

Grace Devotion

Week of March 15, 2026

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We^[a] must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” (*John 9:1–7, 13–17 NRSVUE from John 9:1–41*)

Greetings and Well-Wishes,

Today’s Gospel tells the long and layered story of a man born blind who is given sight—and how that gift unsettles everyone around him. With his sight comes a new clarity, one that challenges those who are certain they already see clearly. What begins as an act of healing quickly becomes a moment of disruption.

The disciples want an explanation. The Pharisees want answers. Everyone seems eager to assign meaning, responsibility, or blame. But Jesus refuses to play that game. Instead, he sees the man—not as a problem to solve, but as a person in whom God’s work might be revealed. Light meets darkness, and something new begins.

For the man who was blind, sight is not just physical. As he begins to see, he also begins to speak. He tells the truth of his experience, even when it makes others uncomfortable. His simple testimony—“*I washed, and now I see*”—becomes an act of courage. Seeing clearly, it turns out, can come at a cost.



Seeing the truth—and the cost of it
The Man Born Blind

Lent invites us into this same kind of holy seeing. It asks us to notice where we have been quick to judge, slow to listen, or too comfortable with what we think we already know. It calls us to open our eyes to God's work unfolding in unexpected places and people—even when that new vision unsettles us.

May we have the courage this week to see differently. May we trust that Christ, the light of the world, is still at work—opening eyes, challenging assumptions, and calling us into deeper truth and faithfulness.

Prayer:

God of Light, You meet us where we are and open our eyes in ways we do not expect. When we are quick to judge, slow us down. Help us see people as You see them—not as problems to explain, but as beloved lives where Your work is happening. Give us courage to tell the truth of what we have seen, even when it is uncomfortable or costly. When new ideas disrupt our certainty, remind us that You are still at work, guiding us into deeper understanding and grace. Teach us to walk in Your light, trusting that seeing clearly is both a gift and a calling. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**° Hymn: “Open My Eyes, That I May See” #381

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of
Grace

**Lenten Statement of Faith

**+“No Fear” #72

** 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 the truth, even when it costs 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

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: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #2

Scripture Reading:
John 9:1-41

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Truth that Challenges Us”

**+“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” #16

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

Announcements

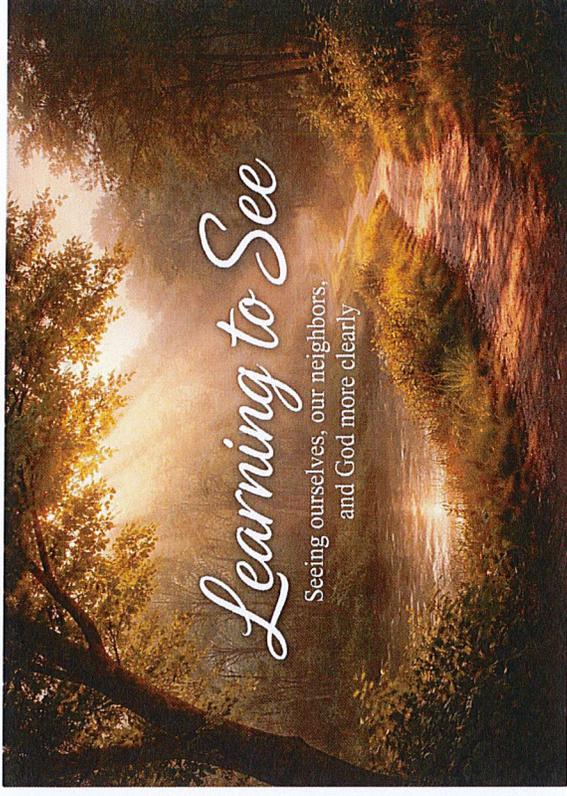
- Sign up to get your picture taken for the new church directory – call the church office to get a time slot.
- Contact the church office or Leslie Grote for more information about our new widower's group that will meet monthly.

Upcoming Events

- PAL – Grace UCC Helpers – March 21st @ 9:00 AM
- Women's Ministry – March 25th @ 7:30 PM - **In Person**

Upcoming Meetings

- Staff Meeting – March 16th @ 4:30 PM
- Worship & Music – March 23rd @ 4:45 PM
- Faith Formation – March 23rd @ 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 - Len Bankert

