

***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 October 25 2026: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost and Totenfest Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 1 / 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 / Matthew 22:34-46

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO: "Grief" by Freebridge Media

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

Echo from the partita "O God, Thou Faithful One"
-J.S. Bach/Lorenz

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 1)

Leader: Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, meditating on His Word, Jesus Christ.

***All:* They are like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season.**

Leader: Come, let us plant our roots deep in God's grace and truth.

***All:* Let us worship the Lord!**

***PRAISE SONG**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian #729



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on 1 Thessalonians 2)

Holy God, You search our hearts and know our truest intentions.

We confess that our lives and church ministries often fall short of the devotion You call us to practice.

We confess our deceit. We have often acted with mixed motives,

hiding our own agendas behind a mask of doing good.

We confess our persistent people-pleasing. We have sought the approval and praise of human beings rather than striving to please You, the One who created us in love.

Lord, have mercy on us.

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News: God's heart for us isn't anger—it's rescue.

God proved this by sending His Son.

In Jesus Christ, your past is forgiven, your heart is renewed, and your future is secure.

***All:* Thanks be to God!**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 1 Please open to Old Testament, page 602

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Please open to New Testament, page 248

CHOIR ANTHEM

Every Time I Think of You -Ruth Elaine Schram

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

A LITANY OF TOTENFEST

Leader: We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died,

All: So that you may not grieve as others who have no hope.

Leader: For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

All: Even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have died.

Leader: For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality.

All: For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Leader: Jesus said "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you.

All: I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming to you.

Leader: The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I said to you.

All: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Leader: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

All: "And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

The Recitation of the Names of our Loved Ones with Organ Chime

Ed Doyle

Ethel Fisher

Emory Stahl

Marley Walck

A Closing Prayer

Leader: May these and all the Saints we remember in this moment of silence...

compose a great cloud of witnesses, cheering us as we journey on.

We look to these brothers and sisters in Christ who have already finished their race
for inspiration and encouragement.

May they not be far away from our thinking,

but close by our sides to help us in our own pilgrimage of faith.

All: Amen.

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: Let's bring our offerings now with earnest hearts,
investing our resources and our souls into God's good work.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Blest Be the Tie *with* Morning Mood from "Peer Gynt" -Nageli and Grieg/McConnell

*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

Loving God, we bring these gifts with sincerity, giving out of our love for You and our neighbors.
As we offer these gifts, help us to share not just our finances, but our very lives and souls with the world
You love. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION (based on Psalm 1)

Leader: As you leave this place, may you be like a tree planted by streams of living water.

May your roots run deep in the truth of God,
may your life bear beautiful fruit in every season,
and may your faith not wither.

May God watch over your path, today and always.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

More Love to Thee, O Christ #828



POSTLUDE MUSIC

(Please be seated to listen to the postlude)

Glory to God -Paxton



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Service Prayers written by the Rev Mark Ruzicka.

Contributions & Attendance for October 11th:

Regular Offering: \$540 / Communion Offering: \$30 / Loose Change Offering: \$115

Building & Grounds Donations: \$30

In-House Attendance: 23 / Online Viewing: 15

Contributions & Attendance for October 18th:

Regular Offering: \$927 / Loose Change Offering: \$20

In-House Attendance: 34 / Online Viewing: 8



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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Ron Shafer

Scripture Reader: Steve Miller

TotenFest – A Service of Remembrance – During today's worship we will remember and celebrate the lives of our faithful members who have passed away this past year.

October is Pastor's Appreciation Month– We thank you, Pastor Mark, for leading us with grace, preaching with conviction, and loving our church so well. Your faithfulness inspires us, and your leadership is truly a blessing. We are grateful for you every single day.

Throughout this month, we'll be celebrating Pastor Mark in various ways. Be sure to stop by his office and visit the appreciation banner on his door, where everyone is invited to share a kind word or note of gratitude.

Neighbors In Need – This is a special offering of the United Church of Christ equipping Advocacy and Justice Ministries. This year the focus is on "Walk in Love". We are accepting these offerings through the month of October. Envelopes are located on the welcome tables.

