

Grace Devotion

Week of August 3, 2025

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”
·Luke 12:16-21 (NRSVUE)

Hello my friends!

Today’s scripture is an important reminder for each of us. We spend our entire lives striving to provide for ourselves and our families—holding back savings so that funds are available later in our years. There is wisdom in being prepared for the future and for planning ahead, but Jesus reminds us that when we only focus on adding to our own wealth and possessions, we might be missing something even more important.

The rich man in this week’s parable had a bountiful harvest—so much that he didn’t even know what to do with it all. His first thought is to tear down his barns and build larger ones to store up all that he had. Instead of sharing his blessings with those around him, he focused solely on himself. God called him a fool—not because he had planned and prepared for himself, but because he stored all of his treasures rather than sharing it with others.

This parable isn’t just about money or treasures that we accumulate, it is about where our hearts lie. Are we being “rich toward God”? Are we sharing what we have—our time, our love—with those around us? Are we using our lives to build bigger tables rather than building bigger barns?

Let this parable sit with you this week. What has God given you in abundance that you might share with someone who needs it?

Prayer: God of Bounty, hear our prayer today. Help us to recognize the treasures of our lives that we have stored for later that could be shared today. Open our eyes and our

tables to those who are also in need. Let us be a friend to those who need one and let us offer our gifts that we have been given, sharing our compassion and caring for others. Let us be rich to You, O God, in all that we do. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude: This is My Fathers World (arr. Hughes)

+Song: "My Lighthouse" **#42

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come to worship today, remembering to set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are here on earth.

Congregation: Help us to be rich with God and not store up our treasures for ourselves.

Lector: Remind us that when our tables overflow with bounty,

Congregation: That we should build a bigger table to offer goodness to all who need it.

Lector: Let us worship together today,

Congregation: Offering our hearts and our gifts to the God who gives all things.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

God of Bounty, help us recognize the stored treasures in our lives that could be shared today. Open our eyes and our tables to those who are also in need. Let us be friends to those who need one and let us offer our gifts that we have been given, sharing our compassion and caring for others. Let us be rich to You, O God, in all that we do.
Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" **#51**

Prayer of Confession

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

** Apostle's Creed *responsive*

Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be" **#379**

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

We Give Thee But Thine Own (v1) **#620**

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings:

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Letting Go, Living Full"

+Song: "All the People Said Amen" **#8

** Final Blessing

** "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude: I Love thy Kingdom Lord (Lowe)

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

Announcements

- We will be collecting donations for four Sundays that will go to World Central Kitchen and will help the victims of the Central Texas Flooding. The collection will start July 27th and end on August 10th
- Join us on August 31st for our "Fifth Sundays are Special". Bring your lawn chair and join us for worship in the parking lot. Feel free to bring a continental breakfast potluck item to share. We will also offer blessings of the backpacks (and briefcases).

Upcoming Events

- 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 August 8th, at 3 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Snacks provided. Doors locked at 3:15.

Financial Information

General pledge for the month of July 2025: \$5,987.00
General pledge for the month of July 2024 \$5,336.00
General pledge for January – July 2025: \$41,695.00
General pledge for January – July 2024: \$45,075.25
YTD income: \$77,048.09
YTD expenses: \$149,536.99
YTD deficit: \$72,488.90

Upcoming Meetings

August 4th – Personnel Committee @ 3:45 pm
August 11th – Consistory Meeting @ 6:00 pm
August 25th – Worship & Music @ 6:00 pm



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 -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

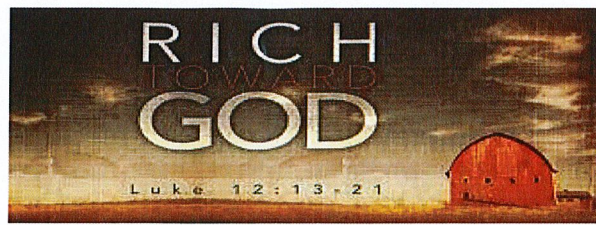
Head Usher –

DEALING WITH SIN

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

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E P S R N G X Y W W R I M W E O R W D Y H Z
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F D Q H T V Z A K B B Y W Q G D K T R K N Z
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- GLORY
- THEREFORE
- CHILDREN
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- HAVE
- THAT
- CIRCUMCISION
- MEEKNESS
- EVEN
- PERFECTNESS
- THANKFUL
- ANOTHER
- WORD
- YOURSELVES
- WIVES
- OBEY
- PROVOKE
- EYESERVICE
- UNTO
- REWARD
- THERE



P Z L J S O I M O R F Q K W N G W K J L C G E V V T Q N Y H K R K
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 K P N X B G G A I Y C Y N A W Y L W C P N V C S S Q I Q J K G Z C
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| • WHICH | • TAKING | • DRINK | • SHALL | • GIRD | • EVEN |
| • THEM | • REST | • AWARE | • BARNs | • WATCH | • FROM |
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| • WHOSOEVER | • GRASS | • BEATEN | • UNTO | • HOUR | |
| • ANGELS | • WHAT | • ALREADY | | | |
| • BLASPHEMETH | • FATHER | • BAPTISM | | | |
| • POWERS | • THESE | • RATHER | | | |
| • SAME | • LITTLE | • HOUSE | | | |