

Grace Devotion

Week of April 6, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

For this week, I thought it might be nice for you to receive the devotions we get via email written by our Penn Central Conference Staff. This particular message is from our Conference Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call.

Blessings! Pastor Fred

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Message to the Conference



Greetings fellow members of Penn Central Conference,

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;

(2 Corinthians 5:16a NRSV)

The lectionary passage for the fourth Sunday in Lent is written to the fractious church in Corinth where there was argumentation, tension, and mistrust. As Paul writes to soothe the distrust of the community toward himself, he also shares eloquent truths about God and Christ. Paul is aware of how easy it is for us in the church to get hung up on each other “from a human point of view” (literally “according to the flesh”). After all, this is how we encounter one another - as human beings, mortal and fleshly. Yet in this new life in Christ Paul urges us to see one another in a different way, in a new way, befitting our status as people in Christ. After all, if we are in Christ, there is a new creation and everything has become new!

Really? I don’t feel new. Not lately. I sense that my life, according to the flesh, is often weak, tired, in pain, and anxious. So what is Paul talking about when he says that all things become new? Is it possible that his reference to the new creation within us is the new spiritual self that lives flying toward God and Christ as its nesting place? Paul’s words tempt me to think it all happens at once, this new creation. But for me my new creation in Christ has been an ongoing process, not something I experienced all at once

at Confirmation, singing in youth choir, or graduating from seminary. It is now, here, still happening, still blooming. And Paul's reference to reconciliation is the key.

To live into being this new creation I must embrace – daily - that God in Christ has reconciled the world to himself (v.19) and does not count my trespasses against me. Instead, as a forgiven soul, I have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation as an ambassador of Christ. Not only to call others to reconciliation with God, but to allow my own reconciliation with God to influence my choices, my tone, my words, and my decisions every day. Which brings us back to the first line of the passage as quoted above: "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view."

We are called to see one another as in Christ and therefore as ones who are also engaged in becoming a new creation. This is true even with other Christians with whom we disagree. This is extraordinarily difficult. We do enjoy, after all, judging for ourselves who is in Christ and who is not, even if we are all calling ourselves Christian. How did we slip so easily into regarding one another from a human point of view? WE are called to something higher, something more difficult.

Seeing one another as in Christ means trusting that Christ is at work in their lives in ways we will never know. That takes practice and diligence. And in these days, what better time to consider our own reconciliation with God and how it might help us see one another differently?

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference

Joys and Concerns Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Westminster Chimes

Celebration of Our Gifts

#29

****Song: “May the Peoples Praise You” #50**

****Song: “May the Peoples Praise You”**

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Hymn: “Be Still My Soul”

#347

****Statement of Faith**

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 43:15-21

John 12:1-8

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “A Generous Pour”

**Final Blessing

**** Hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #185**

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

Announcements

Today's worship featuring:

- Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources
- Embrace Diversity

Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity UCC Gettysburg
led by Pastors Fred and Amy at 7pm

Good Friday Service at Grace UCC led by Pastors Fred
and Amy at 7pm

Easter Sunday JOINT Sunrise Service at 6:30AM
(Straban Township REC Park, behind the Tractor Supply
Store on Route 30, Gettysburg)
9AM Worship/communion at Trinity led by Pastor Fred
11AM Worship/communion at Grace UCC led by Pastors
Fred and Amy

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 the month of March \$7,475.00

General pledge: For the month of March 2024 \$8,180.00

YTD income: \$28,639.56

YTD expenses: \$25,268.68

YTD deficit: +\$3,370.88



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 - Jenn Weaver

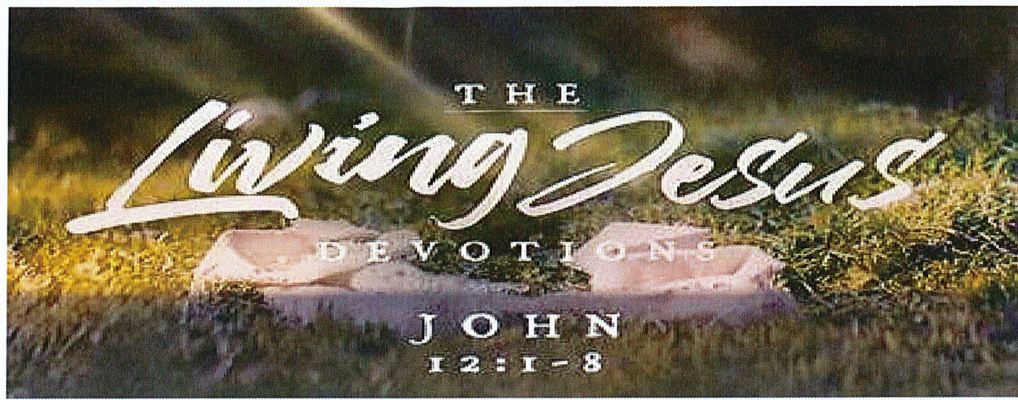
Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Joleen Fennell & Jenn Weaver

“DO NOT REMEMBER THE
FORMER THINGS, NOR
CONSIDER THE THINGS OF OLD.
BEHOLD, I WILL DO A NEW
THING, NOW IT SHALL SPRING
FORTH; SHALL YOU NOT KNOW
IT? I WILL EVEN MAKE A ROAD
IN THE WILDERNESS AND
RIVERS IN THE DESERT.
ISAIAH 43:18-19

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

- FORMED
- BURNED
- ISRAEL
- GIVE
- WITH
- SOUTH
- THAT
- HAVE
- FORMER
- SERVANT
- BESIDE
- THEREFORE
- BEFORE
- YOUR
- CREATOR
- WHICH
- RISE
- THINGS
- WILDERNESS
- PEOPLE
- SHEW
- THOU
- BROUGHT
- CANE
- BLOTTETH
- TOGETHER
- SINNED
- REPROACHES



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

Bethany	Expensive	Grace	Jerusalem	Jesus	Judas	Lazarus
Love	Martha	Mary	Nard	Passover	Poor	Worship