

Announcements

~Join us today for the Annual Meeting immediately following worship!

~We are working to update the directory. Please check your information (if available) and update/add using the Change of address/phone number forms on the little table.

~Huge Thanks to Derek Reed for his special music this morning.

~Reminder: We are not using printed envelopes for offerings in order to save money and paper. You may pick up a packet of envelopes in the Gathering Place for either monthly or weekly contributions.

~To be good stewards of God's earth, beginning next week (January 28) we will recycle paper and plastic. Please look for the recycling paper containers at both entrances. Feel free to put any unwanted bulletins in these containers. The container for plastic bottles will be in The Gathering Place.

~**Grace Hat & Mitten Tree:** The congregation donated 40 pairs gloves, 1 ear muff, 6 scarves, 4 pairs socks, and 23 hats in December. These items were divided between Hoffman Homes and Hanover Area Council of Churches. Thank you for your support.

~In case of inclement weather, updates will be made to Facebook and The Prayer Line

~The Bible Study group will be watching Facing the Giants on Wednesday, Jan 24th at 1pm in Fellowship Hall.

Grace Outreach Activities

~February 25, immediately after the worship service, there will be a gathering for anyone interested in signing cards for any Grace off site saints, college students and those serving in the military.



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

*~ In case of inclement weather, please call the Prayer Line
717-634-8865 or check Facebook.*

January 28, 2024

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude

****Song:** "Raise a Hallelujah" ~ Helser *

**** Call to Worship**

Lector: Praise the Lord! We gather in awe of His greatness and majesty.

Congregation: We give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.

Lector: Our God is not confined by tradition; His works are new every morning.

Congregation: We open our hearts to the freshness of His presence, anticipating wonders.

Lector: Let's lift our voices in praise, for His righteousness endures forever.

Congregation: With joy in our hearts, we sing, affirming that His goodness fills our lives.

**** Opening Prayer:**

"Gracious God, as we gather in your presence today, we are reminded of the authority and power of your Son, Jesus Christ. May our worship today and every day be a testament to Your greatness, and may we be open to the changes that come from Your presence in our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen."

Special Music by Derek Reed: "Joseph's Song" ~Joe Martin

**** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Confession/Praying for Others

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)
Silent Reflection
Assurance of Grace

**** Hymn:** All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

Poem: "Our Afflicting Spirit"

**** A New Creed ***

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

**** Doxology**

**** Prayer of Dedication**

Scripture Readings: Psalm 111 (NRSV)
Mark 1:21-28 (The Message)

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: "He Touched Me"

Message: "Wonder and Authority"

****Song:** "How Great Is Our God" ~ Chris Tomlin *

**** Final Blessing**

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"
(Inside front of hymn book or on screen).

Postlude

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

Our Afflicting Spirit

The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out. Mark 1:26



We read the Gospel stories where
Our Savior mends the broken.
No doubt of Christ's devoted care
When healing words are spoken.
We tend to think these incidents
Involve past situations,
In present times have little sense
And have no applications.

But we, too, have our evil spirit
That plagues us every day,
We cannot contradict or jeer it,
Or we the truth betray.
Our selfishness, desires, and greed
Possess us just the same;
These demons haunt us, yes, indeed;
We have ourselves to blame.

Oh, let us seek Christ's healing power
To rid us of our sins,
And may his mercy on us shower
And cure us from within.
Repent, be humble, and contrite.
Christ's voice calls. Can you hear it?
Let's set our hearts on all that's right -
Goodbye, afflicting spirit! Patti Miller

What it means to live a life of integrity

Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed. — Proverbs 12:19

A man went fishing one day without catching a single fish. So, he packed up his gear, went to the market, and picked out three fat fish to take home to his family. As the store manager was about to wrap up the purchase, the man asked him, *"Before you wrap them, could you toss them to me, one by one? That way, I can truthfully tell my wife I caught them!"*



When it comes to telling the truth, many people like to scoot by on technicalities, half-truths, and word games in order to hide the real facts. They value their reputation over their integrity and do whatever it takes to make sure people think highly of them.

