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
Guest Preacher: Rev. Peter Emig
Choir Director: Patty Stepler
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson
Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for November 8, 2026: 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 78:1-7 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Matthew 25:1-13

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 Processional -Gawthrop

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 78)

Leader: Give ear, O people, to God's teaching; incline your ears to the words of His mouth!
***All*: We will proclaim the great deeds of the Lord.**
Leader: We will speak of His power and the wonders He has done,
so that generations yet unborn might praise Him.
***All*: We will put our trust in God and never forget His works!**
Let us worship the Lord!

*PRAISE SONG

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! #839



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Matthew 25)

**Faithful God, You call us to be watchful, alert, and ready for Your coming kingdom,
yet we confess that we often grow tired and complacent.
Forgive us for the times we have been foolish, letting our spiritual reserves run dry and wasting our days on distractions.
We have often lacked the "oil of expectation" in our lamps, hoping to rely on the faith of others, instead of pursuing You ourselves.
Stir our spirits, Lord, and wake us from our slumber.
Renew our devotion and grant us the wisdom to keep watch, so that when the Great Bridegroom arrives, we may greet Him with joy and enter Your eternal feast.**

(a time of silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, even when our oil burns out, the fountain of God's grace never runs dry.
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, renewed, and welcomed into the feast.
***All*: Thanks be to God!**

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 78:1-7 Please open to Old Testament, page 661

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Please open to New Testament, page 250

VIDEO: "Hope From Psalm 33" by the Skit Guys

Matthew 25:1-13 Please open to New Testament, page 34

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: Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."
Let us give 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

Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings -American folk hymn/Weber

*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

O God of extravagant welcome, bless these gifts of treasure, time, and talent.
Use them to feed the hungry, heal the broken, and work for justice and peace in our world.
As we dedicate these offerings, so do we dedicate ourselves to Your service. Amen.

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

***PRAISE SONG**

Steal Away #358



ANNUAL MEETING TO FOLLOW.

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AS WE PASS OUT THE 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET PLAN.

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Service Prayers written by Mark Ruzicka.
The Benediction is from The Book of Common Prayer.

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Contributions & Attendance from November 1st:
Regular Offering: $2206 / Loose Change Offering: $15 / Advent Offering: $5
Communion Offering: $40 / Building & Ground Donations: $25
Neighbors In Need Donations: $10
In-House Attendance: 31/ Online Viewing: 9

Tithes for the month of October: $5733

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

128 E. Baltimore Street – PO Box 448 – Greencastle, PA 17225
Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka: (717) 504-2923 – markruzicka3349@gmail.com
Church Office: (717) 597-2983 & gucc128@outlook.com
Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com
YouTube Channel: Greencastle Grace UCC
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer **Scripture Reader:** Lu Miller

We welcome Rev. Emig leading our service today.

Annual Congregational Meeting is being held immediately following service. Larry will present a budget for the 2027 year. Copies of the proposal will be handed out to all members in attendance at the end of worship. The rest of the financial information and committee reports will be presented after the year end.

Refreshments & Fellowship will not be held today due to the annual meeting.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications – We are accepting Christmas poinsettia orders in memory or in honor of our loved ones. This year we are offering red or white poinsettias at $11.25 each. Order forms are available on both welcome tables. You can place your orders in the collection plate during worship (with provided envelope) or drop off at the church office during the week. Payment is due at time of ordering. **Deadline to place orders is Monday, November 23rd**. 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 service or contact the church office to make other arrangements. Any question, please call Elaine in the office.

Thank you to Barry & Jack Shoemaker for preparing the social hall for last week's election.

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th, 8am in the small meeting room. If you haven't submitted you monthly reports, please do so by Monday, November 9th.

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.

Social Senior Gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th, 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. This month the theme will be "Honoring Veterans and Veteran's Day".

Lunch Bunch – Next gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th, 11:30am. Meet at Rosalie's Grill, 1901 Scotland Avenue, Chambersburg. Everyone is invited to join us! Please contact Glenda Stenger or Joanne Snider for any questions.

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

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.

"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. Sign-up sheet is located on the welcome table in the elevator area, or send Pastor Mark an email at: markruzicka3349@gmail.com

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

Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 29th and continues through Christmas Eve. We invite individuals and families to participate by lighting the Advent candles and reading a short passage. Sign-up sheet is available on the front welcome table.

2026 Hybrid Meeting of the Mercersburg Association / Keystone Conference is being held via zoom on Sunday, November 15th, from 3-5pm. Two delegates from each church are encouraged to attend. Details attached to the last page.

December Events:

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

Men's Breakfast & Fellowship – Saturday, December 5th, 9am, at the Velvet Café in Waynesboro.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 11am to 1pm, in the social hall. The committee is planning a delicious holiday meal! Mark your calendar and join us!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held Sunday, December 13th, following worship, in the social hall.

Cantata Service – Will be held on Sunday, December 20th. Mark your calendar so you can join us for a special performance from our choir. Loose change offerings received during this service will be donated to the choir.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be held Thursday, December 24th, at 6pm.

Year End Committee Reports need to be submitted to the church office by the end of December.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 15, 9:30am:

Greeters/Ushers: Ron Shafer & Jack Shoemaker Scripture Reader: Nancy Myers



The Mercersburg Association

KEYSTONE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

https://mercersburgassociation.wordpress.com

2026 Fall Hybrid Meeting

Sunday November 15, from 3 - 5 PM

at St. Paul's Mechanicsburg

626 Williams Grove Road, Mechanicsburg, PA

Please RSVP to Linda Ritchey at lindasritchey@gmail.com

by Sunday November 8

Zoom information is below if you prefer to attend via Zoom

"Supporting Connections and Differences Between the Conference, Association, and Local Church"

- Opening Prayer & Devotional – *Rev. John Ward-Diorio*
- Report from Conference Minister – *Rev. David Ackerman*
- Clergy Recognition – *Jerry Thomason*
- Committee on Ministry update - *Rev. Mark Ruzicka*
- Continuing Education for Authorized Clergy - *Rev. Mark Ruzicka*
- Member in Discernment Reports – *Diana Johnson & Michael Spielman*
- Approval of Minutes of the 2026 Spring Meeting, vote to approve – *Jerry Thomason*
- Treasurers Report & 2027 Proposed Budget – *Julia Emig,*
  vote to approve – *Jerry Thomason*
- Open positions that need to be filled – *Jerry Thomason*
  Mercersburg Association Vice-President
  Coordinator for Care of Authorized Ministers

- Program:
  Connections and Differences between the Conference, Association, and Local Church
  - **Conference Representative** – *Rev. David Ackerman*
  - **Association Representatives** – *Caroline Saxton and Jerry Thomason*
  - **Local Church Representative** - *Rev. John Ward Diorio*
- Closing Prayer – *Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold*

All clergy and two delegates
from each church are encouraged to attend.
Meeting handout files will be available closer to the meeting.

Zoom Information

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86275360447?pwd=jhv9tNAIxHyHuhtUuNrYPnbga5qg2a.1

Meeting Chat Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/86275360447

Meeting ID: 862 7536 0447 **Passcode:** 478171

One tap mobile
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