
*Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **Luke 24:13-16***

+++++

I have always admired the painting in our church's downstairs parlor. It depicts Christ, and the two companions as they travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The serenity of the foliage against the dirt path has always given me a sense of mystery and peace. I often say, it is one of the reasons I choose to enter seminary. Since childhood, I have wondered why these two followers did not recognize their friend and teacher they had followed so closely. Our 21st century commission, in this chaotic world we live in, is to recognize Christ in everyone we encounter. Through us, Jesus' ministry, love and peace continue.

I am reminded of a time from Kara and I ventured to the local grocery store. At one point while traversing the aisles, I noticed a frail middle-aged woman pushing an almost empty cart. I encountered her again before we headed to check out. As I began placing our groceries on the conveyor belt, I noticed the same woman was standing in front of us at the register. Quietly I gave my credit card to the cashier who smiled, swiped it and handed it back to me without the woman noticing. She repeatedly swiped her own card to pay and it would not work. She apologized to the cashier and said she could not get her card to work. The young woman behind the register told that her bill was already paid. The woman argued that she did not complete the transaction, "How could it be paid?" The cashier looked at me and said that I had paid her bill. The woman asked if she could hug me, and cried on my jacket a bit, and left in tears. I'd love to say I do this regularly, but in truth, there was just something that moved me that day.

Food is an important way Jesus connected with others throughout the Gospel of Luke. In the Emmaus encounter it is two disciples who pay it forward and invite an interesting stranger to share their table. The point of the story at this juncture is that Jesus, although crucified, is alive and continues to show up and share life. Extravagant hospitality is limitless, it does not need to take place around the table. Life transforming realities can happen anywhere at any time. I encourage every one of us to find a way to be Christ for another and then keep doing that as many times and in as many ways as possible. How will you share the resurrected Christ?

Blessings, Pastor Fred

Prayer: Gracious God, give us the ability to see your Son and Savior in others. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Church Financials

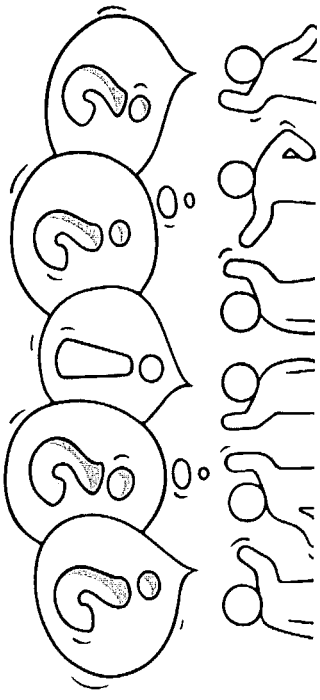
General pledge March 2024: \$7,960
YTD income: \$36,244.78
YTD expenses: \$52,459.98
YTD deficit: \$16,215.20

- ~Thanks to Scott Fredericks for his special music today!
- ~The Prayer Line continues to run as usual. 717-634-8865
- ~Congratulations to Karen as she assumed her role as an official staff member at Grace, as the church secretary.

Upcoming Events

- APRIL: UCC ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING (during the entire month of April)
- Monthly Movie @3pm: Friday, April 12th
- P-A-L April 20th
- Bible Study Movie @1pm: Wednesday, April 24th
- Car Show: May 4th from 10am-2pm

TOWN HALL MEETING



Grace United Church of Christ
 100 Fourth Street
 Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
 717-632-1146

In case of inclement weather, please check Facebook or call the Prayer Line 717-634-8865

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION

(Revisiting our Covenant)

SPECIAL MUSIC: "People Need the Lord" ~Nelson & Schoen

Soloists: Scott Fredericks and Christian Keller

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God,

Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,
and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.

**God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.
Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.**

Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
with bad news, and shut down completely.

In these times, remind us that we are called to be
your love-lived, your faithful witnesses, and your humble
servants.

**Help us to wake up to the work of love,
and to your renewing strength each day, we pray.
Amen.**

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-21, 28-35

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

*DOXOLOGY # 625

Page 3

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundant love,

we offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts, and resources
as a sign of our love for you and the world.

**O God, we give you our thanks for all that we have
and ask a special blessing on these offerings.**

**We pray that our collective offering
be an expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting
world. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

(All are welcome at the Table of Remembrance!

We use Gluten Free bread and grape juice.)

INVITATION

As we come to the table we remember Christ who earnestly
prayed for all of us even in the face of crucifixion, Christ who
calls us to break bread together, and Christ who calls us to love
one another. Let all those who are reminded of Christ's love for
community, for brothers and sisters who are in need, come and
share this bread and this cup.

PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of
life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the
source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for
us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

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April 14, 2024 10AM Worship
3rd Sunday of Easter
TOWN HALL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER CHIMES AND PRELUDE

“Oh Festive Rondeau” ~ Lasky

Soloists: Scott Fredericks and Christian Keller

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is Risen, and greets us with peace.

The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

We are witnesses of God’s glory and steadfast love.

The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

Come, let us worship.

*HYMN “The Day of Resurrection” #226

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of love and light,

we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness,

amazed to discover your transformative love.

