

Grace Devotion

Week of April 13, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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A word from the wise old man... *Jacob the Baker*

“Jacob!” a voice demanded through the din of the bakery. “When will the Messiah come?”

Jacob turned from the dough bench and found the man behind the question.

“You know,” said Jacob, “there is an old story that, if we were to treat every person we met as if they were the Messiah, then it wouldn’t make any difference if they weren’t.” And, while Jacob spoke, he began to wander in his own thoughts:

“If God makes us by filling us with His holy breath, then God has whispered into each of us. So, each time we exhale, we are releasing God’s breath, the message of God’s being. That means we are all messengers from the Source, and maybe, if we treated every person we met as if they were a messenger, we would get the message!”

These thoughts calmed Jacob, but the man who asked the question had grown impatient.

“Jacob, do you sincerely think we are capable of treating everyone as if they were the Messiah?”

“I don’t know,” said Jacob. The questioner seemed to enjoy the idea of this.

“You don’t know?”

“My friend,” said Jacob, meaning it with his voice, “The furthest a wise person can travel is to the border of their ignorance. The furthest a wise one can see is to the beginning of their blindness.”

The man threw up his arms, clearly disgusted with Jacob’s answers. “I was told you were a holy man, a prophet, a teacher, but, instead, you tell me that you don’t know, that you are ignorant, and that you are blind.”

Jacob patiently nodded through the negative description.

“Well,” the scoffer continued, “What should I see in you?”

“A man,” said Jacob, speaking slowly, “And, in reflection, you might find I look a great deal like you.”

Noah BenShea

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We all possess the power to express our uniqueness, our compassion, and our ability to get life wrong in many ways. But as a child of God, we are also given the glorious gift of unconditional grace. Our lives are often measured by how our faith blossoms and bears fruit, keeping in mind that even the prickly pear has a sweet and juicy center.

Christ’s words remind us that such action requires letting go of our security. Such justice involves us going beyond our own self-interest for us to promote the well-being of others. But for this to happen we must ask, where do we need to die? What do we need to lose to be faithful? What do we in life possess, that continues to tighten its grip, cutting us off from recognizing we are never alone, but are loved unconditionally by the Messiah who can be seen all around us?

PRAYER: God of second chances and new beginnings, open our eyes to see you around us and open our hearts so that we can understand what your presence truly means to us. Amen.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred

April 13, 2025

10AM

Palm Sunday

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Gathering Music *"The Palms"* --Faure/Smith

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude "Forty Days of Lent" --Childers

Brody Rummel

**Song: *"I Can Only Imagine"* #46

*Luke 22:14-23:56 (Responsively)

** Hymn: *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"* #173

**Prayer

As crowds of people welcomed Jesus when he rode into
Jerusalem, acclaiming him as their ruler, so we welcome
you, Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Above all human powers
and dominions, you lay rightful claim to our praise and
love. Therefore, we are here to worship and praise you!
We pray that we, with all people, might do your will on
earth. Amen.

**Passing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Call to Repentance

Prayer of Reflection and Growth

O God, we are like the people of Jerusalem so long ago.

**We are hungry for a hero. We crave some glimpse
of greatness. We are starving for the spectacular.**

We are gathered here like those who watched the Passion-
Parade in Jerusalem, stretching our necks to catch a glimpse
of our Messiah.

**As we wait here for the Savior to come let us not be
disappointed when the special one appears even**

though we are certain to be surprised; and give us
courage to follow where one on the donkey might
lead us. Amen.

Moment for Silent Prayer

The scriptures proclaim that God's love goes on forever,
through all the tragic story of human wrong and misery. Be
assured that, as Jesus forgave his killers from the cross, so
God forgives us.

Thanks be to God!

Celebration of our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

** Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, as Hosannas fade to cries of despair,
may these gifts be used for peacemaking that settles strife
and justice-seeking that creates all good hope. Amen.**

Special Music: *"Ride Through Jerusalem"* --Bedford

Brody Rummel

Scripture Readings:

* Psalm 118:(Responsively)

Time for the Young at Heart

Sermon: *"Wavering Faith"*

**Hymn: *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"* #174

Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

**Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Song: *"Open the Eyes of my Heart"* #6

** Final Blessing

"A Choral Benediction" (circle around sanctuary)

**Postlude *"Go to Dark Gethsemane"* arr. Graham

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

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

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.

