

***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 11, 2026: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:1-9 / Philippians 4:1-9 / Matthew 22:1-14

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Serve: Created To Do Good Works" by Skit Guys

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

Fugue in A Minor -J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 25)

Leader: O Lord, You are our God;

***All:* We will exalt You; we will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,**

Leader: See, this is our God; we have waited for Him, so that He might save us.

***All:* let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1-4 only) #687



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we confess that our hearts often stray from Your path.

We easily forget that our true security is found in You alone.

Forgive us for our lack of joy and our neglect of gentleness.

Forgive us for letting our anxieties rule our days, instead of Your peace.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Through His grace, you are forgiven.

Go forth in freedom, for the God of peace is with you.

All: Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 25:1-9 Please open to Old Testament, page 798

Philippians 4:1-9 Please open to New Testament, page 242

CHOIR ANTHEM

Boundless Love -arr. Camp Kirkland

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: We give because God has promised a future of abundance.

Let us give 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

God Will Take Care of You

-Martin/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**

O God, You prepare a rich feast for all peoples, You wipe away every tear from our faces, and You swallow up death and despair forever. Thank You.
Bless these gifts in the holy and faithful name of Jesus, we pray.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (base on Philippians 4)

Leader: Go forth into the world with steady hearts and joyful minds.

Cast away all anxiety, by bringing your prayers and petitions to God with thanksgiving.

Fix your thoughts on whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable—and practice these good things.
And may the God of peace be with you always, filling your life with the grace of Christ, now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest #824



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Trumpet Tune -Boyce/Wolff



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

Service Prayers written by the Rev Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions Received 10/4/2026

Regular Offering: \$2407/ Loose Change Offering: \$20
Communion Offering: \$37 / Building & Ground Donations: \$55
Offerings Dropped off at Office Office: \$60.00
Offerings Received in Mail: \$25

Worship Attendance on 10/4/26

In-House: 35/ Online: 4



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/

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Cathy Keefer

Scripture Reader: Nancy Myers

October is Pastor's Appreciation Month– We thank you, Pastor Mark, for leading us with grace, preaching with conviction, and loving our church so well. Your faithfulness inspires us, and your leadership is truly a blessing. We are grateful for you every single day.

Throughout this month, we'll be celebrating Pastor Mark in various ways. To begin, there is a banner on his office door where everyone is invited to sign and share something you appreciate about him.

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held in our social hall, following today's worship. Please stay and join us!

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.

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 for whomever would like to take home a copy.

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 donate 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.

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!

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.

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 Sunday, October 25th.

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

Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th, 8am, in the small meeting room.

Sunday Volunteers: November sign-up sheet is now available on the front welcome table.

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

Deadline to submit articles for our upcoming **Newsletter** is Thursday, October 15th. Please send in photos, articles, upcoming events or anything you would like to share with the congregation. Our email is: gucc128@outlook.com

Called to Care Committee is meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 1pm, in the small meeting room.

November Activities:

Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

General Elections will be held in our social hall on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 7am-8pm, for those who use this location to vote.

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

First Saturday Free Community Meal – There will be no free meal on the First Saturday in November. We eagerly anticipate serving a scrumptious Holiday Meal in December.

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: markruzicka3349@gmail.com

Worship Volunteers for Communion Sunday, October 18, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Mark Stahl

Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan