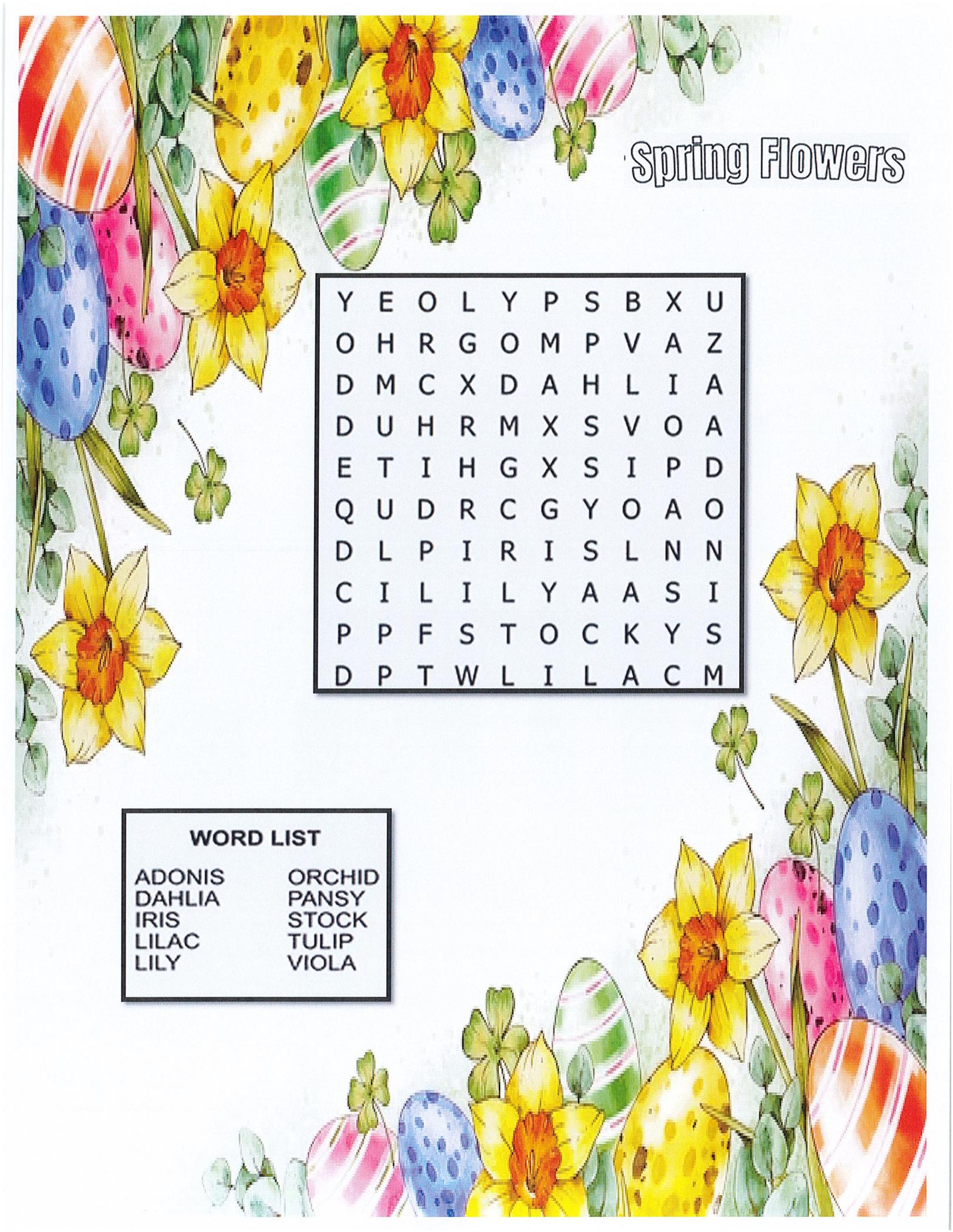
Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Becky Boyer

John 9

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

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|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| • FROM | • KNOW | • THEY | • HEARD |
| • THIS | • BROUGHT | • PARENTS | • NOTHING |
| • WORKS | • SABBATH | • PRAISE | • SINS |
| • NIGHT | • SIGHT | • BLIND | • WHEN |
| • WORLD | • OTHERS | • AGAIN | • MIGHT |
| • THUS | • OPENED | • HEAR | • TALKETH |
| • WASH | • UNTIL | • DISCIPLE | • WORSHIPPED |
| • BEGGED | • DOETH | • FELLOW | • WHICH |
| • OTHERS | • THAT | • MARVELLOUS | • UNTO |
| • SAID | • SHALL | • WORSHIPPER | • REMAINETH |
| • ANSWERED | | | |

A decorative border featuring various colorful Easter eggs (blue with spots, pink with spots, orange and white stripes, green and white stripes) and yellow flowers with orange centers (daisies or similar) and green leaves. The background is a light, textured white.

Spring Flowers

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

WORD LIST

ADONIS
DAHLIA
IRIS
LILAC
LILY

ORCHID
PANSY
STOCK
TULIP
VIOLA