

Grace Devotion

Week of September 7, 2025

18 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2** “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” **3** So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. **4** The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. **5** Then the word of the Lord came to me: **6** Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. **Jeremiah 18:1-6** (NRSVUE)

Sending you warm greetings and peace today,

I love the imagery in this scripture. I can just picture the potter, steady and focused, working the clay ever so gently. The wheel spinning beneath the potter’s hands—sometimes slowly, and sometimes fast enough to change the shape completely. With each press and touch, the clay begins to respond. It doesn’t look like much at first, but something beautiful is being formed. We are just like that piece of clay. There are times when we have made some poor decisions and we need to be remade, reworked, or transformed, into something new. Slight pressure applied so that we might see the changes we need to make. There are times when our changes happen so slowly, imperceptible changes, until one day we are able to see things differently—find new purposes in places we didn’t have one before. Then, there are times when the changes happen fast—situations we’ve experienced, people we have interacted with. We become changed, remade, and called to do things we never thought possible. Most times in life, it is difficult to see the potter’s work in the moment. When we take a step back, or reflect on all that’s happened, we can see the changes, the ways that we’ve been reworked into something great. Even still, the shaping continues. Even now, God’s hands are on us—guiding us, steadying us. We don’t always know what we are becoming, but we trust that God sees the whole picture. The Potter isn’t rushed and we are not forgotten on the wheel. I hope that you can feel God’s presence close to you this week. Know that even now, you are still being made and reshaped into something beautiful.

Prayer: Loving God, We come to You today, knowing how You have impacted our lives. Help us to be present in the moments, recognizing when You call us to change and be present in situations when we would not normally. Guide us to be Your malleable clay—for our hearts to be vulnerable, our eyes to be open, and our hands to be outstretched in ways to serve, to welcome, and to love. Keep shaping us God, even when it is hard, even when we push back. Keep working with us until we begin to look a little more like love, a little more like You. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude: Andante Cantabile
(David Lasky)

**+Song: “Changed”

#63

** Call to Worship

Lector: You are holding something in your hand. It’s simple and shapeless.

Congregation: Just like us, in the hands of God.

Lector: What could it become? What *might* you become?

Congregation: We are not finished yet. God is still shaping us.

Lector: Let us worship today with our hands and hearts open.

Congregation: We are the clay, God is the potter. Let us worship and be made new.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Dear God, we come this morning with open hands—some of us holding hope, some holding questions, and some holding Play-doh that we don’t quite know what to do with. We come to worship to be shaped, and reshaped, even if it is hard. Help us trust Your hands and follow where You lead. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

**° Hymn: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

#376

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

#379 (*vs 1*)

** Prayer of Dedication

° Hymn: “Onward, Christian soldiers”

#479

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14:25-33

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Stretch: *Growing beyond comfort, shaped by God’s hands*”

** UCC Statement of Faith

**+Song: “The Truth”

#62

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (David Lowe)

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- Sunday School Kick-off – If you know anyone who would like to come, please ask them to join us. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Bixler or Joleen Fennell
- Deacon's Fund Donations – 9/14/2025
- Donations for Goats for Rwanda will be collected the month of September

Upcoming Events

- **Women's Music Ministry**
On the second Wednesday of every month we will meet via zoom. @ 7:30 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81264532233?pwd=pu8cWl0LimwBWOXAPAQo1ZarupUyff.1>
The fourth Wednesday of every month we will meet in person @ 7:30 pm either outside in Franklin Street lawn or in the gather place (weather pending) Women of all ages are invited to participate in both.
- Bible Study Group, September 10th @ 12:30, movie @ 2:00
- Monthly Movie, September 12th @ 3 PM
- Spring Clean Up, September 12th @ 9:00 AM

Financial Information

General pledge: Month of August 2025 \$7,036.00
General pledge: Month of August 2024 \$5,487.20
YTD income: \$94,454.22
YTD expenses: \$173,801.68
YTD deficit: \$79,347.46

Up Coming Meetings

- **Sept. 8th** – Consistory Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- **Sept. 15th** – Pastoral Relations @ 5:30 PM
- **Sept. 22nd** – Worship & Music @ 4:45 PM
- **Sept. 22nd** – Faith Formation @ 6:00 PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

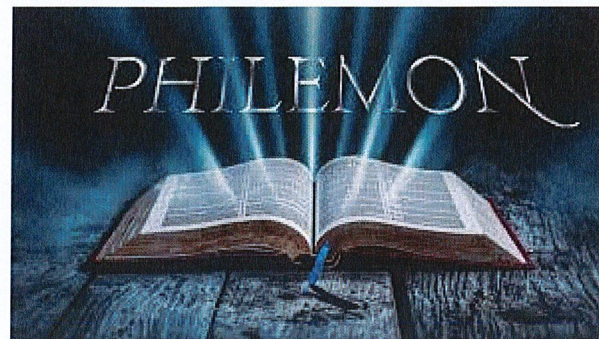
Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Jenn Weaver & Chelsey Topper



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Fall Word Search

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LEAVES

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PUMPKIN

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THANKSGIVING

FOOTBALL

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APPLE CIDER

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ACORN

ORANGE

YELLOW

BROWN

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