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 15, 2026: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-8, 12 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 / Matthew 25:14-30

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "This Is Our Testimony" 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

Pastorale in F Major -J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 90)

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
***All*: Before the mountains were brought forth**

Leader: or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
***All*: from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

Leader: So teach us to count our days
***All*: that we may gain a wise heart.**
Let us worship You!

*PRAISE SONG

Soon and Very Soon #384



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 90)

Lord God, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
Yet we confess how easily we forget who You are, and who we are.
We seem to not remember that our years fade away like a whisper, that our bodies don't last forever. Not only that, we have disregarded Your life-giving ways.
Have mercy on us, Lord.
Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Though our days are fleeting, God's steadfast love is everlasting.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and given a renewed heart of wisdom.
Live now in the joy of His unfailing love.
***All*: Thanks be to God!**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 Please open to Old Testament, page 673

1 Thessalonians: 5:1-11 Please open to New Testament, page 250

CHOIR ANTHEM

Heaven's Gonna Be My Home
-Michael Barrett

Matthew 25:14-30 Please open to New Testament, pages 34-35

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: God has entrusted us with riches. How will we utilize them?
Let us give of our time and resources.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Gather Together
-Dutch melody/Lehenbauer

*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

Lord God, as we give today, free us from the fear that makes us hold back what You have entrusted to us. Multiply these offerings to serve Your world, so that we may be found more faithful. We want to enter into the joy of our Master. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (based on 1 Thessalonians 5)

Leader: Go now as children of the light, children of our Heavenly Father.
As Christ would do, encourage one another and build each other up.
Stay alert to God's Spirit and put on the armor of faith, love, and the helmet of hope.
For God wants to give us salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us...
so that we might live together with Him always.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

*PRAISE SONG

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts #494



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)
Fanfare in C Minor -Helman



****

Copyright 2026-2027 **321 Worship**, permission granted to watch and download videos for sermon illustrations, announcements, and teaching for use in church, small groups, or events. All rights reserved.

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. Copyright 2026-2027, CCLI License #2992794. Permissions granted to reproduce or adapt praise songs for use in service or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

Copyright 2026-2027, **CCLI Streaming License** #21816597. Permissions granted to project, live-stream or upload recordings of worship service, including the music, to website or social media channels for archived or limited distribution to those unable to attend in person. All rights reserved.

Service Prayers written by Mark Ruzicka.

****

Contributions & Attendance for November 8, 2026

Regular Offering: $852
Loose Change Offering: $30
Advent Offering: $10
Communion Offering: $10
Regular Offering received at office & mail: $150

In-House Attendance: 27 / Online Viewing: 9



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: Ron Shafer & Jack Shoemaker **Scripture Reader:** Nancy Myers

2026 Hybrid Meeting of the Mercersburg Association / Keystone Conference is being held via zoom this afternoon, November 15th, from 3-5pm. Two delegates from each church are encouraged to attend. Details attached to the last page.

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 Sunday, November 22nd**. 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.

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 or thanksgiving decorations you no longer need, please donate them to the Closet. Donations accepted anytime during their open hours.

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.

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

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

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

Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 29th and continues through Christmas Eve. We invite individuals and families to participate by lighting the Advent candles and reading a short scripture passage. A few opportunities are still open. Please sign-up to reserve your date.

December Worship Volunteers – Help make our worship services meaningful this season by serving as a volunteer. Several dates are still available. Sign up at the welcome table or contact Elaine in the church office.

Church Office – In observance of Thanksgiving, the church office will be closed on November 25 and 26. The pastor will be available for morning office hours on Wednesday, November 25.



Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on Tuesday, December 1st at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship – Saturday, December 5th, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

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

Social Seniors next gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th, at Trinity UCC in State Line.

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

Newsletter Deadline is December 14th. Please submit any articles, announcements or pictures you would like to share with the church family.

Christmas Cantata Service – Will be held on Sunday, December 20th. Mark your calendar so you can join us for a special performance from our choir. Loose change offerings received during this service will be donated to the choir.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be held Thursday, December 24th, at 6pm.

Year End Committee Reports need to be submitted to the church office by the end of December.



Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 15, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Kathy Fillman **Scripture Reader:** Steve Miller

The Mercersburg Association

KEYSTONE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

https://mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com

2026 Fall Hybrid Meeting

Sunday November 15, from 3 - 5 PM

at St. Paul's Mechanicsburg

626 Williams Grove Road, Mechanicsburg, PA

Please RSVP to Linda Ritchey at lindasritchey@gmail.com

by Sunday November 8

Zoom information is below if you prefer to attend via Zoom

"Supporting Connections and Differences Between the Conference, Association, and Local Church"

- Opening Prayer & Devotional – *Rev. John Ward-Diorio*
- Report from Conference Minister – *Rev. David Ackerman*
- Clergy Recognition – *Jerry Thomason*
- Committee on Ministry update - *Rev. Mark Ruzicka*
- Continuing Education for Authorized Clergy - *Rev. Mark Ruzicka*
- Member in Discernment Reports – *Diana Johnson & Michael Spielman*
- Approval of Minutes of the 2026 Spring Meeting, vote to approve – *Jerry Thomason*
- Treasurers Report & 2027 Proposed Budget – *Julia Emig,* vote to approve – *Jerry Thomason*
- Open positions that need to be filled – *Jerry Thomason*
  - Mercersburg Association Vice-President
  - Coordinator for Care of Authorized Ministers

- Program:
  Connections and Differences between the Conference, Association, and Local Church
  - **Conference Representative** – *Rev. David Ackerman*
  - **Association Representatives** – *Caroline Saxton and Jerry Thomason*
  - **Local Church Representative** - *Rev. John Ward Diorio*
- Closing Prayer – *Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold*

All clergy and two delegates
from each church are encouraged to attend.
Meeting handout files will be available closer to the meeting.

Zoom Information

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86275360447?pwd=jhv9tNAIxHyHuhtUuNrYPnbga5qg2a.1

Meeting Chat Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/86275360447

Meeting ID: 862 7536 0447 **Passcode:** 478171

One tap mobile
+13017158592, 86275360447#, *478171# US (Washington DC)