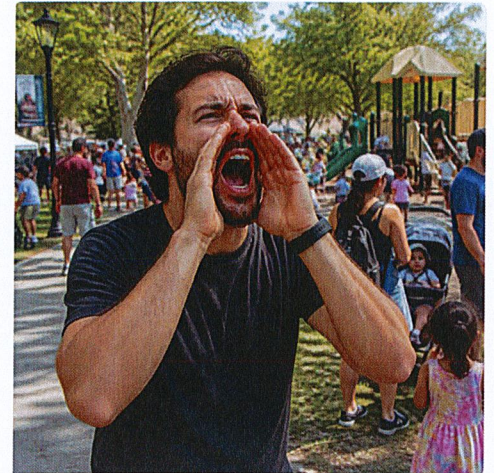


Grace Devotion

Week of August 23, 2026

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, ^[a] the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. (*Matthew 16:13-17 NRSVUE*)



Dear friends,

Sometimes we look at a situation and think we know exactly what we are seeing. We see the challenges we face. We see the things that have changed. We see the things we miss or the things that are difficult. We see this picture of a man and we immediately understand the situation...or do we? Is this man yelling into a crowded area or is he merely calling his children for lunch? Scripture reminds us that God often sees more than we see. In the story of Moses, in this week's lectionary, Pharaoh saw the Israelites as a problem. But God saw a beloved people. Moses's mother looked at the tiny baby in the basket, but God saw someone who would become part of God's plan to lead and save God's people. When Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say I am?” Peter looked again. He saw more than a teacher. He saw the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Faith invites us to look again. It invites us to remember that a single moment rarely tells the whole story. God is still present and working in our lives. God is still holding us in love and grace.

Did you notice the bulletin cover included in this week's mailing? It may look like nothing more than a page of lines. Try holding it on its edge next to one eye and looking across the page. As you slowly tilt it, a hidden message will appear. Sometimes we have to change our perspective before we can see what has been there all along. God's love is often like that—present even when we don't recognize it at first. May God give us eyes to see God's presence, hearts to trust God's promises, and faith to remember that we are never alone.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank You for the gift of revelation and the courage to name the truth when we see it. Just as Peter looked at Jesus and said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” help us to see You clearly in our lives and to speak Your name boldly, even when it's hard. Lord, we know that faith is not something we create on our own—it is a gift from You. Open our hearts and minds to receive Your Spirit, that we may recognize Christ's presence in the ordinary and the extraordinary, in our joys and in our struggles. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts willing to follow where You lead. Thank You for calling us into Your church, a community built on Christ as our foundation. Help us to live faithfully, speaking Your truth with kindness and acting in ways that bring light into the world. May we, like Peter, be bold in our

faith, humble in our service, and always aware that it is Your Spirit guiding us every step of the way. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

With Grace and Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Amy". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive script, and "Amy" is written below it in a similar style.

Pastor Amy

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Look Again—A Journey of Seeing with God’s Eyes

An experiential worship service

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
Welcome/Announcements

Look Again: What Do We Notice?

**+“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

#44

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come carrying our struggles, our questions, and our hopes.

Congregation: God meets us in every season of our lives.

Lector: We come seeking what God is revealing to us.

Congregation: Open our eyes to see with faith.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Loving God, open our eyes to see what we have missed. Open our hearts to recognize Your presence. Guide us as we look again and discover Your grace at work among us. Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Look Again: What Do We See?

Time for the Young at Heart

**o Hymn: “Spirit of the Living God”

#247

Look Again: What Does God See?

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Matthew 16:13-20

Look Again: Who Is God Revealing?

****Responsive Statement of Faith**

Look Again: Do We Know the Whole Story?
“Deck of Cards”

Look Again: How Are We Changed?
Message: “Look Again”

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Look Again: Can We Hear Something New?
“Amazing Grace”

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

**o Hymn: “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

#296

Celebration of Our Gifts

**** Offertory Response: “Give Thanks” Words will be on the screen**

**** Prayer of Dedication**

****+“Soul on Fire”**

#4

**** Final Blessing**

**** “A Choral Benediction”**

Postlude

**** Please stand, if you are able.**

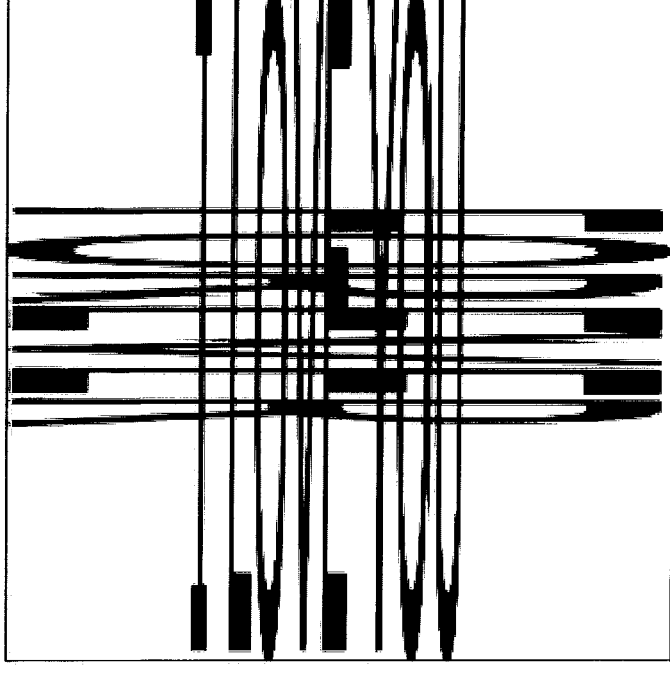
+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- 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.
- **5th Sundays Are Special – August 30th!** Join us for a special outdoor worship service, Continental Breakfast Potluck and our Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases as we prepare for a new school year. Enjoy a morning of worship, fellowship, and community!
- Join us for Blessing of the Pets September 12th @ 1:00 PM
- Confirmation & Sunday School Kick off, September 13th @ 9:00 AM
- Women's Ministry – In Person – August 26th @ 7:30 PM