But when we look at the Scriptures, we find that way of thinking is a recipe for disaster. Take King Saul, for example, who directly disobeyed God's orders in 1 Samuel 15. When he was confronted about it, he continued down his path of lies for no other reason than to preserve his reputation while slowly destroying his integrity.

The old adage is true: Honesty is the best policy. When you live a life of truth, you'll not only please the Lord; you'll keep a clear conscience. So be truthful in all you do and maintain a life of honesty and integrity.

Prayer Challenge

Ask God to help you be truthful in all your dealings with others and to value your integrity over your reputation.

Questions for Thought

Why do you think many people place more value on their reputations than they do their integrity?

In what areas of your life have you perhaps let your integrity slip? What can you do to build it back up?

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth has no sorrow
that Heaven cannot heal. —Thomas Moore*

When traveling through the South, one might come across a confection known as Divinity. It's been around more than 100 years, and probably originated in the South because pecans were frequently used in the recipe. In the 1900s, corn syrup was a popular sugar substitute, and Divinity candy was one of the creative uses. The white candy treat, according to Wikipedia, "is a nougat-like confection made with whipped egg whites, corn syrup, and sugar. Optional ingredients such as flavors, chopped dried fruit and chopped nuts are frequently added."

One maker of "Old Fashioned Pecan Divinity" gushes that "these wonderful confections are like a taste of heaven." But no one knows for certain how the confection got its name. Probably, someone was meddling in the kitchen, stuck her finger in the goo and tasted it, and thereupon pronounced it "simply divine." The "simply" never took hold in the popular consciousness.

A candy that tastes like heaven!

Divinity has everything to please the palate and senses. You love the texture as it meets the tongue. You're crazy about the taste itself — it transports you to otherworldly scenes of delight. You like the color: pure white. You like its density: it is rather soft — not hard and brittle.

We humans love food, and we long for the foods we especially crave.

And we long for heaven, too. We are always talking about it.

We argue from the smaller to the greater. If Divinity candy can taste this good, then the pleasure of being in heaven with Jesus must be even greater and more intense.

The great hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, was blind from birth, but she could see heaven! *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!* These are the first lines of her hymn, "Blessed Assurance." She went on to describe heaven: *Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.*

But, as long as she was in her old, unsighted body, she wasn't quite in heaven yet, Divinity candy notwithstanding. Nevertheless, she could still say that *she was watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O Lord, I, too, am watching and waiting. Although I want to be of some earthly good, I pray I will never hesitate to express my cheerful anticipation of heaven. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 1-4

