

Grace Devotion

Week of August 17, 2025

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 12:9-13 (NRSVUE)**

Greetings dear friends!

Each week, as I write this devotion to share in our weekly mailings, I enjoy these moments—thinking of each of you. Though we may not be in the same room, we are still gathered in spirit and in love. As I write this weekly message, I offer prayers for each of you and for all that you mean to me. These words from Romans are a beautiful reminder that even in the quiet moments of our lives, God is present and at work.

Paul's message encourages us to "hold fast to what is good" and to "rejoice in hope." These are powerful words for times when days feel long or when strength seems to fail. Hope is not dependent upon our circumstances in life; hope is found in God, who never leaves us.

Paul's message is simple but powerful. When he says, "Let love be genuine," he calls us to true relationships, ones that love without any conditions. To "hate what is evil" means standing against what harms others and working for justice and healing.

"Hold fast to what is good" reminds us to hold onto the kindness, truth, and mercy, especially in difficult times. Paul also urges us to love one another completely and honor each other, imagining communities built on respect and kindness rather than competition or judgment. He encourages us to stay passionate in serving the Lord, seeing it not as a duty but as a joy. In all things, we are to rejoice in hope, be patient during struggles, and remain faithful in prayer.

By meeting the needs of others and welcoming strangers, we live into the generous, loving community Paul envisions for us.

Prayer: Loving God,

Thank you for always being with us. Help us love others sincerely and stand against what hurts. Give us strength to hold onto what is good and find joy in serving You. Keep our hopes alive, our patience strong, and our prayers steady. Open our hearts to welcome others and live Your love each day. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude

**+Song: “Changed”

#63

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come together today, on this Sunday, to worship and praise.

Congregation: Help us to hear and listen Your Word, O God.

Lector: We come with open hearts, seeking truth and guidance.

Congregation: Help us to see where You are still speaking in our world, O God.

Lector: We come as a community of faith, ready to live our faith out loud.

Congregation: Help us be Your people, O God.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Loving God, we come to worship today, a people yearning to be closer to You. Help us see Your hand at work in the world around us and help us to live out Your word in how we treat every person we meet. Soften our hearts and open our eyes so we may truly see all of Your people and respond with mercy and grace. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: “Lead On O King Eternal”

#483

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” #601

Prayer of Confession
Silent Reflection
Assurance of Grace

**New Creed

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

“Doxology”

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Romans 12:9-21

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “ ____ ” ~Craig Bixler

**+Song: “And All the People Said Amen” #8

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

Announcements

- Join us on August 31st for our “Fifth Sundays are Special”. Bring your lawn chair and join us for worship in the parking lot. Feel free to bring a continental breakfast potluck item to share. We will also offer blessings of the backpacks (and briefcases).

Upcoming Events

- Our third Summer Skills Swap will be held on Tuesday August 19 at 1pm. We will create an art project and then learn how to digitally capture our creation and share with others
- **Women's Music Ministry**
During lent, we began a journey of listening, reflecting on a contemporary Christian song weekly via zoom. We decided to continue this after lent including 2-in-person events this summer. We will be taking the rest of the summer off and restarting this in September with the following cadence:
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.

Financial Information

General pledge for the month of August 2025: \$4,187.00 (2 weeks)
General pledge for the month of August 2024 \$3,297.00 (2 weeks)
General pledge for January – July 2025: \$44,265.00
General pledge for January – July 2024: \$46,635.25
YTD income: \$82,660.07
YTD expenses: \$158,996.87
YTD deficit: \$76,336.80

Upcoming Meetings

August 25th - Finance Committee Meeting @ 1:30 pm
August 25th – Faith Formation Meeting @ 4:30 pm
August 25th – Worship & Music Meeting @ 6:00 pm



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Guest Speaker – Craig Bixler

Lector – Joleen Fennell

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Rebecca Boyer & Susan Dienes

Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves.

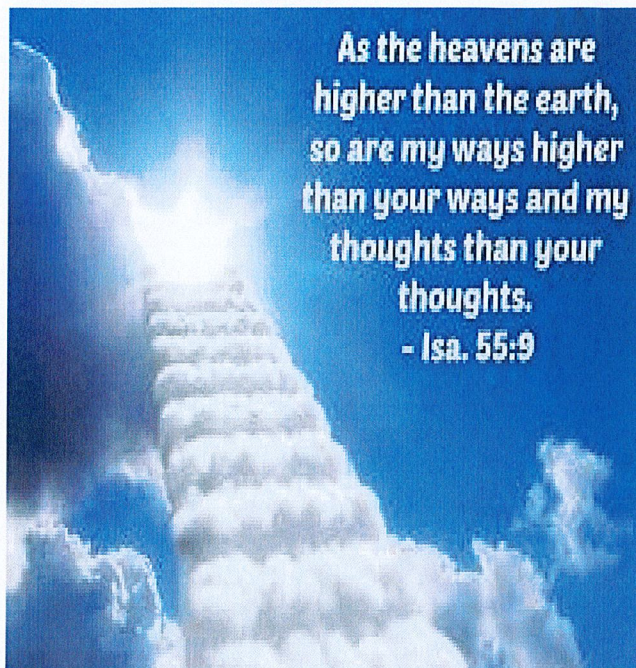
Romans 12:10



Romans 12

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

- MERCIES
- RENEWING
- THINK
- SAME
- EVERY
- PROPHECY
- MINISTRY
- WITH
- CLEAVE
- BROTHERLY
- SPIRIT
- THINGS
- LIVE
- WRITTEN
- THOU
- EVIL
- INSTANT
- GIVEN
- THEM
- WEEP
- HIGH



As the heavens are
higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher
than your ways and my
thoughts than your
thoughts.
- Isa. 55:9

Isaiah 55

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

Ho, every one that _____, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and _____ labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come _____ me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Behold, I have given him for a witness to the _____, a leader and commander to the people.

Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and _____ that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

Seek ye the LORD while he may be _____, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he _____ abundantly pardon.

For my _____ are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the _____ are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not _____, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it _____ prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the _____ of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an _____ sign that shall not be cut off.

THIRSTETH
FOUND
THITHER
YOUR
WILL
SHALL
UNTO
THOUGHTS
TREES
PEOPLE
HEAVENS
EVERLASTING
NATIONS