



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
128 East Baltimore Street
Greencastle, PA 17225
(717) 597-2983

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka
Choir Director: Patty Stepler
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson
Ministers: All Those Present

January 21, 2024 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 * 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 * Mark 1:14-20

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

"Following Jesus" by Freebridge Media

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

Lasst uns erfreuen (*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*)
-German tune/Sewell

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 29)

Leader: Ascribe to God glory and honor!

All: The Voice of God hovers over the waters and speaks creation into being.

Leader: Ascribe to God strength and peace!

All: The Voice of God calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

Leader: Ascribe to God power and gentleness!

All: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

God Is Calling through the Whisper #410



Prayer of Invocation

**All: Triune God, You come among us in the fullness of Your being and affirm our humanity—
mind, body, and spirit.**

In You, we find joy and pleasure.

In You, we claim peace and hope.

In You, we arise to greet a new day with a new way of being.

Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;

open to us a future in which we can be changed;

**and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

(silence)

Words of Assurance

Leader: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say that in Jesus your sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Please open to Old Testament, page 1054

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Please open to New Testament, page 207

Mark 1:14-20 Please open to New Testament, pages 42-43

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & 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.
Amen.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Leader: Let us return a portion of our abundance to the creative and liberating energy and work of God in the world. May our resources be used for the glory of God.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Tell Me the Story of Jesus -Sweney/Becket

***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 heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**All: Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves.
Increase these gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights.
May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

Benediction

Leader:

May God go before you to lead you,
May God go behind you to protect you,
May God go beneath you to support you,
May God go beside you to befriend you.

Do not be afraid.

May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds #306



***POSTLUDE MUSIC**

Diapason Dialogue -Young



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Contributions Received Week of 1/14 (includes 1/7 offerings):

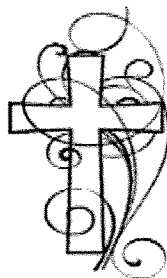
Regular Offering: \$4221.01 / Communion Offering: \$90

Initial Offering: \$92 / Loose Change Offering: \$24

Building Fund: \$115 / Organ Fund: \$100

Mail-in & dropped off at Office: Regular offering: \$145 / Initial Offering: \$5

Worship Attendance on 1/14: In-House: 35 / Online: 5



The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, Pastor, 1967-1995



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

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka Cell Phone: (717) 504-2923 Church Office: (717) 597-2983

Email: gucc128@outlook.com Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of January 21, 2024

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Scripture Reader: Tim Bryan

Greeters & Ushers – We need one more volunteer to help us greet and usher next **Sunday, January 28**. Please sign-up today. There are also other upcoming open dates that need to be filled. Thank you.

Chancel Choir – There will be no choir anthems today and no choir practice will be held this week, on January 24.

Grace Notes – You can download a copy anytime from our website or call the office to pick-up a copy during the week.

Attendance Pads are located at the end of each pew. We ask everyone who attends worship to please sign and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering. If it's found that your booklet is out of sheets, our greeters/ushers can refill your booklet, as extra pads are located on the back ledge in the vestibule.

Grace United Church of Christ Facebook: Please like our Facebook page to keep updated on our church activities and connect with others in the community. Our weekly services are live streamed through our Facebook page.

Grace Church Website: The history of our church, Moller organ and updated book from Jack Webb about the German Reformed Cemetery and be found on our website! Plus you can download our weekly worship programs, newsletters, or donate online.

Grace's Free Closet - Weekly hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Donations are accepted only during their open hours. In case of inclement weather, the Closet will be closed when Greencastle schools are closed. Contact Nancy or Jean for further information.

Live Streaming - If you're unable to attend service, or you're out of town, please watch our live stream from our Facebook page. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching along with us!

Upper Room daily devotional brochures for January/February are still available on the front table in the vestibule and elevator area. Please pick up your free copy today.

Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **February 4**. If you haven't turned in your committee reports, please do so by Monday, January 22. Any questions, contact board members or church office.

We had a wonderful 275th Anniversary Year! We are so blessed having such a wonderful church community! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time in putting together all the wonderful events throughout this past year! It's a year we will all remember! Thank you!

Appreciation Note: Thank you card was received from Ryan Poe, for providing him with quarters for his laundry in December. The thank you note is posted on the church bulletin board.

We thank Evangelical Lutheran Church in Greencastle, for their donation of \$300 towards our first Saturday free community meals. A thank you note will be sent out to them.

Thank you from Patty & Larry Stepler for the generous Christmas gift given to each of them. It's a blessing to be able to serve such a wonderful congregation. The thank you note is posted on the church bulletin board.

Thank you from Elaine Scheffer for the wonderful Christmas gift money! It is such a pleasure working for everyone here. I'm thankful to be part of this wonderful church family.

Thank you from Susan Alsip-Lawson - My heartfelt thanks to the Consistory and members of Grace Church for the monetary gift this Christmas. May God bless each of you this coming year as you have blessed me.

Called to Care Committee is meeting on Sunday, January 28, 8:30am, in the meeting room.

First Saturday Free Community Meal is being held on February 3, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. Contact Chet if you can volunteer your time to help us prepare and serve the food.

2023 Contribution Statements – If you would like a copy of your yearly contribution statement, please see the sign-up sheets on the welcome table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area. For your convenience, statements will be available to be picked-up during service on January 28, or you can request us to place them in the mail, or hold at the office for pick-up. Contact Elaine in the office if you have any further questions.

SAVE THE DATE.....

Ham Sandwich and Soup Sale will be held on Thursday, March 14. More details coming soon!



Worship Volunteers for Sunday, January 28, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & TBA

Reader: Steven Miller