

# Grace Devotion

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**Week of March 31, 2025**

Pastor Fred Young

## **Psalm 23**

*A David Psalm*

GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word, you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.  
Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.  
You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.  
Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of GOD  
for the rest of my life.

## **The Message**

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The familiar words of Psalm 23 offer comfort and reassurance, but these words follow the lament and anguish found in Psalm 22, and it's first words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The same words which Jesus cried out from the cross. Divine goodness and love follow, Jesus, the early disciples and all God's sheep.



Psalms 23 is rooted in real-life circumstances, even for the modern day believer. It prompts us to face our enemies and life's trials and tribulations head on, rather than avoiding them. God's goodness and mercy never simply follow at a distance, and certainly they do not maintain some kind of holding pattern until we breathe our last breath. Instead, God's goodness and mercy pursue us, actively seeking to engage us and refresh our lives, no matter what!

The shepherd's voice is one of promise, protection, sustenance, and care. In the midst of social distancing, what does your Shepherd's voice sound like to you? What does your shepherd's care look like? What promise does it speak? What is the Shepherd calling you to do? Even from our isolation we continue to be called to join the great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, gathered before the Lamb of God. What role will you play in offering your praises?

### **PRAYER**

You watch over your creation, a shepherd with whom all living things are safe.

You know us all and keep us wherever we move.

O God, do this, we ask you, all the days of our lives:

May we never want and may we enter your rest and know your peace,  
today and every day of our lives. Amen.

**March 30, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes  
Prelude

**\*\*Song: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”** #44

**\*\* Call to Worship**

Lector: We will in a world which is often viewed in absolutes.

**Congregation: We have become so accustomed to seeing one version...one understanding.**

Lector: Christ calls us to see situations from different perspectives.

**Congregation: To embrace the nuances, to listen deeply, and to act with compassion.**

Lector: Today, and every day, let us open our hearts to the fullness of God’s love.

**Congregation: May we see with new eyes, to love with deeper understanding, and to live with grace.**

**\*\* Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)**  
**Compassionate and Loving God, Help us pause and reflect in our lives, striving to see situations with new eyes and open hearts. Let us recognize that our own understanding is but a small part of the whole story. Be with us in our learning and struggles, guiding us to see from the balcony of life, not always lost in the weeds. Amen**

**\*\* Hymn: “There Is a Redeemer”** #206

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others/Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

**\*\* Doxology**

**\*\* Prayer of Dedication** #625

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

**Hymn: “Softly and Tenderly”** #326

**\*\* Statement of Faith**

Scripture Readings:

Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “When the Lost Are Found”

**\*\*Song: “Do Something”** #19

**\*\* Final Blessing**

**\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”  
Postlude

**\*On the screen**      **\*\* Please stand, if you are able.**

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## Announcements

Today's worship featuring:

- Reject Racism
- Fight for the Powerless
- An offering for the Deacon's Fund will be taken during the month of April. Please look for the house inside the chancel rail. Thank you for your consideration

## Upcoming Events

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

Maundy Thursday: 7PM at Trinity, Gettysburg  
Good Friday: 7PM at Grace, Hanover,  
Easter Sunday: 6:30AM Sunrise at Straban Township  
REC Park, Gettysburg  
9AM – Trinity, Gettysburg  
11AM – Grace, Hanover

