

***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
(717) 597-2983**

Order of Worship for May 11, 2025
Scriptures: Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, Gospel of John 10:22-30

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video: "God Made Moms Different (And We're So Glad He Did)" by The Skit Guys

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 Sunshine and Joy Medley -Sweney and Cooke/Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 23)

Leader: Shepherd us, O God.
All: Open our ears to hear Your calling.

Leader: Shepherd us, O God.
All: Open our eyes to see Your care.

Leader: Shepherd us, O God.
All: Shear our fascination with the ways of the world.

Leader: Shepherd us, O God.
All: Prepare us to follow You. Let us worship God!



Unison Prayer of Confession

**God, as was said through the prophet Isaiah, “All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way.”**

We confess our sin is ever before us and leads us astray.

Have mercy on us.

Forgive our hard-hearted, selfish ways.

Turn us to Christ and Christ’s righteous path.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed,
ready to sing God’s glory and testify to God’s grace.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD’S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Acts 9:36-43 Please open to New Testament, page 156

Revelation 7:9-17 Please open to New Testament, page 303

CHOIR ANTHEM

Every Time I Think of You -Ruth Elaine Schram



Gospel of John 10:22-30 Please open to New Testament, page 127

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

UCC Statement of Faith (Please Stand and Recite Together)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our
common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service
of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism
and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for
justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Fillman
Dave Fillman
Melissa Krockner
Thomas King

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

Congregational Welcome

Leader: Let us, the members of Grace UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors
of the church of Jesus Christ.**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together
in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Prayer

Sharing of Gifts

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.
Amen.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Leader: As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

For All the Faithful Women -Finnish folk tune/Walz

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

(Please Sing Together)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Risen Savior, responding to Your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service.
May our offerings be used to feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the
vulnerable. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection!

All: We honor the God who calls us to new life!

Leader: May the goodness and faithful love of God pursue us always.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** God, Reveal Your Presence #412



POSTLUDE MUSIC (Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty -Ritter



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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott at *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka. Permission to use granted.

Contributions Received Week of 5/4:

Regular Offering: \$1558/ Loose Change Offering: \$30
Building & Grounds Donations: \$205 / Communion Offering: \$70

Sunday Worship Attendance on 5/4:

In-House: 39 / Online: 4



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Week of May 11, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Noelle Homer

Reader: Tony Homer

We Welcome our New Members to our GUCC family today! Welcome Kathy & Dave Fillman, Melissa Krocker and her fiancé, Thomas King. Kathy has been helping us out at Grace's Free Closet, and Melissa has started singing with our choir. A reception with light snacks will be held in the social hall after worship to meet and greet our new members.

Greeters/Ushers: We need (1) one more Greeter/Usher on May 25 to finish the month! Please sign up today or call Elaine at the church office. The June sign-up sheet is also available.

Restoration of our Organ is currently underway. The process is expected to take about 8 weeks to finish.

Chancel Choir – Choir rehearsals have ended for the season. We will still have Sunday choir anthems till the end of this month. The choir banquet is being held at Hoffman's Restaurant on May 14th at 6pm. Rehearsals will resume after Labor Day giving everyone a summer break. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Stepler, our choir director.

Live Streaming of Worship Services: Join us on YouTube or Facebook on Sunday's at 9:30am to watch us live.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Stop by if you are looking for some new spring clothing. Donations are accepted during their open hours. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions.

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.

Scholarship Recipients will be announced on Educational Sunday, June 8th. Pastor Mark will also be presenting the awards at the GASD Awards Assembly on Thursday, May 22, at 9:15am in the schools auditorium.

SPECIAL MUSIC SPONSORSHIP: In the months when our choir isn't singing, it would be great to have some special music in worship (June, July, and August). In the past, we have worked with the Cumberland Valley School of Music as a clearing house for musicians. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee has decided to offer the congregation the ability to sponsor Special Music in honor or memory of someone. This concept is well received for things like flowers at Christmas and Easter, so we thought it could be used for music too. Maybe it would be a way to celebrate a wedding anniversary or the birth of a grandchild. To sponsor a musician for a Sunday service, you can work with Pastor Mark as to what you would like (what kind of instruments or singers), when, and how much it would cost. Please express your interest to Pastor Mark or call Elaine at the church office so that we can get started on this exciting new initiative.

Church Bulletin Board – Please check the bulletin board weekly for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more!

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. If the worship service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page.

Annual Family in Christ Banquet is being hosted by Grace Snyder Circle, this Tuesday, May 13th, in our social hall. Long's Catering will provide the food & we will have entertainment. The menu includes pit beef, chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, tossed salad, fruit salad and desserts. Doors open at 5pm; meals will be served at 6:30pm. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any questions.

The next **1st Saturday Free Community Meal** will be held on June 7th, from 11-1pm, in the social hall.

Social Seniors gathering will be at Trinity, Waynesboro, this Wednesday, May 14th from 2-4 PM in Harbaugh Hall. Our speaker will be Linette Mansberger, who will entertain us with information and stories about birds. She is a member of the well-known Audubon Society and is knowledgeable about species and habits of birds all over the world. Her talk and slides with us will focus on birds well known to us locally. In addition, we will have a "Bird Table" to display any statues, pictures or other bird memorabilia that you would like to bring for us to enjoy. We will have light refreshments and drinks after the program. We invite all seniors from GUCC to join us!

Consistory Reports for the month of April are due to church office by May 12th.

The Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 18th, at 8am, in the small meeting room.

Municipal Primary Elections will be held in our social hall on Tuesday, May 20th, from 7am to 8pm.

HAPPY MOTHER' DAY!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, May 18th, 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker

Reader: Patty Stepler

