

Grace Devotion

Week of September 14, 2025

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSVUE)

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, Luke 15, Jesus shares two parables. The first story is about a shepherd leaving his 99 sheep behind to go find the missing one that wandered off. The second story tells about a woman who turns her whole house upside down to find a missing coin. In both stories, there is a huge celebration when the lost is found. We all have times when we feel like the sheep who wandered away—times when we felt overlooked or forgotten. But, Jesus reminds us that God doesn’t just notice us that we are missing, God comes looking for us. God searches for each of us without ever giving up. That means, no matter how lost we feel, God’s grace can reach us. We are not meant to find our own way back—it is about God who guides us and says “I’m so glad you are home!”

This week, if you feel a little weary, a little scattered, a little lost, hold on to this truth: God knows exactly where you, and exactly who you are, and will stay with you until you are safely home.

Prayer: Loving and Gracious God, Thank You for never giving up on us. When we wander away, You search for us and lead us back. When we are lost, You find us. When we are alone, You remind us that we are Yours. Help us rest in the joy of being found and loved by You. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude (“Reverie” Claude

Debussy arr. Edward Broughton)

**+Song: “The 99”

#10

** Call to Worship

Lector: Come, whether you are feeling found or a little lost today.

Congregation: We come, trusting that God sees us and knows where we are.

Lector: Come, whether you are sure of your faith, or still figuring it out.

Congregation: We come, remembering that God’s grace holds us through everything.

Lector: God rejoices over every step we take toward love and toward healing.

Congregation: We bring our complete selves here today. We are ready to listen and grow.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

God of mercy, We come here today, knowing that there are times we are struggling. There are times when we don’t always make the right choices. There are times when we rest when we should be reaching out or speaking up. Remind us that no matter what, You never stop reaching for us. We come with open hearts, as You continue to love us, shape us, and call us forward.
Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

**° Hymn: “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah” #51

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: Doxology

** Prayer of Dedication

#625

° Hymn: “All the Way My Shepherd Leads Me” #460

Scripture Readings:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Grace That Finds Us”

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Holy Communion

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**+“Changed”

#63

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude “Trumpet Tune in C Major” (Craig Penfield)

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- Deacon's Fund collection today!
- Goats for Rwanda month of September
- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers @ 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Youth Sunday School Kick-off September 21
- **Women's Music Ministry**
On the second Wednesday of every month we will meet via zoom. @ 7:30 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81264532233?pwd=pu8cWIoLimwBWOXAPAQo1ZarupUyff.1> The fourth Wednesday of every month we will meet in person @ 7:30 pm either outside in Franklin Street lawn or in the gather place (weather pending) Women of all ages are invited to participate in both.
- In-Door fall clean up on September 13th @ 9:00 am.

Financial Information

General pledge: Month of September 2025: \$2,190.00
General pledge: Month of September 2024: \$2,775.00
YTD income: \$97,104.22
YTD expenses: \$178,410.79
YTD deficit: \$81,306.57

Upcoming Meetings

- **Sept. 15th** – Pastoral Relations @ 5:30 PM
- **Sept. 22nd** – Worship & Music @ 4:45 PM
- **Sept. 22nd** – Faith Formation @ 6:00 PM
- **Sept. 29th** – Staff Meeting @



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

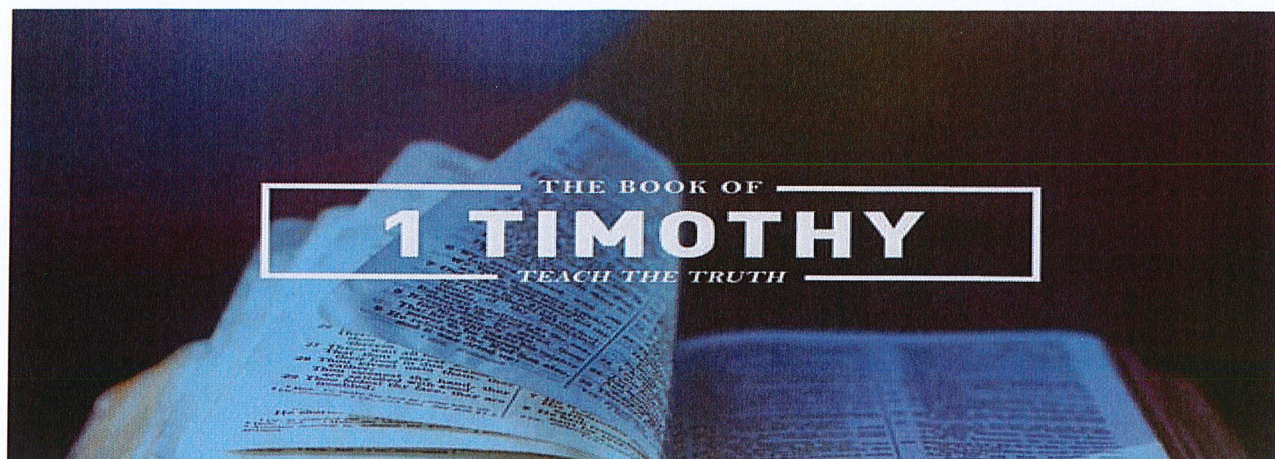
Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector – Jenn Weaver

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

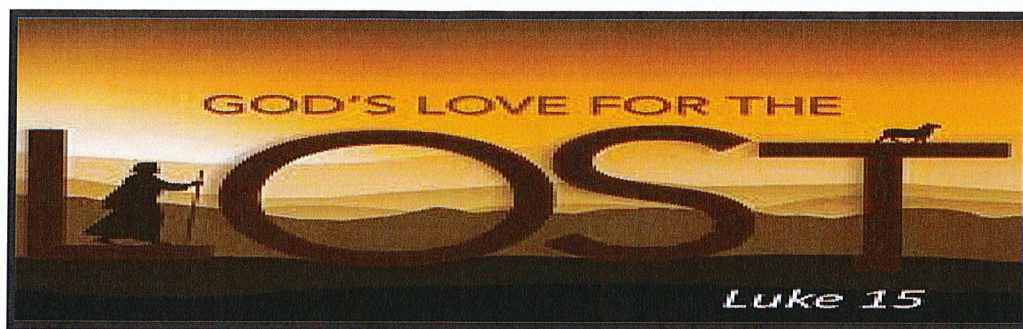
Head Usher – Jenn Weaver & Chelsey Topper



1 Timothy 1

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