

***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 February 22, 2026 - The First Sunday of Lent**

**Scriptures: Genesis 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 / Matthew 4:1-11**

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Video: "Come To Me: First Sunday" 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** Allemanda (from "*Concerto Grosso No. 10*") -Corelli/Norris

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

**All: for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

**All: for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,  
**All: for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.**  
**O come, let us worship the Lord!**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed #212



**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus was tempted in every way, yet was without sin,  
we confess before You our own sinfulness;  
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;  
we have compromised with evil;  
we have doubted Your power to protect us.  
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.  
Restore in us such trust and love that we may learn to walk in Your ways and delight in  
doing your will.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness.  
In Christ, we are forgiven.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER*

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE*

**SCRIPTURES**

Genesis 3:1-7 Please open to Old Testament, page 3

Romans 5:12-19 Please open to New Testament, page 189

**CHOIR ANTHEM** If That Isn't Love -Dottie Rambo

**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.**

**Amen.**

*WE GIVE BACK TO GOD*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Leader: As Christ has drawn us into a renewing relationship of love,  
may we draw out our offerings to continue Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

Let us gather this morning's offering.

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

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder -spiritual/Young

### \*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 FOR THE OFFERING

**Lord, we dedicate ourselves and these offerings to Your service.  
May they be used to lead others to the abundance of grace that is found in Christ. Amen.**

## *WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE*

### BENEDICTION

Leader: Brothers and sisters, may you live not by bread alone, but by the will of God.  
May the God of love, who gives his love always,  
strengthen us to give our love to others.  
May the Son who shared his life  
grant us grace, that we might share our life with others.  
And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us  
empower us to live only and always for the sake of love. **All: Amen.**

### \*PRAISE SONG

What Wondrous Love Is This #215



### POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please remain seated to listen to the postlude)

Novelette III -Purvis



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**Contributions Received week of 2/15/2026**

Regular Offering: \$1589 / Loose Change \$40  
Building Fund Donations: \$6 / Boiler Fund Donation: \$7263  
Regular Offerings Received by Mail: \$110

**Sunday Worship Attendance on 2/15/2026**

In-House: 38 / Online: 5



**THE REVEREND RALPH S. GEIMAN, PASTOR, 1967-1995**



## **GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/](http://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/)

### **WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Barry & Jack Shoemaker    **Scripture Reader:** Tim Bryan

**Grace's Free Closet** is open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am–12:30pm, and the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 11:30am–2:30pm. Donations are accepted during open hours. If Greencastle Antrim School District is closed or delayed due to weather, the Closet will also be closed. We thank our volunteers for supporting the extra weekend hours.

**2025 Annual Reports** were handed out last Sunday. If you didn't receive a copy, please see one of the greeters.

**February Birthday Celebrants:** We extend our best wishes for a happy birthday to Erma Foley, Marg Stouffer and Kathy Fillman.

**Blessing Baskets** are available on the church steps for anyone in need. If inclement weather or freezing temperatures, the totes will be temporarily brought inside. If you would like to help support this ministry, please donate non-perishable food or personal care products in the collection tubs. A suggested donation list is on the hallway bulletin board. For monetary contributions, contact Marg Stouffer or drop off at the church office and we will purchase the items needed. Thank you for helping with this community outreach program!

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

The next **Men's Breakfast & Fellowship** will be held on Saturday, March 7th, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

**First Saturday Free Meal** will be held on Saturday, March 7th, from 11-1pm, in the social hall. Menu is posted on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Chet Nye or Lorna Thomas.

Our **Lenten Book Group** started this past week, and will continue Wednesday evenings through April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. The resource we are using is a book entitled *Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns* by James C. Howell. The author believes in the power of song to teach spiritual truths. "Hymns embed faith into the marrow of the soul," he writes. In *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, Howell takes us on a 40-day journey through well-loved hymns. Even if you aren't available for all the sessions, you are welcome to join us for a session or two. Contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

**Inclement Weather** – If Worship Service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our Facebook page, and we will send out an email message. If you don't have internet access, please contact any of the board members for updates before heading to service.

**Lunch Bunch** is meeting on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am, at Casa Agave, on N. Antrim Way in Greencastle. Everyone is invited to join them for some delicious Mexican cuisine.

**Congratulations:** Our newest members, Darren and Kristen, were married this past weekend. We wish them blessings as they soon start their new lives together!

**Easter Flower Orders** – We are accepting Easter flower orders in dedication and in honor of our loved ones. We are offering 6 1/2" potted tulips in choice of yellow or purple at \$13.25 each; and 6" potted white lilies at \$14.25 each. Orders can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> or March 1<sup>st</sup>. You can also drop off orders during the week at the church office. Payment is due at time of ordering. Order forms and envelopes have been placed in the front welcome table and in the elevator area. Deadline for submitting orders is Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Flowers will be placed on the altar for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. They can be picked up after Easter Sunday Service. Any questions, please contact Elaine in the church office.

**Spring Ham Sandwich & Soup Fundraiser** is being held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be picked up between 11am-1pm or 4pm-6pm, at the side door entrance. Ham sandwiches are \$4.50 each and homemade soups (choice of chicken & rice or ham & bean) will be sold by the pint for \$4.50 or by the quart for \$9. Order forms are available on the welcome table in the vestibule or elevator area. Drop off your orders in the boxes provided or bring them to the church office during week. Payment is due at time of pick-up. Deadline to place orders is Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you can help us to make the soups or sandwiches, please contact Cathy Keefer or Marg Stouffer. Thank you.

**Scholarship Applications** are now being accepted. Applications can be found in the blue folder placed in the elevator area. If you, or know of anyone who can benefit, please pick up an application. Contact Lorna for any questions. All applications need to be returned by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Below are the three scholarships we offer:

- *Kathryn Didier Scholarship* is open to members of GUCC who are pursuing higher education, and to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors who plan on enrolling in college.
- *Julie M. Bodes Scholarship* is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC who are planning on majoring in business education or computer science fields.
- *Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship* is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster (now part of the Moravian University).

**We thank Grace Snyder Circle** for donating their unused funds of \$7263 towards repairs or upgrades for our church boiler system.

**Newsletter** – If you would like to submit any news, photos or events to share with the church congregation in our next issue of Grace Notes, please drop off to the church office or send via email at: [gucc128@outlook.com](mailto:gucc128@outlook.com)

**Activities & Fundraising Committee** is meeting on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm, in the small meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join them and bring your fundraising ideas! We could use extra help for our upcoming ham sandwich and soup sale.

**Anointing Sunday/Healing Prayer Service** will be held on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30am.

**Easter Cantata/Palm Sunday Worship** is being held on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.

**Greencastle Community Palm Sunday Service** will be held on Sunday Evening, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.

**Maundy Thursday Worship Service** will be held at Greencastle Presbyterian Church, on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7pm.

**Easter Sunday Worship with Communion** will be held on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. We will be accepting these offerings during the month of March. Please use the special offering envelopes that can be found in the front vestibule and elevator area.

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, March 1, 9:30am service:**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Ron Shafer & Nancy Myers

**Communion Servers:** Ron Shafer & Nancy Myers

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Fillman

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