

***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 August 30, 2026: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 26:1-8 / Romans 12:9-21 / Matthew 16:21-28

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

The Happy Trumpeter -Young

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 26)

Leader: O Lord, Your steadfast love is always before our eyes.

***All:* We want to walk faithfully in Your truth.**

Leader: O Lord, we will sing aloud our songs of thanksgiving.

***All:* And tell of Your wondrous deeds.**

Leader: O Lord, we love the places where You dwell.
All: We love the places where Your glory shines! Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun #265



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Romans 12)

**O God, You have shown us the way of life through Your Son, Jesus the Christ.
We confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him,
and our reluctance to bear the cross.
We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of His community,
and our hesitating witness for Christ in the world.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God loves us, accepts us, forgives us, and welcomes us home.
All: Thanks be to God!

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 26:1-8 Please open to Old Testament, page 619

Romans 12:9-21 Please open to New Testament, page 197

VIDEO: "Hope (from Psalm 33)" by Freebridge Media

Matthew 16:21-28 Please open to New Testament, page 22

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: We praise God for His wonderful deeds.

One of the ways we show our worship is through the giving of our offerings.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Are Ye Able?

-Mason/Martin

***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 bring our offering to You because we trust in Your unwavering love. We approach Your altar with grateful hearts. May these gifts be a sign of our desire to walk in Your truth and live with integrity. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (based on Romans 12)

Leader: Go forth with a love that is true, holding fast to what is good.

Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble, and constant in prayer.

Never repay evil for evil, but bless those who oppose you.

As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone, and overcome evil with good.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

O for a World #372



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Festive Voluntary -Lau



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Contributions Received 8/23/26

Regular Offering: \$801 / Loose Change Offering: \$110 / Building & Grounds Fund: \$10

Worship Attendance on 8/23/266

In-House: 28 / Online: 8



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/

WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2026

Greeters/Ushers: Barry & Carolyn Shoemaker **Scripture Reader:** Patty Stepler

Sunday Volunteers Needed for September – We need three (3) additional volunteers to greet our guests at our special organ concert being held at 4pm on Sunday, September 27th. Sign-up sheet on the front welcome table.

Grace's Free Closet - Due to the transition from summer to fall items, the Closet will be closed until Monday, September 14th. Once they reopen, they will return to regular hours. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. Please contact Nancy Myers with any questions or needs. We extend our gratitude to all our dedicated Closet volunteers.

Social Seniors is meeting on Wednesday, September 9th, at 2pm, hosted by Trinity UCC in State Line. The program will be about avoiding "Scams". It will be given by a community service officer from the State Police. This is helpful information, a great time to get reacquainted with the group, and enjoy snacks afterwards! Hope to see you there!

Community Meal will not be held in September because it falls on Labor Day weekend.

Activities & Fundraising Committee is holding a meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

Choir Members – We hope you're enjoying the summer and giving your voices a rest! Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 9th, 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Patty Stepler.

Consistory & Committee Reports need submitted to church office by Thursday, September 10th. Consistory board will resume monthly meeting, starting on Sunday, September 20th. We need reports for the summer months, including June, July and August.

Sunday, September 13th, we are gathering at the Church of the Apostles Pavilion for a combined outdoor worship service followed by our annual 'pot luck' style picnic. Worship will begin at 10:30am; followed by the picnic at 12noon. Church of the Apostles will provide a warm or cold side dish to share. Lay Life and Work committee from the Apostles will provide place settings and fried chicken. Grace congregation members are asked to bring fruit, desserts and drinks. Sign-up sheets have been placed on the front welcome table and in the elevator area. Please sign up no later than September 6th, so we have an accurate count for ordering the chicken.

Fall Book Study - Discover the depth of God's unconditional love in our fall small group book study. We will be reading and discussing *Fully Beloved* by Timothy Jones. Together, we will explore what it means to live securely in grace and to find our true identity in Christ. This group begins on Wednesday evenings, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel, starting September 16th, ending October 28th. You can purchase the book online through Amazon for \$12 (lower for a used book). Whether you are looking to deepen your faith or connect with others, you are welcome. Sign-up at the welcome tables or contact Pastor Mark. If you want the church office to order the book, please let us know by September 8th.

Our fall Soup & Sandwich Sale will be held on Thursday, September 17th. We are expanding the menu this year. We are offering three different soups including Chicken Rice, Chicken Noodle and Ham & Bean. Quarts of soup will cost \$10 and Pints will cost \$5. In addition to ham sandwiches, we are also offering turkey sandwiches costing \$5 each. Order forms are now available from the welcome tables. Contact Marg Stouffer or Cathy Keefer with any questions.

On Sunday, September 27th, we cordially invite you to join us at 4pm for a special organ dedication event. The centerpiece of this event will be the recently refurbished Moller Pipe Organ. Guest organist, Jonathan Leonard, will present an enchanting concert, showcasing the magnificent capabilities of our newly restored instrument. Extra flyers are available on the welcome tables to invite family & friends. We look forward to your presence.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Tuesday, September 29th, at 11:30am. Location will be announced next week.

Labor Day is Monday, September 7th – Church offices will be closed.

September Birthday Wishes go out to Bob Gearhart, Larry Stepler, Jim Thomas, Duane Lawson and Tom Green. May you all enjoy your special day!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, August 30, 9:30am:
Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Carolyn Shoemaker
Scripture Reader: Patty Stepler



Organ Concert

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

4PM

GRACE UCC

128 E. BALTIMORE ST., GREENCASTLE

(717) 597-2983

Guest Organist Jonathan Leonard
will present a special concert on
our recently refurbished
Moller Pipe Organ

Family & Friends
Invited to join us!

