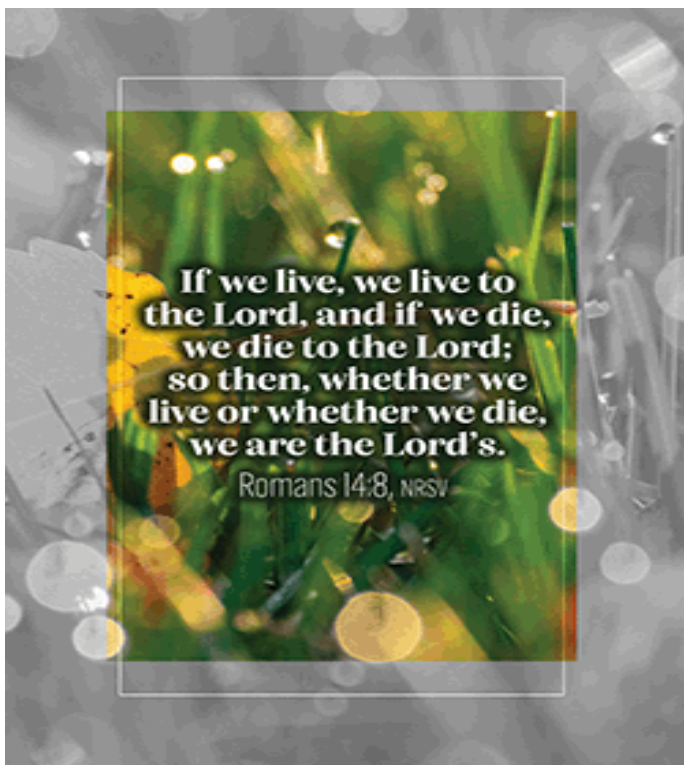


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026



Pastor Sandy Kraft
127 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Centre Hall, PA 16828



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 13, 2026

10:00 AM

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLORIFIED SERVICE

PRELUDE—Open the Eyes of My Heart

CENTERING WORDS—Exodus 14, Romans 14, Matthew 18

Forgiveness is a complex notice. Forgiving ourselves and forgiving others can be equally challenging, but even more so when oppression and injustice are part of the story. May God guide our forgiving and our living, to embrace the deeper truth of Christ's teachings.

NOTE: If you are able, please stand where this symbol appears +

+CALL TO WORSHIP—

L: Christ calls all to come and worship, to come and serve this day.

P: Christ calls all, the sure of faith and those who doubt, those singing for joy and those bowed down with sorrow.

L: Christ calls all, whatever their worship customs, he calls all of us to be one body in love and witness.

P: Let us worship the Christ who calls!

OPENING PRAYER—

Almighty and Most Merciful God, we call upon your gracious favor to awaken in all of us the will to learn Chrit's way and the courage to embody Chrit's example. Keep us from judging others, and believing that "our way" is the only way faithfully to follow you. Grant that with humility of heart, we may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom, truth, and righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+HYMN—My lighthouse

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON—Matthew 18:21-35

PRAYER

+HYMN—Who you say I am

SECOND SCRIPTURE—Romans 14:1-12

THE MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

We believe that the fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and that humility goes before honor.

We believe God leads the humble in what is right.

We believe God dwells in the high and holy place, and also with those who are humble in spirit.

We believe that, in humility, we should regard others as better than ourselves.

We believe we should clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience; bearing with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; just as the Lord has forgiven us. We believe in the words of Jesus, “Whoever becomes humble like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of us all, we come before you with hearts that are heavy-laden.

We regret that we often give lip service to what we believe, speaking of our beliefs only when it is convenient and non-threatening.

We admit that though we profess tolerance, we do nothing to enhance the lives of those whom others simply do not tolerate.

We profess to being open-minded and fair, yet how quickly we interrupt and take sides before we have even heard both sides of an argument or issue.

We pride ourselves on church attendance and yet refuse to be the church in our daily lives

We say we are willing to try new ways of worship and yet how quickly we complain that things are not like they used to be.

We quickly volunteer to help with a church project but withdraw our commitment when something better comes along.

We stand for tolerance and then sit down when we are asked to help at a homeless shelter.

We come before you and confess those things that weigh heavily on our hearts and minds, gracious God; and wonder how you can tolerate us.

OFFERING—GIVE THANKS

+CLOSING HYMN—What a beautiful name

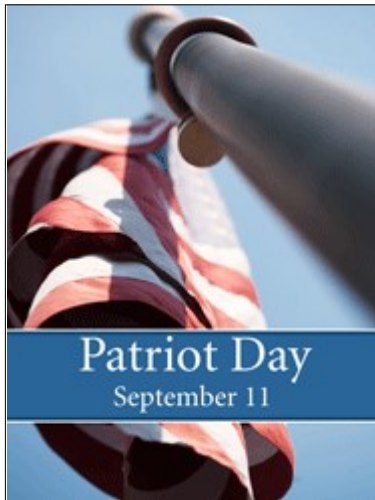
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE—The Blessing

VERSE TO REMEMBER

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget
all his benefits.**

—Psalm 103:2



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Kraft

Liturgist: Page Gaddis

Acolyte: Nolan Barron

Pianist: Aimee Gahagen

Glorified members: Alice Peters, Page Gaddis, Van Jodon, Brad Gensimore, Randy Montgomery, Jeremy Peters and Jack Oakes

