

Grace Devotion

Week of July 5, 2026

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." (*Genesis 24:58 NRSVUE*)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (*Matthew 11:28-30 NRSVUE*)

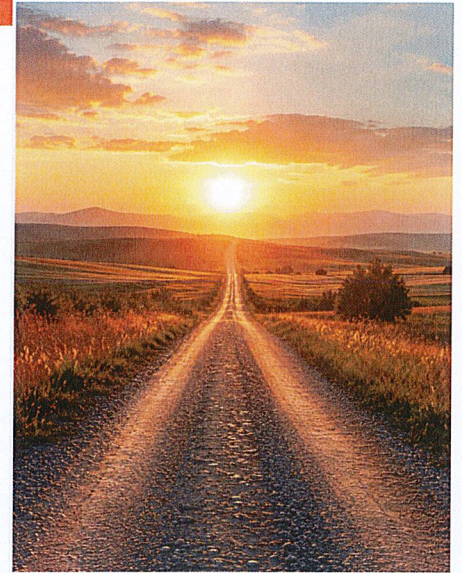
Dear friends,

There is something both exciting and frightening about taking a first step. A child taking their first step doesn't know what will happen next. A student walking into a new classroom doesn't know what the year will bring. A person beginning a new job, moving to a new home, or facing a new chapter in life rarely has all the answers ahead of time. Faith often works the same way.

In Genesis 24, Rebekah is faced with a life-changing question: "Will you go with this man?" Her answer is simple: "I will." It's easy to miss how courageous those three words really are. Rebekah is leaving everything she has ever known. She is leaving family, home, and familiarity. She doesn't know exactly what awaits her. Yet she trusts enough to take the next step. That is often how God works in our lives. God rarely hands us a complete map. Instead, God invites us to trust enough to take the next faithful step. For some of us, that step may be large. For others, it may be very small. It may be making a phone call, extending forgiveness, trying something new, asking for help, or simply getting through another difficult day. Whatever the step may be, God meets us there.

Jesus offers a similar invitation in Matthew's Gospel. He says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Figure everything out first." He doesn't say, "Carry your burdens alone." He simply says, "Come." Like Rebekah, we are invited to respond.

Sometimes the first step of faith is not moving forward into something new. Sometimes it is bringing our worries, fears, grief, or exhaustion to Jesus and allowing ourselves to receive the rest that he offers.



We may not know exactly where God is leading us. We may not have all the answers. But we can trust that the God who calls us is also the God who walks beside us. Faith is not knowing the entire journey. Faith is trusting God enough to take the next step anyway.

Prayer:

Gracious God,

Thank you for walking with us through every season of life. When we are uncertain about the future, help us trust your guidance. When fear keeps us from moving forward, give us courage to take the next step. When we grow weary from carrying heavy burdens, remind us of Jesus' invitation to come and find rest. Help us to follow where you lead, even when we cannot see the whole path ahead. May we trust that your presence goes before us, walks beside us, and surrounds us with your love.

In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Amy". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive script above the name "Amy", which is also in a cursive script.

Pastor Amy

July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
“Changed Along the Way” Sermon Series

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
 Welcome/Announcements

**+“My Lighthouse”

#62

** Call to Worship

Lector: God meets us at the beginning of our journey and stays with us every step of the way.

Congregation: We are called to places we have not seen and called to do things we’ve never done before.

Lector: God invites into new opportunities and change, even when we do not see the clear path ahead.

Congregation: We ask for courage to respond when God asks, “Will you go?”

Lector: When Jesus says, “Come to me...”,

Congregation: We hear the invitation to release our burdens and to trust in God’s care.

Lector: Our faithful God is already ahead of us and also still walking beside us.

Congregation: God is with us in every first step, in every uncertain step, and every faithful step we take.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Loving and faithful God, Thank You for being with us when we don’t have all of the answers. Thank you for calling us by name and for shaping and guiding us along our journeys. Give us courage to take our first steps and the trust to find rest from our burdens in Jesus Christ. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

**° Hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #2

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: “Doxology

#625

** Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

**° Hymn: “Trust and Obey”

#349

**UCC Statement of Faith (responsive)

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 24:58-67

Matthew 11:28-30

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Taking the First Step”

**+“No Fear”

#72

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

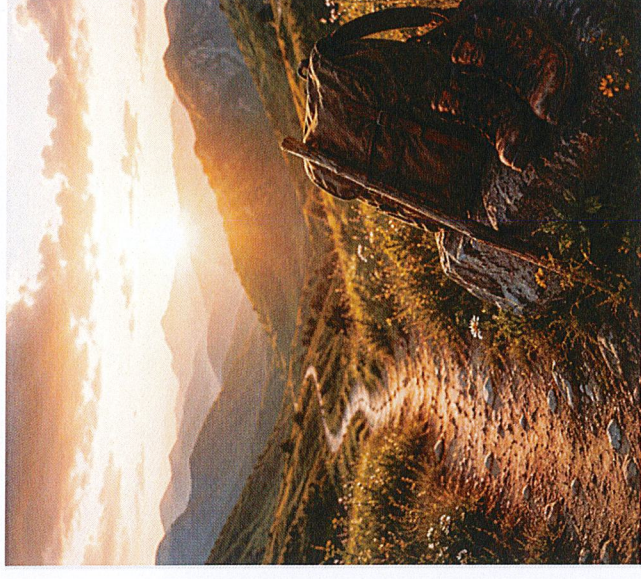
Announcements

- July 5th we will collect the “Strengthen the Church” offering
- Please consider sharing your talents by hosting snacks in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings or acting as Lector. Both sign-up sheets can be found in the Gathering Place on the bulletin board.
- Women’s Ministry – ZOOM – July 8th @ 7:30 PM
- Monthly Movie – July 10th @ 3:00 PM
- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers – July 18th @ 9:00 AM
- Women’s Ministry – In Person – July 22nd @ 7:30 PM

