

# **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**May 17, 2026**



**Pastor Sandy Kraft**

**127 S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**Centre Hall, PA 16828**



# SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 17, 2026  
10:00 AM

7th Sunday of Easter

We're so glad  
**YOU'RE  
HERE!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## CENTERING WORDS—

The ascension of Christ forces us to contemplate powers of the Spirit that our minds cannot comprehend. But what the mind struggles to understand, the soul receives with joy.

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP—**

**ALL: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

LEADER: You have set your glory in the heavens. You have silenced our foes through the praise of children.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of us, human beings that you care for us?

You have made us a little lower than the angels and crowned us with glory and honor.

You made us rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under our feet:

**ALL: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## **OPENING PRAYER—**

**Holy Spirit, prepare us to hear from the Scriptures. Sometimes it can be easy to dismiss a passage that seems familiar. We've heard it before and so we disengage. Yet we know that your word is powerful and that it is calling us to live like Jesus. Do not let us turn off our ears so quickly. Help us to listen well and to respond with obedience. Let us see what it is you are doing through the Scriptures we hear today. You are working and we want to join you. Amen.**

+HYMN—I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, page 2129 TFWS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE**— Romans 12:1-8

**PRAYER**

+HYMN—Take My Life and Let It Be, page 399 UMH

**SECOND SCRIPTURE**—Matthew 28:16-20

**THE MESSAGE**—

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**—

Leader: Let us affirm our faith.

**People: We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.**

**We follow Christ, who comes to us from God and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all creation, and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.**

**We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the body of Christ, God's holy universal church.**

**We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of the resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things, it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION—**

**O Lord, our God, you have told us not to let our hearts be troubled, but to believe in you and in your Son, Jesus Christ. Still our hearts cry out for reassurance, and our steps falter as we strive to follow Jesus. Forgive our weakness, we pray, and by the strength of your Holy Spirit help us to be unwavering in our faith that we may be worthy witnesses, able to carry on the works of Jesus. Amen.**

*Time of Silent Reflection & Confession and Words of Assurance*

**MISSION MOMENT**

**OFFERINGS**

**DOXOLOGY—Page 94, UMH**

**+CLOSING HYMN—Blessed Assurance #369 UMH**

**BENEDICTION**

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Sandy Kraft  
**Liturgist:** Kelly Wian  
**Acolyte:** Willow Ash  
**Pianist:** Aimee Gahagen  
**Greeters:** Gale Marshall and Jane Taylor  
**Media Technicians:** Jeremy Peters and Jack Oakes

**NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE— May 24, 2026**

**Liturgist:** Alan Olson  
**Acolyte:** Nolan Barron  
**Greeters:** Audrey Oakes and Cindy Kellander

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**Bell Ringer:** Lincoln Evans

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**Church Checker:** Brian Heiser—May 18 to May 31

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**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:

**04/26/26**—no requests

**05/03/26**—no requests

05/10/26—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

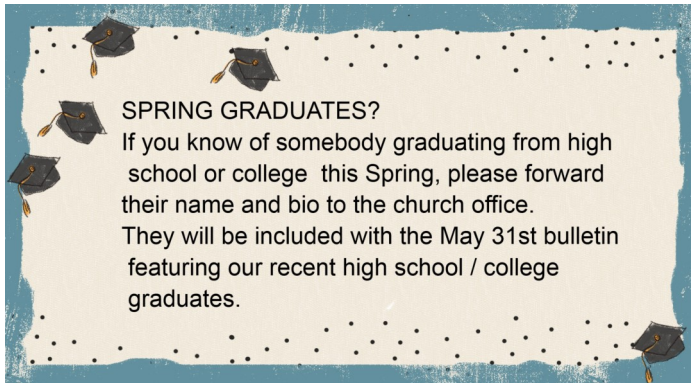
Evelyn Yost

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



**06/14/26—Outdoor Church service** will be held at the Lions club and a potluck picnic will immediately follow the service. Sign-up sheet available in the hall.

**09/16/26—Sight and Sound Theater, “Joshua”, 3:00 P.M.** Ticket price is \$85.00. More details to follow.



### **BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER!**

**Edna (Lou) Cole is celebrating her 90th birthday on May 28th. We would like to give her a card shower. If you don't know Lou, just sign your name to a card and indicate that you are a friend of Grace Church. Thank you! Jane Taylor**

**Edna Lou Cole**

**Celebration Villas**

**55 Carriage House Lane, Room 126**

**Reedsville, PA 17084**



## **United Methodist Home for Children**

**Now operating as “Everstand”**

Located in Mechanicsburg, PA

For over 90 years, UMCH has provided a caring environment for Central Pennsylvania’ children in need. Originally a home for orphans, today the Home is a refuge for children who are the victims of a negative social environment. Each year, UMHC provides residential treatment for scores of children on our beautiful 56-acre campus in Cumberland County. Children are referred to the Home primarily by county children and youth agencies and family courts. For a variety of reasons these children and youth are unable to live with their families or in community foster care placements.



**May**—kitchen garbage bags

**June**— paper towels

**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.

**MAY REQUESTS: 300-reusable, durable hard plastic cups or water bottles**

**100-Small backpacks or draw string bags**

**JUNE REQUESTS: 100-mini flashlights w/batteries, or hand crank flashlights;**

**100-mini sewing kits**

**100-nflatable beach balls**

- **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.samaritanspurserg/Operation Christmas Child>**

Questions? Please contact Coordinator Kelly Wian (call/text 814-360-0257), or the church office. Thank you!