Fall Small Group Book Study – The concluding session is scheduled for this Wednesday, October 28th, from 6-7pm, in the Chapel. Our collective focus has been on Timothy Jones' novel 'Fully Beloved,' delving into the themes of living securely in grace and discovering our authentic identity in Christ. We warmly invite you to participate in our final gathering.

Trick-or-Treat in Greencastle will be held on Thursday, October 29th, from 6-8pm. We are going to "Light the Night" with a fun campfire theme! We are collecting donations of Quaker Chewy S'Mores Granola Bars (due by today, October 25th). We invite everyone to dress in your favorite camping attire and help us pass out treats as we share God's love with our community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Marg.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications – Next month we will begin accepting Christmas poinsettia orders in memory or in honor of our loved ones. This year we are offering red or white poinsettias. The cost is \$11.25 each. Order forms will be available next Sunday. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary during our Cantata service and kept in place for our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship. You may bring them home after our Christmas Eve worship or contact the church office to make other arrangements.

Grace's Free Closet is open on Monday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm, and the second and fourth Saturdays each month from 11:30am to 2:30pm. If you have any fall decorations you no longer need, please donate them to the Closet. Donations accepted anytime during their open hours.

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

Birthdays in the Pews: October birthday wishes for this month go out to – Patty Stepler, Jack Shoemaker, Doll Koons, Elaine Scheffer, Teresa Myers, Christopher Wilhide, Larry Burger, Tom King and Tammy Hockenberry. Enjoy your special day!

Lunch Bunch – Tuesday, October 27th, 11:30am. Held at Wayne Avenue Family Diner (the former Bob Evans), 1131 Wayne Avenue, in Chambersburg. You are welcome to join them! Contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider for any questions.

Upper Room Brochures for November & December issues are now available. Pick up your free copy from the welcome tables today.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES:

Sunday Volunteers: Volunteering opportunities are still available for November. Sign-up sheet is on the front welcome table.

First Saturday Free Community Meal – There will be no free meal on the First Saturday in November. We eagerly anticipate serving a scrumptious Holiday Meal in December.

Worship & Spiritual Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 1st, at 8:30am, in the small meeting room.

Matinee Movie Time – Ron Shafer is hosting another movie afternoon on Sunday, November 1st, at 2pm, at his home. We will be watching a Sight and Sound recorded showing of "Jonah". Please sign up so we can get a count of number who plan on attending.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1st. Be sure to turn your clocks back 1 hour.

Activities & Fundraising Committee is meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7pm. We would love to have some new volunteers join us.

General Elections will be held in our social hall on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 7am-8pm, for those who use this location to vote.

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship – Saturday, November 7th, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8th, immediately following service in the sanctuary. As in recent years, Larry will present a budget for the 2027 year. Please plan on attending. Printed copies of the 2027 spending plan will be handed out to everyone in attendance.

Social Senior Gathering is being planned for Wednesday, November 11, 2pm at Church of the Apostles UCC in Waynesboro (Wayne Heights). We encourage all "seniors" to get acquainted and join us for a fun afternoon.

"A Mini-Retreat with Matthew!" - Saturday, November 14th, from 9am-3pm, hosted by Church of the Apostles in Waynesboro. Watch a film version of the Gospel of Matthew (a word for word artistic interpretation) with time for discussion, a free lunch, and a walk on their grounds. Questions and/or sign up with Pastor Mark at: markruzicka3349@gmail.com

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th, 8:30am in the small meeting room. Please submit all committee reports to church office by Thursday, November 5th.

Church Decorating for the Advent Season will be on Sunday, November 22nd, following worship service. Join us in the joy of holiday decorating! A luncheon will follow.

Lunch Bunch – Tuesday, November 24th, 11:30am. Held at Rosalie's Grill, 1901 Scotland Avenue, Chambersburg. You are welcome to join them! Contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider for any questions.

November Birthday Wishes go out to Gladys Doyle, Mark Stahl, Shania Hann, Nellie Stahl & Carolle Patrick! Many you each enjoy your special day.

Worship Volunteers for Communion Sunday, November 1, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Lu Miller & Marg Stouffer

Scripture Reader: Steve Miller

Communion Servers: Lu Miller & Marg Stouffer

(We still have volunteering opportunities for November.
Please sign up today, or call the church office. Thank you!)

