



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
The Big Why:
Making Sense of God's Will Series
Week Three
Sunday, January 25, 2026
at 10:30am

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude "Sing Hallelujah" arr. Hayes

Welcome & Announcements

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

Introit "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" John Carter

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are they, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall find peace.
Blessed are they, for they shall find peace.*

They shall ascend the hill of the Lord, and stand in that holy place.

They shall receive God's blessing; they shall look upon God's face.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are they, for they shall see God.

* **Call to Worship** *adapted from Call to Worship (based on Psalm 27) in Ministry Matters from The Abingdon Worship Annual edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press*

The Lord is our light and our salvation!

Why should we be afraid?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life!

What have we to fear?

Let us shout with joy to God!

Let us sing and make music before a glorious God.

* **Opening Hymn** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies No. 173

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:1-4 (NRSVUE)

* **Gospel Lesson** Matthew 4:12-23 (NRSVUE)

The word of God for us, the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

All children are welcome to follow the Children's Chapel leaders to Children's Chapel for the remainder of the service, if they choose.

Sermon "Apology for Darkness" Rev. Mike Minnix

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Prayer of Confession *adapted from Prayer of Confession based on Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, 1 Corinthians, and Matthew 9 in Ministry Matters from The Abingdon Worship Annual edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press*

**God of light,
we live in the darkness of despair:
worried about our lives,
concerned for our health,
fearful that we are lost from you.
The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us:
our unwillingness to forgive,
our fear of one another,
our reluctance to share what we have,
our divisions and quarrels.
We long to turn from the dark
and live in the light.
We yearn to leave what is evil
and follow the paths of righteousness.
Shine the light of your love upon us
and transform us with your love,
that your promised realm may draw near.**

The Lord's Prayer Pg. 895

We invite you to share in the Lord's Prayer today and always in the heart language that is most familiar to you.

We pause in a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.

Canticle of Light and Darkness Pg. 205 with Response 2

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.

* **Sharing the Peace**
*Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation, love, and peace.
Peace be with you.*

* **Hymn** Christ is the World's Light No. 188

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer. Amen.

Sharing our Tithes & Offerings

At Grace, we practice giving our tithes and offerings by sharing through plates distributed by ushers and also through giving online. (For those looking to give online, a QR code is found on the back of the bulletin.) We pray that you experience God's joy during this tangible act of giving today.

Offertory "Wonderful Peace" arr. Hayes

* **Doxology** *from St. Paul & St. Andrews UMC*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God with all the hosts above.
Praise God in wonder, joy, and love.**

* **Offertory Prayer**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* **Hymn of Sending** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light No. 206

* **Benediction**

Postlude "How Majestic Is Your Name" arr. Hayes

As we prepare our minds, bodies, and spirits to reenter a world that needs Grace, we hope you'll pause to meditate on the postlude, and then come to Beggs Chapel through the doors at the front of the sanctuary, following worship, for Coffee & Connection!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Sound Board & Video - Don Reasoner
Sunday Facility Steward - Don Reasoner
Welcome Team - Janice Ames & Sue Kompare
Children's Chapel - Brookye Keeney & Lisa Bender
Worship Leader - Bonnie Rhoads
Guest Preacher - Rev. Mike Minnix

PRAYER CHAIN

We lift up Lisa Bender, as she prepares for spinal surgery on January 26th. We pray for a relief from nervousness and pain and for a smooth surgery to unfold. - 1/8

We pray for Sandy Creamer, Marjie & Dick Creamer's sister-in-law, who was just diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. We pray for peace in her mind and body and for wisdom for the physicians, as they guide her next steps. - 1/13

We pray for Lisa Wolf, as she recovers from rotator cuff surgery. We give thanks for the surgery's success and ask God for a smooth healing process. - 12/15

We continue to lift up prayers for Carly Wolf this week, as she tries a new course of treatment to combat widespread allergic reactions. We pray for a solution to come to light quickly! - 1/19

We pray for the family and friends of Herbie Kern, who passed away after several months in hospice care and whose life was celebrated by his family and friends last week - 1/19

We pray for Kevin Kern, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, doing fairly well with a brutal chemotherapy regimen. - 12/15

We give great thanks that Leall Williams, who has been on our prayer list for many months in the midst of a clinical trial, has finished treatment, is now turning 43 and has, for now, been declared cancer-free! Praise God! - 1/12

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Dasha Musante, and Karl Heithacker - for cancer treatment
Larry Coleman, Jeff Cartwright, Larry Coleman, and Carol Moore with lengthy health and other concerns.

