

Grace Devotion

Week of May 25, 2025

Fred Young

*He said: The Lord is my rock, my fortress,
and my deliverer, my God, my rock,
in whom I take refuge, my shield and
the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold and my refuge,
my savior; you save me from violence.*

2 Samuel 22:2-3

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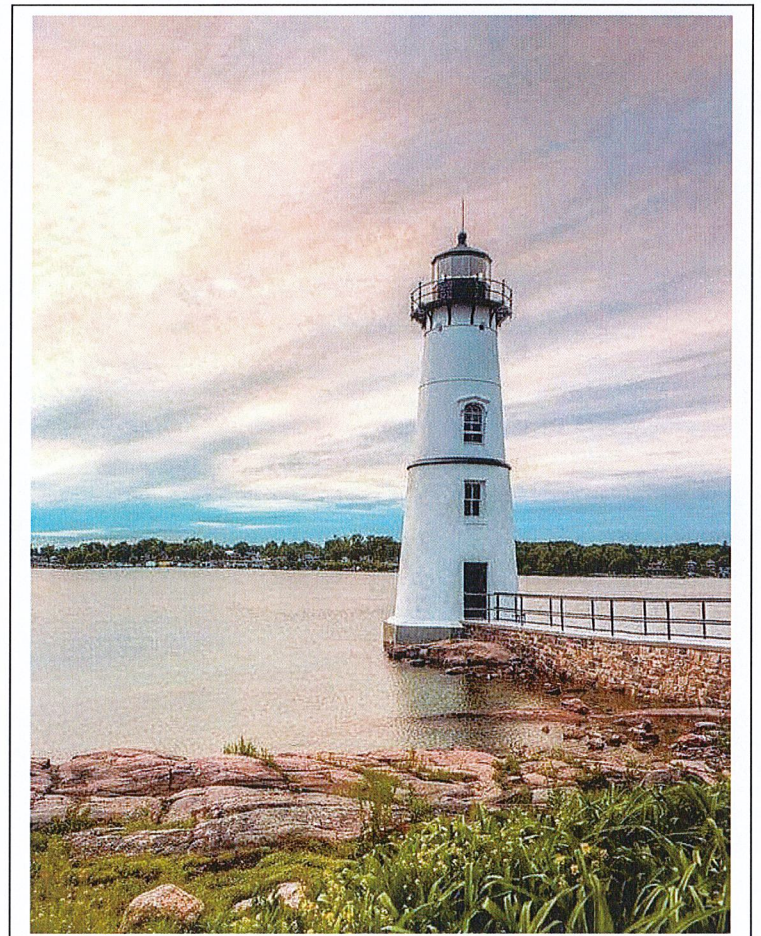
God's love is like an island
In life's ocean vast and wide.
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the restless, rising tide.

God's love is like an anchor
When the angry billows roll.
A mooring in the storms of life,
A stronghold for the soul.

God's love is like a harbor
Where our souls can find sweet rest
From the struggle and the tension
Of life's fast and futile quest.

God's love is like a beacon
Burning bright with faith and prayer.
And through the changing scenes of life
We can find a haven there!

Helen Steiner Rice



We have heard a lot about love this Easter Season. God's love for Jesus, Jesus' love for us, and the love we are to share with each other. We've learned that most of the Gospel of John is spent describing the abiding love of Jesus and how much love we put into our lives when we walk with Christ. We have also heard that love is at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Christ has shared a commandment which exceeds the others before: *"Love your neighbor as Christ has loved you!"* In this poem, Helen Steiner Rice reminds us of what God's love is like, not that we might recognize such love but in hopes that we will emulate that love.

- **In a world where hate is expressed in just as many ways as love, how do you share the love of Christ with another?**

PRAYER

Dear God, You are my anchor in the storms of everyday living.
Keep me afloat and prevent me from drifting away from you. Amen.

It has been my privilege to share these letters with you over the past 15 Months. I wish you all well and know that Grace UCC, Hanover is poised to continue to do great things!

Blessings! Pastor Fred

Helen Steiner Rice, *Daily Bouquets*. Fleming H. Revell. Grand Rapids. 1990.

May 25, 2025

10AM

6th Sunday of Easter

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Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude "He Lives"

**Song: "Greater" (Arrangement) #43

** Call to Worship

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

Let all the people praise the Lord!