Greeters: Gale Marshall and Jane Taylor

Electronic Technicians: Jack Oakes, Jeremy Peters

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE— September 20, 2026

Liturgist: Richard Hedden

Acolyte: Willow Ash

Greeters: Elaine Horner and Beth Powell

Bell Ringer: Lincoln Evans

Church Checker: Kerry Tyson — Sept. 07 to Sept. 20

CHURCH AND PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Sandy's cell phone: (570) 575-8225

Email: skraft@susumc.org

Church office phone number: 814-364-1701

Church office email address: gumc127@gmail.com



Please keep all members, family, and friends in your thoughts and prayers, especially those listed below:

08/23/26—Comfort and healing prayers for Evelyn Yost—requested by Jane Taylor

08/20/26—Prayers for Curt Brown (Laurie Judy's husband) cancer diagnosis—requested by Audrey Oakes; Prayers for Lana and Mike Wilson (Jane's sister-in-law and brother-in-law) , Lana is awaiting results from a scan to see if cancer has spread to her lungs. Mike has a chronic pulmonary condition and is frail.—requested by Jane Taylor

09/06/26—no requests

REMINDER: *To request a name to be printed in the weekly church bulletin, please refer to the prayer request cards located in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate. Or, call or email your requests to the church office. Thank you.*

Please keep our homebound friends in your thoughts and prayers!

Bertha Cassidy
Liz Fink

Lou Cole
Evelyn Yost

NOTE: addresses available in the directory, or contact the church office.



Please pray for our circle of churches, this weeks churches are listed below:

September 13 - 19, 2026

Asbury Altoona UMC, Altoona, PA

Aldersgate Mifflintown UMC, Mifflintown, PA

Benton UMC, Benton, PA

Avis UMC, Avis, PA

Ames-Sprout Brook UMC, Ames, NY, Asbury Nork UMC, York, PA

Bainbridge UMC, Bainbridge, NY

Allentown UMC, Allentown, NY

Apple Valley UMC, Nedrow, NY

Agape Fellowship UMC, Rochester, NY

Barnes Corners UMC, Great Bend, NY

Glorified service will now be the second Sunday of the month until the end of the year.

Children's Sunday School reminder—no Sunday School the second Sunday of month.



09/13/26—Donut Sunday, 8:30—9:45 AM, Ash Hall

09/14/26—Finance Committee Meeting, Library, 6:30 PM

09/16/26—Group Event—Sight and Sound Theater, “Joshua”, 3:00 P.M. Ticket price is \$75.25. Payment due now—Please either drop your payment off to the church office or place it into the offering plate. Make check out to GUMC.

PICK UP YOUR RESERVED TICKET AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

09/25/26—Group Event—Goose Day Drone Light Show, Lewistown, 9:30 P.M. Dinner at the Bel-Vue Inn at 5:30 . Meet at the church parking lot at 5:00 P.M. to car pool, or drive on your own. After dinner attend the Goose Day activities in Lewistown, drone show begins at 9:30 at Rec Park.

10/17/26—NEW DATE! Group Event—Hike Scripture Rocks Park (Brookville) / Kinzua Bridge. This hiking trail consists of 1.5-miles of gravel-covered pathways, winding through more than 60 boulders carved with the philosophy and tribulations of Douglas Stahlman in the early 1900s. Afterwards, see the Kinzua Bridge. Lunch at the BP Inn, Brockport. More details to follow ... **and Fall foliage at it's peak that week!**

10/11/26—Donut Sunday, 8:30 to 9:45 AM, Ash Hall

11/08/26—Veteran’s Day Brunch, following the church service.



SEPTEMBER MISSION

OUT OF THE COLD

Centre County provides emergency shelter nightly 9 p.m.-7 a.m. from mid-October to early May. Hosted by 16 congregations and seven partner agencies the shelter rotates sites approximately every 2 weeks. Guests must call 814-852-8864 to register for the evening. First time guests will complete an intake interview upon arrival. No weapons, alcohol or illegal drugs are permitted on site. Once admitted to the program, guests can register at the shelter to stay additional nights. Each evening a hot meal is served and breakfast is available before departure in the morning. If a guest is working, or otherwise unable to attend the day shelter, a packed lunch may be provided.



REMINDER—The Food Pantry group meets the third Tuesday of each month.—Ash Hall



September — shampoo

October—toilet paper

Thank you!



2026 Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child"

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have
already begun! Do you not see it?" ~Isaiah 43:19*

We have revamped our "Category of the Month" Campaign to be more specific. We are asking for these specific donations OR **monetary donations so that we can purchase items in bulk** at a lower cost. Please make sure your checks/envelopes specify "OCC Donation" before placing in the offering plate or mailing to the church. We will continue to accept other items but are specifically highlighting these needs.

SEPTEMBER REQUESTS: 300 small puzzles, games, playing cards, 300 foam gliders or harmonicas

OCTOBER REQUESTS: 300 yo-yos, Slinkies or gadgets, 100 Matchbox / Hot Wheels cars, 200 girls hair accessories and / or jewelry

Empty Shoeboxes (It costs of \$157 to order 200 preprinted OCC shoeboxes!)

Old T-shirts – to be transformed into jump ropes! (stained, faded, small holes – all okay!)

More information?

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/Operation Christmas Child>

Questions? Please contact Coordinator Kelly Wian (see the church directory for her contact information) or, call the church office. Thank you!