

Grace Devotion

Week of February 1, 2026

The Beatitudes Devotional *Matthew 5:1-12*

Blessings,

This week we look to the Gospel of Matthew at the Beatitudes. Let's look at each line and how it manifests in our lives today.

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Even when we feel empty or weak, God's kingdom is ours. Sometimes admitting our need is the first step to receiving God's greatest gifts.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

When life brings sadness or loss, God's comfort is always near. Even in tears, we are not alone.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Gentleness and patience are powerful. Trusting God rather than trying to push for control leads to true peace.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

When we hunger and thirst for God's goodness and justice, it changes us from the inside out. God promises to fill that desire in our hearts.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

When we show mercy to others, it not only helps them, it opens our hearts to experience God's mercy as well.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

When our hearts are focused on God, we begin to see the world in a new way. A faith that is simple and honest brings clarity and joy that lasts in our lives.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Working for peace—big or small—is holy work. God's love flows through those who bring harmony and reconciliation.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Standing for what is right is not always easy, but God's kingdom is with those who remain faithful.

11-12 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

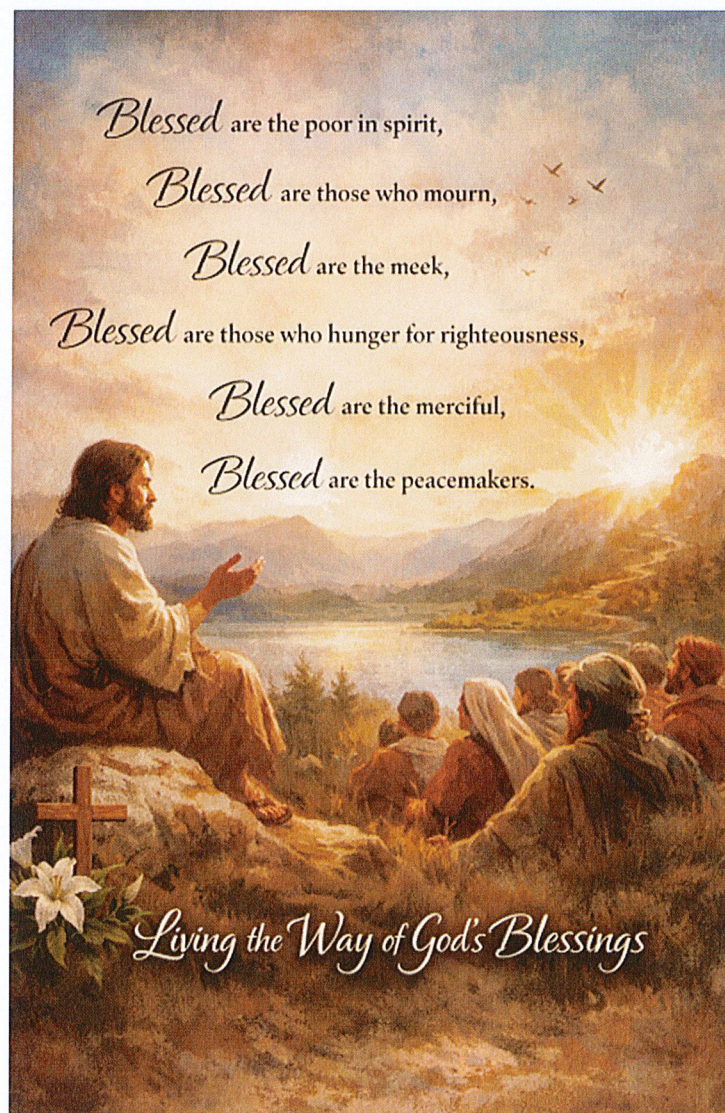
Even when others are unkind, God sees your faithfulness. Keep your eyes on heaven, and God will be there to uphold you no matter what comes.

Prayer:

God of mercy and love, Thank You for the blessings You pour into our lives, even though there are times when we don't always feel them, or notice them, or even recognize them as blessings. Help us to be humble and trust in You. Comfort us in our sorrows and teach us to be gentle and patient in all we do. Fill us with Your goodness and guide our hearts to what is right. Teach us to show mercy and work for peace wherever we are on our journey. Strengthen us when we are in trying times and remind us that You are always with us through it all. May we rest in the knowledge that we are blessed and held in Your care for all of our days. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude

**+“This Is Amazing Grace”

#21

** Call to Worship

Lector: God calls us to live our lives with integrity and justice.

Congregation: We come today, knowing we are still learning how to live that call.

Lector: God meets us where we are vulnerable and in need.

Congregation: We come just as we are, trusting that God is already here.

Lector: We do not gather today to earn God’s blessing.

Congregation: We gather because we are already blessed.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

God of mercy and grace, we come here today with our hearts open to living a life close to God. Be with us on our journey of questions and of hope. Guide us in ways that lead us to love and compassion. Hold us in Your grace and guide us as we worship together. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

**° Hymn: “Seek Ye First”

#42

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: “Doxology”

** Prayer of Dedication

#625

° Hymn: “Reach Out and Touch”

#314

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 15

Matthew 5:1-12

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Already Blessed”

**+“Same Power”

#3

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.

Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry – February 11th @ 7:30 - ZOOM
- Women's Ministry – February 25th @ 7:30 PM – **In Person**

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee Meeting – February 2nd @ 1:00 PM
- Personnel Committee Meeting – February 2nd @ 3:45 PM
- Consistory Meeting – February 9th @ 6:00 PM
- Staff Meeting – February 16th @ 4:30 PM
- Worship & Music – February 23rd @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – February 23rd @ 6:00 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 – Fay Emlet

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Anita Kincaid & Joleen Fennell

Psalm 15

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

righteous
 slander
 friend
 heart
 hill

integrity
 speaks
 abide
 truth
 tent

despised
 shaken
 bribe
 dwell

honours
 tongue
 money
 holy

Matthew 5

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

BLESSED

COMMANDMENTS

FATHER

FULFIL

GLORIFY

HEAVEN

HUNGER

KINGDOM

LIGHT

MEEK

MERCIFUL

MOURN

PEACEMAKERS

PERFECT

PERSECUTED

POOR

PURE

REJOICE

SHINE

THIRST

WORLD