Monday: Job 5-7

Tuesday: Job 8-10

Wednesday: Job 11-13

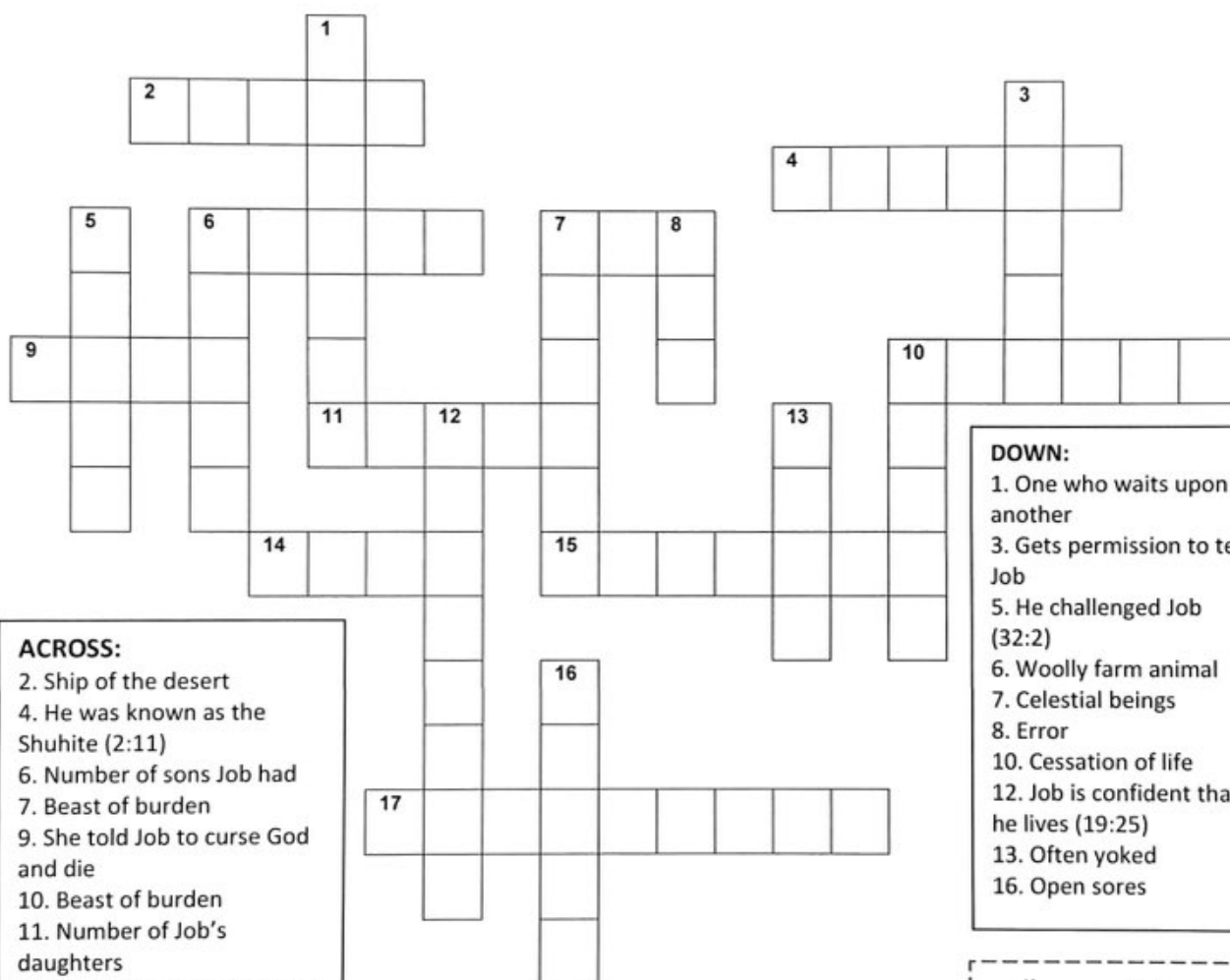
Thursday: Job 14-17

Friday: Job 18-20

Saturday: Psalms 7-9

THE PATIENCE OF JOB

In our readings this week, we begin the story of Job. He was a man who had everything, and then lost everything. Although tempted to abandon his faith in God, he didn't. All the clues in this crossword puzzle come from the book of Job. Some references are provided.



ACROSS:

2. Ship of the desert
4. He was known as the Shuhite (2:11)
6. Number of sons Job had
7. Beast of burden
9. She told Job to curse God and die
10. Beast of burden
11. Number of Job's daughters
14. What destroyed house of Job's son
15. Snake
17. Large sea creature (41:1)

DOWN:

1. One who waits upon another
3. Gets permission to test Job
5. He challenged Job (32:2)
6. Woolly farm animal
7. Celestial beings
8. Error
10. Cessation of life
12. Job is confident that he lives (19:25)
13. Often yoked
16. Open sores

JOB IS TESTED



ANSWERS — Across:

2. camel; 4. Bildad; 6. seven;
7. ass; 9. wife; 10. donkey;
11. three; 14. wind;
15. serpent; 17. Leviathan.
Down: 1. servant; 3. Satan;
5. Elihu; 6. sheep; 7. angels;
8. sin; 10. death;
12. Redeemer; 13. oxen;
16. boils.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

Food
Knowledge
Builds
God
Offered
Freedom
Conscience
Wounding

Idols
Pride
Person
Known
Careful
Faith
Encourage



Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

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

Prophet
Obey
Gathered
Mount Sinai
Begged
Hear
Lord
Fiery
Presence
Wise
Request
Command
Punish
Afraid



Psalms 111

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

Heart	Thank
Lord	Assembly
People	Wonderful
Things	All
Delighted	Honor
Majesty	Eternal
Actions	Kind
Merciful	Faithful
Holy	Mighty

