

Grace Devotion

Week of May 11, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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The Gospel of John reminds us once again of how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. This text is as much about us as leaders, as it is about Christ as the shepherd. Now, more than ever, we are reminded that who the church strives to become cannot be separated from who Jesus is. All conversations regarding church identity need to begin with an understanding of Christ's life as its starting point. All members of a congregation should be recognized as pastors. When this title is reserved for clergy alone, Jesus' rich pastoral imagery for the community of all believers is lost.

The 23rd Psalm is one of the most popular prayers in the world. Most of us recognize the familiar words but what we don't often appreciate is the Psalm's value as a petition, because it doesn't fit the traditional model of what we've been taught a prayer should be. Listen to the psalmist's words from The Message translation. *Will you pray with me:*

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

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

We believe to pray means to ask God to do something for us or another. Psalm 23 is the recognition that everything we need has already been done; the writer of the Psalm is merely affirming that fact. Jesus never asked God to do anything to heal those he laid his hands on. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus wasn't asking for anything; he was saying that he would do whatever was in God's heart.

What does it mean for the church to live according to Jesus' model of community envisioned in John's Gospel? What does a church who sees itself as Jesus' sheep look like? Who are some of our modern-day shepherds, guarding and guiding and leading us? In our time of transition, Grace has been given a gift to figure out the answers to these questions and much more. What role will you play in shepherding our church into a new mission and ministry?

PRAYER: God of Light and Love, inspire each of us to be a shepherd to all your children and lost sheep. Amen.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



May 11, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

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Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude

** Song: "May the Peoples Praise You" #50

** Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb who was slain, lives!

**Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and wisdom
and glory and blessing!**

Myriads of the faithful, freed and called to be a nation of
priests of God, sing praise!

Blessing and honor, be unto God. Amen!

** Hymn: "Hail the Day that sees Him Rise" #233

**Prayer

Draw us together, Eternal One, from paths of aimless
wandering. Lead us toward the community you intend.

**Draw the fragments of our lives together into some
meaningful whole. Help us feel the hunger and
thirst of others then lead your church to make a
caring response. May your love fill us and overflow
into other lives. Amen.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Revolutionary God, in raising Jesus Christy you loosed great

energy, creating new people who shared common life,
witness, prayer, and belongings.

**Yet we confess that we are afraid to risk selves and
good in creating your new world. God, forgive us.**
Blow through us with the Spirit of your Christ.

**Give us new energy to build community, peace and
justice on earth. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 23

John 10:22-30

Time for the Young at Heart

Sermon: "Lead Us!"

**Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" #461

**Easter Affirmation of Faith

Celebration of our Gifts

** Offertory Response: "Doxology"

** Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, accept these gifts for your mission to heal
creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as
we share them in love for you. Amen.**

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of Elements

**Prayer of Thanksgiving

** Song: "My Lighthouse" #42

** Final Blessing

**Postlude: "A Choral Benediction" (circle around sanctuary)

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

Upcoming Events

- Bible Study Group & Movie, May 14th @ 12:30PM
- Pastor Amy at Trinity, Gettysburg May 11th
- Pastor Fred's Last Sunday, May 25th

Financial Information

General pledge May 2025: \$1,495.00

General pledge May 2024: \$1,475.00

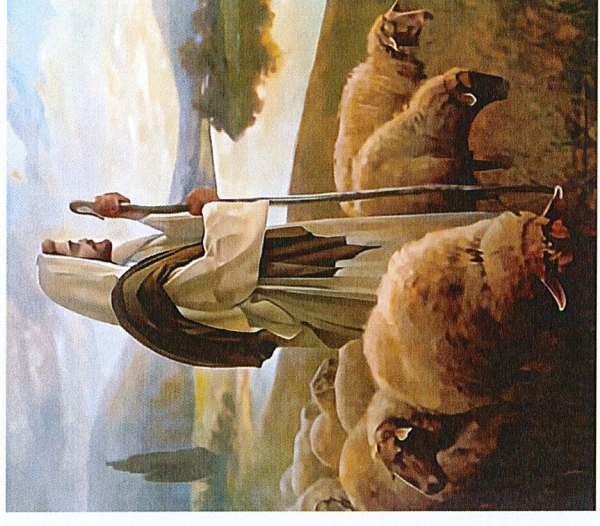
YTD income: \$61,318.46

YTD expenses: \$91,177.88

YTD deficit: \$29,859.42

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – May 12th @ 6:00 PM
- Worship and Music – May - TBA @ 6:30PM
- Employee Meeting – May 19th @ 4:30
- Faith Formation – May 21st @ 6:00 PM
- Committee on Ministry – May 22nd @ 7:00 PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's worship leaders:

Fred Young - Pastor
– Liturgist

Christian Keller – Organist

Anita Kincaid & Craig Bixler – Head Ushers

Psalm 23

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

- WANT
- SOUL
- OVER
- MAKETH
- WITH
- EVER

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not _____.
- He _____ me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- He restoreth my _____: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art _____ me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth _____.
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for _____.



John 10

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

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| • ROBBER | • DESTROY | • HAVE | • BELIEVE | • GODS |
| • SHEPHERD | • LIFE | • THESE | • FOLLOW | • WHOM |
| • CALLETH | • SHEEP | • DEVIL | • ETERNAL | • BELIEVE |
| • THEY | • HIRELING | • WORDS | • ABLE | • THAT |
| • VOICE | • KNOW | • JERUSALEM | • STONES | • HAND |
| • WHICH | • DOWN | • SOLOMON | • WORKS | • ABODE |
| • AGAIN | • FOLD | • LONG | • MAKEST | • TRUE |
| • ROBBERS | • BECAUSE | • FATHER | • THEM | • THERE |
| • ENTER | | | | |