Upcoming Meetings

- Worship & Music Meeting – August 24th @ 3:30 PM
- Faith Formation Meeting – August 24th @ 5:00 PM
- Finance Committee Meeting – August 25th @ 1:00 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 – Joleen Fennell

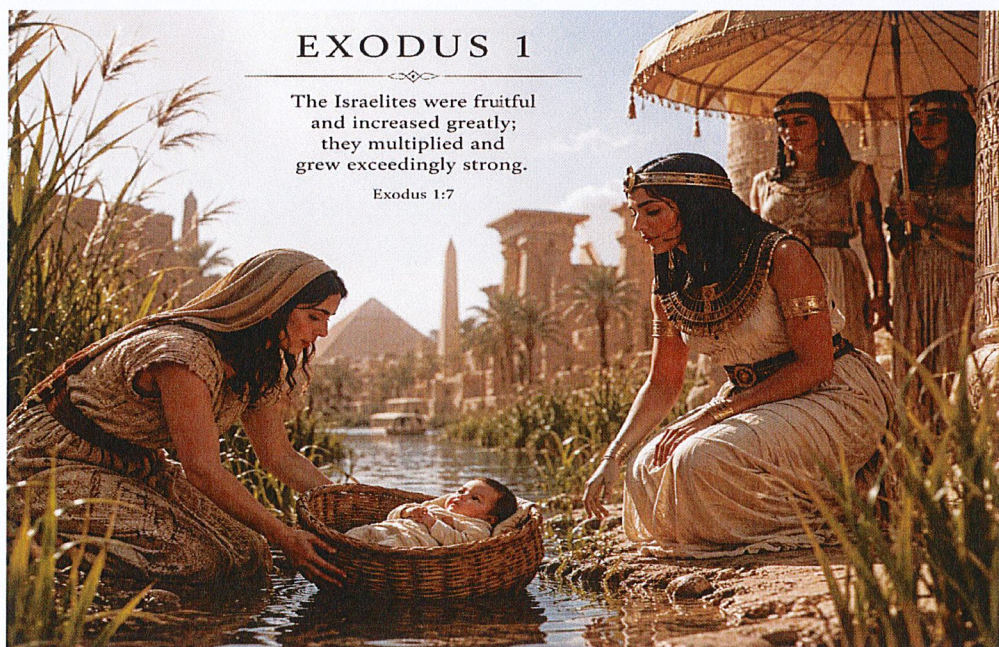
Guest Pianist – Grace Neilson

Head Usher – Chelsey Topper & Vickie Arnold

Exodus 1

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

NAMES
 REUBEN
 ISSACHAR
 ASHER
 LOINS
 THAT
 FRUITFUL
 KING
 PEOPLE
 WITH
 THEY
 AFFLICTED
 RIGOUR
 THEIR
 OTHER
 OFFICE
 MIDWIVES
 HAVE
 EGYPTIAN
 DEALT
 MADE
 SAYING



EXODUS 1

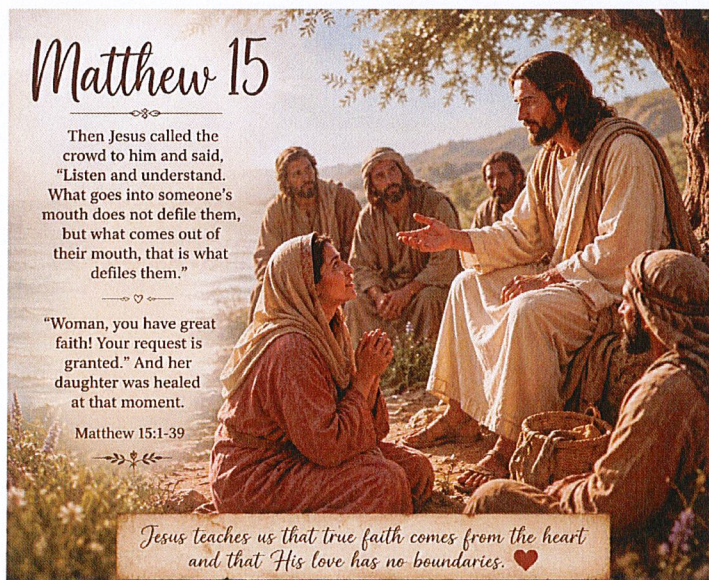
The Israelites were fruitful
and increased greatly;
they multiplied and
grew exceedingly strong.

Exodus 1:7

Matthew 15

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

- PHARISEES
- TRANSGRESS
- YOUR
- COMMANDED
- PROFITED
- TRADITION
- HYPOCRITES
- DRAWETH
- DOCTRINES
- MULTITUDE
- INTO
- KNOWEST
- WHICH
- LEADERS
- UNTO
- ALSO
- UNDERSTAND
- COME
- ADULTERIES
- UNWASHEN
- THENCE
- SAME
- CAME
- HOUSE
- HELP
- CHILDREN
- DOGS
- THOU
- DEPARTED
- CAST
- GLORIFIED
- BECAUSE
- SHOULD
- HAVE
- DOWN
- DISCIPLES
- MEAT
- WERE
- TOOK



Matthew 15

Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

"Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Matthew 15:1-39

Jesus teaches us that true faith comes from the heart and that His love has no boundaries. ♥