

Grace Devotion

Week of February 8, 2026

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (*Matthew 5:13-16 NRSVUE*)

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Hello Dear Friends,

As we continue this week in the Gospel of Matthew, we dig deeper into what it means to be a disciple. Jesus speaks to his disciples and to us saying, “You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.” He doesn’t speak in the future tense. He doesn’t say you *will* become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He says YOU ARE...right here and right now. I love this metaphor of being the salt of the earth. Salt has a way of working quietly. It preserves food to last longer and sustain us. It adds flavor. Don’t we, as people of God, also act this way? When we stay together in community, don’t we help sustain each other—even when things seem difficult? Don’t we also offer “flavor” to our relationships as well—a little saltiness to keep things interesting—to stay connected in community? We are the light of the world. Light simply shines. It makes what is already there easier to see. Jesus calls each of us to show up in ordinary ways—through kindness, generosity, and love.

It is easy to focus on the positive of being salt and light, but Jesus also warns about salt that loses its flavor and light that hides under a basket. When our faith becomes disconnected from how we live and our beliefs remain private and hidden, we can lose the impact that Jesus calls us to have. We must remain connected—to God, to one another, and to how our faith is shared with the world. May we notice the simple ways that God invites us to shine this week. Let us trust that even the smallest acts of faith can make a difference.

## Prayer:

God of Love, You have called us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. You have gathered us in covenant with You and with one another. Help us shine Your love through our acts of compassion and mercy. Open our hearts to Your Word. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

# Grace Devotion

Week of February 8, 2026

*"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."*

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. — Matthew 5:13-16 NRSVUE*

*"You are the salt of the earth...  
You are the light of the world."*

*Stay connected to God, to one another,  
and to sharing our faith with the world.*

*Even the smallest acts of faith  
can make a big difference.*

## *Prayer:*

*God of Love, Help us be salt and light in this world.  
May we reflect Your compassion and grace each day.  
Open our hearts to Your Word. Amen*

*With Grace and Love, Pastor Amy*

**February 8, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

\*\*+“Old Church Choir”

#40

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: We are the salt of the earth.

**Congregation: We remain faithful in covenant  
with God and one another.**

Lector: We are the light of the world.

**Congregation: We let God’s love shine through  
our lives.**

Lector: God calls us to live our faith openly and honestly.  
**Congregation: We come today, trusting in God’s  
grace and ready to follow Jesus together.**

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

**God of Love, You have called us to be the salt of the  
earth and the light of the world. You have gathered us  
here in covenant with You and with one another. Help  
us shine Your love through our acts of compassion and  
mercy. Open our hearts to Your Word. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*\*° Hymn: “Shine Jesus Shine”

insert

Celebration of Our Gifts

\*\* Offertory Response: “Doxology”

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

#625

° Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

#379

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Readings:

**Psalms 112:1-9**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Light of the World”

Holy Communion

\*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, We give You thanks for this meal for the  
grace we have received. Thank You for meeting us here,  
just as we are. Help us carry what we received today  
into our daily lives. Strengthen us to love more freely,  
to serve more faithfully, and to embody Your grace  
every day. Amen**

\*\*+“Soul on Fire”

#4

\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

\*\* Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

## Announcements

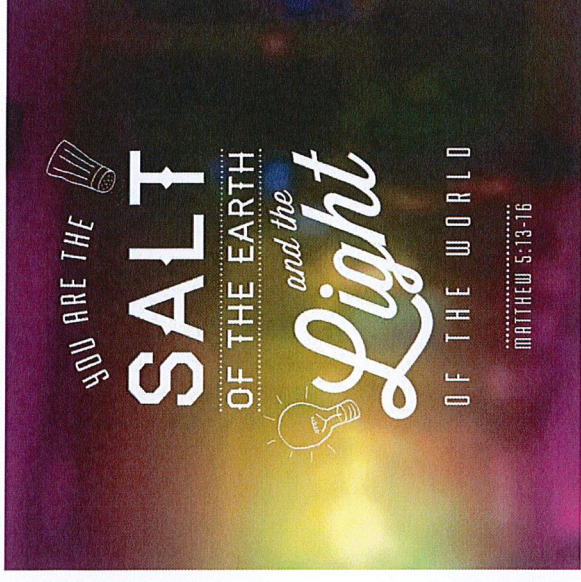
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.
- Join us for Ash Wednesday services on February 18<sup>th</sup> at noon and 7pm here at Grace UCC

## Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry – February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 - ZOOM
- Women's Ministry – February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **In Person**

## Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – February 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM
- Staff Meeting – February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 PM
- Worship & Music – February 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – February 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 PM



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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 – Anita Kincaid & Joleen Fennell

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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

## WORD LIST

ACTS  
 COLOSSIANS  
 CORINTHIANS  
 DANIEL  
 DEUTERONOMY  
 ESTHER  
 EXODUS  
 EZEKIEL

EZRA  
 GENESIS  
 HEBREWS  
 HOSEA  
 ISAIAH  
 JEREMIAH  
 JOB  
 JOHN

JONAH  
 JOSHUA  
 JUDGES  
 LEVITICUS  
 LUKE  
 MARK  
 MATTHEW

NUMBERS  
 PHILIPPIANS  
 PROVERBS  
 PSALMS  
 REVELATION  
 ROMANS  
 RUTH

*Homemade*  
 GIFTS MADE EASY

# WORDSEARCH

Salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:13-20)

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

HEAVEN  
CITY  
TRAMPLED  
KINGDOM  
TEACHES

EARTH  
FULFILLED  
SALT  
LIGHT