Grace Devotion

Week of October 25, 2026



[7] Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'[a] [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[b] .— Matthew 22:34-46 NRSVUE

Dear friends,

When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, his answer was pretty clear. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself. Two commandments. Sounds simple enough, right?

But if we're honest, loving our neighbors isn't always easy. It's easy to love the people we get along with, the people who think like we do, and the people who make us feel comfortable. It's a little harder when we disagree with someone, when someone gets on our nerves, or when we just don't understand where they're coming from. Yet, Jesus doesn't give us a list of exceptions. He tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul talks about sharing the good news of God with others, but he also talks about sharing his own life with them. He cared about the people he was serving. They weren't just people he was trying to teach. They were people who mattered to him.

I think that's an important reminder for us. Sharing God's love isn't just about what we say or what we believe. It's about how we treat people. It's about showing up and listening. It's about being willing to help and sometimes just sitting with someone who needs to know they aren't alone.

We don't have to agree with everyone to treat them with kindness. We don't have to have all the right words to show someone they matter. We certainly don't have to do something big or extraordinary to make a difference in someone's life.

I wonder what our churches, our families, and our communities might look like if we spent a little more time showing one another what God's love looks like. That's not always easy. We're human, after all. We get frustrated, we make mistakes, and sometimes we fall short of the very things we believe. But we can keep trying. We can keep choosing love.

As we go through this week, may we remember that loving God and loving our neighbors go hand in hand. May we look for opportunities every single day to let that love show, not just in what we say, but in how we live.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for reminding us what matters most. Help us to love you with all our hearts and to show love in the way we treat others. When we're frustrated, help us be patient. When we disagree, help us be kind. When someone needs a little extra care, help us be willing to show up. May the love you give us be seen in the ways we live each day. Amen

With Peace and Love,

Pastor Amy

Pastor Amy

October 25, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
Welcome/Announcements

°° Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" **#92

** Call to Worship
Lector: We gather today because God loves us and calls us to love one another.
Congregation: We come with our hearts open, ready to receive and share God's love.
Lector: Jesus calls us to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Congregation: May our love be more than just words. May it show up in the way we live.
Lector: Let us worship the God whose love surrounds us and strengthens us.
Congregation: Let us worship together today.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Loving God, Thank You for bring us together today. Open our hearts to Your love and help us share that love with everyone around us. Remind us that love is something we live. Help us hear where You are calling us to love more fully. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

+"My Lighthouse" **#42

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer

Reception of New Members

Celebration of Our Gifts
** Offertory Response: "Doxology" **#625**
** Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

° Hymn: "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" **#284

Scripture Reading:
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Love that Shows Up"

+"Soul on Fire" **#4

** Final Blessing

** "A Choral Benediction"
Postlude
** Please stand, if you are able.
+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- Please consider sharing your talents by hosting snacks in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings or acting as Lector. Both sign-up sheets can be found in the Gathering Place on the bulletin board.
- October 4th - November 22nd at Grace, we're beginning our Harvest Home collection. It's a way for us to remember that while we may not be able to solve someone's food insecurity, we can make sure a family has something good to put on the table. We'll be collecting donations to create "Meals That Stretch" kits—simple meals that can feed a family for more than one meal. Stay tuned for items to donate!
- Help us collect snacks and candy for Trick or Treat which will be held on October 27th
- Do you want to order Grace logo wear? Contact the church office or pick up an order form at the church. The sale will run Oct. 18th-Nov 8th!
- Mark your calendars for our first annual Gettysburg Association music fest at St. Davids UCC on Nov. 8th at 2pm. Come share in fellowship and local music from our local UCC churches.
- Thanks to the Praise Band for sharing their talents with us today. Thanks for Kaleb on drums and Derek on guitar!
- **DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK NEXT SUNDAY**

Upcoming Events

Trick or Treat – October 27th @ 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Grace United Church Of Christ

Zelle

Grace UCC Has a New Way to Donate

Upcoming Meetings

- Worship & Music Committee Meeting – October 27th @ 3:30 PM



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 - Joleen Fennell

Music Director – Grace Neilson

Head Usher – Anita Kincaid & Susan Dienes

THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS

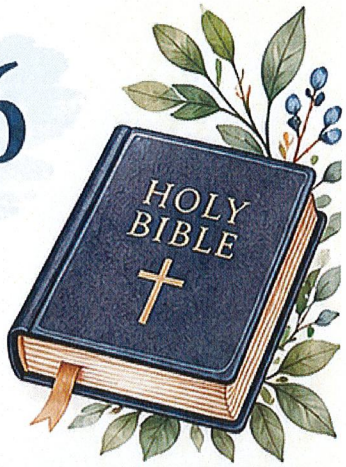
Word Search

R E S U R R E C T I O N C R U G N C M T
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T E S T I M O N Y R S M J A E T H A G E
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N K J U S S C R S C H E B U L O C B Q T
C P G C T T T F N T D Y R A S J Q R E R
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Thessalonians
Paul
Silvanus
Grace
Gospel
Jesus
Christ
Lord
Pray
Sanctify
Holy Spirit
Apostasy
Sakabbin
Rapture
Judgment
Encouragement
Perseverance
Comfort
Faithful
Obedience
Timothy
Election
Work
Testimony
Brother
Salute
Idleness
Remuneration
Calling
Rejoice



Matthew 22:34-46 *Word Search*



SEARCH FOR THE WORDS FROM GOD'S WORD

L	E	L	E	R	S	G	S	A	K	T	K	T	R
G	S	I	V	L	O	E	L	E	I	F	W	S	L
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S	W	M	O	U	A	O	S	N	D	R	L	D	T

Find These Words

LOVE
LORD
GOD
HEART
SOUL
MIND
TWO
TEN
GREATEST
FIRST
SECOND
LIKE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

— MATTHEW 22:37 —