Grace Devotion

Week of October 18, 2026



[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. .— 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7

Dear friends,

As we turn to Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, we see him giving thanks for them. He heard about their work of faith, their labor of love, and their steadfast hope in Jesus Christ. I love that Paul doesn't simply say that they have great faith. I love that he talks about what their faith does. Their faith is seen in their work, in their labor, and in the way that they keep going. Sometimes we think about faith as something we hold inside ourselves. While our own faith is deeply personal, it was never meant to stay hidden inside us. People should be able to see something different because we are a people of faith. We should be able to be seen us as people who show up. People who help and listen. People who forgive. People who offer hope when someone is having a hard time finding hope themselves.

Then we come to Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, where the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap him with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus asks them whose image is on the coin. It is Caesar's image. Jesus says, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." There is something easy to miss in that answer. The coin has Caesar's image, but we are made in God's image. If we bear God's image, then what are we giving back to God?

Our faith and our gifts that we share come in the form of our time, our love, our compassion, our willingness to serve, our hope, and in our very lives. When we meet people on our travels, do they experience kindness? Do they experience grace? Hope? Do they experience love? Because our lives are always saying something—we pray that our lives are a reflection of God in our own faithful way.

Prayer:

Loving God, Thank you for reminding us that faith is more than something we believe. It is something we live. Help us to let our faith show up in the way we treat others, the way we respond when life is difficult, and the way we offer love and hope to the people around us. Since we bear your image, help our lives reflect something of you. Give us the courage to show up, the patience to listen, the grace to forgive, and the love to keep serving. Amen.

With Peace and Love,

Pastor Amy

Pastor Amy

October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
Welcome/Announcements

+"May the Peoples Praise You" **#50

** Call to Worship
Lector: We come together today with faith—faith in the God who meets us wherever we are.

Congregation: We come ready to trust God and to take the next step.

Lector: We come together with love—love that is more than words, love that becomes action.

Congregation: We come ready to love one another and share that love with the world.

Lector: We come together with hope—hope that holds us through every season and reminds us that God is with us.

Congregation: We come ready to live with faith, love, and hope. Let us worship God!

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Loving God, Thank you for this day and for bringing us together. Help us slow down, open our hearts, and notice where you are at work around us. Strengthen our faith, our love, and our hope, and help us carry them with us into the week ahead. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

° Hymn: "Take My Life" **#379

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts
** Offertory Response: "Doxology" **#625**
** Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

° Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story" **#297

Scripture Reading:
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Faith that Shows Up"

+"Same Power" **#3

** Final Blessing

** "A Choral Benediction"
Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.
+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

Announcements

- Please consider sharing your talents by hosting snacks in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings or acting as Lector. Both sign-up sheets can be found in the Gathering Place on the bulletin board.
- Confirmation Sunday will be October 11th
- October 4th - November 22nd at Grace, we're beginning our Harvest Home collection. It's a way for us to remember that while we may not be able to solve someone's food insecurity, we can make sure a family has something good to put on the table. We'll be collecting donations to create "Meals That Stretch" kits—simple meals that can feed a family for more than one meal. Stay tuned for items to donate!
- Help us collect snacks and candy for Trick or Treat which will be held on October 27th.

Upcoming Events

Trick or Treat – October 27th @ 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Grace UCC Has a New Way to Donate

Grace United Church Of Christ

Zelle

Upcoming Meetings

- Faith Formation Committee Meeting – October 19th @ 5:00 PM
- Worship & Music Committee Meeting – October 27th @ 3:30 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 - Chris O'Donnell

Music Director – Grace Neilson

Head Usher – Anita Kincaid & Susan Dienes

A New Loyalty

1st Thessalonians 1: 1-10



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

Grow in Faith, Walk in Love

affliction
Timotheus
epistle
wrath
God

Holy Ghost
patience
loyalty
Jesus

delivered
brethren
raised
idols

Macedonia
Silvanus
Achaia
love

followers
prayers
peace
joy

Matthew 22:15–22
Word Search

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

GOD
CAESAR
WAY
PHARISEES
WORDS
TAXES
PLANS
TEACHER
DISCIPLES
AMAZED
GIVE
INTEGRITY
OPINION
REPLIED
TRAP
TRUTH