

Grace Devotion

Week of May 18, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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*We cannot all be one, we cannot realize the prayer of Jesus unless we believe that **all** people matter equally to God. To do so requires us to shift our motivation from determining what is good for a narrowly defined “us” toward considering **all** people as part of the “One.” What if we looked at one another and saw all people as valuable, as part of the oneness Jesus desired for the people around him?*

Rev. Martha Spong

Pastor Martha Spong asks us to consider how life would be different if we noticed and embraced each other. Inclusiveness is much easier to talk about than put into action, but being followers of Christ is not supposed to be easy. We are called to be open to the indwelling and transformative presence of Christ. We are tasked to awaken our God-given talents to become a sign of what it means to be a disciple, part of the living church. Grace is rooted in and through Jesus Christ, and we are also a community of believers bound together, ‘United’ by covenant: a bond that has been challenged in this past year of uncertainty, illness, and isolation.

Our faith stretches back over 2000 years, yet we are a church who truly believes, God is Still Speaking! That is why we are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew in our lives and in the world today. It’s why we strive to remain attentive to God’s creative movement around us. We believe worship should feed us as we celebrate, nourishing both head and heart. Christ’s prayer for us, “*That They May Be One*” is more than just a catchy tag line for our church; it should be the focus of our movement, ministry, mission, and hospitality. In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes God known; revealing the divine to humanity so that people might recognize

God and be transformed. I recently acquired a book of quotes from Mr. Rodgers and found this one to be work well with John's Gospel:

*"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like "struggle."
To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly.
the way they are, right here and now."*

Our friendly neighbor reminds us of the constant work of Christianity, how we strive and struggle to follow the path of Jesus. How is your acceptance?

PRAYER

Dear God, you love us unconditionally, provide us with the compassion needed to love and accept our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Blessings!

Pastor Fred



May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude

**Song: "Confidence"

#60

** Call to Worship

Lector: Whether our time here on earth is long or short, we are given this day to love, to serve, and to grow.

Congregation: We are called to love one another in the same way Jesus loves us.

Lector: Let us praise God for all that we have been given in this life—the mountains, the hills, the animals, the people.

Congregation: Let us glorify His name in all the earth.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Loving and Giving God, we come before you today, humbled by the many blessings you have given us. Help us remember to share those blessings with others and to show the love we have for each other to all the world. With grateful hearts, we say Amen

** Hymn: "The Family of God" (2 times)

#282

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: "We Give Thee But Thine Own"
#620 (vs 1)

** Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of Confession

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Hymn: "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love"
#284

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 148

John 13:31-35

Message: "Love Reflected"

** Song: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#44

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"
Postlude

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

Upcoming Events

- Pastor Fred's Last Sunday, May 25th

Financial Information

General pledge: May 1st – 18th 2025: \$2,110.00

General pledge: May 1st – 18th 2024 \$3,515.00

YTD income: \$62,203.46

YTD expenses: \$98,897.97

YTD deficit: \$36,694.51

Upcoming Meetings

- Worship and Music – May – 19th @ 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:

Associate Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Anita Kincaid & Craig Bixler

Prayer Requests



- Sue Caler
- Sue Little – Nancy Bankert's Request
- Mike & Linda Gouker – Nancy Bankert's Request
- Marie Welt – Nancy Bankert's Request
- Tina Hagarman
- Barbara Hitchen with medical concerns
- Mike Mummert
- Brenda Rummel, Ron and Judy Rummel's Sister-In-Law
- Silvia, Martha Channel's friend diagnosed with cancer
- Joanne Smith, Tom Craig's friend
- Gloria Werner
- Irelyn Sprenkle: 11 yrs. Old, diagnosed with Kidney Cancer
- Ronald Klunk, recent diagnosis of cancer
- Harold Hartlaub
- Mary Jane Fuhman
- Nancy Fiscus, Friend of Glendon Ruhlman
- Cherie Haugh, Tom Craigs friend
- Emily Moul
- Darlene Reed, Friend of Nancy Bankert
- Dorothy Smith, Tom Craig's Sister-In-Law
- Rick Boyer
- Scott Martin – Nancy Bankert's Request
- Leone Mussleman
- Rodney Swartz, Rick Boyers Friend with health concerns
- Brenda Warehime, Tom Craigs Friend with health concerns
- Co-Worker of Holly Smith, Dawn and Friend Jo both with Cancer
- The Family of Mildred Hershey
- Larry Rhoten, Tom Craig's friend, dealing with health issues

