



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

MAY 2021

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Return To Worship

It's time. It's finally time to start the gradual homecoming of our Grace family. The Return to Worship team has been working with the pastoral staff to plan just how that will happen, starting Sunday, May 2.



New Worship Schedule

Since the team was formed approximately a year ago, our overriding concerns have been to follow Synod advice; federal, state and local recommendations; current scientific guidance; and, most especially, the commandment to love one another, to treat our Grace brothers and sisters as if they were ourselves.

This philosophy has been the overarching principle we tried to follow for May as we pilot our first in-person worship at Grace in months (excepting Christmas Eve and Easter). Please understand these preparations are, indeed, a pilot. We know we will need to make changes as we put our plans into action and we humbly ask your forgiveness and flexibility as we adjust and adapt. Please understand the worship experience you encounter May 2 will probably not be the same as the one you have June 6.

And what will that worship experience in May look like? Here are the current plans:

8:30 a.m.: We will resume the parking lot worship service of last summer and fall. There are no changes planned for this service, other than we will need everyone attending to enter from Beaver or Foster and exit the parking lot onto Garner after the service has ended. Garner will be blocked at the start of this service, but the barriers will be removed at the end of worship.

9:30 a.m.: This will be a weather-dependent outdoor service celebrated in the Columbarium courtyard. We will ask congregants to enter Grace from either Foster or Beaver and park in the Miller Center lot. Also, please bring your own chairs. This service is modeled after the popular Worship in the Park gatherings of last summer. Properly worn masks and six-foot distances between groups will be required even if parishioners are fully vaccinated, since we must protect those who are not yet vaccinated. Seating areas will be marked.

For safety reasons, we will need everyone to either enter through the Miller Center or use the sidewalk along Beaver that intersects to the sidewalk leading to the Columbarium. There are a few steps on that sidewalk, but an usher will be available to help anyone who might need it. And ushers will also be available in the Miller Center to help parishioners accessing the Columbarium courtyard from that direction.

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As mentioned, this is a weather-dependent service. The decision to cancel the 9:30 a.m. service will be made no later than 8 p.m. the Saturday before. Congregants should check the Grace website and Facebook pages at 8 p.m. to find out the status of the next day's service. If possible, we will also send out an email, but cancellations will definitely be announced on the website and on Facebook.

10:30 a.m.: Indoor, in-person worship in the Sanctuary, limited to 60 individuals. This limit will allow us to provide six feet of distance between groups; all individuals must be properly masked. We have identified areas of the Sanctuary where we will seat individuals, couples, and families and ask parishioners to wait for an usher to direct them to a seat.

To enable us to adhere to the 60-person limit, we are requiring anyone interested in the 10:30 service to sign up by noon of the Thursday before the service. We are strongly encouraging everyone to use Signup Genius; links will be included on the website, Facebook page, and in E-Notes. If you are unable to use Signup Genius, you can also reserve a spot by calling the church office Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. Please, though, only call if you just can't use Signup Genius – we want to make this extra burden on church staff as light as possible.

As of now, there will be no congregational singing at either the 9:30 or 10:30 services. Although the vaccination rates are more than encouraging, there are still fewer people vaccinated than unvaccinated, and the dangers of COVID are real, no matter your age or health. It has been well-documented that singing is one of the most effective ways of letting virus particles loose into the air and while properly worn masks are effective, they aren't 100% effective.

To sum up:

1. If you're planning to come to the 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. services, we need you to wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth from the time you exit your car to the time you get back in your car.
2. We will also require groups to sit six feet apart, whether you're at the 9:30 or 10:30 service.
3. For the 9:30 service, check the website or Facebook starting at 8 p.m. Saturday to make sure the service is not cancelled if the weather is questionable.
4. For the 10:30 service, reservations must be made by noon Thursday, preferably via Signup Genius, but if that isn't possible, by calling the church office.

The Return to Worship team and the pastoral staff have – and continue to – put a lot of effort into ensuring the worship experience is as safe as possible, while also being meaningful. We know we haven't thought of everything and we are also well aware that some of the things we thought would work might not. Again, we ask for your patience, forgiveness and understanding as we go forward. As you sample the services we've planned, please tell us how we can improve – but equally as important, also tell us what you like. Together, we're coming back to Grace.

