

Grace Devotion

Week of June 9, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

POEM

(Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson)
UCC General Minister and President

Rebirth

Change comes sweeping like the winds of hurricanes,
Flooding waters rising high taking with them, doubt, fear.

In the midst of change my heart races, my pulse a staccato beat,
my feet cemented, fear a reckoning not to be forgotten,
nothing to hold on to, I sink into the water I am carried on the winds.

I am lifted carried on the highs of harsh winds,
tumbling into heights unknown
spiraling into newness, I am reborn.

I am new there is a vision for this time and space, I rest, renewed.
I am in this present, I am in this newness full of Spirit, I am free.

“That they may all be one.” This single line formed the United Church of Christ and set our mission. In Jesus’ prayer to God near the end of his life he asks that God grant the disciples unity (and those who believed because of them) and to bring them oneness in God as Jesus himself is one with God. We, as the UCC, embraced that prayer and that hope when we formed. And we still do.

Our unity in the UCC was never uniformity. Uniformity might have been easier since it would be clear who is in and who is out. Instead, the UCC sought a flexible union. An open union in which everyone would come in with their traditions, their worship,

their theology– and we would still be one. One in Christ Jesus. With all the gifts that each person brings, we would do the work of discipleship and BE the church.

I love how Karen Georgia identifies change as a hurricane that makes her heartbeat faster. I would say that the same happens for me when faced with change. But, eventually, change is the catalyst God uses to continue speaking to the church and to each of us. Change is hard. Change is also necessary for anything to move forward. Grace is standing on the crossroads of change, and hopefully the path chosen will continue to unite us as one in Christ and with each other.

PRAYER: God, inspire us, stretch us and help us grow into your vision. Amen.

Blessings! Pastor Fred



June 9, 2024
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER CHIMES AND PRELUDE “Teach Us to Love” ~ Lea Coppola and Scott Fredricks

**SONG: “The River” ~Jordan Feliz

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lector: From many lands, we gather as a people. With diverse homelands,

backgrounds, and experiences shaping who we are today:

Congregation: Out of many, we are one.

Lector: Of different ages and abilities, we gather as a people. Wearing different clothing, filling different roles, speaking many languages, singing different songs:

Congregation: Out of many, we are one.

Lector: With diverse hopes and dreams, we gather as a people. Of different personality types and interests, with multiple ministries and callings:

Congregation: Out of many, we are one.

Lector: Each carrying within us many voices, we gather as a people,

holding happiness alongside hurt, often in the same moment. Inside every one of us, a crowd of ideas, feelings, and questions:

Congregation: Out of many, we are one.

Lector: In Christ, we come together and find a deeper unity. People of God, come and worship, that out of many, all may be one!

Congregation: Come to worship our God!

**HYMN “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” #12

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER
ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Healing Place” ~Lea Coppola

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYING FOR OTHERS/LORD’S PRAYER

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

* HYMN “Trust and Obey” #349

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 138

Mark 3:20-35

John 17:21-23

MESSAGE *Linda Bixler*

(Created by the 4 Conference Ministers of the Keystone Project)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A 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

****“A Choral Benediction”**

**POSTLUDE “Trumpet Time” ~Perks

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Today's Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resource:

Rev. Audrey deCoursey is ordained in the Church of the Brethren. She has served in congregational and hospital ministry in Elgin, Illinois, and Portland, Oregon. She is currently the pastor of a new online church, the Living Stream Church of the Brethren.

Maren C. Tirabassi on page 123 of Before the Amen (Pilgrim Press, 2007)
The New Century Hymnal. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 1995.

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Announcements

- Thanks for special music from Scott Fredricks and Lea Coppola!
- Koins for Kinny raised \$1322.
- We will collect for the Deacon's Fund during the month of June.

Upcoming Events

- Town Hall Meeting: June 23rd during worship
- Potluck and Crooners: June 23rd immediately following worship

Volunteer Opportunities—Sign ups in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers
- Visitation Care Team

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory: June 10th
- Choir begins June 16th
- Worship and Music: June 24th

“THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE.”



Grace United Church of Christ

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Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

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Rebirth¹

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Sweeping
Like the winds of hurricanes
Flooding waters rising high
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¹ Karen Georgia Thompson, 22 February 2017, Lakewood, OH

What man can't do

And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.— John 17:3

Think about all the incredible inventions man has created over the generations. Which ones are the best? Perhaps you're partial to the flushing toilet – a great one – or the telephone, which would be hard to live without these days. Both of those have made our lives a lot easier!



But in spite of how smart we are (or think we are), mankind has yet to come up with an invention that can defeat our ultimate enemy: death. Just imagine how much money you'd make if you discovered a way to cheat death and live forever!

Yet no one's done it. And no matter how hard we try and how many medical breakthroughs we see, death is still around. But there's good news – God has taken care of that for us. All you have to do is simply put your faith in Jesus.

Man will always fail us because we're limited in our understanding. **But if we'll put our faith in Jesus Christ and trust in His death and resurrection for forgiveness of our sins, we'll cheat death and live forever!**

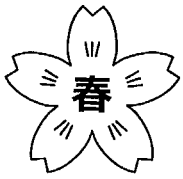
Prayer Challenge

Thank God for providing eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ!

Questions for thought

When you think about the day you'll move from this life to the next, what anxieties do you have?

How does having eternal life in Christ bring comfort to those anxieties?



