

# Grace Devotion

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Week of February 22, 2026

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” (*Matthew 4:1-4 NRSVUE*)

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Greetings Friends,



Seeing what really sustains us  
*The Wilderness*

As we begin our Lenten journey of “Learning to See”, we focus on seeing ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly. Ash Wednesday brought us an opportunity to see our own limits truthfully.

“Remember that you are dust.” These words are not spoken to shame us, but to free us. We began

Lent by telling the truth about who we are—unfinished, fragile, and deeply loved by God. Ashes marked our foreheads and we released the illusion that we have to be self-sufficient. We open ourselves to mercy, knowing that we have others we can lean on and knowing that God walks beside us through our journey. Lent began, not with answers, but with honesty and with the promise that God meets us right where we are.

The first Sunday in Lent asks us to see what really sustains us. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted with quick solutions and easy power. Each temptation asks the same question: “What do you trust to sustain you?” Lent invites each of us to look at the voices that promise security and success—and then to turn and listen instead for the quiet truth that God’s presence is enough. Learning to see clearly begins when we can name what cannot really feed us sustenance.

## Prayer:

God of Love, As we begin our journey during the season of Lent, be with us and open our eyes to see what You want to truly see and understand. Let us take this time to find clarity in the uncertain and to recognize what feeds us and makes us whole. Help us rest in a space that allows us to reflect and grow in understanding and compassion. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

# LENT 2026

## “Learning to See”

*Seeing ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly*

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### Week 1: Seeing Ourselves Honestly (Feb 18-Feb 21)

**Ash Wednesday** – What illusion do I need to release? **Thu** – Sit in silence for 5 minutes. Notice what surfaces. **Fri** – Pray: “God, help me see myself clearly.” **Sat** – What truth about myself needs compassion?

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### Week 2: Seeing What Truly Sustains Us (Feb 22-Feb 28)

**Sun** – Worship: What truly sustains me? **Mon** – What do I reach for when I’m stressed? **Tue** – Fast from one “quick fix” today. **Wed** – Read Matthew 4:1–11 slowly. **Thu** – What feeds my soul? What doesn’t? **Fri** – Spend time outdoors. Notice God’s provision. **Sat** – Practice gratitude for simple daily bread.

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### Week 3: Seeing Beyond What We Already Know (Mar 1-Mar 7)

**Sun** – Worship: Trusting more than quick fixes. **Mon** – Where might God be doing something new? **Tue** – Listen more than you speak today. **Wed** – What belief might need softening? **Thu** – Have a conversation with someone who sees differently. **Fri** – Pray: “Spirit, open my understanding.” **Sat** – Release the need to have all the answers.

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### Week 4: Seeing Those We've Overlooked (Mar 8-Mar 14)

**Sun** – Worship: Faith that lets go. **Mon** – Who do I pass by without noticing? **Tue** – Learn one new thing about someone today. **Wed** – Offer encouragement to someone unseen. **Thu** – Pray for someone on the margins. **Fri** – Practice hospitality in a small way. **Sat** – Ask: Who feels invisible?

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### Week 5: Seeing Truth — Even When It Costs (Mar 15-Mar 21)

**Sun** – Worship: Seen, known, and loved. **Mon** – Where am I avoiding hard truth? **Tue** – Admit one mistake honestly. **Wed** – Pray for courage to see clearly. **Thu** – Read John 9. What unsettles you? **Fri** – Choose integrity over comfort. **Sat** – Reflect: What truth is shaping me?

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### Week 6: Seeing Hope Where We Least Expect It (Mar 22-Mar 29)

**Sun** – Worship: Truth that challenges us. **Mon** – Where does life feel stuck? **Tue** – Sit with grief instead of rushing past it. **Wed** – Notice small signs of new life. **Thu** – Pray for hope in a hard place. **Fri** – Encourage someone who is waiting. **Sat** – Light a candle and name a hope. **Sun** (Palm Sunday) – See Jesus clearly, even when we misunderstand him.

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“Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see.”

February 22, 2026  
First Sunday in Lent

#26

Welcome/Announcements  
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

\*\*+“Love of God”

#71

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: Come, people of God, and lift your hearts.

**Congregation: We come to see clearly and be transformed.**

Lector: Open our eyes to see what really sustains us.

**Congregation: God calls us to honesty, mercy and love in all we see.**

Lector: Let us follow Christ, learning to see ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly.

