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 22, 2026: Reign of Christ and Thanksgiving Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 95:1-7a / Ephesians 1:15-23 / Matthew 25:31-46

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "God's Gift: A Thanksgiving Prayer" 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

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come -Elvey/Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 95)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord;
***All:* let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God
***All:* and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down;
***All:* let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

Leader: For he is our God,
***All:* and we are the people of his pasture**
and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: O, that today we would listen to His voice!

*PRAISE SONG

Now Thank We All Our God #643



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You have given us many good gifts.
Today we thank You for all of them, but we also confess that sometimes
we love those gifts more than we love You.

We confess to wanting more and more things.
Forgive us for not being content and thankful with what we have.

Have mercy on our self-centeredness.
Help us to love You more than everything else.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (based on Ephesians 1:15-23)

Leader: May God open the eyes of your heart to know the certain hope of His calling,
the riches of His inheritance, and the ultimate resurrection power working within you today through Christ.
In Christ, we are forgiven.
***All*: Thanks be to God!**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 95:1-7a Please open to Old Testament, pages 676-677

Ephesians 1:15-23 Please open to New Testament, pages 234-235

CHOIR ANTHEM

A Time for Everything -Mark Hayes

Matthew 25:31-46 Please open to New Testament, page 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: In joy, we offer our gifts now to God's purposes.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth -Pierpoint/Mansfield

*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

All good things come from You, O God,
and with gratitude we return to You what is Yours.
All that we are and all that we have are a trust from You.
And so, in gratitude, we offer You ourselves, in union with Christ's offering for us. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the LORD bless you and keep you;
may the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
may the LORD lift his countenance upon you
and grant you peace.
All: **Amen.**

*PRAISE SONG

We Gather Together #336



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Chapel Chimes -Paxton



****

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 15, 2026

Regular Offering: $666 / Loose Change Offering: $30
Regular Offering received at office & mail: $500
Special Offering: $5000

In-House Attendance: 26 / Online Viewing: 12



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 & Kathy Fillman **Scripture Reader:** Steve Miller

Church Decorating for the Advent Season: Join us, **following today's worship**, as we prepare the sanctuary for Advent and celebrate the joy of the upcoming holiday season through decorating and fellowship. A luncheon will be provided afterward for all volunteers and attendees.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications – **Today is the deadline to place your orders!** Order forms are available on the welcome tables. This year we have a choice of red or white poinsettias at $11.25 each. Payment is due at time of ordering. Drop off your orders in the collections plates or be sure to give to Larry after service. The flowers will be displayed in our 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 questions, please call Elaine in the office.

Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 29th and continues through Christmas Eve. Please invite family and friends to join us during worship. Please share the attached invitation to your family, friends or neighbors to join us this Advent and Christmas season.

Sunday Worship Volunteers – We have a few spots sill open in December for **communion servicers, greeters/ushers, Advent candle lighter & Advent reader**. Please sign-up today!

Grace's Free Closet will be closed this week for the Thanksgiving holiday. They will re-open on Monday, November 30th.

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.

Church Office – In observance of Thanksgiving, the church office will be closed on November 25th and 26th. The pastor will be available for morning office hours on Wednesday, November 25th & 30th.

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

Community Invitation - You are warmly invited to the **Waynesboro Area Fellowship of Churches Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** as we enter into this season of gratitude. The service will be held on this evening, **Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 pm** at **Church of the Apostles**, 336 Barnett Avenue, Waynesboro. As we gather during this season of gratitude, come with thankful hearts to celebrate God's blessings. Let us join together in worship, fellowship, and thanksgiving as one community. We look forward to worshiping with you!

HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING DAY!



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 has a delicious holiday meal planned! Mark your calendar and join us!

The Mercersburg Area Community Chorus and Orchestra presents... Christmas Music on December 5th & 6th, at 3pm, in the Irvine Memorial Chapel at the Mercersburg Academy. We are all invited to join them for a beautiful afternoon of music.

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.

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 20th, at 8am. Please submit committee reports to the church office by Wednesday, December 16th.

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.

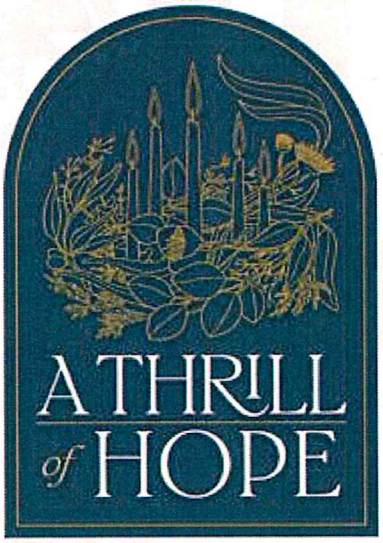
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be held Thursday, December 24th, at 6pm.

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



Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 29, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Carolyn & Jack Shoemaker **Scripture Reader:** Dave Fillman



JOIN US THIS ADVENT

Grace United Church of Christ
128 E Baltimore St, Greencastle
Sundays at 9:30 am

Choir Cantata - Dec. 20, 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6 pm