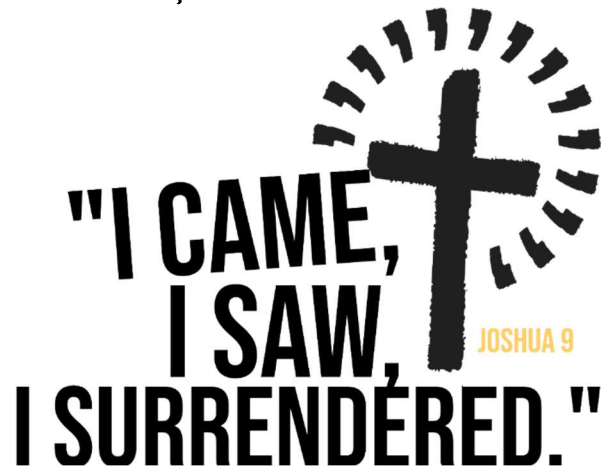


Grace Community Presbyterian Church

September 21, 2025



Thought for Meditation

"To let them live, *i.e.* that they would not destroy them. Some question whether this league was lawful and obliging, because it is contrary to a positive and precedent law of God, by which they were enjoined to make no peace with them, but utterly to destroy them, Exodus 23:32 Exo 34 &c. But this law seems to admit of some exception and favorable interpretation, and that taken from the reason and soul of that law; which was this, that the Israelites might not be tainted with their idolatry and other abominations by cohabitation with them; and therefore when that reason ceased, *i.e.* if they were willing to relinquish their possessions and idolatry, and other wickedness, and to embrace the true religion, they might be spared. And though this law was delivered in general terms, because God foresaw that the Israelites would be most prone to err on that hand, by sparing those whom they should destroy; yet that it was to be understood with an exception of penitents and true converts might easily be gathered, both from the example of Rahab, and from the tenor of Divine threatening, which, though absolutely delivered, allow of this exception..." [Matthew Poole's Commentary](#)

—GATHERING —

Prelude “Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace” Hughes

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

***Call To Worship** Psalm 113 Paul Milz

Leader: Praise the Lord! Come, let us lift our voices in gratitude and worship.

People: We will praise Him from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Leader: For the Lord is exalted over all nations; His glory is above the heavens.

People: Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high?

Leader: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

**People: We gather to celebrate His mercy and love,
and to worship Him in spirit and truth.**

Leader: Let us rejoice and praise His name together!

All: Amen!

*** Hymn of Praise** “God of Grace and God of Glory” (v 1-2,3) #435

***Prayer of Confession** Acts 3:19

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Grace church, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God,

We come before You in humility, acknowledging our failures. Like the Israelites deceived by the Gibeonites, we often rely on our own understanding instead of seeking Your guidance. We confess that we have made hasty decisions swayed by appearances and have turned our eyes from Your truth. Forgive us for ignoring Your Spirit and succumbing to deception. Help us to discern true wisdom and grant us the courage to seek You wholeheartedly. May Your mercy lead us back to Your path, healing our wounds and restoring us. Teach us to listen deeply and act with integrity, reflecting Your light in the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession...

***Assurance of Forgiveness** Psalm 103: 10-12

“He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.”

Friends, believe the God News of the Gospel.

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

*** Passing of the Peace** Matthew 5:9

L: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

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 Chancel Choir

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Joshua 9:1-15

Sermon “When Deception Turned to Salvation”

***Hymn of Response** “Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (vs. 1, 3) #486

Sharing Joys and Concerns and The Lord’s Prayer

Tithes and Offerings *2 Corinthians 9:7*
“Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver.”

Offertory “My Shepherd” Halley

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**



— SENDING —

***Hymn of Dedication** “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (vs 1-2)
#575

*** Charge and Benediction** *Romans 15:13*
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Amen**

*** Congregational Response** “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (vs 3) #575

*** Postlude** “Praise to the Lord the Almighty” Smith

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

Today’s Music: We welcome Lisa Clark to our service. Lisa is organist for First Baptist Church in Upper Burrell.

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 | September 13 Steph and Tom Tutka |
| Woody Woodhall | September 27 Beulah and Merle Brown |
| September 8 Jeff Speer | September 29 Rich and Darlene Artman |
| September 8 Paige Newcomb | |
| September 10 Ken McGeary | |
| September 16 Bob Brady | |
| September 22 Andi Householder | |
| September 30 Merle Brown | |
| Killian Matarrese | |

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 21 - September 27

Today	Worship	10:00am
	Deacons Meeting	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
Monday	Boy Scout Committee	6:00pm
	Session Meeting	6:30pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Lions Club Meeting	6:00pm
Wednesday	Cross Currents	9:00am
	Garden Club	3:00pm
	Choir Practice	7:00pm
Thursday	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
Saturday	Knead Café	8:00am

Looking Ahead September 28 - October 5, 2025

September 28	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
September 30	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Rabbits Foot Meeting	5:00pm
October	1 Choir Practice	7:00pm
	2 Boy Scouts	6:00pm
	2 Ladies Group	6:30pm

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: 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
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 Colaianni
Lisa Edwards
Heidi Hacker
Cindy Irvin
Linda Johnson
Terri Ludwig
Marcia Sackett
Rich Sackett
Dee Shaffer
Shirley Trinclisti