

Grace Devotion

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Week of September 6, 2026

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? (Matthew 16:24-25 NRSVUE)

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we begin a new worship series called Come to the Table.

Over the next five weeks, we will gather around different images of the table and thank about what it means to be part of God’s family. We begin this week at The Table of Hospitality.



There is something special about being invited to a table. A table is a place where we gather with others, we share stories, we celebrate, grieve, and laugh together. It is a place where there is room for one more. Jesus understood the power of the table. Throughout Jesus’s ministry, he shared meals with all kinds of people—friends, strangers, those who were welcomed, and those who were often left out. When he gathered with his disciples for the Last Supper, the people around that table were far from perfect. There was love and friendship of course, but there was also fear, denial, and betrayal. Still, Jesus shared the meal. Perhaps that is one of the most beautiful things about God’s table—we don’t have to earn our place to sit at God’s table. We come as we are. No matter who we are or where we are on life’s journey, we are welcomed at the table. Paul reminds us in Romans to “rejoice with those who rejoice” and to “weep with those who weep.” This is part of what it means to be the church. We don’t walk alone. We carry the joys and sorrows of others and we continue to make room at the table. Sometimes hospitality means opening the door, or setting another place at the table. Sometimes it means remembering that there is room for us—no matter the circumstances. As we begin this series, I invite you to ask yourself, how can you make room at your own table this week? God’s table is wide enough for all of us.

Prayer:

Loving God, Thank You for the invitation to Your table, just as we are. When we are joyful, rejoice with us. When we are grieving, hold us close. When we feel alone, remind us that we are never forgotten. Open our hearts to one another. Help us make room for those who need a place to belong. May we remember that there is always room at Your table—and that we are always welcome there. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

Pastor Amy

September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
Welcome/Announcements

**+“Holy Forever”

#75

** Call to Worship **Taking Our Place, Opening to Others**

Lector: We know that there is a place for us at this table.

Congregation: Our hearts are filled with gratitude!

Lector: We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

Congregation: We come ready to open our hearts beyond their current size.

Lector: We humbly take our seat.

Congregation: We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus!

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Welcoming God, You invite us to Your table just as we are. Open our hearts to receive Your grace and make room for those who may feel left out or forgotten. Teach us to see one another as you see us—as beloved children, welcomed and loved. May we carry Your welcome with us as we leave this place. Amen.

° Hymn: “Come to the Table” **see insert

** Sharing the Peace of Christ
Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: “Doxology”
** Prayer of Dedication

#625

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

**° Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #68

Scripture Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:24-25

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “The Table of Hospitality”

**+“And All the People Said Amen”

#8

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.
+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Come to the Table is a five-week worship series based on resources by Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio. Used with permission.

Announcements

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- 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

- 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



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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 – Jenn Weaver & Joleen Fennell



Romans 12:9-21 The Law of Love

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

peacemakers
 Blessing
 enemies
 evil

Providence
 Sincere
 peace
 Love

Kindness
 revenge
 good

Matthew 16

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

- DESIRED
- EVENING
- LOWERING
- AFTER
- SIDE
- THEM
- BECAUSE
- BREAD
- LOAVES
- FOUR
- SADDUCEES
- BADE
- THAT
- PROPHETS
- SAITH
- ANSWERED
- THOU
- PREVAIL
- HEAVEN
- CHARGED
- JESUS
- REBUKE
- UNTO
- TAKE
- LIFE
- PROFITED
- REWARD
- WHICH

For what will it profit a man if he gains
The whole world and forfeits his soul?

Matthew 16:26

www.bible-verse.com