Lisa Wiedemer, The Return to Worship Team Leader

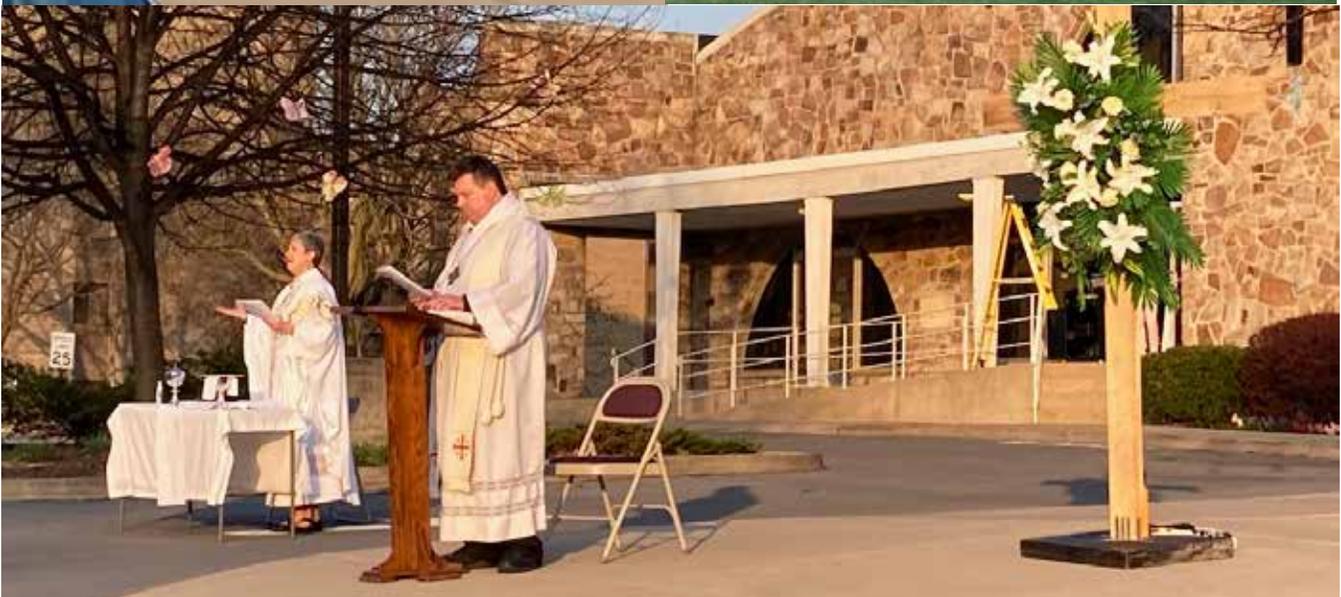
**Password Required
to Download
Grace Bulletins**

Changes in copyright law have obligated us to add a password to our downloadable worship bulletins. The password will be required each time you download a bulletin, but for the foreseeable future the password will stay the same. It is **66JoyfulELCA**. We regret the inconvenience, but this will allow us to continue to put all of the music and liturgy in our bulletin so we can worship without undue page flipping or distraction.



We thank Sally Keiser-Bankert and Carl Bankert for donating this beautiful floral arrangement for Grace's cross for the Easter (drive-in) worship services in memory of Sally's parents, Pete and Lois Keiser.

**Photos from Easter Morning, April 4th,
at the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Drive-in Worship Service**



Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
May 2 The 5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 9 The 6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 16 The 7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 23 The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 30 The Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

Ringling the Joy of Easter: Handbells at Grace Lutheran Church

Those who have attended Easter services have likely heard the repeating patterns of descending bells that joyfully announce Jesus's victory over the grave. The sound is unforgettable. Equally memorable is our own "ringleader," Anna Carol Buffington, who enthusiastically directed our bell choir for many years and succumbed to sudden illness on January 26, 2021. Anna Carol would not have wanted us to focus on her, but since she loved to talk about handbells, this article is a way of honoring her memory while looking toward the future of The Bells of Grace, our handbell choir, which she led and loved.

A Touch of History: Bells and Handbells

Historically, bells were rung from towers to signify important events. Handbells first appeared in western culture in early 18th century England (Asian origins were earlier). Originally, ringers practiced complicated ringing patterns in cold towers where the bells were housed; entire towns were subjected to long rehearsals. Small, portable handbells enabled ringers to practice in the relative warmth of community buildings and to avoid annoying neighbors with hours of practicing.