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Meetings

- Pastoral Relations Meeting – July 6th @ 5:30 PM
- Personnel Committee Meeting – July 13th @ 3:45 PM
- Search Committee Meeting – July 15th @ 3:45 PM
- Worship & Music Meeting – July 27th @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation Meeting – July 27th @ 6:00 PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

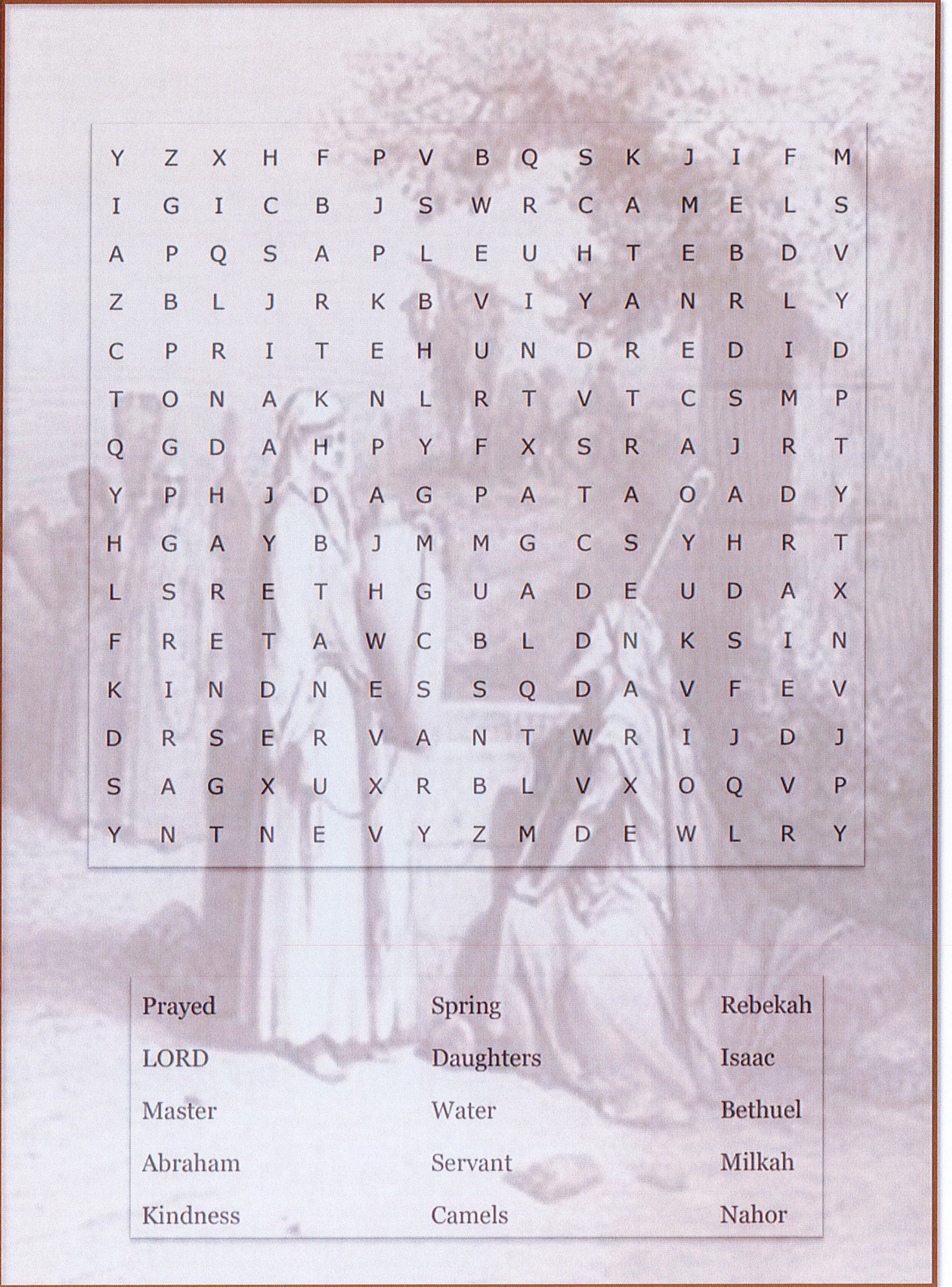
Thank you for today’s Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - Fay Emlet

Guest Pianist – Grace Neilson

Head Usher – Anita Kincaid & Susan Dienes



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

Prayed

Spring

Rebekah

LORD

Daughters

Isaac

Master

Water

Bethuel

Abraham

Servant

Milkah

Kindness

Camels

Nahor

Matthew 11:28-30

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

Burden Labour Light Souls Heart Lowly
Learn Laden Heavy Easy Find Meek
Yoke Take Rest Give Come All