

Grace Devotion

Week of July 6, 2025

¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies^[a] shall flourish like the grass, and it shall be known that the power of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. **Isaiah 66:13-14** (NRSVUE)

This scripture from Isaiah shows a beautiful picture of God's care. We see a mother comforting her child, a city providing safety and peace, and people who are healed and restored. It is a wonderful reminder that God's strength is close, providing warmth and safety for everyone.

This Fourth of July, we often think about what it means to live in a nation that celebrates freedom and strength. But this scripture gives us a different definition of strength. It is a definition not focused on military power, but focused on the strength of comfort and caring for the most vulnerable.

This passage reminds us that God's comfort is meant not just for each one of us, but for the us, plural, in community. In times when the world feels fractured, when our nation, our communities, and even our hearts feel divided, God promises to pull us close and make each of us whole again.

We crave unity and peace. Isaiah shows us that these are not just the beliefs of a nation, but spiritual beliefs as well. They are gifts from God for all who draw near.

So as you celebrate this week, may you feel the comfort of God's strength and presence. May you carry that comfort into your prayers, and into all of the connections you make with others.

Prayer: God of peace and comfort, help us be the means of sharing Your grace in a world full of division. May we seek strength and also healing. When we feel overwhelmed, may we rest in the comfort You give. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

July 6, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude: God of Our Fathers (Wilson)

** Song: “What an Awesome God” #61

** Call to Worship

Lector: Today we come together, grateful for the chance to gather and worship.

Congregation: We are here, ready to listen and open to God’s presence.

Lector: We all come with hearts ready to be filled—with peace, hope, and purpose.

Congregation: We are reminded of the call to bring peace to the world, and to find strength for the journey.

Lector: So come, just as you are, on this day,

Congregation: Let us worship God who comforts us, sends us, and walks with us every step of the way.

** Hymn: “America the Beautiful” #572

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

God of Mercy, help us to know and cherish the freedoms You have given to each of us—the freedom to love, to forgive, to speak peace, and to walk humbly with You. Teach us to use these freedoms not just for ourselves, but to reach all of Your people, so many who long to hear of Your love and grace. Amen

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord’s Prayer

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer of Confession

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Hymn: “My country Tis of Thee” #571

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 66:10-14

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “The Way of Peace”

** Song: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” (video)

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude: Battle Hymn of the Republic (Keller)

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

Announcements

- The two white roses on the altar are in memory of Joan Leib and Harold Hartlaub
- Any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the By-Laws need to be in Susan Dienes's mailbox by the end of July
- We will be starting to collect supplies for New Hopes Back to School Collection. Please see the Billboard for items most needed and have them ready by the end of July

Upcoming Events

- Our Second Summer skills Swap will be held on Thursday July 24th at 4pm. Craig and Linda Bixler will lead us in making Christmas soup. While the pot simmers we will prepare a dessert from scratch! Between the meal prep and partaking in the delicious food we will pair up seasoned smartphone users with those who aren't as familiar to learn how to navigate.
- Please join us! Share your kitchen skills or learn a new one. Share your technology wisdom or learn about an app you've always wondered about.
- Our third Summer Skills Swap will be held on Tuesday August 19 at 1pm. We will create an art project and then learn how to digitally capture our creation and share with others.
- Monthly Movie will be July 11th @ 3:00 PM
- Calling all Ladies of Grace! Please join us for a Wednesday Night Women's Music Study - We meet for 30-40 minutes. We listen to a contemporary Christian song and then discuss the song. We share our thoughts and feelings about the song along with how it relates to being a Christian woman in today's world. This is open to all women, feel free to invite non-Grace females. First one is July 9th @ 7:30 pm

Financial Information

General pledge for the month of June 2025: \$7,098.00
General pledge for June 2024: \$7,402.25
YTD income: \$80,843.58
YTD expenses: \$121,932.79
YTD deficit: \$41,089.21

Upcoming Meetings

- July 7th @ 3:45PM, Personnel Meeting
- July 9th @ 7:30 PM, Women's Ministry
- July 14th @ 6:00 PM, Consistory Meeting
- July 23rd @ 5:30 PM, Pastoral Relations
- July 23rd @ 7:30 PM, Women's Ministry
- July 28th @ 4:00 PM, Worship & Music
- July 28th @ 5:30 PM, Faith Formation



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - Leonard Bankert

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Joleen Fennell

ISAIAH 66

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 WORKS

Luke 10

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 G A T O L E R A B L E O G S X M U D Z S A H R J B
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