

Grace Devotion

Week of August 30, 2026

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. (*Romans 12:9-21 NRSVUE*)

Dear friends,

This week we celebrate the children as they go back to school. When we think back to when we were that age and excited for a new school year, we realize that even though things have changed, some things remain the same. There is still that feeling of a new beginning and wondering what the year ahead will bring. Our scripture this week reminds us that some things never go out of style—loving one another, holding onto what is good, showing kindness, being patient, and praying. As we get older, we have the gift of knowing that life doesn't always go the way we want it to. We experience so many ups and downs in our lives. Through all of it, we learn just how important love, hope, and prayer really are.



So, as the children begin a new school year, perhaps we can offer them something they need, just as much as the new school supplies—our prayers. Prayer for their teachers, their classmates, and for all the experiences they will have. As we pray, may we remember Paul's words: ¹² **Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.** Whatever this season of life brings, God is with us. We are never too old to hope and love and pray.

Prayer:

Loving God, we thank You for the children in our lives and for the memories of our youth. Watch over the children as they begin a new year at school. Give them courage and help them be kind and caring to all of the people they meet. Help us continue to hold onto hope, love and trust in Your presence every day. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
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August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifth Sundays Are Special at Grace
Outdoor Worship/Potluck Continental
Breakfast

Welcome/Announcements

**** Sharing the Peace of Christ** (use these
5 minutes to greet your neighbor & get
some breakfast to enjoy during worship)
Call to Worship

Lector: We come together this morning,
**Congregation: to enjoy the
beauty of the day and time of
fellowship.**

Lector: We are invited into this time of
worship,

**Congregation: knowing that we
all belong—as a child of God.**

Lector: Let us welcome one another with
radical hospitality,

**Congregation: embracing all
who gather with us today!**

Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
**Welcoming and loving God,
thank You for seeing us and loving us
just as we are. Help us remember that
we are all equal in Your eyes. Open our
hearts to those who are often
overlooked or pushed aside. Help us
make room at the table and remind us
that when we welcome and love others,
we are welcoming and loving You.
Amen.**

Song: “Your Way’s Better” (*in the bulletin*)

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts
Prayer of Dedication

Blessing of the Backpacks (& Briefcases)

Message: “Welcome”

Song: “May the Peoples Praise You” (*in
the bulletin*)

Final Blessing
“A Choral Benediction”

Your Way's Better

Verse 1

When I'm overwhelmed within
From the weight of all my sin
I need a friend to call my own
I need a house to call my home
When I'm broken down inside
And there's nowhere else to hide
I need a place where I feel known
Can someone help me

Pre-Chorus

Then I hear You reply
Bringing teardrops to my eyes
Saying I'm not alone

Chorus

Oh Lord I need You now more than ever
Would You put my heart back together
I searched the world till my head hurt
Just to find out Your way's better

Post-Chorus 1

Oh oh Your way's better (x3)
Jesus (Your way's better)

Verse 2

Lord I am so thankful
For the ways that You blessed me
Everything You say making waves like a jet ski
You love every part of me even when I was messy
Now I see the art in Your beauty
So I can finally sing out
Jehovah Jireh provider
Your way always gets me higher
Even on my darkest days You're my lighter
My Messiah

Post-Chorus 2

Woah Your way's better (x3)

Tag

It's better better better (x3)
It's better than the rest

CCLI Song # 7271513 Forrest Frank | Pera Krstajic
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May The Peoples Praise You

Verse 1

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ

Verse 2

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life

Chorus

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus

Verse 3

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known

Verse 4

May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word

Verse 5

This our holy priv'lege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation tribe and tongue
Your church proclaim
Bridge
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name

CCLI Song # 7063739

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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.
- Join us for Blessing of the Pets September 12th @ 1:00 PM
- Tell your friends: September 13th-- Sunday School fall kickoff for grades K-5 and Confirmation Sunday kickoff for grades 6-12

Upcoming Events

Bible Study Group – September 9th @ 12:30 PM – Movie to follow
Monthly Movie – September 11th @ 3:00 PM
Blessing of the Pets – September 12th @ 1:00 PM
Women's Ministry – IN PERSON @ 7:30 PM

Upcoming Meetings

- Personnel Committee Meeting – September 2nd @ 4:15 PM
- Outreach Committee Meeting – September 14th @ 4:15 PM
- Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting – September 14th @ 5:30 PM
 - Consistory Meeting – September 14th @ 6:00 PM
- Worship & Music Committee Meeting – September 21st @ 3:30 PM
- Faith Formation Committee Meeting – September 21st @ 5:00 PM

August

ADVENTURE
AMUSEMENT PARK
AUGUST
BACK TO SCHOOL
BACKYARD
BICYCLE
CAMPFIRE
CAMPING
CORN ON THE COB
FARMERS MARKET
FIREFLY
FLOWERS
FRUIT
FUN
GRILLING
HOT
HUMID
LAKE
PLAYGROUND
POPSICLE
RELAXATION
ROAD TRIP
SAILBOAT
STATE FAIR
SUMMER
SUNFLOWER
SUNNY

