

# Grace Community Presbyterian Church

September 14, 2025

*"If you obey my voice and  
keep my covenant,*



*you shall be my  
treasured possession  
out of all the peoples."*

*Exodus 19:5, NRSV*

## Thought for Meditation

"Joshua here is carrying out the ceremony ordered by Moses prior to his death, making it clear to Israel that it was now up to them whether they would experience the blessings God promised for walking in obedience to His law, or gain the cursing from disobeying the law. God makes clear the consequences of their choice, just as He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16-17Genesis 2:16-17 commentary). Much of the blessing would be the practical positive results from a community choosing to love one another, working together in collaboration and cooperation, according to God's Law. Similarly, if they chose to follow other gods, which provided moral justification for human exploitation, the negative result on society is also predictable. Finally, Joshua's total dedication to the LORD and to Moses can be seen in the fact that there was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel (v. 35). He was very precise in his obedience to what the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do once they entered the Promised Land. To sum up, this covenant renewal ceremony established the LORD (Yahweh) as "the God of Israel" in the sight of the Canaanites as well as the Israelites. It showed the Canaanites that their land belonged to the LORD God of Israel and His covenant people. It also reinforced the importance of the Israelites' total obedience to their covenant LORD, because their enjoyment of the land depended upon it." [thebiblesays.com](http://thebiblesays.com)

## Prelude

Haan

“For God alone my soul in silence waits.” (Psalm 62:1)

## Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Prayer

## \*Call To Worship

*Psalm 116*

*Elsie Deem*

Leader: We gather today to lift our voices in praise,  
for we love the Lord who hears our cries and answers us with mercy.

**People: We will call on Him as long as we live,  
for He is gracious and righteous, full of compassion and love.**

Leader: In our times of need, He protects and saves us,  
bringing our souls to rest in His goodness.

**People: Let us worship together, rejoicing in the mercy and grace of our God. Amen.**

**\* Hymn of Praise**

### “Be Thou My Vision” (vs. 1-3)

#562

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Colossians 3:13*

*"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone."*

Friends, let us confess our sins before God and one another

**O Lord,**

**You have called us to take up our cross and follow You: to carry the truth of Your justice like a banner and bear the yoke of life as your servants. We are hesitant, O God, to serve anyone but ourselves. We draw away from the image of the cross, forgetting that, in You, it has become a source of glory. Forgive us, O God, and call us once more to set aside our selfishness and follow in your way. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer of Confession...*

### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Romans 5:1-6*

*“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**P: In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, renewed and sent. Amen!**

### \* Passing of the Peace

Colossians 3:15

*L: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." The peace of Christ be with you all.*

P: And also, with you.

*Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.*

**\* Gloria Patri**

## “Glory Be to the Father”

#813

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.

# Anthem

## “Holy Place”

## Chancel Choir

— THE WORD —

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture

## Joshua 8:30-35

## Sermon

## “Covenant Renewal”

## The Covenant of Baptism—

Baptism Ceremony of **Ensley Ames** (*daughter of Michael and Gianna Ames*)

(Godparents: Brandon Ames & Brandy Warner)

**\*Hymn of Response**                      “Baptized in Water” (vs. 1, 3)                      #465

**Sharing Joys and Concerns and The Lord’s Prayer**

**Tithes and Offerings**                      *Proverbs 3:9*  
“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.”

**Offertory**                      “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”                      DeCou

**\* Doxology**                      “We Give Thee But Thine Own”                      #816

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn of Dedication**                      “God Be with You” (v.1)                      #232

— SENDING —

**\* Charge and Benediction**                      *Ephesians 6:24*  
*We thank God for the gift of baptism, a sign of God’s love and grace. May God’s loving Spirit be upon Ensley Ames and her parents as she grows in wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the Lord.*  
May God’s grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**



**\* Congregational Response**                      “God Be with You” (v. 2)                      #232

**\* Postlude**                      “Toccata & Fugue in D minor”                      Bach

**\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

**Today’s Music:** One of the hymns requested in our survey of our favorites is “God Be with You.” Jeremiah Rankin was serving a Congregational church and Howard University in Washington, D.C. as he entered his early 50s. There was no life-changing event that led to the writing of this hymn. Rankin simply wrote the eight verse-poem “God Be with You” as a result of discovering the true meaning of the parting words most people utter without thinking. What do we wish for someone to whom we say “Goodbye?” Protection was one theme Jeremiah depicted in his poem. But, others emerge as well, like direction (v.1), sustenance (v.2), purpose (v.3), reminders (v.5), healing presence (v.6), saving power (v.7), and heavenly transport (v.8).

**Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church**

We extend a warm welcome to all worshipping with us today and we hope that you will return. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall following today’s worship service.



Rev. Dr. Ojulu (Pastor Owar) is available anytime if you have any concerns, want to schedule a meeting, or if you need a prayer. You can contact him at the office @ 724-339-9661 or his cell 507-304-5958.

Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The Operation Christmas Child items for the month of September are clothing and flip flops. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- September 5 Shirley Trinclisti

Woody Woodhall

September 8 Jeff Speer

September 8 Paige Newcomb

September 10 Ken McGeary

September 16 Bob Brady

September 22 Andi Householder

September 30 Merle Brown

Killian Matarrese
- September 13 Steph and Tom Tutka

September 27 Beulah and Merle Brown

September 29 Rich and Darlene Artman

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.

Sermon Notes:

For Sunday \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Scripture Reference \_\_\_\_\_

What spoke to my heart from today's sermon:

Prayer Concerns for this week:



This Week's Calendar  
September 14 - September 20

Today	Reach Out Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Sewing Group	7:00pm
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:00pm
Thursday	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
	Ladies Group	6:30pm

Looking Ahead  
September 21 - 27, 2025

September 21	Deacons Meeting	9:00am
September 21	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Boy Scout Committee	6:00pm
September 22	Session Meeting	6:30pm
	Bible Study	1:00pm
September 23	Lions Club	6:00pm
	Cross Currents Mailed	
	Garden Club	3:00pm
September 24	Choir Practice	7:00pm
	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
September 25	Knead Café	8:00am
September 27		

Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
(724) 339-9661  
Website: [www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](http://www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)  
Worship Service is at 10:00am

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu  
pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org  
Secretary: Kellie Newcomb  
[secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)  
Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig  
Organist: Kenneth McGeary  
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav  
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

**Elders**

Dave Briscoe  
Bonnie Carroll  
Cathy Christoforetti  
Michael Cochenour  
Henry Kedzierski  
Valerie Lester  
Glenn Nordmark  
Todd Taylor  
Jack Trinclisti  
Steph Tutka

**Deacons**

Margie Bistline  
Sheri Cieslinski  
Kerri Colaianne  
Lisa Edwards  
Heidi Hacker  
Cindy Irvin  
Linda Johnson  
Terri Ludwig  
Marcia Sackett  
Rich Sackett  
Dee Shaffer  
Shirley Trinclisti