If you are aware of anyone homebound, please let the office know so we can see that they are cared for. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE DURING PASTOR ANNA'S VACATION - January 22 - January 29 - Pastor Anna will be out on vacation from January 22nd through January 29th. If you are in need of pastoral care during that week, please reach out to the Rev. Mike Minnix - michaelminnix@gmail.com or 717-497-4048, or call the church office, and leave a message for the volunteers - 717-238-6739.

CALLING GRACE CHURCH JUSTICE ADVOCATES - January 28, 10am - Capitol Rotunda - Justice advocates are needed to show up at the PA State Capitol on Wednesday, January 28 at 10 am to support our Bishop, Hector Burgos Nunez, who is a participant at a prayer vigil and press conference to launch "With One Voice: Interfaith Leaders United To End Gun Violence."

The morning prayer vigil is from 10:30 - 11:30 in the Main Rotunda followed by a press conference from 11:45am/NOON in the Capitol Media Room. RSVP that you can come to all or part of this event to Rev. Ryan Gephart: rgephart@susumc.org He asks that clergy wear religious/clerical clothing ideally if available. Lay persons are encouraged to wear justice related t-shirts if available, or professional attire. A good turnout is needed to draw the attention of the media to cover the vigil and press conference. See the goals listed in the weekly email.

BRAZILIAN STUDENT POTLUCK CELEBRATION LUNCH! - Sunday, February 1 after 10:30 worship in Fellowship Hall - It's winter, and that means - get ready to potluck!!!! We are so excited to welcome students from Brazil through our former music director, Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman's connection with Lebanon Valley College and brilliant Brazilian music students! The students will be participating in worship with us two weekends this year - on January 18th and February 1st, and we know from their reflections over the years that the time they spend with us at Grace Church is impactful for them - and a joy for us! We hope you'll plan to stay after worship for lunch together with them, as a church, that day and to bring a potluck item to share, helping our students to learn and enjoy Pennsylvania cuisine! If you have questions about how to help with the event, please contact Sue at sukomp55@aol.com. A signup sheet for the picnic themed lunch is available in the narthex.

CHOIR REHEARSAL TIME CHANGES TO 9:30AM - Sunday, February 8 - Choir rehearsals are currently held at 9am on Sundays, but the weekly rehearsal time will be moved to 9:30am starting on Sunday, February 8th! If you've thought in the past about joining the choir, but never made the final call, this is an awesome time to try it out! Come to Beggs Chapel at 9:30am on Sunday mornings, to practice with Bahar and Max, as they lead choir rehearsal. Questions? Contact Bahar at music@gracehbg.org.

JAM AT GRACE - February Date TBD, 6:30pm in Beggs Chapel - In 2026, we've launched monthly folk-style jam sessions with our new Worship Arts Director, Max Ludwig! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to come along for casual jam sessions featuring hymns and other spiritual music with time to pray for whatever is happening in your life, email Max at worship@gracehbg.org. The next jam session is in February - Date TBD at 6:30pm. These jam sessions will help prep us, as we get ready to launch Beer & Hymns nights later in the year. All are welcome!

FIRST STEP CLASS - Thursday, February 12, 12noon on Google Meet - Curious to learn more about Grace Church and possibly, how to be baptized, join as a member, or take another next step in faith? Sign up for First Step by filling out a Welcome Form in the Narthex or emailing office@gracehbg.org. We hope you'll especially consider this class, if you've been thinking about taking a next step in your faith to be baptized or join the church but just haven't gotten there yet.



OUR MISSION: We celebrate human diversity and affirm God's gifts of love and grace for ALL persons. Each of us is created in the image of God and is a child of God. We invite you, no matter your age, race, ethnicity, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, immigration status or economic situation, to be in ministry with us. We support the full participation of all persons in every phase of church life. We believe that at Grace Church you will experience a God who already knows you by name, loves you, and yearns to have an even closer relationship with you. As a Reconciling Congregation, our hearts, minds and doors are open, and we are blessed by your presence.

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are currently by appointment only.
Please call or email the church office to schedule an appointment.

STAFF

Anna E. Layman Knox
Pastor
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Hannah Reasoner
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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Class of 2026
Lisa Bender - Secretary
Steve Drachler
Christie House - Safe Sanctuaries
Coordinator

Class of 2027
Rick Albright
Amy Hall - Chair
Wendy Minnix

Class of 2028
Brookye Keeney
Bonnie Rhoads
Jessica Schneck - Vice Chair

Non-voting
Church Historian - Wayne Bender
Pastor - Anna Layman Knox



Scan to give
online today!

GIVE ONLINE: Give to Grace UMC Harrisburg online via PayPal. Please scan the QR code with the camera on your phone for a direct link to our PayPal or visit gracehbg.org. Please contact the church office for any questions at 717-238-6739.

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AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
BOLD IN CHRIST • ABOUNDING IN LOVE • GROUNDED IN FAITH



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