

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 23, 2026



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



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2026
10:00 AM

13th Sunday after Pentecost



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—Come, Now Is The Time To Worship

CENTERING WORDS—Exodus 1-2, Psalm 124, Matthew 16

It takes a village to build the realm of God. It takes each of us to play our role and work together to build the kingdom.

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

+CALL TO WORSHIP—

L: We come to worship the God of compassion, even in a world where there is much cruelty.

P: We gather to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ once more, though we are aware that we often lack the courage of truth and love in daily life.

L: Christ, by your presence among us, give us courage to live as your people day by day.

P: We gather as witnesses that God is at work in the midst of human lives, and that love, not cruelty and cowardice, will triumph in the end.

All: Glory be to the living God of mercy and compassion, and to Jesus Christ, the faithful witness! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER—

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, you are our guide in life's journey, our shelter in life's storms, our inspiration in life's challenges, and our partner in life's victories. We come now to give you thanks and lift up our praises to your almighty power. Replenish our faith and grant us renewed courage for the facing of life's adversities, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

+HYMN—Jesus Messiah

PRAYER

+HYMN—Made For More

SCRIPTURE LESSON—Exodus 1:8-2:10

THE MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

We believe in the One who gives us life as Creator and affirm that we are called to be witnesses to this creator God in the world. Therefore, there is no choice for us but to immerse ourselves in the stream of history, accepting our particular place in time and doing the best we can with what we have. We believe that failure to accept responsibility, refusal to take a stand on vital issues, timid rejection of the ties of true belonging are denials of life and of God's will for our lives - they are in fact deeds of death.

God calls us to do our best to understand the times in which we live, to add our weight to the scales on the side of justice and equality within valid differences. We know that if we live our lives responsibly, we need not worry about physical death. Our job is to live out God's love as we have learned it from Jesus right here, right now. God will take care of the rest. So be it!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION—

O Lord God, when the forces of evil would enlist our support and attempt to use us to further their cause, be our strength

for we are weak. When we keep silent in the face of wrong, open our lips for we lack the courage. By the power of your Holy Spirit enable us to be used by you to further your kingdom's goals in the face of adversity; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Confession and Words of Assurance

OFFERING—Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone

+CLOSING HYMN—Who You Say I AM

BENEDICTION

POSLUDE—The Blessing



VERSE TO REMEMBER

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

—Galatians 5:22-23

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Kraft

Liturgist: Merrilee Barner

Acolyte: Witlee Ash

Glorified members: Alice Peters, Page Gaddis, Van Jodon,
Brad Gensimore, Randy Montgomery

Pianist: Aimee Gahagen

Greeters: Anne and Page Gaddis

Electronic Technicians: Jack Oakes, Jeremy Peters

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE— August 30, 2026

Liturgist: Kelly Wian

Acolyte: Jason Deitrich

Greeters Phyllis and Van Jodon

Bell Ringer: Lincoln Evans

Church Checker: Matt Powell — August 10 to August 23

CHURCH AND PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Email: skraft@susumc.org

Church office phone number: 814-364-1701



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

08/02/26—Prayers for Tina Harpster, heart issues—requested by Merrilee Barner; Prayers for Curt Brown (Laurie Judy's husband) having surgery on August 20th—request by Audrey Oakes.

09/09/26—Please pray for Glenna Meyer and family, her husband Mike passed away on Saturday, August 8th; Continued prayers for Tina Harpster, heart issues and Amanda Fulton, cancer—all requested by Merrilee Barner

09/16/26—Prayers for Wally Heiser, he is having knee replacement surgery on August 26th; Comfort and healing prayers for Evelyn Yost—requested by Jane Taylor

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.



09/10/26—Group Event—Juniata County Fair/Port Royal Speedway. Watch the PA Posse defend their home turf as the national High Limit racing series comes to Port Royal. Also take in the county fair at the same venue. Meet at the church parking lot at 2:45 PM to carpool, or if driving on your own meet at the fair grounds. The fair is free admission; Race tickets: \$30.00- adults, \$15.00 ages 13 to 17, ages 12 and under free. Races start at 7:00 PM. Remember to bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket for seating in the infield.

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 for those who have already signed up.

Please either drop you payment off to the church office or place it into the offering plate. **Payment due now.**

For those that are interested, we will have a brief meeting in Ash Hall to discuss trip details following todays worship service.

09/25/26—Group Event—Goose Day Drone Light Show, Lewistown, 9:30 P.M. More details to follow.

10/03/26—Group Event—Hike Scripture Rocks Park (Brookville) / Kinzua Dam. 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 Dam. More details to follow ...

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



August Mission

Agape House Community Program and PreBorn

This is a rescue home for abandoned babies and a reception center in Kampala, Uganda saving the lives of innocent babies and providing counseling for teenage mothers to make good decisions regarding the care of their children. This home can house 40 children ages 0-5 years old. Agape House Babies Home gives these children the opportunity not only to have a chance at life, but also to have a family, the chance for relationship with their biological mothers, a safe place to sleep, good food, and medical care. Without your support Agape cannot continue to provide this loving home for these children.



REMINDER—For the month of August the Food Panty Crew will meet on the second **Tuesday (8/11)** instead of the regular third Tuesday of the month.



August — laundry detergent

September — shampoo

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.

AUGUST REQUESTS: 100 Boxes of Crayons (24 ct.) and / or colored pencils, 100 coloring books, 100 kids scissors (blunt ends)

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

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!