

Grace Devotion

Week of July 13, 2025

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.^[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” **Luke 10:25-28 (NRSVUE)**

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one that is quite well known. We see the man, robbed and beaten on his way from Jerusalem, left by the side of the road. We remember the priest and the Levite crossing to the other side of the road to avoid the man. But the Samaritan came upon him and went to him, bandaged his wounds, took him to an inn, and cared for him. Neighbors who look like us, who act like us, who talk like us, are easy to identify as neighbors to love. The grace and mercy we show to those who are different—that is what we are called to do. The lawyer in today’s scripture wants to be told who isn’t his neighbor. He wants Jesus to help him know who he doesn’t have to look out for. Who he is permitted to ignore. This parable is a strong reminder that there is no one that we come in contact with that is not already loved by God. Every person we meet is our neighbor and in our circle of a community of faith. Every person we meet is beloved. Let us live as Jesus has told us to live, loving our neighbors—all of our neighbors—by sharing mercy, grace, and support to all we meet.

Prayer: Dear God, You do not put people into boxes, allowing some to be loved as a neighbor and others not. We are called to love all we meet by showing them mercy and grace. Help us to see through Your eyes the way you love each of us. Help us to stay on our paths as we encounter others who are different than we are, not crossing the roads to avoid them, but staying our course so that we may meet them where they are. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

July 13, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes & Prelude: The Ash Grove (Todd Kendall)

**+Song: "The Truth"

#62

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come together today, O Lord, bringing our whole selves—our hopes, questions, struggles, and joys.

Congregation: We trust in You and want to follow Your ways.

Lector: Show us the road You want us to take

Congregation: Teach us to live in Your truth and love.

Lector: Lead us to be people of compassion

Congregation: Remind us that Your love never gives up, from generation to generation.

Lector: Let our love for our others be more than words.

Congregation: We come ready to worship, ready to listen, and ready to serve.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Dear God of love and peace, help us today and every day to see our neighbors not as burdens, but as opportunities to grow in faith and community. Open our hearts to love without limits—to welcome all with our arms wide because we cannot meet anyone where Your love does not reach. In a world filled with division, help us to see every person as our neighbor, and every neighbor as beloved. In the name of Jesus, who shows us what love looks like, Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story"

Joys and Concerns

#297

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

Doxology

#625

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 25:1-10

Luke 10:25-37

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Caring Neighbors"

Hymn: "Reach Out and touch"

#314

Prayer of Confession

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Holy Communion

****Prayer of Thanksgiving: Gracious God, thank You for meeting us at this table—nourishing us with Your love and grace. We are united with Christ and with one another. Let this communion strengthen our faith and remind us that we are not alone—for You go with us now and always. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**+Song: "My Lighthouse"

#42

** Final Blessing

** "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude: Bach F Maj

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

Announcements

- Any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the By-Laws need to be in Susan Dienes's mailbox by the end of July
- We will be starting to collect supplies for New Hopes Back to School Collection. Please see the Billboard for items most needed and have them ready by the end of July

Upcoming Events

- Our Second Summer skills Swap will be held on Thursday July 24th at 4pm. Craig and Linda Bixler will lead us in making Christmas soup. While the pot simmers we will prepare a dessert from scratch! Between the meal prep and partaking in the delicious food we will pair up seasoned smartphone users with those who aren't as familiar to learn how to navigate. Please join us! Share your kitchen skills or learn a new one. Share your technology wisdom or learn about an app you've always wondered about. Our third Summer Skills Swap will be held on Tuesday August 19 at 1pm. We will create an art project and then learn how to digitally capture our creation and share with others.
- Calling all Ladies of Grace! Please join us for a Wednesday Night Women's Music Study - We meet for 30-40 minutes. We listen to a contemporary Christian song and then discuss the song. We share our thoughts and feelings about the song along with how it relates to being a Christian woman in today's world. This is open to all women, feel free to invite non-Grace females. Next one is July 23rd @ 7:30 pm

Financial Information

- General pledge as of July 7, 2025: \$2,517.00
- *General pledge as of July 7, 2024: \$1,740.00*
- YTD income: \$84,693.08
- YTD expenses: \$131,496.49
- YTD deficit: \$46,089.21

Upcoming Meetings

- July 14th @ 6:00 PM, Consistory Meeting
- July 23rd @ 5:30 PM, Pastoral Relations
- July 23rd @ 7:30 PM, Women's Ministry
- July 28th @ 4:00 PM, Worship & Music
- July 28th @ 5:30 PM, Faith Formation



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector – Craig Bixler

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Jenn Weaver

PSALM 25

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

THEE

TRIUMPH

ASHAMED

WAYS

SALVATION

THEY

SINS

UPRIGHT

MEEK

MERCY

GREAT

SHALL

SOUL

WILL

EYES

DESOLATE

DISTRESSES

FORGIVE

MINE

DELIVER

INTEGRITY

TROUBLES

SUMMER



WORD SEARCH



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

VACATION

SUNGLASSES

SAILBOAT

PARK

HOTDOG

COOKOUT

BEACH

BICYCLE

FIREWORKS

LEMONADE

PICNIC

SANDALS

SUNSHINE

WATERMELON

CAMPING

HIKING

OUTDOORS

POPSICLE

SPRINKLER

SWIMMING