**Congregation: We worship today, with our eyes and hearts open to God.**

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

**Gracious and loving God, As we enter this season of Lent, open our eyes to see—to see ourselves honestly, to see our neighbors with compassion, and to see You more clearly. Lent is a time for our reflections and for examining our lives. Let us recognize our own limits and trust in Your sustaining presence. Transform our hearts and help us follow Christ with courage and love. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*\*° Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress”

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

\*\*Lenten Statement of Faith

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others

Lord’s Prayer

Grace Choir: “At the Cross” arr. Mullen/Harris

Celebration of Our Gifts

\*\* Offertory Response: “Spirit of the Living God” #247

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

° Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”

#382

Scripture Reading:

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Trusting More than Quick Fixes”

\*\*+“Chain Breaker”

#54

\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

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

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

## Announcements

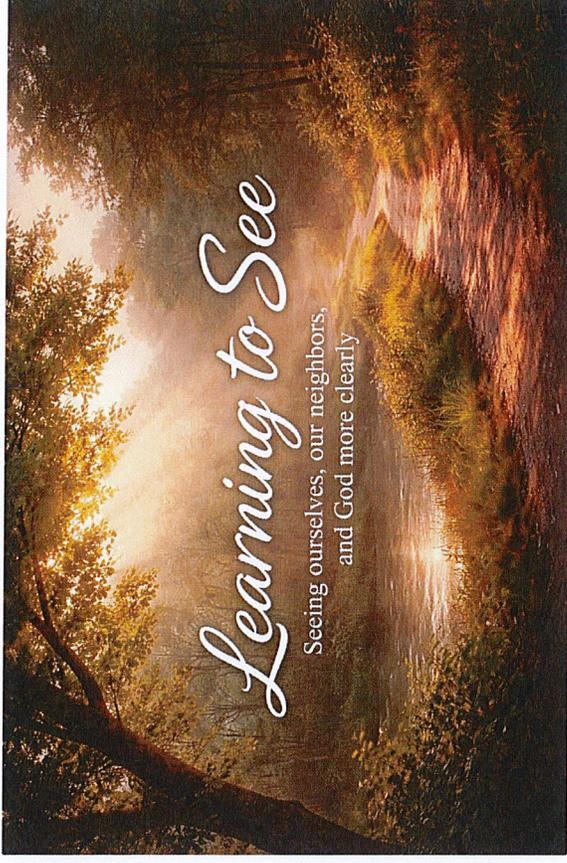
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.

## Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry – February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **In Person**
- Women's Ministry – March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **Zoom**
- Monthly Movie – March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM
- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers – March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00 AM
- Women's Ministry – March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM - **In Person**

## Upcoming Meetings

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



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

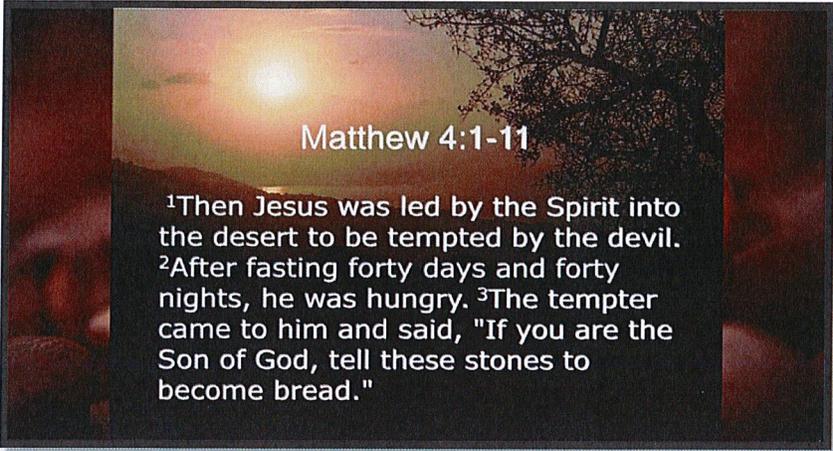
**Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:**

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector – Fay Emlet

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Becky Boyer



Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."



LED	FASTING	STONES	TEMPLE	SPIRIT
FORTY	BREAD	ANGELS	WILDERNESS	NIGHTS
WORD	MOUNTAIN	TEMPTED	HUNGRY	MOUTH
KINGDOMS	DEVIL	TEMPTER	HOLY	SPLENDOR

# Lent Word Search



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

WEDNESDAY	RELIGION	EASTER	ASHES	CROSS
SACRIFICE	LITURGY	CHURCH	JESUS	PALMS
KINDNESS	FASTING	PURPLE	FORTY	LENT