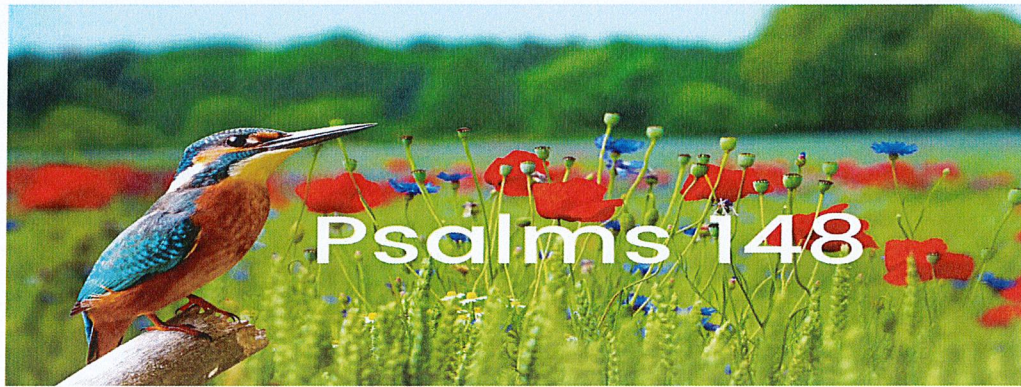
Please remember to help Pastor Fred & Pastor Amy update prayer requests and keep him informed when someone is no longer in need of prayer.

New or changed addition

Leave prayer requests on the Prayer Line or Pastor Fred Young at 717-346-1703. You can also email pastoryoung.tuccgburg@gmail.com. Requests will be added weekly to the bulletin, mailings, and easel in The Gathering Place and daily to the phone line.

~ With everything going on in the world and in our lives, how do we recognize the voice of Jesus—and not all the other noise?

~ Where in your life right now do you need to trust that God is leading you, even if the way isn't clear yet?



HEAVENS
ANGELS
STARS
WATERS
THEM
PASS
DEEPS

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

HAIL
MOUNTAINS
CATTLE
JUDGES
YOUNG
NAME
EXALTETH

Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the _____: praise him in the heights.
Praise ye him, all his _____: praise ye him, all his hosts.
Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye _____ of light.
Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye _____ that be above the heavens.
Let _____ praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.
He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not _____.
Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all _____:
Fire, and _____; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word:
_____, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:
Beasts, and all _____; creeping things, and flying fowl:
Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all _____ of the earth:
Both _____ men, and maidens; old men, and children:
Let them praise the _____ of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.
He also _____ the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

John 13

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

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|------------|-------------|---------------|
| • WORLD | • OUGHT | • SAID |
| • SUPPER | • DONE | • TABLE |
| • GIVEN | • GREATER | • POOR |
| • TOWEL | • THEM | • IMMEDIATELY |
| • WATER | • SCRIPTURE | • GLORIFIED |
| • SIMON | • COME | • SHALL |
| • ANSWERED | • THAT | • WHITHER |
| • THEE | • UNTO | • HAVE |
| • FEET | • ANOTHER | • KNOW |
| • EVERY | • DISCIPLES | • JESUS |
| • KNEW | • PETER | • WILL |
| • GARMENTS | • LYING | • THOU |
| • CALL | • WHEN | |