** Hymn: "America the Beautiful" #572

**Prayer

O God of the morning and of the evening hours, let your Spirit come upon us today. This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

**Passing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Grace

Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing. Beloved, receive the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Revelation 22:1-5

John 5:1-9

Time for the Young at Heart

Sermon: "Water of Life"

**Hymn: "Eternal Father Strong to Save" #575

**Easter Affirmation of Faith

Celebration of our Gifts

** Offertory Response: "Doxology"

** Prayer of Dedication

All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering, that others too may be blessed. Amen.

**Song: "God Bless the USA" #48

** Final Blessing

"A Choral Benediction" (circle around sanctuary)

**Postlude: "That Easter Day with Joy was Bright" --Harris

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*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

Upcoming Events

- Pastor Fred's Last Sunday, May 25th
- Please join us Sunday, June 8th, for a congregational meeting after the service to vote on the calling of Pastor Amy Fawks as our full-time pastor. We will also have a vote on the Grace By-Laws & Policies updates
- Monthly Movie, June 13th @ 3:00 PM
- June 16th – 20th, VBS @ Trinity in Hanover
- Summer skills swap. We have designed monthly skill swaps for multi generations this summer. Our first skills swap will be held on Thursday, June 26th, 3pm. We will be sharing with each other the games of our childhood. Please join us for games that will range from marbles to gaming systems. We will end our session with a group meal. If you still have your favorite game, bring it along, or just bring your memories of what you played. Listen to others, share what they played and try out something new.

Financial Information

General pledge as of May 25, 2025: \$3,035.00

General pledge as of May 25, 2024: \$4,270.00

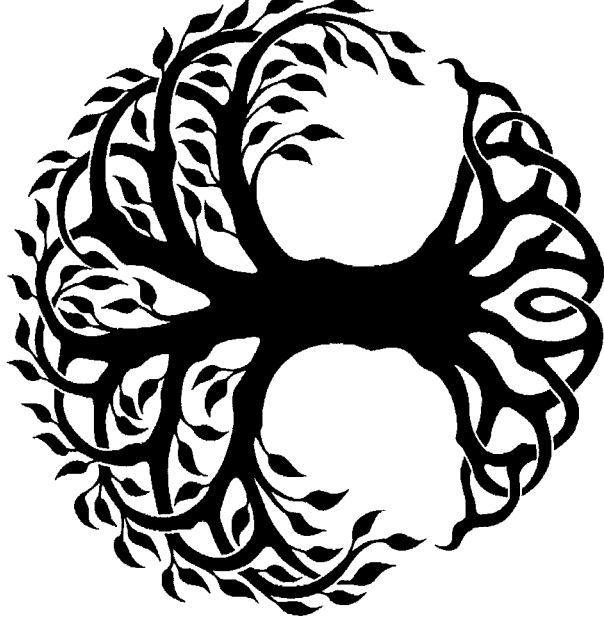
YTD income: \$65,295.46

YTD expenses: \$98,897.97

YTD deficit: \$33,602.51

Upcoming Meetings

- June 8th @ 11:00 AM, Congregational Meeting
- June 9th @ 6:00 PM, Consistory Meeting
- June 11th @ 7:00 PM, VBS Meeting @ Trinity Hanover
- June 23rd @ 4:00 PM, Worship & Music
- June 30th @ 3:00 PM, Staff Meeting



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

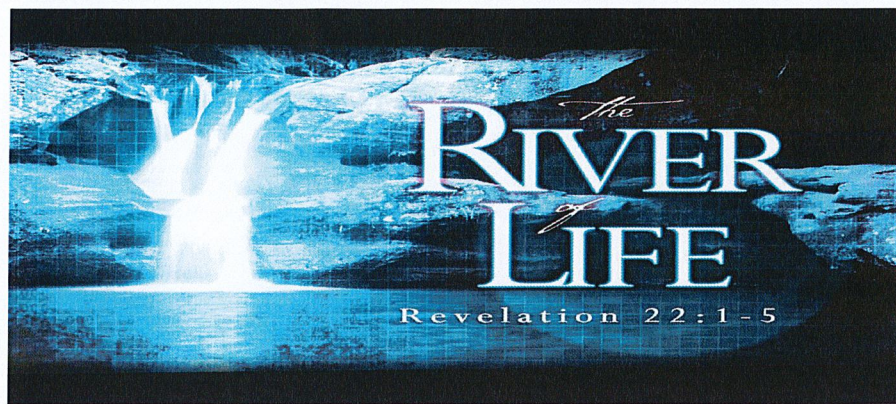
Thank you for today's worship leaders:

Fred Young - Pastor

Amy Fawks – Associate Pastor

Christian Keller – Organist

Anita Kincaid & Joleen Fennell – Head Usher



Revelation 22

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John 5

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