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 November 1, 2026: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints Day)

Scriptures: Psalm 43 / 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 / Matthew 23:1-12

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" 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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing -German melody/Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 43)

Leader: Send out Your light and Your truth, O God; let them lead us.
***All*: Let them bring us to Your dwelling place.**

Leader: Then we will go to the altar of God, to God our exceeding joy.
***All*: Why are we cast down? We will put our hope in God, our best help!**
Let us worship God!

*PRAISE SONG

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty #35



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Matthew 23)

Holy and Merciful God, we confess that we often fail to practice what we preach.
We burden others with heavy expectations but offer them little or no help.
We do our good deeds to be seen by others, chasing recognition.
Forgive us for our pride.
Remind us that we have only one Instructor, the Messiah, and that we are all equals.
Humble us, Lord, so that we may truly learn to serve.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: Whoever humbles themselves will be exalted.
Our God does not leave us in our shortcomings, but lifts us up with grace and truth.
Through Jesus Christ, our sins are completely forgiven.
***All*: Thanks be to God!**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 43 Please open to Old Testament, page 634

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Please open to New Testament, page 248

CHOIR ANTHEM

Christ Is the Rock -Lloyd Larson

Matthew 23:1-12 Please open to New Testament, page 31

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: Let us praise God with the work of our hands. We will receive this morning's offering.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Morning Has Broken -Gaelic tune/Weber

*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 1 Thessalonians 2)

Generous God, receive these gifts as a reflection of our labor and love.
We dedicate our offerings and our lives to You.
Help us live guided by Your Word at work within us.
Amen.

Holy Communion Liturgy

Leader: Come, the Lord wants us to join Him at His Table. As we gather today, we remember that we are also joined by the Communion of the Saints, in a way that time or distance cannot sever.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.
***All*: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
***All*: We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most High.
***All*: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Creator of all things. You breathed life into dust to make us in Your image.
When we wandered, You sent prophets.
When we grew weary, You sent Jesus to be our Instructor, Companion, and Mediator.
And so, with those who have gone before us, with the saints of every time and place, and with all creation,
we raise our voices in a great hymn of 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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: We remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup. He poured it out and gave it to them, saying:
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Drink from it, all of you."

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup.
May they be for us the body and blood of Christ. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast together at the heavenly table.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Leader: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Distribution of the Elements

(We eat and drink together at the cue of the pastor.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving After 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 (based on Psalm 43)

Leader: Go out into the world in hope.
May God send out His light and His truth to lead you forward.
May God fill you with His holy presence and be your strength and your salvation, now and forevermore.
***All:* Amen.**

***PRAISE SONG** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me #775



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Pasticcio -Langlais



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Service Prayers written by the Rev Mark Ruzicka.

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Contributions & Attendance from October 25:
Regular Offering: $1207 / Loose Change Offering: $20
In-House Attendance: 31/ Online Viewing: 7

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Lu Miller & Marg Stouffer
Scripture Reader: Steve Miller
Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Marg Stouffer

Matinee Movie Time – This afternoon, Sunday, November 1st, Ron Shafer is hosting another movie at 2pm, at his home. We will be watching a Sight and Sound recorded showing of "Jonah". Please sign up so we can get a count of number who plan on attending.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications – We are accepting Christmas poinsettia orders in memory or in honor of our loved ones. This year we are offering red or white poinsettias at $11.25 each. Order forms are available on both welcome tables. You can place your orders in the collection plate during worship (with provided envelope) or drop off at the church office during the week. Payment is due at time of ordering. Deadline to place orders is Monday, November 23rd. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary during our Cantata service and kept in place for our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship. You may bring them home after our Christmas Eve service or contact the church office to make other arrangements. Any question, please call Elaine in the office.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8th, immediately following service in the sanctuary. As in recent years, Larry will present a budget for the 2027 year. Please plan on attending. Printed copies of the 2027 spending plan will be handed out to all members in attendance.

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

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.

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

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

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

Refreshments & Fellowship will not be held in November.

Social Senior Gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th, 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. This month the them will be "Honoring Veterans and Veteran's Day".

"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. Sign-up sheet is located on the welcome table in the elevator area, or send Pastor Mark an email at: markruzicka3349@gmail.com

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th, 8:30am in the small meeting room. Please submit all committee reports to church office by Thursday, November 5th.

Church Decorating for the Advent Season will be on Sunday, November 22nd, following worship service. Join us in the joy of holiday decorating! A luncheon will follow.

Lunch Bunch – Next gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th, 11:30am. Meet at Rosalie's Grill, 1901 Scotland Avenue, Chambersburg. Everyone is invited to join us! Please contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider for any questions.

November Birthday Wishes go out to Gladys Doyle, Mark Stahl, Shania Hahn, Nellie Stahl & Carolle Patrick! Many you each enjoy your special day.

Appreciation to our Church Family – Tom & Betsy Green thanks everyone so much for their support and thoughts and prayers for her recovery. God Bless all of you!

December Events:

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. The committee is planning a delicious holiday meal! Mark your calendar's and join us!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held on Sunday, December 13th, following worship, in the social hall.

Cantata Service – Will be held on Sunday, December 20th. Mark your calendar so you can join us for a special performance from our choir.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 8, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer Scripture Reader: Lu Miller

