

Grace Devotion

Week of March 8, 2026



Seeing those we've learned to overlook
The Samaritan Woman

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[a] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir,^[b] you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir,^[c] give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” (John 4:7-15 NRSVUE)

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Happy Greetings from Grace,

As we continue on our Lenten journey we come to the Gospel of John and story of the Samaritan Woman. At a well in the heat of the day, Jesus sees a Samaritan woman, truly sees her—fully and without judgement. By being seen, she finds her voice and shares in conversation and community with Jesus. In that time we see her turning to Jesus and drinking from this living water, becoming a bearer of good news.

This Lenten season, we pause so that our eyes might be opened to see God’s people as God sees them, as God’s Beloved. We pass by so many people on our daily routines, and never even realize they are there. These are people who live on the margins, that look away from making any eye contact, that blend in with their surroundings. Each person is unique and God’s Beloved. Let us take time this week to truly see those who are around us. Who do you walk by without noticing? Who do you need to go out of your way to notice, that they are truly and fully seen?

May we take the time to really see the people around us—the ones we usually pass by without noticing. And as we see them, may we offer the same grace and welcome that Jesus offers, becoming bearers of love and good news in the small moments of everyday life.

**Prayer:**

God of Love, Each one of us is Your Beloved—loved, named, and claimed. Help to open our eyes that we might see those around us through Your eyes. Guide us to those who often remain unseen and give us the courage to reach out with love to make connections in Your name. Let each of us be willing to notice, reach out, and reflect Your love in our daily lives. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

March 8, 2026  
Third Sunday in Lent

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 those we have overlooked.

**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: “Amazing Grace”

#202

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

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

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

° Hymn: “Just As I Am” #342

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Scripture Reading:

**John 4:5-42**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Seen, Known, and Loved”

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, we thank You for this holy meal and that You meet us with grace and truth. As we continue this Lenten season of reflection, it helps us to see ourselves and one another more clearly. Help us carry Your living water out into a thirsty world. Amen**

\*\*+“Blessed Be Your Name” #41

\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

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

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

## Announcements

- Today's altar flowers are in memory of our lifetime member, Faye Myers, who entered eternal life one year ago this week (3/10/2025). The flowers are shared by her family, friends, and the "Princesses", Janette, Vickie, Wendy, Judy, and the Liberty-Belle Drum & Baton Corps family.
- Sign up to get your picture taken for the new church directory – call the church office to get a time slot.

## Upcoming Events

- Women's Ministry – March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM – **Zoom**
- Bible Study & Movie – March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 PM
- Monthly Movie – March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM
- Second Saturday – March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 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

- 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

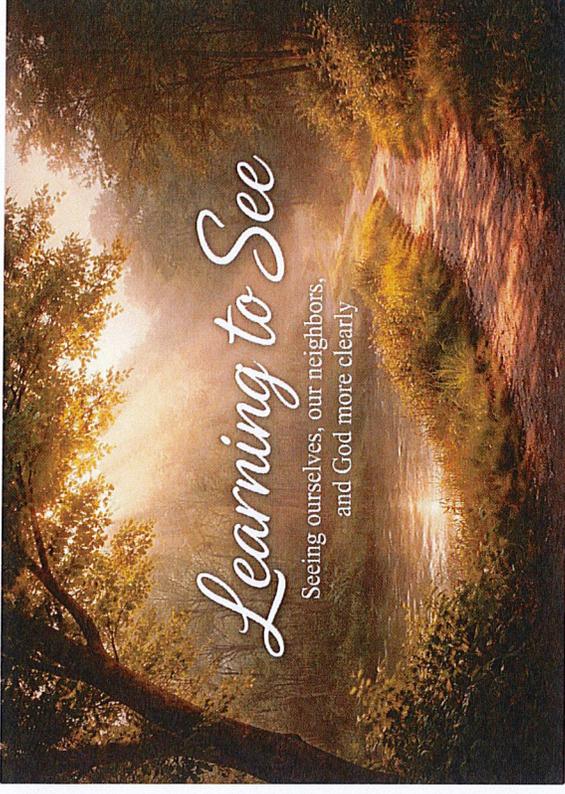
Grace United Church of Christ

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 – Jenn Weaver

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Ushers – Vickie Arnold & Becky Boyer

# JOHN 4

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PROPHET  
MESSIAH  
JESUS  
SPRING

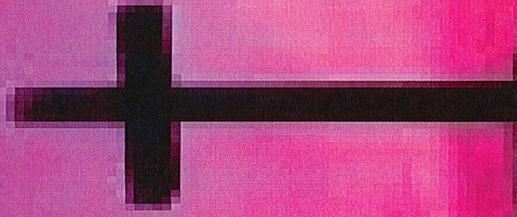
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MERCY  
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ASHES  
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GRACE  
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FRUITFUL  
CONVERSION  
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