Financial Information

General pledge for April 2025: \$1,855.00

General pledge for April 2024 \$2,015.00

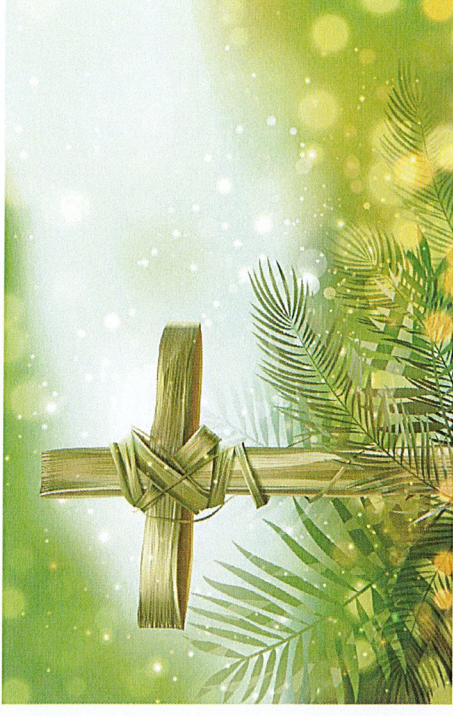
YTD income: \$50,298.75

YTD expenses: \$68,224.67

YTD deficit: \$17,925.92

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory – April 14th @ 6PM
- Personnel Committee Meeting – April 23rd @ 3:45PM
- Employee Meeting – April 28th @ 4:30PM
- Worship and Music – April 28th @ 6:30PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

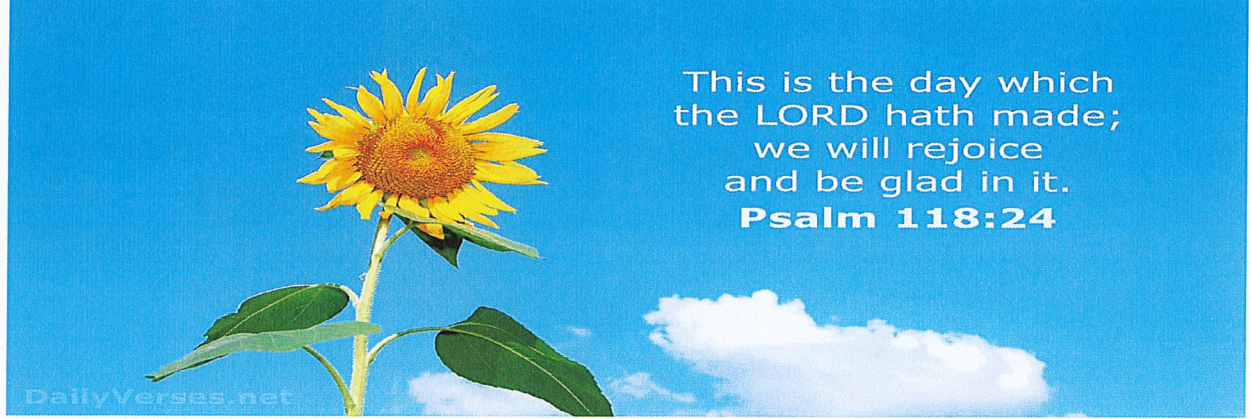
Today's worship leaders:

Fred Young - Pastor

Amy Fawks – Associate Pastor

Scott Fredericks – Organist

Joleen Fennel & Jenn Weaver – Head Usher



Psalm 118

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

GOOD
 MERCY
 AARON
 ENDURETH
 CALLED
 UNTO
 THEM
 CONFIDENCE

THAN
 NATIONS
 WILL
 FIRE
 FALL
 SALVATION
 TABERNACLES

EXALTED
 WORKS
 SORE
 GATES
 RIGHTEOUS
 HEARD
 CORNER

EYES
 HATH
 PROSPERITY
 HAVE
 EVEN
 THEE
 THANKS

PALM SUNDAY

THE KING HAS COME! LUKE 19:28-40

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

Palm Leaves

Disciples

Priests

Cloaks

Palm Sunday

Jerusalem

Temples

Crowds

Holy City

Parables

Riding

Donkey