

***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 July 27, 2025 (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

Scriptures: Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-15, Gospel of Luke 11:1-13

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Performed by Harmony Hymns
"In the Garden" by C. Austin Miles

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned.

All: A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

Leader: We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family.

**All: We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and
those whose struggle for justice has been long.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

***PRAISE SONG**
Somebody's Knocking at Your Door #728



Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we open our hearts and confess our sins—against You, against our neighbor,
against even ourselves.

For the wrongs of our minds, our hearts, our hands, our spirits—forgive us.

For our silence and lack of compassion—forgive us.

For our self-love and our self-hatred—forgive us.

For our anger and our fear—forgive us.

For the waste of Your gifts—forgive us.

For our part, known and unknown, in the suffering all Your children—forgive us.

For our failures in justice and peace—forgive us.

For all the times we do not walk the way of love—forgive us in the name of Jesus Christ
who goes before us, so that we can know love.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance (based on Colossians 2)

Leader: Hear the Good News: When we were dead in our trespasses,
God made us alive together with Him and restored us.

God set aside any record against us by nailing it to Christ's cross.

For we know that Christ triumphs over any power that works against us.

In Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 138 Please open to Old Testament, pages 709-710

Colossians 2:6-15 Please open to New Testament, page 245

VIDEO: "Digital Liturgy God's Blessing: Prayer" by the Skit Guys

Gospel of Luke 11:1-13 Please open to New Testament, page 88

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

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 THE OFFERING

Leader: Freely we have received, let us freely give.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Performed by Harmony Hymns
“Michael Row the Boat Ashore” by African American Spiritual

***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**

God, as You have done with us, may we do for others, holding nothing back, but offering our treasures and lives that Your Good News be shared. We desire that hope may be restored, that healing might touch the broken, and that all might know of Your steadfast love in their lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD’S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: You have heard the words of peace and hope from God, so go.

All: We will go to speak to those filled with fear and doubt.

Leader: You have been reminded of the Christ who came looking for us, so go.

All: We will go to search for all those tossed aside by the world.

Leader: You have been embraced in the love and grace of the Spirit, so go.

All: We will go to those who are searching for hope.

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

Performed by Harmony Hymns
“Down to the River to Pray”, Traditional (author unknown)



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The Call to Worship is adapted from Maren C. Tirabassi and included in the book, *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Duck & Tirabassi.

The Prayer of Confession was written by Maren C. Tirabassi and included in the book, *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Duck & Tirabassi.

"Prayer of Dedication" and "Benediction" are adapted from Thom M Shuman, permission granted at www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Contributions Received Week of 7/20

Regular Offering: \$1972 / Loose Change Offering: \$17 / Communion Offering: \$10
Building & Grounds: \$60 / Roofing Project: \$1000 / UCC Texas Flooding Relief: \$20
Mail-In Regular Offering: \$300

Sunday Worship Attendance on 7/20:

In-House: 35 / Online: 5



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Week of July 27, 2025

Greeters/Ushers: Ron Shafer & Cathy Keefer

Reader: Lu Miller

We welcome Harmony Hymns Quartet today! This is their bio: "The Harmony Hymns Quartet got together in March of 2024 with the goal of performing the beloved hymn "In the Garden" for their Clear Spring church congregation. We, and our congregation, enjoyed it so much that we wanted to continue praising God with our music by building our repertoire and performing at other churches. We do traditional hymns uniquely arranged for harmonic vocals, guitar and banjo. The members of our quartet are Lisa Elwood, Branin Lewis, WT Fleming (guitar) and Ric Lillard (banjo). We enjoy taking our music and praise to churches in the local area. It is our prayer that our music brings God's peace to you and glory to God."

Morning Welcome: Bulletins will now be handed out downstairs at the main entrance and elevator area by our greeters, instead of upstairs, so everyone is welcomed upon arrival.

Building Projects – Dependable Roofing will start our roof replacement in 2-3 months. We thank Barry Shoemaker for taking the lead on this project.

Our **5th Annual Hidden Treasures Yard Sale** raised \$1,504.59 in net profits, with 10% (\$150.46) being donated to Grace's Free Closet.

Restoration of our Organ is currently in progress. The refinished console is now at the organ shop. Unfortunately, it may take longer than expected for the technicians to start rebuilding the console. It appears the organ will not be ready for Sunday service at the beginning of OHW; hopefully they can complete it by the end of August.

Grace's Free Closet is opened on Monday & Wednesday's, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions. We thank all the volunteers who help each week.

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.

Church Bulletin Board – Please check the bulletin board weekly for updated information about upcoming events, fundraisers, community news and more! Also check out our updated Welcome Board with pictures of our members during various events.

Chancel Choir is on summer break. They will resume in the fall. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Stepler, our choir director.

SPECIAL MUSIC SPONSORSHIP: It would be nice to have some special music in August while our choir is on break. In the past, we have worked with the Cumberland Valley School of Music as a clearing house for musicians. We are offering 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.

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.

Old Home Week – We are participating in OHW this year! On Saturday, August 2nd, from 11am to 1pm, we will be offering tours of Grace's Closet and tours of our church in conjunction with our Free Community Meal. Please invite family and friends to stop by!

Additional Old Home Week Events: We are hosting "Reminiscing" sessions. They will be held in our social hall on August 4, at 1pm & 2pm, August 5, at 10am & 11am, and August 6, at 1pm & 2pm. Further information can be found in the Old Home Week program booklet. The badge and official programs are available at the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce, the OHW Headquarters, and various business places in the community. The cost is a \$6 donation. Everyone is encouraged to register at the OHW Headquarters located at The Life Center Church, 35 North Carlisle Street, so the OHW Association can maintain a current mailing list for their records.

1st Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on Saturday, August 2nd, from 11am to 1pm. This will be a picnic style meal which includes hot dogs, chips, granola bar and bottled water. This meal will be take-out only. If you would like to volunteer with us in August, please contact Chet Nye or Lorna Thomas.

Church of the Apostles is hosting Sunday Evening Concerts at 6pm, at their pavilion. We are all invited to join them TODAY on July 27 (Mountain Air Concert), August 10 (Scott Day Band Concert), and August 24 (Jeremy Goodling Concert). The flyer is posted on our church bulletin board. Bring your own chairs and invite friends.

Texas Flooding Relief – Flooding has become one of the most common natural disasters affecting many communities across the US. Long-term support efforts are made possible by the generosity of the winder church missions. To support the UCC's relief and long-term recovery efforts for those impacted by severe storms, please designate your donations as "Severe Storms" and include your offering envelope number if you wish to have the contribution reflected in your annual statement. All contributions will be allocated directly to assist individuals affected by this flood and other similar flooding disasters.

Lunch Bunch is being held this Tuesday, July 29, at 30 West Family Restaurant, located at 1021 L.W.W. in Chambersburg. Everyone is welcome to join us, we meet at 11:30am.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will be held on Saturday, August 2, at 9am, at Velvet Café in Waynesboro. All the men of GUCC are invited! Bring a friend!

Happy August Birthday Wishes go out to Emory Stahl, Roger Stahl and Pat Zimmerman. Emory will be turning 91 on August 11th. Let's shower him with birthday cards! Everyone's address is in the church directory, if you need a copy, please contact Elaine in the office.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, August 3, 9:30am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers **Reader:** Lu Miller

Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Nancy Myers

