

Grace Devotion

Week of March 1, 2026

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that

person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You^[c] must be born from above.’^[d] ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. (*John 3:1-17 NRSVUE*)

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Happy March!



Seeing beyond what we already know  
*Nicodemus*

Next week we spring forward and enjoy Daylight Saving Time—the sun staying later in the day and bringing light to the darkness. The week during our Lenten journey, we take time to pause and see beyond what we already know. Nicodemus comes to Jesus with knowledge and sincere questions. Yet, Jesus invites him into a deeper vision that is shaped, not by certainty, but by Spirit. Lent reminds us that faith isn’t about having everything figured out and knowing that is to be known. Lent is about being open to God doing something new. Sometimes learning

means letting go of what we think we already understand and being open to discovering something new.

My friends, during this Lenten journey, where do you feel most comfortable in your own faith and where do you think God is inviting you to grow? How might you listen to this invitation and grow in ways you didn't know were possible? Sometimes God calls us to step beyond what feels safe, to loosen our grip on what we think we already understand, and to trust the Spirit's movement in ways we cannot control or fully explain. Like Nicodemus, we are invited into a vision that stretches us, surprises us, and opens us to new life. Lent reminds us that learning to see clearly is not about having all the answers—it's about being willing to be transformed, one step at a time.

**Prayer:**

God of Mercy, This season of Lent offers us pause, a chance to hear Your voice in the stillness. We spend so much time thinking that we know everything we need to know, when in fact what we know is merely a thimbleful. Open our hearts to Your Spirit, that we might see beyond our assumptions, be curious about what we have yet to understand, and trust the work You are doing in us and through us. Help us take each step with humility, courage, and wonder, ready to be transformed by Your love.

Amen.

**With Grace and Love,**

**Pastor Amy**

March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent

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

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of  
Grace

\*\*+ "No Fear"

#72

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: Come, people of God, and lift your hearts.

**Congregation: We come to see clearly and be transformed.**

Lector: Open our eyes to see beyond what we already know.

**Congregation: God calls us to honesty, mercy and love in all we see.**

Lector: Let us follow Christ, learning to see ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly.

**Congregation: We worship today, with our eyes and hearts open to God.**

\*\* Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

**Gracious and loving God, As we enter this season of Lent, open our eyes to see—to see ourselves honestly, to see our neighbors with compassion, and to see You more clearly. Lent is a time for our reflections and for examining our lives. Let us recognize our own limits and trust in Your sustaining presence. Transform our hearts and help us follow Christ with courage and love. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*\* Lenten Statement of Faith

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

\*\* Offertory Response: "Spirit of the Living God" #247

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

° Hymn: "Amazing Grace" #202

Scripture Reading:  
**John 3:1-17**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Faith the Lets Go"

\*\*+ "In Christ Alone" #33

\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude

\*\* Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

## Announcements

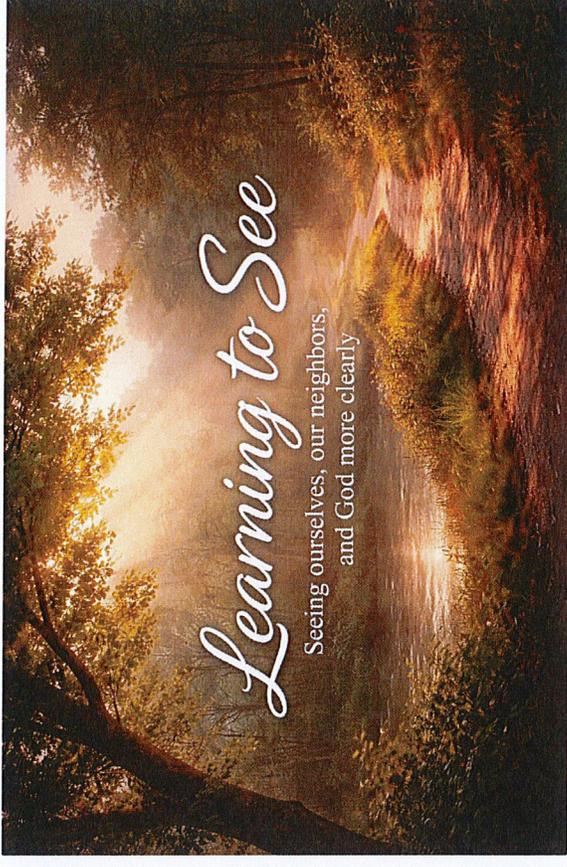
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.

## Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry – March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **Zoom**
- Monthly Movie – March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM
- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers – March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00 AM
- Women's Ministry – March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM - **In Person**

## Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Worship & Music – March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 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 - Linda Bixler

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Becky Boyer

### John 3

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

- |            |              |             |              |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| • RULER    | • SAID       | • BECAUSE   | • YOURSELVES |
| • WITH     | • VERILY     | • HATETH    | • THIS       |
| • EXCEPT   | • TELL       | • COMETH    | • DECREASE   |
| • ENTER    | • THAT       | • DISCIPLES | • EARTH      |
| • KINGDOM  | • WILDERNESS | • MUCH      | • RECEIVETH  |
| • FLESH    | • BELIEVETH  | • INTO      | • TESTIMONY  |
| • BORN     | • HAVE       | • THERE     | • SENT       |
| • WIND     | • WORLD      | • SAME      | • HATH       |
| • ANSWERED | • CONDEMNED  | • RECEIVE   | • WRATH      |

# ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love

