

Grace Devotion

Week of August 24, 2025

11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. **Luke 13:11-13 (NRSVUE)**

I bring you words of peace and joy this week! As we head towards the end of summer and the start of a new school year, we feel the familiar move into a change of seasons and a change of routines. In this week’s scripture, Jesus sees a woman who has spent nearly two decades bent over, burdened from physical movement and spiritual growth. He sees her, in that moment, and does not wait for her to demonstrate her faith. He calls to her and with a touch and a few words, everything shifts. The season of life she had lived for so long had changed. It is a reminder that healing begins when we are truly seen and called by name. So often the world, people, medical professionals, move so quickly that they do not actually see those who are in need of healing. When we are truly seen, our situations made clear, that’s when the real healing happens. It is also a reminder that our burdens, no matter how long we have carried them are never invisible to God.

Maybe lately, you are carrying more burdens that you let on to others. Maybe someone in your life is experiencing a season of life that feels heavy or unseen. This story reminds us that Jesus doesn’t wait for us to fix ourselves or prove our worth—Jesus sees us exactly as we are. In that seeing, Jesus offers us healing and restoration.

As we move into the busyness of fall, may we be mindful not just of our own needs, but of the people around us who are also struggling quietly. May we strive to be people who pause in the moment, long enough to truly see those around us—to notice, to care, and to reach out in kindness.

If you are the one who feels bent over by all that life is asking of you, may you feel Christ’s presence in your life this week. May something shift. May you know, completely, that you are seen, you are known, you are valued, and you are deeply loved.

Prayer: God of healing and hope, there are days in our lives where we feel invisible. The world is passing us by and no one seems to see the struggles we face. There are also days that go by where we are so caught up in our own struggles that we fail to see those around us who feel invisible. Help us, O Lord, to slow down. Help us to look up. Help us to truly see. Open our eyes to those around us who may be carrying their pain silently, who may be hiding their tiredness behind a smile, and who may be leaving their own stories unspoken. Remind us that Your healing begins in presence of being seen, named, and loved. When we feel unseen, Lord, draw us near. When we overlook others, quietly touch our hearts. Help us to walk with love that reflects all that Christ has done and continues to do. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements/Westminster Chimes

Prelude: “Perfect Peace” Deb Zumburum (violin)

**+Song: “Greater”

#43

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come to worship today,

Congregation: seen and loved by God.

Lector: We come with stories—some full of joy and some weighed down with pain.

Congregation: God meets us here with mercy.

Lector: Let us worship the One who heals, who restores, and who knows us by name.

Congregation: We are here, with open hearts, ready to be changed!

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud) **God of mercy, we come to this space and to You today, knowing that we are seen and we are loved by You. Open our eyes to see those around us and open our hearts to fully live a life known by You. Know our happiness and know our grief—remind us that we are never alone. Your love holds us all. Help us to be more aware and more open to the works You are doing in us and through us. Amen**

Special Music: Deb Zumburum

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: “Love Lifted Me”

#505

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Special Music: Deb Zumburum

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

** Apostle’s Creed

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response:

“Doxology”

** Prayer of Dedication

#620

Hymn: “He Touched Me”

#504

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 103:1-8

Luke 13:10-17

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Seen and Set Free”

**+Song: “The Truth”

#62

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude: In Celebration: The Solid Rock (Sikes)

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

Announcements

Join us next week 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

- **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: \$ 5,006.00 (3 weeks)

General pledge for the month of August 2024 \$ 4,227.00 (3 weeks)

General pledge for January – August 2025: \$46,701.00

General pledge for January – August 2024: \$49,302.25

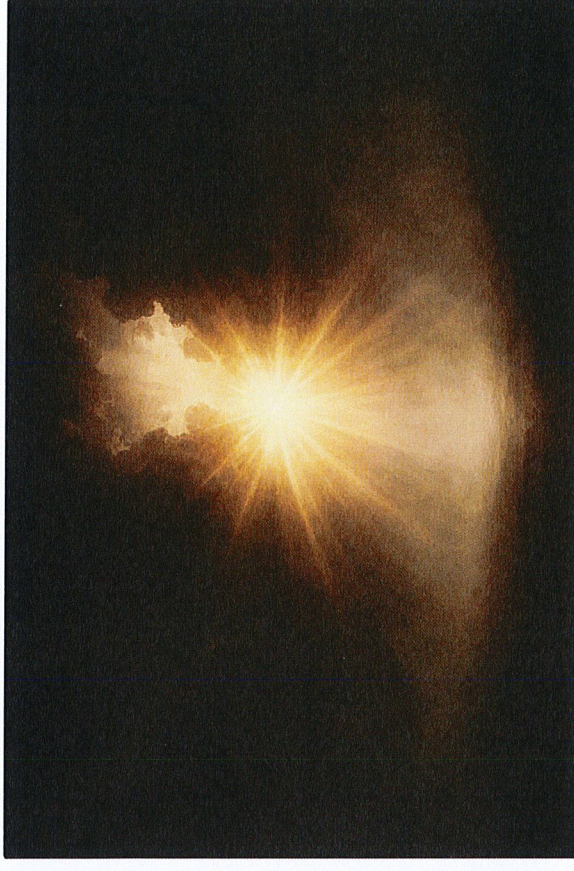
YTD income: \$83,479.07

YTD expenses: \$164,897.81

YTD deficit: \$81,418.74

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

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 – Rebecca Boyer & Susan Dienes

Psalm 103

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

- HOLY
- BLESS
- DISEASES
- THEE
- GOOD
- EXECUTETH
- MADE
- MERCIFUL
- ALWAYS
- INIQUITIES
- THAT

- EAST
- THEM
- KNOWETH
- FIELD
- MORE
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- SUCH
- HEAVENS
- HEARKENING
- PLEASURE
- WORKS

Luke 13

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

MINGLED

ABOVE

SHALL

FELL

EXCEPT

CAME

VINEYARD

ANSWERING

BEAR

SABBATH

WHICH

THOU

GLORIFIED

SYNAGOGUE

ANSWERED

ABRAHAM

PEOPLE

SAID

GREW

KINGDOM

LEAVEN

TEACHING

THERE

STRAIT

KNOW

HAVE

INIQUITY

JACOB

WEST

FIRST

PHARISEES

MORROW

FOLLOWING

WINGS

TIME