

Grace Devotion

Week of April 26, 2026

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

¹ *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]*

³ *he restores my soul.^[b]
He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;*

*your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord
my whole life long.^[g]*

(Psalm 23 NRSVUE)



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Beloved,

The image of the shepherd is a comforting one—an image of peace. In the time of the psalmist, shepherds lived closely with their sheep. They didn't drive them from behind. They walked before them, leading the way. The shepherds knew each and every sheep. They watched over them and stayed with them all day and night. When danger came, the shepherds did not run away. They stayed. This is the image that we are given for God. "The Lord is my shepherd." Knowing this about shepherds, God is not distant or absent. God is near and present.

We are invited to picture these green pastures and still waters, but this familiar psalm holds us honestly in the valleys. The path is not always easy. There are days that are filled with weariness and uncertainties. Let's be honest, there are also several days of our lives that are filled with fears. Yet, the promise remains: the Shepherd is with us. The Lord as our shepherd guides us when we are anxious and restores us when we are worn down. The Lord as our shepherd stays with us, especially when the nights are long. Even when we cannot see the way ahead, we are not walking the journey alone. Even when our strength fails us, we are still lead by the One who calls us by name.

Today, wherever you find yourself, rest in this truth: you are held in the care of the shepherd who does not leave you.

**Prayer:**

Loving Shepherd, Thank You for walking with us through every season of our lives. When we are tired, help restore us. When we are afraid, stay close so that we may feel Your nearness. Help us to hear and trust Your voice and to follow wherever You lead. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

April 26, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

#625

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

\*\*° Hymn: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #462

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: The Lord is our Shepherd; we shall not want

**Congregation: In God, we find rest and renewal.**

Lector: Jesus calls each of us by name and leads us to life,

**Congregation: We listen for His voice and follow.**

Lector: Through every joy and every valley, God is with us.

**Congregation: We are not alone.**

Lector: Today, let us give thanks for the Shepherd who leads us.

**Congregation: We give thanks for the gift of abundant life.**

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

**Loving God, as we worship together today, we thank You for Your presence. As we walk through the valleys of our lives and sing praises of joy, we know that we do not walk alone. Thank You for Your steady presence, guiding us and holding us through it all. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*\*+“May the Peoples Praise You”

#50

Celebration of Our Gifts

\*\* Offertory Response: “Doxology”

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

\*\*New Creed (*responsive*)

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Lord’s Prayer

\*\*° Hymn: “He Leadeth Me” #461

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Scripture Reading:

**Psalm 23**

**John 10:1-10**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Where We Are Known”

\*\*+“Greater”

#43

\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

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

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

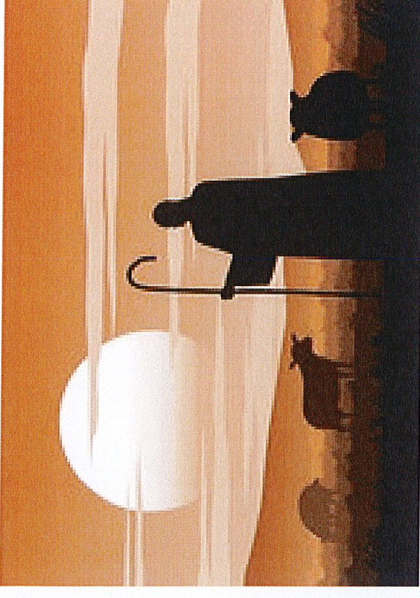
## Announcements

- Contact the church office or Leslie Grote for more information about our new widower's group that will meet monthly.
- Consider joining the group that meets every Tuesday at 1pm. Enjoy games and fellowship in the Gathering Place.
- Thanks to the praise band for today's live contemporary music
- The month of May is a special month at Grace UCC – INVITE – A - FRIEND MONTH! Your invitation could be the first step in someone else's journey of hope, love, and connection.
- Don't forget to order your Mother's Day flowers. We will be taking orders until Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Monthly Movie May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM
- Second Saturday Shares May 9<sup>th</sup> Time to be announced
- Bible Study and Movie May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 PM
- Women's Ministry – ZOOM May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM
- Mark your calendars for the Grace Parking Lot Yard Sale on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details to come
- Women's Ministry – In Person - May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

## Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Meetings

- Worship & Music – April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Consistory Meeting – May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Staff Meeting – May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30



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 – Chris O'Donnell

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Craig Bixler & Jenn Weaver

# Psalm 23 Word Search

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

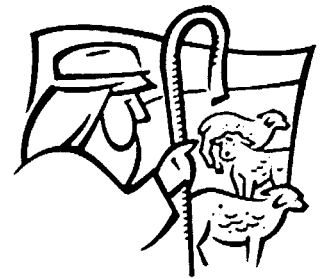
ANOINT  
BANQUET  
DAVID  
ENEMIES  
FEAR  
FOREVER  
GOODNESS  
GRASS  
GUIDE



HOUSE  
KING  
LEADS  
OVERFLOWS  
PATH  
PROTECT  
PSALM  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERD

# The Shepherd's Voice

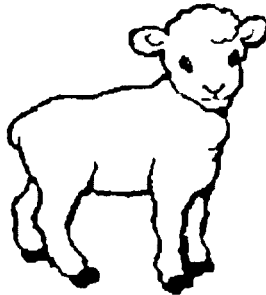
When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV)

*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

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



|       |          |       |          |        |
|-------|----------|-------|----------|--------|
| LIFE  | LEADS    | NAME  | PEN      | VOICE  |
| KNOW  | STRANGER | THIEF | LISTEN   | FOLLOW |
| SHEEP | ROBBER   | GATE  | SHEPHERD | SAVED  |