Today, the tradition of marking important occasions continues largely in churches and with carefully tuned bells, they call us to worship and help us to mark Holy days such as Christmas and Easter. Weddings are celebrated with festive sounds, whereas solemn occasions like All Saints are marked with deep, rich tones and the tolling of bells to remember those who have passed from this earth into God's kingdom during the past year.

Handbells at Grace

Handbells first arrived in America in 1902; Pennsylvania makers Malmark and Schulmerich became synonymous with high quality. In 1973, Grace purchased its first three octaves of bells. During Anna Carol's tenure additional octaves as well as a set of chimes and silver melody bells were added, enabling our handbell choir to ring with sounds as rich and diverse as human voices. Anna Carol led 14-16 dedicated volunteer ringers, who

regularly enhanced worship. She also coordinated ringers for small vocal and instrumental ensembles; participated in Grace's annual Lenten ecumenical concerts; taught teens how to ring bells and chimes; co-led Sing 'n Ring children's choir; and was a leader of the annual Nittany Valley Handbell Festival. A favorite composer was Michael Glasgow, a renowned graduate of Concordia (Lutheran) University, who was the guest conductor at a recent handbell festival concert.

Ringling in a Bright Future

Anna Carol was a joyful servant of God who brought together people with diverse backgrounds to ring the sounds of reflection, sorrow, and joy wherever they were needed. For everything there is a season, and the time has come for us to pass the baton to a new director. Transitions can seem foggy at times, but one thing is as clear as a bell: We are grateful for Anna Carol's service and the legacy she left behind, which – combined with the dedication of our current and "yet-to-be ringers" – will give us a clear path forward!



The Bells of Grace

From Our Senior Pastor



The Rev. Scott E. Schul
pastorschul@glcpa.org

Pentecost

On May 23 we will once again celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's a big day on the church calendar, right up there with Christmas and Easter, because it marks the "birthday of the Church" – that moment when God unleashed the Holy Spirit to bless, guide, and inspire Christ's followers forevermore. I feel unsettled this Pentecost, because the contrast between the images of the Holy Spirit metaphorically soaring freely throughout our world so contrasts with the sense of isolation and containment we have all experienced since this awful pandemic began over a year ago.

The Prayer of the Day assigned to us this Pentecost, however, provides some helpful direction:

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

I think we are all needful of God's breath in our bones, reinvigorating us, reanimating us, and relieving us of the stresses and deprivations of the past year. At times over the last 12 months I suspect we have each presented a checklist to God and have offered the bargain that if these conditions were met, suddenly all would be better. What is on your list? The ability to travel? To see someone in particular? To be able to hold an event? To return to Grace and be able to worship, fellowship, eat, and socialize like we all enjoyed doing prior to March 2020? Our lists are long and heartfelt. *God, when is that holy breath of yours coming?*

But, what I've come to see is that *God has already started breathing new life into our bones.* Take yourself back to March 2020 when this whole mess began. Imagine if we had known *then* what we know *now* about how long and drawn out this international crisis would be, and how many lives would be lost. Imagine if in March 2020 you knew with perfect clarity that it would be *this long* until you might be able to return to worship in the sanctuary. What would your response have been?

I'm guessing your response would have been somewhere between despair, misery, and hopelessness. Quite understandably you would have wondered if the Christian Church in general and Grace Lutheran in particular would be able to survive. Would we be able to find ways to meaningfully worship? Would Grace be able to pay its bills and continue its support of partner ministries? Would our preschool

have to close, perhaps forever? And how would we ever manage to eliminate our enormous building debt? Believe me, these are the kinds of questions that kept me and so many other pastors across this country tossing and turning at night.

But instead, God has indeed breathed life into our bones. We have continued to worship each and every Sunday and every Church holiday. We have done so online, in parking lots, in public parks, and even a baseball stadium. We have quickly adapted to new ways of communicating, like Zoom, Podcasts, and YouTube. We completely paid off our mortgage. Giving to the budget has been phenomenal. Our preschool has managed to navigate a number of COVID storms and keep educating our children. And in the midst of it all, we have felt God's Holy Spirit coursing through our lives, our congregation, and our community.

