

# Grace Devotion

Week of June 30, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.*

**Matthew 16:13-20**

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In our nation's 2024 narrative, it seems anyone who does not agree with us can be blamed for just about anything. Which is why it is imperative that we know how to respond, when Jesus asks us, "Who do **you** say that I am?" I think Christ came to show us what's possible. At times in this crazy mixed up world possibilities are clouded over by basic survival. Jesus, rather than letting disease take over, healed; rather than letting demons possess, showed compassion; rather than letting people starve, fed them. Two women took a chance and changed the world; Jesus came to show us the possibilities God's love has to offer.

Pope Francis, in a homily he gave in 2013, encouraged such faith in action:

*Do not be afraid to live out faith! Be witnesses of Christ in your daily environment, with simplicity and courage. Above all, may you be able to show those you meet, your peers, the Face of mercy and the love of God who always forgives, encourages, and imbues hope.*

Peter was not afraid to show his peers the face of mercy. When Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” he really wants to know how we will embody his mission and spread his compassion in our everyday living. Peter’s acknowledgement that his friend and teacher is the son of the living God is the result of divine inspiration. Our relationship with Christ is inspired by God’s presence in our own lives. Peter’s role in Christ’s ministry leads him to become one of the spiritual leaders of the early church. Our encounters with Jesus encourage us to faithfully share in Christ’s mission of healing and hospitality. How will you “Be the Church” in our daily living?

**PRAYER:** God, give me the courage to tell someone about how Jesus has changed my life. Amen.

Blessings! Pastor Fred

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*

*Forgive often. Reject racism.*

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*



June 30, 2024

Summer Series “BE THE CHURCH” week 1

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude “People Need the Lord” ~sung by Derek Reed

\*\* Song: “Build Your Kingdom Here” ~Rend Collective

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: We gather together as the body of Christ

**Congregation: We are called to be the Church**  
Lector: Let’s shine God’s light in every corner of our lives.

**Congregation: We will love and serve, following Jesus’ example.**

Lector: Come, let us worship the Lord together.

**Congregation: We are the Church, united in Christ, ready to serve.**

\*\* Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

**Gracious God, we know we are called to be the Church. We are called to serve and spread the Good News to all we meet. Help guide us to be your church—in mind, body, and spirit. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*\* Hymn: “The Church’s One Foundation” #277

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Special Music: “I Lay Me Down” by Michael W. Smith, sung by Derek Reed

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

\*\* Doxology #625

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

\*\*New Creed\*

Hymn: “O Jesus, I Have Promised” #369

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 16:13-20

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Be the Church”

\*\*Song: “Love the Lord” ~Lincoln Brewster

\*\* Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

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\*On the screen \*\* Please stand, if you are able.

### Announcements

- Thank you to Derek Reed for sharing his gift with us today!
- Today is the last day we will collect for the Deacon's Fund during the month of June.
- Consider donating to the CWS School Kits. Information by the elevator.

# Be The Church

### Upcoming Events

- Old Fashioned Hymn Sing Aug 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm @ St. Matthews (with sponsorship from Grace UCC)
- Car Show September 7<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date September 14<sup>th</sup>)

### Volunteer Opportunities—Sign ups in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers

Grace United Church of Christ  
100 Fourth Street  
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331  
717-632-1146

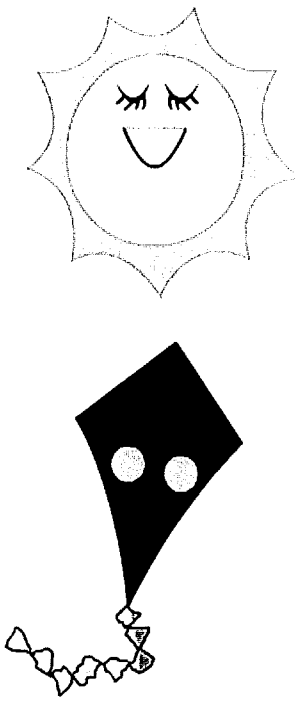
# PSALM 30



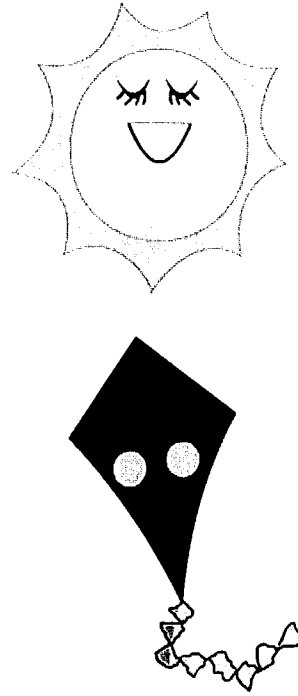
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- AMONG
- ANGER
- BROUGHT
- CRIED
- DRAWN
- EXTOL
- FOES
- HEALED
- HOLY NAME
- MOMENT
- PRAISES
- REJOICE
- RESTORED
- SAINTS
- SHEOL

# Summer Word Search Puzzle



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



1. BACKPACKING

2. BASEBALL

3. BOATING

4. BIKINI

5. CAMPING

6. FLOWERS

7. ICE CREAM

8. OCEAN

9. PICNIC

10. RELAX

11. SUN

12. HEAT

13. HOT

14. SANDALS

15. SWIM

16. TRAVEL

17. VACATION

18. WATERMELON