

Grace Devotion

Week of October 5, 2025

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? **17** Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread **1 Corinthians 10:16–17 (NRSVUE)**



On Sunday, October 5th, we celebrate World Communion Sunday. This is a day when Christians all around the world gather at Christ's table. This day is a reminder to each of us that the body of Christ is bigger than any single congregation. When we join in Holy Communion, we are connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ—those that we may never meet, but who share the same faith and the same hope in Christ.

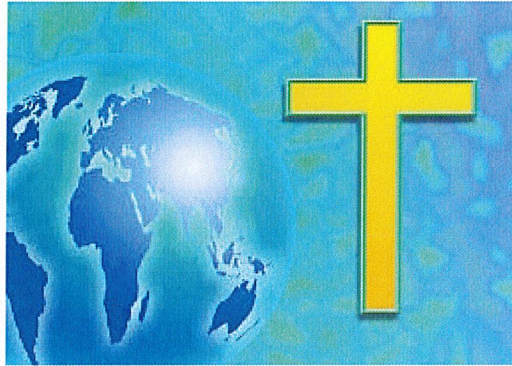
Communion is more than an action; it is a celebration of God's presence among all of God's people. It is a reminder that unity and diversity both live peacefully in God's community. Each piece of bread and each cup from which we drink carries the promise that we are all part of something larger than ourselves. Our differences—our languages, our cultures, our traditions—are held together in the love of Christ.

Prayer: Gracious God, We thank You for the gift of your Son and for the table You set for all people. As we break bread and share the cup, remind us that we are one body, called to care for one another. Help us to celebrate our differences, love our neighbors, and work for justice and peace in the world. Unite us with all who join together at Your table, and may our hearts always be open to Your love. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

October 5, 2025
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



Keystone Global Ministries Team

All four Pennsylvania Conferences maintain international relationships. The Keystone Global Ministries Team has formed to support those relationships through the transition to the Keystone Conference and Beyond. We believe that international ecumenical relationships help us to be better Christians, remind us of those who are our brothers and sisters but who may worship and experience their faith in different ways, and enrich our relationships and understanding in the world

Please pray, on World Communion Sunday and throughout the year, for our relationships in Germany, India, Guatemala, Namibia, Liberia, and the Philippines, especially those places where Christianity is persecuted or marginalized, and where the church is struggling. As our UCC motto states, Jesus has prayed, "That they may all be one," and we believe we are all one church of Jesus Christ throughout the whole wide earth.

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (Whitworth)

****Call to worship** Julia Esquivel, Guatemala¹

Lector: I love all your paths that lead me to your House, Lord, simple roads, dusty, neglected bordered by simple houses.

Congregation: **Undeveloped roads marked by the footprints of working people:
builders of broad highways, fancy houses, gardens, and parks.**

Lector: I love those paths open to the rain and to the goodwill of their discounted residents.

Congregation: **Paths that lead me to the illiterate woman, to the child who has no school,
to the old man who sells ice cream from his worn-out wooden car.**

Lector: I love those paths, unimpressive, unattractive that lead me to your brothers and sisters,

¹ "In Your Path," from *Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Kathy Wonson Eddy. © 1995 by Maren C. Tirabassi & Kathy Wonson Eddy. Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH.

Congregation: because You, poor with them, speak to me from their indigence and violently shake
lose all my assurances binding me inescapably, into the secret tenderness
of your unknown suffering.

All: And so I know I am your friend, because you reveal your secrets to me, the secrets of a love
without measure!

****Prayer of the day/Invocation** *Phillippines*²

Lord, make us realize that our Christianity is like a rice field, that when it is newly planted, the
paddies are prominent; but as the plants take root and grow taller, these dividing paddies gradually
vanish, and soon there appears only one vast continuous field. So give us roots of love and make us grow
in Christian fellowship and service, so that thy will be done in our lives, through our Savior, your Son,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

**** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

****° Hymn:** “O For a Thousand Tongues”

#76

Joys and Concerns Praying for Others

One: Let us pray to God in peace: for an alert conscience, for forgiveness of our debts, and an open, quiet
heart, let us pray, God have mercy upon us.

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: For an understanding of our fellow human beings, for a readiness and courage to speak the truth, let us
pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: For the ability so to behave to all people that they also through us might experience the love of God, we
pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: For our church and for all Christians, that they beyond all past divisions might be one in faith and in
deed, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: For our nation and for all nations of the world, that, where there is war, justice and peace might prevail,
let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: For those who are in need and distress, that they may find help, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

One: Stay with us, God, with your Word and the gift of your goodness. May your [Reign] come. And so we
pray in the faith of Jesus Christ, our Lord.³
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Choir Anthem: “God Leads Us On!”