## Financial Information

General pledge: For Month of March 23, 2025 - \$4,656.00

*General pledge: For Month of March 2024 - \$6,420.00*

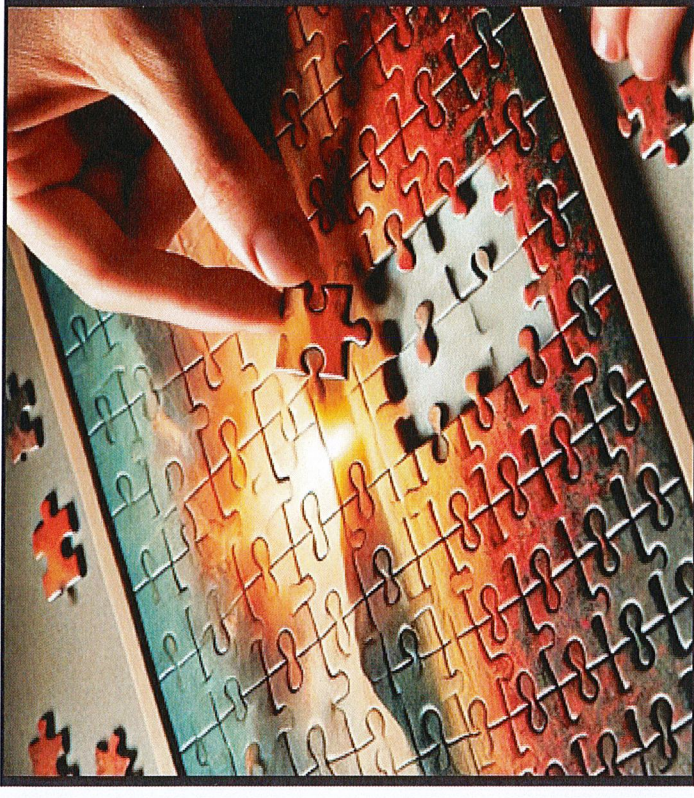
YTD income: \$22,348.00

YTD expenses: \$22,039.88

YTD deficit: \$ +308.12

## Up Coming Meetings

- Finance Committee Meeting – March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30AM
- Consistory Meeting – April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Personnel Committee Meeting – April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:45PM
- Employee Meeting – April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 PM
- Worship & Music Committee Meeting – April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

**Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:**

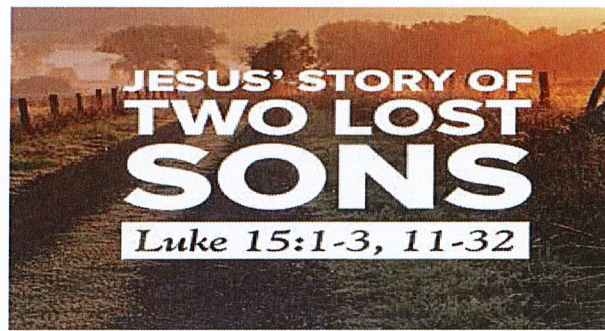
Associate Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Jenn Weaver & Susan Dienes





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 M I K Q Y R J V N P B S B S A T V W K C N  
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 P I N R A F F C A K A T Q B H R J Y R D I  
 J K G K Y M Y E T I N V B W B T G L D P J  
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| • SAYING    | • BEFORE  | • SAID    | • SAFE      |
| • PARABLE   | • MAKE    | • DIVIDED | • INTREATED |
| • THAT      | • NECK    | • THERE   | • MIGHT     |
| • REJOICING | • AGAINST | • AROSE   | • HARLOTS   |
| • HOME      | • RING    | • WENT    | • HAVE      |
| • HEAVEN    | • MERRY   | • GAVE    | • BROTHER   |
| • LOSE      | • THEY    |           |             |
| • FOUND     | • FIELD   |           |             |



## PLEASE USE THE WORDS FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE TO FILL IN THE BLANKS

- And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my \_\_\_\_\_'s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
- I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and \_\_\_\_\_ thee,
- And am no more worthy to be called thy son: \_\_\_\_\_ me as one of thy hired servants.
- And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his \_\_\_\_\_, and kissed him.
- And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned \_\_\_\_\_ heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.
- But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a \_\_\_\_\_ on his hand, and shoes on his feet:
- And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be \_\_\_\_\_:
- For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And \_\_\_\_\_ began to be merry.
- Now his elder son was in the \_\_\_\_\_: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.
- And he called one of the \_\_\_\_\_, and asked what these things meant.
- And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him \_\_\_\_\_ and sound.
- And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I \_\_\_\_\_ make merry with my friends:
- But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with \_\_\_\_\_, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
- And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I \_\_\_\_\_ is thine.
- It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy \_\_\_\_\_ was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.
- Then drew near unto him all the \_\_\_\_\_ and sinners for to hear him.
- And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, \_\_\_\_\_, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.
- And he spake this \_\_\_\_\_ unto them, saying,
- What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after \_\_\_\_\_ which is lost, until he find it?
- And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, \_\_\_\_\_.
- And when he cometh \_\_\_\_\_, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.
- I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in \_\_\_\_\_ over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.
- Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she \_\_\_\_\_ one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?
- And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have \_\_\_\_\_ the piece which I had lost.
- Likewise, I say \_\_\_\_\_ you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.
- And he \_\_\_\_\_, A certain man had two sons:
- And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he \_\_\_\_\_ unto them his living.
- And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and \_\_\_\_\_ wasted his substance with riotous living.
- And when he had spent all, there \_\_\_\_\_ a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.
- And he \_\_\_\_\_ and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
- And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man \_\_\_\_\_ unto him.