Name: _____

Genesis 3:8-15

Date: _____

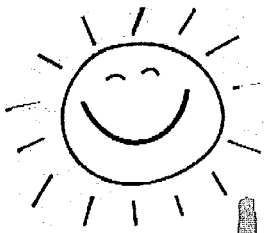
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L	R	N	L	K	J	F	S	H	L	Q	O	C	Z	D	Y	Z	Y	H	J
S	V	R	O	K	O	F	R	S	N	B	R	T	S	O	H	A	Z	S	G
V	Z	Z	B	U	E	M	F	U	T	G	H	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	Y
A	S	J	E	P	D	Z	L	N	I	F	J	P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E
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P	C	K	U	D	X	E	A	J	V	W	I	N	X	C	N	F	Z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

Heard
Afraid
Serpent

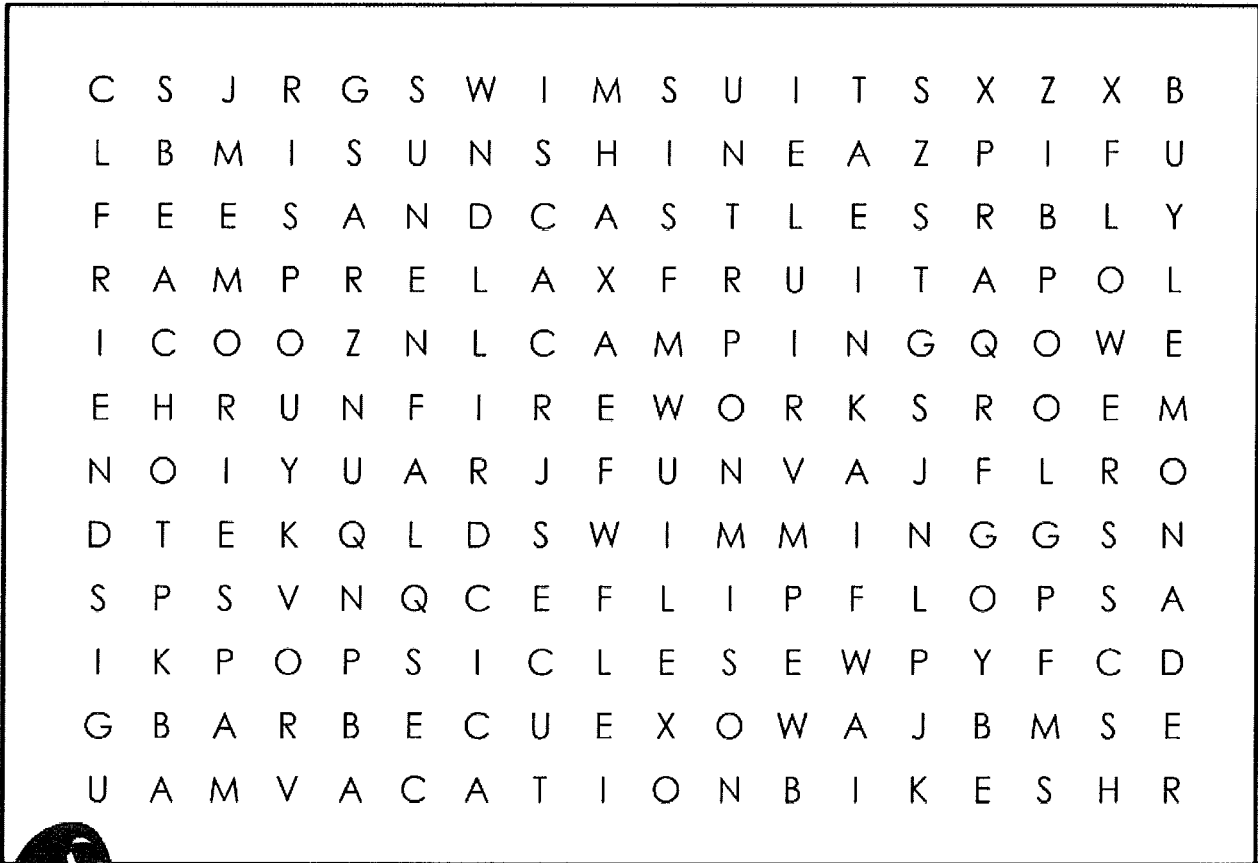
Walking
Commanded
Beguiled

Garden
Tree
Cursed

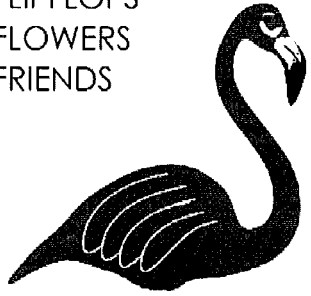
Presence
Fruit



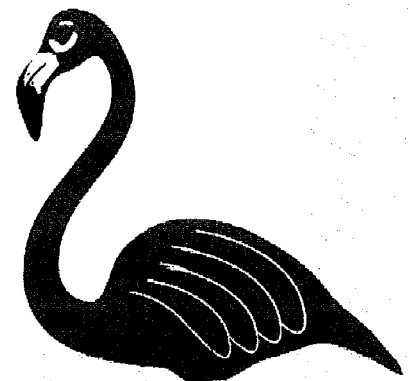
HELLO SUMMER!



BARBECUE
 BEACH
 BIKES
 CAMPING
 FIREWORKS
 FLIPFLOPS
 FLOWERS
 FRIENDS



FRUIT
 FUN
 HOT
 LEMONADE
 MEMORIES
 POOL
 POPSICLES
 RELAX



SANDCASTLES
 SUNSHINE
 SWIMMING
 SWIMSUITS
 VACATION