

Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Scott,

You're

APPRECIATED

For Your

LEADERSHIP † FAITHFULNESS

DEDICATION † COMPASSION

STEADFASTNESS † MOTIVATION

SELFLESSNESS

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 11, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, You have invited us and welcomed us to this place of worship. You draw us away from the idols we create to take Your place. When we come together, we sense that there is nothing in life that can substitute for a vital relationship with You. Yet we are only dimly aware of who You are. All the mysteries of the universe are in Your hands, yet You have made Yourself known among the people of this earth. We catch glimpses of Your work among us and are amazed. We want to meet You again today, as for the first time. Touch us. Remake us. Help us to stand firm in the faith. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Then when we first begun

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

God invites us to the marriage feast of life, but we put off accepting the invitation. We are summoned to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ, but we busy ourselves with other distractions. Surely, God will judge our unresponsiveness. Let us examine ourselves and seek forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, Your repeated invitations to us have fallen on deaf ears. Your promises are revealed before unseeing eyes. We have resisted Your companionship and failed to grasp the peace You offer. We are anxious about many things, and we allow our differences to divide us. Have compassion on us, Amazing God, and vindicate us. Center us once again on Jesus Christ and on the peace You are eager to give us.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The wonders of God are all around us, assuring us of forgiveness and welcome. God hears our requests and answers when we call. The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, is ours to receive and enjoy. Thanks be to God!

HOLY SCRIPTURES

EXODUS 32:1-14

The Golden Calf

¹ When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that you wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord."

⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.

⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "O Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?

¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: '*I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.*' "

¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23

¹ Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord
or fully declare his praise?

³ Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.

⁴ Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people,
come to my aid when you save them,

⁵ that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise.

⁶ We have sinned, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.

¹⁹ At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.

²⁰ They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.

²¹ They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,

²² miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

²³ So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.

MATTHEW 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.

SERMON: “Inviting”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom, come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have been honored by God’s presence with us;
We have been strengthened by being together.
Now we are sent out to gather others for God.

CLOSING HYMN: “Love Lifted Me”

Stanza 1

I was sinking deep in sin
Far from the peaceful shore
Very deeply stained within
Sinking to rise no more
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry
From the waters lifted me
Now safe am I

Chorus

Love lifted me
Love lifted me
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me

Love lifted me
Love lifted me
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me

Stanza 2

All my heart to Him I give
Ever to Him I'll cling
In His blessed presence live
Ever His praises sing
Love so mighty and so true
Merits my soul's best songs
Faithful, loving service, too
To Him belongs (Chorus)

Stanza 3

Souls in danger, look above
Jesus completely saves
He will lift you by His love
Out of the angry waves
He's the Master of the sea
Billows His will obey
He your Savior wants to be
Be saved today

WEEKLY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Grove building.

GRIEFSHARE: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. Please share with family members and friends who are experiencing a time of grief. All are welcome!

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Throughout October and November. \$3/person or \$5/couple.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: Throughout October

This United Church of Christ offering supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Two-thirds of the offering supports projects that support voting rights, health care and civil liberties. One third supports UCC churches on American Indian Reservations. Please see Linda Huggens to make your donation.

ALL SAINTS DAY: All Saints Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1. We will celebrate the saints who have been called to their eternal home in the last year. If you have a family member or friend that you would like to have remembered, please contact the church office at 717-637-2299 by October 25.

CANNED CORN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY DINNERS: New Hope Ministries will be providing food packets for delicious Thanksgiving meals for area guests and their families in Hanover this Thanksgiving. We have pledged to help by providing **200 cans of corn** for the dinners. Please have your donations to the church by **Sunday, November 8**. We can help to make Thanksgiving a happy and healthy one for our local neighbors. Thank you for your contributions!

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS: If you would like to mail your offerings to the church, please mail them to Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 and include one offering envelope indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David's!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pscott8283@comcast.net) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

NEWS FROM THE HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

THE CLOTHING BANK IS OVERFLOWING: There are many, many good quality clothing items available at the Council of Churches Clothing Bank. Items are available for the public as well as for clients. Call for you appointment at 717-633-6353.

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL: Cooking spray, Egg Noodles, Cream of Chicken Soup, Canned Fresh Carrots, Dish Detergent, Salad Dressing, Ziplock Sandwich Bags, Black Pepper.

Clothing Bank: Adult Toiletries.

Changing Lives Shelter: Volunteers Needed 4 PM – 7 PM, Deodorant, Feminine Products, Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitizing Wipes w/Bleach.

Ruth's Harvest: Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (All Single Serve Containers).

Donations are Accepted Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM or by Appointment (Call 717-633-6353 to schedule a drop-off time)

PAL Date: Saturday, October 24. **Clothing Bank Date:** Friday, October 16, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Volunteers are always needed for the various HACC ministries. PAL: packing, serving; Shelter: both AM and PM; Meals on Wheels: runners and drivers, prayer cards and words of encouragement for our shut-ins, large print word find or crossword activity books; Front Desk: Tuesday and Friday reception help; Cleaning: on Wednesdays.

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: There are **No Bin Pickups** at this time. The Drive-up on Baltimore Street is accepting donations of clothing, shoes, jewelry, toys and games. They are not accepting household items or home décor items. Currently, drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hanover Center, 135 Baltimore Street is in great need of various volunteer positions: Pantry Helpers, Parking Helpers and Administrative Helpers are needed. If interested in volunteering, click on the following link for an online application form:
<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=926601804&OR=1>

HYMN NOTES

AMAZING GRACE: The author of the hymn was, by his own admission, a "wretch." He was a slave trader, a blasphemer, a rebel, an immoral man, a torturer, and as far from grace as anyone could ever be. As a boy, John was captivated by the adventure and risk of life on the high seas. When he was eleven, young John Newton launched into that exciting life of voyaging, sailing, and living his dream. But the dream turned out to be a nightmare. Later in life he wrote, "I sinned with a high hand, and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others." Newton lived a hard life with hard consequences. God got his attention though. In 1748, Newton's slave ship was nearly wrecked by an intense storm. In the tempest, surrounded by crashing waves, cutting winds, creaking timbers, and the cries of onboard slaves, John fell to his knees and pled for mercy, and for grace. God's grace, which reaches anyone, anywhere, saved a wretch like John Newton.

LOVE LIFTED ME: Written by James Rowe, 1865–1933. Pseudonym: James S. Apple. James Rowe was born in England in 1865. He served four years in the Government Survey Office, Dublin Ireland as a young man. He came to America in 1890 where he worked for ten years for the New York Central & Hudson R.R. Co., then served for twelve years as superintendent of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society. He began writing songs and hymns about 1896 and was a prolific writer of gospel verse with more than 9,000 published hymns, poems, recitations, and other works. (*Dianne Shapiro, from "The Singers and Their Songs: sketches of living gospel hymn writers" by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (Chicago: The Rodeheaver Company, 1916)*)