

***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 18, 2026: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 96:1-9 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1-20 / Matthew 22:15-22

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "To Serve and Restore" by 231 Worship

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

Bachiana -Young

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 96, The Message)

Leader: Sing to God—worship God!

***All:* For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs.**

Leader: God made the heavens—
royal splendor radiates from Him, a powerful beauty sets Him apart.
***All:* We are in awe before God's beauty and might.
Let us worship God!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #438



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we confess that our faith has not always produced good works, our love has lacked sacrificial labor, and our hope has wavered under pressure.

We have often imitated the patterns of this world rather than the example of Jesus Christ, choosing the safety of convenience over the joy of the Holy Spirit.

**Forgive us for the hidden idols we have served instead of You, the One living and true God.
Have mercy on us, Lord.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, 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

Psalm 96:1-9 Please open to Old Testament, page 677

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Please open to New Testament, pages 247-248

CHOIR ANTHEM

Thy Word -Michael W. Smith & Amy Grant arr. Jack Schrader

Matthew 22:15-22 Please open to New Testament, page 30

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: May we ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;
may we bring an offering, and come into His courts to worship the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Holy, Holy, Holy -Dykes/Hayes and Wagner

***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**

We dedicate ourselves and our service to Your glory. May we declare Your salvation and marvelous deeds day after day. You alone are great and worthy of all praise. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Go forth in the joy of the Holy Spirit, with lives marked by faith, love, and hope.

May you be a living example to everyone you meet, pointing all people to the living and true God.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing #475



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

How Firm a Foundation -American melody/Broughton



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Service Prayers written by the Rev Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions and Attendance for October 11th:
Will be announced next Sunday (as office was closed this past week)



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 E. Baltimore Street – PO Box 448 – Greencastle, PA 17225

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Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Mark Stahl

Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan

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. Be sure to stop by his office and visit the appreciation banner on his door, where everyone is invited to share a kind word or note of gratitude. This week we will be showering Pastor Mark with cards and continue through the end of the month. Please take a moment to brighten his day and let him know how much he is appreciated!

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.

Trick-or-Treat in Greencastle will be held on Thursday, October 29th, from 6-8pm. We are going to "Light the Night" with a fun campfire theme! We are collecting donations of Quaker Chewy S'Mores Granola Bars (due by October 25th). If you would like to contribute, please see the sign-up sheets for donation opportunities. Mark your calendar and join us on October 29th! We invite you to dress in your favorite camping attire and help pass out treats as we share God's love with our community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Marg. Thank you.

Church Office was closed last week; Elaine will be back on Monday, October 19th if you need any assistance.

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!

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

Sunday Volunteers: November sign-up sheet is located on the front welcome table. Please sign-up today!

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

Lunch Bunch – Tuesday, October 27th, 11:30am. Held at Wayne Avenue Family Diner (the former Bob Evans), 1131 Wayne Avenue, in Chambersburg. You are welcome to join them! Contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider for any questions.

Upper Room Brochures for September & October are located on both welcome tables for whomever would like to take home a copy.

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.

Social Senior Gathering is being planned for Wednesday, November 11, 2pm at Church of the Apostles UCC in Waynesboro (Wayne Heights). We encourage all "seniors" to get acquainted and join us for a fun afternoon.

"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 25, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Ron Shafer

Scripture Reader: Steve Miller

