

***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 September 6, 2026: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 119:33-40 / Romans 13:8-14 / Matthew 18:15-20

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

Londonderry Air -traditional Irish melody/Archer

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 119)

Leader: Teach us, O Lord, Your ways.

***All:* Give us understanding, that we may keep Your ways with our whole hearts.**

Leader: Turn our eyes from looking at lesser things, and give us life.

***All:* In Your mercy and love, revive us again. Let us worship You!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Arise, Your Light Is Come! #744



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, You command us to owe nothing except to love one another,
yet we confess that we have withheld love from our neighbors.**

We have walked in the darkness of jealousy and quarreling.

It is true that we most often focus on what we want.

Wake us from our spiritual slumber, forgive our sins, and have mercy on us.

Clothe us in the armor of light, and help us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Step into His light and walk in His love.

All: Amen.

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 119:33-40 Please open to Old Testament, page 697

Romans 13:8-14 Please open to New Testament, pages 197-198

VIDEO: "Put on Love" by Freebridge Media

Matthew 18:15-20 Please open to New Testament, page 24

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: The witness of our sacred texts is clear: when we have more than enough to meet our needs, our call is to share until all others have their needs met. When this vision is achieved, we all thrive. Let this truth settle upon us as a deeply-held desire to love one another as God has loved us,

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Deep River -African-American spiritual/Kim

***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 heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

God of Justice, Mercy, and Fairness, we commit ourselves and these offerings unto You, that Your will and ways may be manifested in our lives and within Your assemblies. We pray for the day when all are fed, housed, cared for, and can work with dignity. Amen.

Holy Communion Liturgy

Leader: All who seek to follow Christ's ways are invited to this table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

***All:* We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***All:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Holy God, we praise and bless You for creation and the gift of life-
and for Your abiding love which brings us close to You, the source of all blessing.
We thank You for revealing Your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank You especially that, in the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst,
to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave You raised Christ with power
to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather Your church by which
your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy Your holy name, singing:

SANCTUS (All please sing together)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: Consecrate, therefore, by your Spirit, these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer You our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

All: Amen.

Leader: Come for all things are now ready.

Communion will be served by Intinction today

(Come forward, take a piece of bread and then dip the bread in the juice and eat.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Leader: Let us pray.

***All: We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table
where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.***

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth now, in the freedom of being God's children.
Owe no one anything except to love one another.
As we leave this time of worship,
may we put on the armor of light and clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.
May God bless you all.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** Kum ba Yah #472



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

Praise Him! Praise Him! -Allen/McDonald



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Contributions Received 8/30/26

Regular Offering: \$516 / Loose Change Offering: \$165 / Mail-in Donations: \$400

Worship Attendance on 8/30/26

In-House: 36 / Online: 10



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Greeters/Ushers & Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Carolyn Shoemaker

Scripture Reader: Patty Stepler

Labor Day – Church offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th for the holiday.

Next 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. We are asked to bring fruit, desserts & drinks. Sign-up sheets have been placed at both of our welcome areas. **Please sign up today, September 6th, so we have an accurate count for ordering the chicken.**

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!

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.

Our fall Soup & Sandwich Sale is 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 available from the welcome tables. **Pre-orders are due by Sunday, September 13th** (the day of our picnic at Church of the Apostles). Contact Marg Stouffer or Cathy Keefer with any questions.

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**.

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 hope you can join us!

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

Next **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th, 11:30am, at The Original Arturo's Pizzeria located at 4261 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro (Zullinger). Mark you calendars and join us!

Next **First Saturday Free Community Meal** will be held on October 3rd, from 11am to 1pm, in our social hall. Contact Chet if you are able to volunteer and serve the community with us.

Next **Activities & Fundraising Committee** is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th, at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

Latest issue of **Grace Notes** has been sent out. If you need a printed version, copies are available on both welcome tables.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship will resume in the fall season. Next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro. Guys, we encourage you to mark this date in your calendars and join us!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 13, 10:30am:
(Outdoor Worship & Picnic at Church of the Apostles)
Greeters/Ushers: Cathy Keefer

