

Grace Devotion

Week of January 5, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

*¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

Matthew 2:10-11

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When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a star appeared in the sky. But this star didn't just shine in that Region. People in faraway lands observed its brilliant light. Some wise Magi, who studied the stars, wondered what the presence of this new star could mean. Convinced this new entity in the sky was a sign of a new earthly ruler, they decided to search for this new sovereign. They packed for a trip not knowing where they would end up or how long it would take to get there. It took time and resources to prepare for this mysterious adventure. With only the moonlight and the light of this new star, they moved slowly across the landscape into the unknown.

While working within Youth Ministry, one of my favorite events to plan was what I called, "**It's a Mystery!**" For several years, such an event appeared on our events schedule, however, just the date and time, I held the where and how close to my heart until we arrived at our destination. My favorite trip was to the *Philadelphia Museum of Art*. When we arrived another youth leader met us at the door, with pre-purchased tickets and a map of the museum complete with clues to our group's very own scavenger hunt. It was a day filled with fun, art, lunch and great intrigue. Teens looked forward to these events every year.

I think about these trips when I consider the great unknown the Magi faced as they set off to find their Messiah. Amid new and exciting astrology discoveries they eventually located Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Probably exhausted from their long journey, they knelt and celebrated the hope and light Jesus brings into the world. It's a mystery also can describe our new ministry together! My journey back to Grace, Hanover, although temporary, is full of excitement and hope. I look forward to what we can do together and pray that this time of transition will shed light on Grace's future. Hoping to visit you throughout the coming weeks. This may take time as I adjust to the schedules of both Grace and Trinity.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred Young

We praise you, Holy One, for visions of your loving ways. Stir our hope and fill us with the courage to imagine how we might journey in the paths you illuminate with the brilliance of the Christ child. Amen.

PRAYER: God of light come into our lives and surprise us in new and exciting ways.
Amen.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



January 5, 2025
2nd Sunday after Christmas

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude

** Song: “Glory to God in the Highest” #24

** Call to Worship

Lector: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

Congregation: and the Word was God.

Lector: The life was the light of all people.

Congregation: The light shines in the darkness.

Lector: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Congregation: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Gracious God, As we step into this new year, we pause to give thanks for the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who brings light and life to everyone. May this new year be a time for us to grow in His love, embrace His truth, and reflect His light in the world around us. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn:

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

** Statement of Faith

Hymn:

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 147: 12-20

John 1: 10-18

Time for the Young at Heart “Epiphany Stars”

Message: “Light of the World”

** Song: My Lighthouse” #42

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

*On the screen ** Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

- Just as a reminder: Please check out our website or call the church at 717-632-1146 ext. 1 for updates on cancellations due to weather.

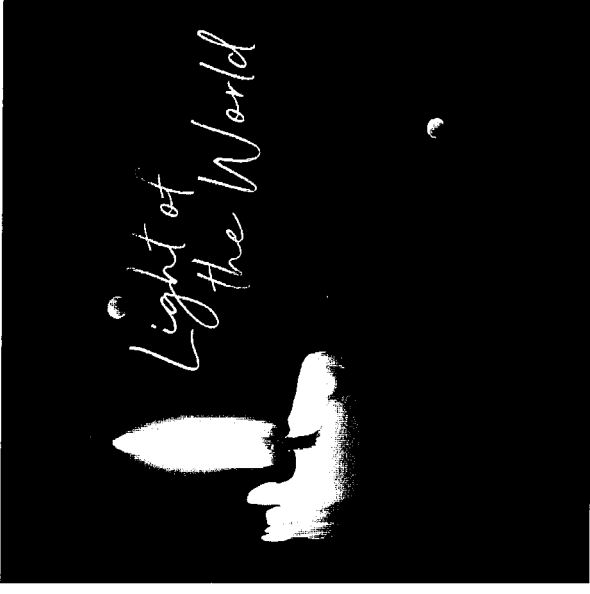
Upcoming Events

- Monthly Movie, January 10th @ 3 PM Fellowship Hall
- Town Hall, January 12th in Fellowship Hall during worship

Financial Information

General pledge: December 2024 **\$7,618.00**
General pledge December 2023 \$89,018.58

YTD income: \$237,284.53
YTD expenses: \$264,881.79
YTD deficit: \$27,597.26



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

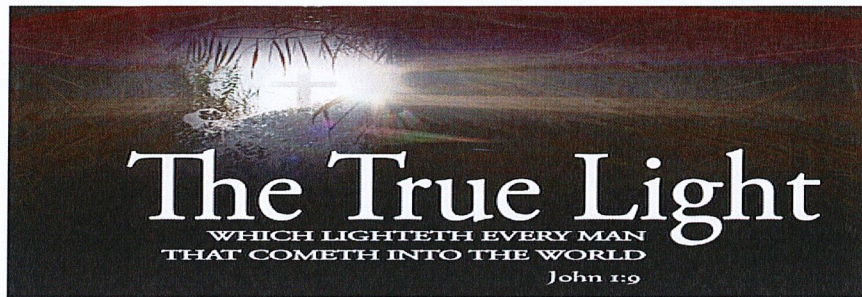
Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Associate Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - Len Bankert

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Fay Emlet, Joleen Fennell



JOHN 1:1-9

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

EVERYONE
 WITNESS
 DARKNESS
 CREATOR

COMING
 BELIEVE
 LIGHT
 THE WORD

WORLD
 JESUS
 LIFE
 BEGINNING

TRUE
 JOHN
 GOD

New Year's Word Search

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

BABY
BALL
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
EVE

FAMILY
FRIENDS
HAPPY
JANUARY
MIDNIGHT
NEW YEAR
NOISEMAKER
PARTY

RESOLUTION
TOAST

