

# Grace Devotion

*“Be the Church” Series Week 3*  
**Care for the Poor**

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## Week of July 14, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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### **Matthew 25:31-36**

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

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I know the images offered in today’s Gospel lesson speak of a final judgment where ‘goats’ and ‘sheep’ are separated one from another. I know this. And yet, I find it most helpful to hear this as encouragement even now to see and experience and respond to this world in new ways. Indeed, I hear Jesus’ words today reminding me that I simply don’t know when I will encounter the face of Christ next: thus making nearly all ground holy ground. And in the end, maybe that is precisely what these words are meant to do.

Just last week, there was a knock at the parsonage front door. A man with a suitcase greeted me and asked if I knew where he might get some personal care items. Our Blessings Box had been removed last year due to inappropriate use and I had no other resources to offer. I asked him to wait a few moments and Kara and I searched the house for unused soap, toothpaste, deodorant and other helpful items. I reappeared with two small bags. He thanked me and asked about shelter for the night, and I directed him to Gettysburg’s shelter. The man shared he was fleeing from a domestic violence situation and had traveled to our town from the

Philadelphia area. We talked for a few additional moments then he went on his way.

We all have our stories. Today's message serves as a reminder that we will encounter Jesus in the 'least of these' — in the hungry and the thirsty. In the stranger and the naked and the sick and those in prison. We live our faith in what we do. We live it in what we do in places that aren't always comfortable.

**PRAYER:** God, guide us as we try to follow as closely to Christ as possible. Encourage us to reach out and share your love with others. Amen.

Blessings! Pastor Fred



**July 14, 2024**  
**Summer Series “BE THE CHURCH” week 3**

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes and Prelude “Reach Out and Touch”  
~Erica Messinger

\*\* Song: “Do Something” ~Matthew West

\*\* Call to Worship  
Lector: God of Life,

**Congregation: you are as near to us as our breath.**  
Lector: Touch our eyes,

**Congregation: that we may see you in one another.**  
Lector: Open our ears,

**Congregation: that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.**

Lector: Enter our hearts,  
**Congregation: that we may be filled with your love toward all people.**

Lector: Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.

**Congregation: Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and grant us the courage to be people of your Way.**

\*\* Hymn: “I Love to Tell the Story” #297

\*\* Opening Prayer:  
**We bring before you, O God, the troubles and perils of people and nations. The sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the**

**weary, the failing powers of the aged. O God, draw near to each we pray. Amen.**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Beatitudes for Workers/Lord’s Prayer  
Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Time for the Young at Heart

Special Music: “To Be God’s People” ~Erica Messinger

Scripture Reading:  
Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: “Care for the Poor” Pastor Fred via video

Hymn: “Pass It On” #309

\*\*New Creed\*

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings  
\*\* Doxology #625  
\*\* Prayer of Dedication

\*\* Song: “And All the People Said Amen” ~Matt Maher

\*\* Final Blessing  
Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

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

## Worship Elements:

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*Touch Holiness.* Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2012.

## Announcements

~Thanks to Erica Messinger for sharing her special talent with Grace UCC.

~Today, Pastor Fred will share his sermon via the screen. We are excited for this opportunity.

~Pastor Fred will be away until Thursday. Pastors Sue and Sterling Fritz are on-call for pastoral emergencies.

## Upcoming Events

**“Be the Church” Week #4—Forgive Often**

August 11<sup>th</sup>: Hymn Sing at St. Matthews at 4pm

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Church picnic

September 7<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date Sept 14<sup>th</sup>): Car Show

## Volunteer Opportunities—in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers

## Upcoming Meetings

- **Worship and Music: July 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:00pm**  
\*\***CHANGED TIME**
- **Pastoral Care: July 24<sup>th</sup> \*\* CHANGED DATE**
- If you want to buy a car magnet, you can purchase one here: <https://www.uccresources.com/products/be-the-church-rainbow-magnet?variant=14136379844>

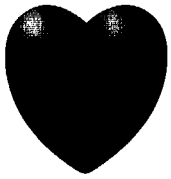
# “Care for the Poor”

Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146



# Psalm 24

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

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heart  
mind  
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deceitfully  
sworn  
hands  
pure  
not

salvation  
false  
clean  
his  
set

blessing  
what  
lord  
God  
has

# SUMMER FUN



## Word Search Puzzle

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



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|------------|------------|------------|
| BAKEFOOT   | FISHING    | PICNIC     |
| BASEBALL   | FLIP FLOPS | POPSICLE   |
| BEACH      | FRIENDS    | ROAD TRIP  |
| BICYCLE    | FRISBEE    | SPRINKLERS |
| CAMPING    | GAMES      | SUNSHINE   |
| COOKOUT    | ICE CREAM  | SWIMMING   |
| FAIRGROUND | LEMONADE   | VACATION   |
| FIREWORKS  | OUTDOORS   | WATER PARK |