² From *Prayers Encircling the World*, #91, p. 86.

³ Gifts in Open Hands. p. 188-9. from Evangelische Gottesdienstbuch, Berlin, Germany, 2000.

Call to Offering *from United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa.)*⁴

One: Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

Many: Let us prepare Christ's table with the offerings of our life and labor.

** Offertory Response: Doxology

#625

Offertory Prayer adapted from Yoruba, from West Africa, around Liberia⁵

° Hymn: "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumolt"

#375

Scripture Reading:

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "One Table, One Body"

Prayer of confession *Church of South India*⁶

Assurance of Grace *from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa)*⁷

Holy Communion

****Post Communion Prayer Germany**⁸

We thank you, Lord,

**that you have strengthened us through your nearness
and we pray: grant that the ears that have heard your Word
may be closed to the voice of discord;
that the eyes that have seen your great love
may see the blessedness which you have promised.
that the tongues which have sung your praise
may testify henceforth to the truth;
that the hands which have received your gifts
may do good to your honor;
that the feet which have come into your house
may not stray from the way of light;
that the bodies which have had a share in your living body
may change into a new life.**

To you be glory forever. Amen.

⁴ from Gifts in Open Hands. p. 54

⁵ From World Prayers web site, https://www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/celebrations/to_our_gods_of_old_we.html Accessed 8/25/2025

⁶ From *Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology*. #188, p. 152 ©1998 by SPCK, Great Britain.

⁷ From *Gifts in Open Hands*, by Maren Tirabassi & Kathy Wonson Eddy, © 2011 Maren Tirabassi & Kathy Wonson Eddy, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH. p. 19

⁸ Adapted from Agenda I, edited by the Church Office of the Evangelical Church of Kurhnesse-Waldek, Kassel, Germany. In *Gifts in Open Hands*, I p. 139

A Litany of Commitment Philippines⁹

Leader: We, the church in the United States and the church all around the world¹⁰, are members of the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

PEOPLE: O GOD, BESTOW UPON US YOUR LOVE OF JUSTICE. ENABLE US TO MINISTER WITH YOUR COMPASSION AND WISDOM, SO THAT THE DEPRIVED AND THE DEFENSELESS MAY BE TREATED OBJECTIVELY AND WITH JUSTICE.

Leader: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

PEOPLE: UNPLUG OUR SENSES OF HEARING TO THE WAILS OF THE PEOPLE CLUTCHED IN THE PROGRESSIONS OF POVERTY, ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.

Leader: A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

PEOPLE: IMPART UPON US THE WISDOM TO DISCERN THE NOBLEST ACT AND VALOR TO EMBODY JUSTICE AND CONCORD EVEN WHEN IT PRESSES US TO THE MARGINS.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body we were called to peace.

All: As we thrive to be more cohesive with our mission partners, may the people flourish; may there be lasting peace and plenty for all. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

**** “A Choral Benediction”**

Postlude: Trumpet Tune in C Major (Craig Penfield)

⁹ From the Church of South India through our partnership group.

¹⁰ Original read “UCCP-Northwest Luzon Conference and the four UCCP Conferences”

Announcements

- Worldwide Communion today
- Youth Sunday School Kick-off started September 21
- Thank you for your donations to the Deacons fund – Total was \$1,040.00

Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry, October 8th @ 7:30 pm
- Monthly Movie, October 10th @ 3:00 pm
- Second Saturday Shares, October 11th
- Crop Walk, October 12th @ 12:30 pm
- Bible Study Group October 15th @ 12:30 pm
- Women's Ministry, October 22nd @ 7:30 pm
- Grace Trick or Treat, October 28th @ 6:00 pm

Financial Information

General pledge: Month of September 2025: \$4,405.00

General pledge: Month of September 2024 \$7,733.00

YTD income: \$102,791.80

YTD expenses: \$191,222.00

YTD deficit: \$88,430.20

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting, October 13th @ 6:00 pm
- Faith Formation, October 27th @ 4:30 pm
- Worship & Music, October 27th @ 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 – Jenn Weaver

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Becky Boyer & Chelsey Topper



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FALL COLORS

Word Search



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RED ORANGE
GOLDEN YELLOW
BURNT SIENNA
DEEP MAROON
RUSSET BROWN
AMBER
CRIMSON

OCHRE
BURGUNDY
COPPER RUST
BRONZE LEAF
SCARLET
MAHOGANY
UMBER

VERMILION
SEPIA
CINNAMON SPICE
AUTUMN GLOW
FALL TONES
LEAF CHANGE