God, we desire for you to abide within us,

and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

**Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another,
in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:1-3

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYING FOR OTHERS/LORD’S PRAYER

Page 2

**We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you
sent Jesus, born of Mary, To live in our midst, to share
in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the
hands of those whom Jesus loved.**

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over
the grave you raised Christ with power over death.

**We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather
your church. With the faithful in every time and place,
we praise with joy your holy name. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND OF THE CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of love, let us remember this community that is being
formed around your table today. Let us take this act of
communion into the world with us as we spread the love and
the message of Christ. May it strengthen our faith, increase
our generosity to neighbors, and unite us with others around
the world. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

*HYMN: “Alleluia” #91

*FINAL BLESSING

*“*A Choral Benediction*”

*POSTLUDE: “Trumpet Fanfare” ~Manfredini

Today’s Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resource:
To Give Thanks for What God has Done, Service prayers with Communion for
Easter Sunday Year B, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor
of Union Congregational United Church of Christ
in West Palm Beach.

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Page 5

Doing the hard cleanup work

But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold —Job 23:10



A man named Ed was sitting out in his backyard one day and he began to notice the poor condition of his wooden fence. Most of it was sun-bleached gray, and the parts that were close to the sprinkler heads had a good layer of mildew. But Ed didn't think much of it.

Some time passed, and Ed's neighbor bought a new pressure washer, which he used to clean his own fence. Ed saw that his neighbor's fence looked just like new, so he asked him if he could to borrow the tool to spray his fence as well.

After several hours of spraying, Ed's fence looked good as new too. But he didn't stop there. He also used it on the eaves of his house, his brick, and his backyard deck. It all looked so good!

Very often in our lives, God has to address areas of disrepair – attitudes and actions which have grown moldy and ugly without us even noticing. And in doing so, He has to apply pressure, which is sometimes painful.

But when we have a willing heart and open our lives to God, He will wash away the dirt and the grime. **It might take some pressure, but it will lead us to a more joyful, fulfilled, and God-honoring life!**

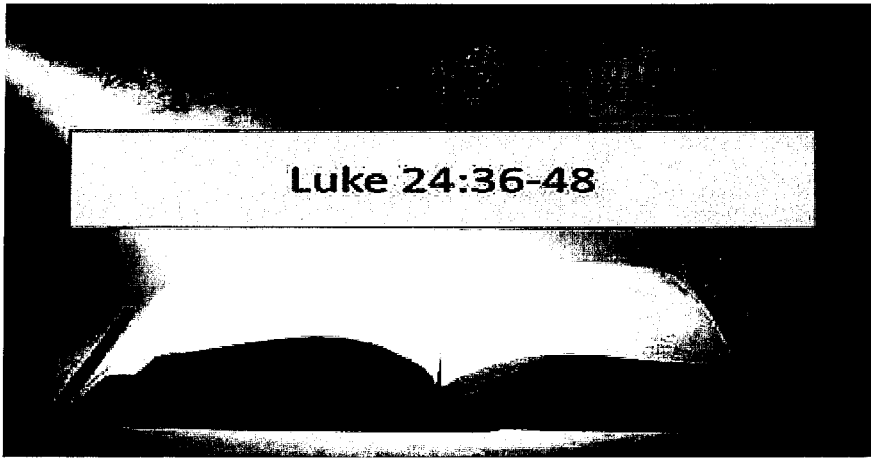
Prayer Challenge

Ask God to show you attitudes and actions in your life that have fallen into disrepair. Hand those over to Him.

Questions for thought

Ask God to show you attitudes and actions in your life that have fallen into disrepair. Hand those over to Him.

How might God want to deal with those negative actions and attitudes?



F R P N Q L G Z G X D W E X H Q H E I Y
 X T O N X D U S Q S R W J B D D K D R Z
 Q M X N P V S C K S Y U E O C M C D A N
 Y K S R Z T R N T E D R F Z Y D Z L P K
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AMONG
 FISH
 FORGIVENESS
 FRIGHTENED
 HEARTS
 HEARTS
 JERUSALEM
 JOY
 REPENTANCE
 SCRIPTURES
 SPIRIT
 STARTLED
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 TROUBLED
 WONDERED



Name: _____

Date: _____

Psalm 4

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K	P	J	J	W	E	O	A	L	D	H	G	O	D	L	Y
U	R	O	B	U	X	T	G	C	B	S	E	U	K	A	Y
I	A	C	X	V	O	Z	Y	R	R	A	P	C	Z	J	R
S	Y	O	F	C	N	Y	G	A	A	I	P	N	R	T	V
R	E	M	N	B	P	L	O	V	E	C	F	A	G	W	X
M	R	M	H	U	M	N	S	K	N	X	I	I	R	B	L
L	I	U	Q	G	O	G	U	T	W	A	H	O	C	T	R
B	Y	N	Z	C	U	X	F	E	R	L	S	C	U	E	F
E	D	E	V	G	M	G	F	M	Z	R	X	D	F	S	S
S	H	A	M	E	J	R	E	E	Q	P	L	W	L	V	H
A	U	L	V	Z	M	H	R	S	B	N	P	A	X	F	K
S	U	R	G	O	A	X	H	O	N	O	R	U	K	W	Z
E	Y	J	J	D	D	Y	B	S	J	I	F	V	E	U	N

Distress
Suffer
Godly

Gracious
Shame
Commune

Prayer
Love
Sacrifices

Honor
Apart
Safety