

God's Work. Our Hands.

Service of Word and Sacred Meal

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 · 10:00 AM

All are welcome! Common Ground is a recovery ministry that believes everyone is recovering from something. Whether recovering from addictions, losses, hurts, hang-ups or life, all of us are broken and in need of God's grace. We welcome you to our community.

We gather together for rest and refreshment, healing and hope, to commune and console and to sing and pray to God who, by grace, transforms our chaos and illuminates our darkness.

WE ARE WELCOMED

Greetings and Announcements

Centering Music

Adagio from Violin Sonata No. 1 — J.S. Bach

Naomi Tam, violin

We say the 12 Steps together:

- 1. We admitted we were powerless — that our lives had become unmanageable.**
- 2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**
- 3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.**
- 4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**
- 5. We admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**
- 6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**
- 7. We humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.**
- 8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.**
- 9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**
- 10. We continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.**
- 11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood God, praying only for the knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.**
- 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

WE ADMIT OUR WRONGS AND ARE FORGIVEN

We make a public confession. During this time, we reflect on the ways that we have acted out on our character defects, causing harm to our relationships with God, one another, and ourselves.

Let us admit the exact nature of our wrongs in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination. (Think of it as a 10th Step if that helps.)

We confess together:

Loving God,

We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your beloved.

Amen.

We are forgiven:

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your wrongdoings are forgiven, for the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior.

We sing a song: God's Work, Our Hands

God's Work, Our Hands

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er, build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er, fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er, prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
4 God is at work in and a - round us: seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!

rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens, feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom, run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice, claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored, gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way, shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,

Text: Wayne L. Wold
Music: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS, Wayne L. Wold
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We pray together:

Forgiving God, grant us the courage to make amends for the wrongs we have done, grant us the wisdom to know when it would do more harm than good, and the willingness to let go of the outcomes. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

We gather to listen for the word of God in song, prayer, 12-step literature, and scripture. We listen to each other and to a message of delight, comfort, healing and promise. We listen for the very presence of God, our higher power in our midst.

Step of the Month

We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

We hear a reading from 12-step literature:

Reconciliation is an important spiritual principle for us to consider: we come to terms with the reality of our actions, and we also reconcile with people we have had conflict with. Sometimes reconciliation means that we restore the relationship to its previous state, or a new state based on our current reality, and sometimes it means that we make peace with the fact that the connection with that person is lost. Reconciliation can also mean restoring balance like when one “reconciles accounts.” When we take on what is not ours, as when we take responsibility for someone else’s feelings or actions, we are out of balance, and the result is often destructive. We do what we can to amend the harm we have done and to restore balance in our relationships, and we let go of the results. Facing the responses of some people from our past may give us a much sharper vision of who we had been, and it can take some work to make peace with that. We want to be very aware of who we are becoming, and use this new information about our past to help us move forward.

Living Clean, page 154

We hear a reflection:

We all feel guilty at times. I feel guilty if I get angry with my colleague or if I yell at the children or if I’m rude to a stranger on the street. Guilt is a word associated with doing; we feel guilty when we do something wrong or when we hurt someone we care about. Brené Brown writes, “Guilt helps us stay on track, because it’s about our behavior. It occurs when we compare something we’ve done, or failed to do, with our personal values. The discomfort that results often motivates real change, amends, and self-reflection.”

Guilt is derived from the German word *gelt*, which means recompense or repayment of a debt. If we are unable to forgive ourselves because we feel guilt, then the solution is to look at whom we need to recompense for our actions. Do we need to apologize? Pay someone back the money we stole? Do we need to own up to our actions directly to the person we harmed and witness the anguish we’ve caused? Since feelings of guilt come from specific things we have done or not done, they can only be resolved by taking action. In short, more doing.

Desmond Tutu, The Book of Forgiving, pages 206–207

We hear a reading from Scripture: Matthew 5:21–24

You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill.

"This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God."

We share our stories

Anyone is invited to briefly share a minute or two how what they have heard makes sense in their lives, to express thanks, fear, gratitude, doubt, and witness to the hope they have heard.

We hear a message

We sing a song: Before the Waters Nourished Earth, ACS 1049

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

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We pray for all people, for the world, and those not with us

Prayer Response — *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

Offertory Anthem

Prayer — Hugo Wolf

Jacinda Motley, soprano

Everything in our lives — our money, our talents, our possessions, our time, and our passions — has been entrusted to us by God for use according to God's will. Generosity is a spiritual practice that acknowledges all that God has done for us and given to us. Generosity and service are inherent in Step Twelve as "we carry the message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs." Common Ground is a stand-alone recovery ministry that is dependent on your generous giving. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts of time, talent, and money in support of God's work in our community. Your offering can be made online using the QR code.

WE SHARE A MEAL

We eat and drink a feast together! In our communion we remember we are never alone, for God joins us in this meal, and God makes us who we are: loved and forgiven.

We pray 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Music during communion

O Salutaris — César Franck

Jacinda Motley, soprano, and Josh Motley, tenor

We are blessed:

As you go out into the community, strengthened by Jesus' presence both in you and with you, may you reflect his love in all you do. Amen.

We say the Serenity Prayer:

**God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can,
and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.**

We stand at our seats and sing Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am 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.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

WE ARE SENT

Having been fed and nourished by God's presence in Word and Sacrament, we are sent forth to love and serve others.

We receive a blessing:

May the Spirit give you grace never to sell yourself — or others — short.
Grace to risk something big for something good.
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth.
And too small for anything but love.
So may the Spirit take your mind and think through it.
May the Spirit take your lips and speak through them.
May the Spirit take your hands and do good with them.
May the Spirit take your heart and set it on fire.

We share a sign of peace:

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Remember, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” So may your light shine brightly, reflecting God’s love wherever you go and lighting the path for others to follow.

THERE ARE TWO PLACES WHERE COMMON GROUND MEETS FOR WORSHIP

Atonement Wyomissing — Wednesdays

5:30 pm Meal · 6:30 pm Worship · 7:15 pm Small Groups

Trinity Reading — Mondays

1–4 pm Healing Activities · 4 pm Worship · 4:30 pm Meal
1–3 pm Refresh Berks Shower Trailer · 1–3 pm Clothing Closet

Everyone is welcome at all our worship services and events!

For more information contact Pastor Tom Scornavacchi at PastorTom@cgrcommunity.org or Pastor Molly Haggerty at pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com.

COMMON GROUND RECOVERY COMMUNITY

A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
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