Now that all Pennsylvanians are finally eligible to receive the COVID vaccine, I have asked our Return to Worship Team ("RtW Team") to formulate a May worship schedule that takes into account a wide variety of worship settings so that we accommodate an equally wide variety of personal situations. As I hope you saw on the cover of this issue of Grace Notes, May will feature Sunday morning worship that begins at 8:30 with a parking lot service, continues outdoors at our courtyard/columbarium area at 9:30, and then at 10:30 moves indoors to our sanctuary for a limited in-person service that is simultaneously broadcast over WRSC radio.

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The RtW Team has devised a number of protocols and procedures to keep us safe and organized, so please give due attention to Lisa Wiedemer's article (she is our RtW Team Leader). I'm very grateful to the team members for their wide range of expertise, attention to detail, and love of Grace.

COVID conditions here in Centre County have been changing dramatically – sometimes in positive ways and sometimes in very negative ways. And so we are going to keep making our worship decisions on a month-by-month basis, always taking into account local conditions, governmental guidelines, and the ever-evolving scientific recommendations. All of this change is wearying. You feel it and so do I. But as we look back on the last 14 months, I marvel at what we, by God's grace, have accomplished as a congregation. *God IS breathing new life into our bones.*

More Good News for Grace: Video and Audio Upgrades

Throughout the pandemic I've heard from quite a few Grace members that you'd like us to be able to offer livestream video of our worship services. We have tried a little of that with iPhones, iPads, and other simple consumer electronics, but the results have been unsatisfactory. Our sanctuary is cavernous, which makes lighting and sound really, really tricky. There's no doubt, however, that a growing number of people will be wanting this worship opportunity now that we have gotten more accustomed to "remote worship." Folks who have moved away or who are travelling will also be able to stay in touch with their home congregation.

Accordingly, Council has approved

an investment in video streaming equipment recommended by our consultants. The system will feature three "PTZ" cameras (pan/tilt/zoom) that will be discretely mounted on the balcony and operated remotely. A fourth non-mounted manual camera will also be available for our use. The cameras will provide high quality video of Grace worship, and we will be able to feed the "house sound" directly into the video feed, so that viewers do not have to contend with annoying and indecipherable echoes. We hope to have this up and running before summer's end.

On a parallel track, Council also approved an enhancement to our Miller Center: a permanent, plug-and-play sound system. This was Grace's intention when the Miller Center was first conceived and designed, but cost overruns required that it be axed from the final project. Now we are able to realize that dream. Ceiling mounted speakers will provide a quality audio experience that is controlled from a wall mounted board in the Youth Room. We will also be able to feed Miller Center audio into online applications like Zoom meetings. It is a simple, adaptable, user-friendly system which will dramatically expand the ways we can use that important space. It will benefit the church, the preschool, and the outside groups that make use of this space. This also is something that we hope will be up and running by summer's end.

Best of all, we are able to pay for these two significant enhancements by using a portion of a generous bequest that Lu Magnusson left to us. This will not impact Grace's budget or require any additional contributions. As many of you know, Lu struggled with hearing loss. I think

she would be enormously pleased that a portion of her generous gift to Grace is being used to make our ministries more accessible to more people. Thanks as well to John Palmgren, whose deep expertise in audio/video systems has been invaluable in guiding this project along. Lu's generosity and the expertise of John and countless other dedicated Grace volunteers constitute further evidence of the many ways that God has been breathing new life into our bones.

Finally...

Prayer is a fundamental faith practice of the Christian life, but something which often feels elusive, difficult, and even burdensome. God desires none of those feelings for us, but instead conceived prayer as a simple gift of grace and an invitation to a deeper relationship. Prayer has been a great consolation to me. And so I will close this month by sharing a lovely, ancient prayer that is compact in size but comprehensive in breadth. It comes from Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109), and I hope it is meaningful to you:

"O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire You with our whole heart, that so desiring, we may find You; and so finding You, we may love You; and so loving You, may rejoice in You forever."

Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul

DID YOU KNOW...



...that the Allegheny Synod will be electing a new bishop at June's Synod Assembly? The bishop will serve a six-year term.



Big Thoughts from Luther's Small Catechism: The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

For much of his early life, Martin Luther battled against feelings of unworthiness. As an Augustinian monk, he endeavored to work harder, confess more fully, and wear himself out to prove that he deserved Christ's love and salvation. As you can guess, no amount of effort could provide him with the assurance he so desperately needed. It was only when he rested in the love, mercy, and forgiveness of Jesus, and realized that God's grace was a gift, not something to be earned, that Luther's conscience could be at peace.

