

***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 October 4, 2026: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 80:7-15 / Philippians 3:4-14 / Matthew 21:33-46

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Baggage" 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

Traumerei -Schumann/DeCou

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.

***All:* Let us join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.**

Leader: Let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
All: we're marching through Emmanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

O God, Who Gives Us Life #053



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are weighed down by so many concerns and worries that we find it difficult to press on toward the heavenly reward that God offers us through Jesus. Free us from our sins and burdens, Lord, and enable us to keep going forward. Have mercy on us in Christ our Lord.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: In Jesus, God loves us, accepts us, forgives us, and welcomes us home.

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

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 80:7-15 Please open to Old Testament, page 665

Philippians 3:4-14 Please open to New Testament, page 242

CHOIR ANTHEM

In Memory of You -Berta Poorman, Sonja Poorman

Matthew 21:33-46 Please open to New Testament, page 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: The Apostle Paul reminds us that nothing in this world compares to the great value of knowing Jesus.
Your offering today puts that truth into action.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus Loves the Little Children *with* He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
-American spiritual and Root/Linker

*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

Almighty God, accept these offerings as symbols of the love we have for You. Receive them and transform them into ministries of love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion Liturgy

Leader: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life giving bread.

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 God most High.

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

Leader: It is right and good to give You thanks, Almighty God, for You are the source of light and life.
You made us in Your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ. In all times and places,
Your people proclaim Your glory in unending praise.

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!**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: In the fullness of time You sent Your only Son to save us. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of Your favored one, Mary, sharing our life, He reconciled us to Your love.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus took bread, giving thanks to You, He broke the bread and offered it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me."

Taking a cup, again He gave thanks to You, shared the cup with the disciples and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant in My Blood. Drink from this, all of you. This is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in Your sight. Loving God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all things are now ready.

Distribution of the Elements
(all partake together at the cue of the pastor)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, You have called Your people from the east and west, and north and south,
to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank You for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food
of Christ's body and blood.

**By the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Your will. Whether we are gathered or scattered,
may we be the servant Church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth now into the world as one body, forgetting what lies behind and pressing on toward the prize
of God's heavenly call.

May you count all things as loss compared to the priceless value of knowing Jesus Christ.

May you walk in unity and courage to serve God's world.

And may the blessing of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—rest upon you, and remain with you
now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

O Lord My God #625



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Benedictus -Young



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Service Prayers adapted from *Lectionary Worship Aids: Series VI, Cycle A* by H. Burnham Kirkland, CSS Publishing Company, Inc, 2001.

Holy Communion texts from the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) Liturgy.

Contributions Received 9/27/26

Regular Offering: \$864 / Loose Change Offering: \$55 / Building & Ground Donations: \$10
Organ Fund Donations: \$486
Offerings Dropped off at Office: \$300

Worship Attendance on 9/27/26

In-House: 34/ Online: 7

Tithes for month of September: \$5097



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Dave & Kathy Fillman

Scripture Reader: Dave Fillman

Neighbors In Need – This is a special offering of the United Church of Christ equipping Advocacy and Justice Ministries. This year the focus is on “Walk in Love”. We are accepting these offerings through the month of October.

Celebration of our Organ was held last Sunday evening with a wonderful performance by Jonathan Leonard. If you would like an audio copy of the program, please contact Elaine at the church office. We thank everyone for helping to plan this event!

Fall Small Group Book Study – This group meets Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the Chapel. We will continue meeting weekly up till October 28th. 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. You are welcome to join us, even if it's for one evening.

Upper Room Brochures for September & October are located on both welcome tables.

Grace's Free Closet is 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!

Greeter/Usher: We need one more volunteer for Sunday, October 25th.

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

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!

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

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held in our social hall, following worship on Sunday, October 11th.

Social Senior Gathering will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2pm at Trinity UCC in Waynesboro. Join in for an afternoon of fellowship, refreshments & games. We will be playing bingo and other small games (for all abilities). We look forward to our time together.

Deadline to submit articles for our upcoming **Newsletter** is Thursday, October 8th. Please send in photos, articles, upcoming events or anything you would like to share with the congregation.

Lunch Bunch – Tuesday, October 27th, 11:30am. Location will be announced next week. Contact Glenda Stenger or Joann Snider if you have any questions.

Toten Fest worship service will be held on October 25th.

Light the Night (Trick or Treat) is being planned for Thursday, October 29th. For information on volunteering, kindly reach out to Marg.

Consistory Reports and Agenda needs submitted to the church office this week. Church office will be closed the following week from October 12th through the 15th, so Elaine needs to send them out before her time off. Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th.

November Activities:

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship – Saturday, November 7th, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

First Saturday Free Community Meal – Saturday, November 7th, from 11am-1pm, in the social hall. We will be serving a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. Contact Chet if you would like to volunteer with us!

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8th, following worship service. Please plan on attending.

"A Mini-Retreat with Matthew!" – Saturday, November 14th, from 9am-3pm, hosted by Church of the Apostles in Waynesboro. 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

Church Office Closed will be closed from October 12th through the 15th. Pastor Mark will be available during his regular hours.

Worship Volunteers for Communion Sunday, October 11, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Cathy Keefer

Scripture Reader: Nancy Myers

