

Grace Devotion

Week of March 16, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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Luke 31:34-35

How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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I began my work as Chaplain of the Margret E. Moul Home in the summer of 2002. It did not take long for the residents to find a permanent place in my heart. All 82 lived very active lives despite their challenging diagnosis of cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, or other brain stem injuries. I was their chaplain for 2 ½ years, hearing their stories, worshiping alongside them, playing cards, Legos, UNO, and just enjoying their presence. I was a visitor in their home, and always felt a warm welcome.

David was one of the first residents to greet me on my first day. Later, it was explained that David had been anticipating my arrival. For years, he was the unofficial Chaplain's assistant, making sure things went smoothly, that worship was held, and that folks made it to the Chapel on time. He offered advice on hymns to sing, scripture to read, and how often to pray. Although David's CP made speech difficult, he communicated through various sounds, gestures, and with the aid of his electronic talking device.

David did not allow his CP to define him, he lived his life over and around the limitations caused by cerebral palsy. Most of the residents lived by this mantra. Every day I was amazed by them in new ways. For David, he was the door man, the official greeter, electronically welcoming guests from the seat of his chair. He was the eyes and ears of the home, and he was my friend.

I would say one of his most important roles did not happen at home, but at his church's after school program where he was one of many adult chaperones. For two

hours every day, David was transported to Mount Zion United Methodist church where he would greet middle school students, talk with them, listen to them and corral them to places they needed to go, keeping peace as much as possible. David took his job seriously and showered those kids with love and attention. He was their mother hen. His face lit up whenever I asked him how his day went. He had a ministry, and boy did the light of Christ shine through him.

It is no mistake that Jesus compared himself to a mother hen who will do whatever it takes to protect her babies from the menacing fox. Even to the point of giving his own life with hope that we will be spared. Like a hen who gathers her young under her outstretched wings. The hen is no match for the fox, not really. And yet that is the way of the Gospel. It is always the way of love and sacrifice over power and domination. It is always courage, the willingness to stand up in the face of opposition. Where do you see such courage in today's world?

PRAYER: Lord, give us the courage to protect the young, the vulnerable, and the oppressed. May we be willing to take all of God's children under our wing. Amen.



March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude: Lamb of God by Lloyd Larson, sung by Sarah Vyskocil

** Song: "I Can Only Imagine" #46

** Call to Worship

Lector: In covenant with God, we are entrusted with creation.

Congregation: We will be faithful stewards of the earth

Lector: Jesus faced his challenges with courage and love
Congregation: We will Be the Church beyond these walls, protecting creation and all who call it home.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Caring and Loving God, Help us to be the change we wish to see in the world. Grant us the courage to stand firm in the face of adversity, just as Jesus did with Herod. Help us to see our role in Being the Church to help gather Your children in Your word. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #185

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

** UCC Statement of Faith

Special Music: Sanctuary of Praise by Joseph M. Martin, sung by Sarah Vyskocil

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Doxology

** Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: "Close to Thee" #365

Scripture Readings:

Genesis: 15:1-12; 17-18

Luke 13:31-35

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Courage to Act"

** Song: "Same Power" #3

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

Today's worship featuring:

- Be the Church
- Protect the Environment

Upcoming Events

March 14th Monthly Movie @ 3:00 pm

March 26th Bible Study @ 12:30 & Movie @ 2:00

Financial Information

General pledge: Up to March 16, 2025, \$2,626.00

General pledge: Up to March 16, 2024, \$4,316.00

YTD income: \$24,072.19

YTD expenses: \$43,473.06

YTD deficit: \$19,400.87

Up Coming Meetings

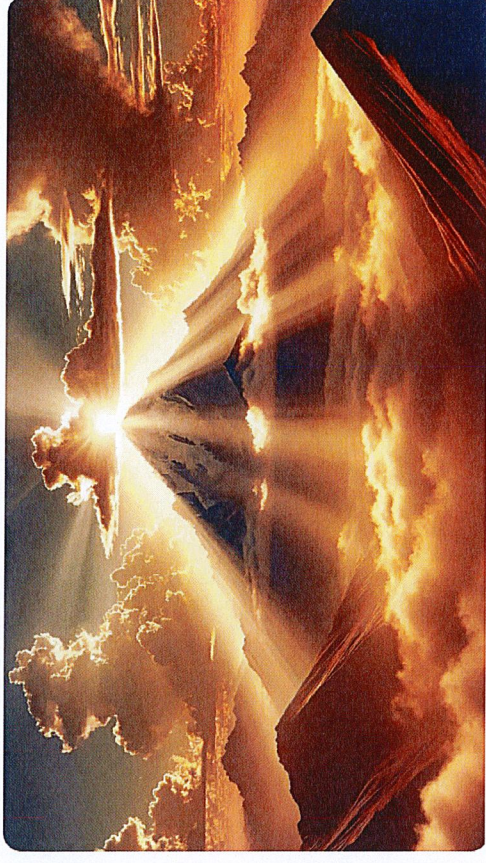
March 17th Staff Meeting @ 4:30 pm

March 19th Personnel Meeting @ 3:45pm

Transition Team Meeting @ 6:00 pm

March 24th Finance Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am

Worship & Music @ 6:30 pm



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 - Kay Emlet

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Jenn Weaver & Susan Dienes

Books of the Bible Word Search

LUKE

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

MALACHI

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

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

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

**WORDS
TO FIND**

John the Baptist
Shepherds
Angels
Baptism
Temptation

Parables
Zacchaeus
Last Supper
Empty Tomb

2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

5 CORINTHIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS



Genesis 15

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

- ABRAM
- SAID
- THOU
- THAT
- TOWARD
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- THEE
- WHEREBY
- GOAT
- AGAINST
- CARCASSES
- HORROR
- STRANGER
- AFTERWARD
- SHALT
- AMORITES
- PASS
- SEED
- KENIZZITES
- PERIZZITES
- CANAANITES