$115
Mail-in Offering: \$425

Attendance on 9/20/2

In-House: 27 / Online: 5



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 SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Marg Stouffer & Cathy Keefer **Scripture Reader:** Lu Miller

This Evening, Sunday, September 27th, we warmly invite you to join us at 4:00 PM for a special organ dedication celebration. The highlight of the event will be our beautifully refurbished Moller Pipe Organ. Guest organist Jonathan Leonard will offer an enchanting concert, showcasing the remarkable sound and craftsmanship of our newly restored instrument. Light refreshments will be served afterward in the social hall. We hope you can join us tonight for this memorable occasion.

Communion Servers Needed for next Sunday, October 4th! Please sign-up today or call church office on Monday! We also have a few more openings for Greeters/Ushers! The sign-up sheet is located on the front welcome table.

Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser – Thank you to everyone who supported our Fall Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we prepared approximately 200 quarts of soup and 400 sandwiches. Together, we raised a net profit of \$3,340. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and hard work. A BIG thank you to all!

Lunch Bunch is meeting on 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. You are welcome to join us even if you missed the first two sessions!

Upper Room Brochures for September & October are finally here! Please pick up a copy from either one of our welcome tables.

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!

Choir Rehearsals are weekly on Wednesday evenings, 7:15pm, in the sanctuary.

Upcoming Events:

Birthdays in the Pews: October birthday wishes for this month go out to – Patty Stepler, Jack Shoemaker, Doll Koons, Elaine Scheffer, Teresa Myers, Christopher Wilhide, Larry Burger, Tom King and Tammy Hockenberry. Enjoy your special day!

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.

Neighbors In Need Offering will be accepted during the month of October.

SAVE THE DATE.....Saturday, November 14 from 9am-3pm, Church of the Apostles in Waynesboro is hosting "A Mini-Retreat with Matthew!" Watch a film version of the Gospel of Matthew (a word for word artistic interpretation) with time for discussion, a free lunch, and a walk on their grounds. Questions and/or sign up with Pastor Mark at: markrutzicka3349@gmail.com

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

Greeters/Ushers: Susan Alsip-Lawson, Lu Miller, Cathy Keefer & Ron Shafer

Worship Volunteers for Communion Sunday, October 4, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Dave & Kathy Fillman **Communion Servers:** Needed

Scripture Reader: Dave Fillman



Organ Concert.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

4PM

GRACE UCC

128 E. BALTIMORE ST., GREENCASTLE

(717) 597-2983

*Guest Organist Jonathan Leonard
will present a special concert on
our recently refurbished
Moller Pipe Organ*

**Family & Friends
Invited to join us!**