Not surprisingly then, Luther had much to say about this in his explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. As a reminder from last month, we commonly recite the Apostles' Creed in worship even to this day. It began to show up in the 4th century, as a distillation of the teaching of the original apostles, and by about the 8th century settled into its present form of three sections, each corresponding to a person of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Second Article, and Luther's explanation thereof, is as follows:

The Second Article: On Redemption

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose [again]; he ascended into heaven, seated at the right hand of God, the almighty Father, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What is this?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my LORD. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

The brilliance of Luther's explanation of the Creed's story of Jesus's incarnation, life, death, and resurrection is that he ensures it does not become cold, dry history, because it's too easy to dismiss such "information" as irrelevant and unimportant to our daily lives. Instead, Luther stresses that the story of Jesus is an *intensely personal story* for each of *us*. He emphasizes that Jesus is *my* Lord, who has redeemed *me*, not with money but by *his* blood and suffering. Why? Because Jesus will stop at nothing to eternally save *me*, because I belong to *him*, and wants *me* to enjoy the same victory over sin, death, and the devil that Jesus won for himself.

This lovely explanation is healing balm for anxious hearts that have wearied themselves out in worry and vain works. Rest easy in the assurance that Jesus Christ has done everything necessary to secure forgiveness and new life *for you*. Freed of those worries and burdens, you can rejoice in the reality of Christ's presence, and redirect the energy you would have expended trying to save yourself to instead love and serve your neighbor. It's all possible, because Jesus loves you.

~ Pastor Schul



From Our Associate Pastor

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.” These were Jesus’ parting words to the disciples before he ascended. Everything that happens after that is learning “on the fly.” I am pretty certain not one of those disciples envisioned just how much they would be both empowered and stretched, and yet look at the church that came into being.

Thursday May 13th is Ascension Day. Weather permitting, I plan to be in the courtyard at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the church of today, our world and any needs. If you wish to join me, bring a chair and mask. If you have prayers you wish for me to pray, please share them with me and know I will lift them up. It is through the practice of prayer that we align our hearts with the heart of God and we receive the power to serve our risen Lord. May 13th is also the 10th anniversary of the graduation of both your pastors. We never imagined where we would be today but I am so glad it is with you.

In the past year we have been stretched and empowered and learned new meanings of where the ends of the earth really are. And like those disciples so much of our stretching has come in unexpected ways. If you have ever done physical therapy or started a fitness program, you know that sometimes stretching reminds us of muscles we haven’t used in a while, but also gives us new strength. I never envisioned “the ends of the earth” including producing worship videos, or preaching to a glowing dot on a screen, let alone as often or for so long. But I also wasn’t really thinking about who might be able to be cared for or fed by worship because of those things. Work schedules, traveling, caregiving, health concerns can all keep us from being present as we might wish. Even without a pandemic those things are true. This stretching helped that awareness grow.

It was such a joy to see some of you in the parking lot at our Easter services, and also to know that 1450 people joined us “in spirit” via our video worship and even more of you by the radio broadcast. A huge thank you to Laurel Sanders and our musicians who stretched and provided such soaring Spirit filled music to lift our spirits.

Another stretching moment was learning we have to be mindful of what copyright law says about offering our bulletin with all its music. The way we can continue to do so without penalty is by having a password. Just a reminder that password is **66JoyfulELCA** and when you click on the bulletin each week you will have to enter it.

I’m looking forward to being able to hang up my weekly video producer hat hopefully by the end of the summer as we stretch into live streaming worship - video “as it happens” live from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Over the next couple months, we will be putting that system in place. I am excited to announce the creation of a new Tech Team, a team of volunteers willing to be trained to operate the video and sound equipment. To those who have already volunteered, thank you! We hope to have a core



The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick
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team of a dozen people and there are a couple more spots to fill, in audio and video. Might this be your chance to stretch? This opportunity is open to high school students as well as adults. We are grateful that this team will be headed up by Alyson Hoegg who will provide updates in future issues of Grace Notes.

In this time we have re-discovered simple joys, been sustained by time honored practices, and we have discovered new ways of being. Like you I long for and am excited for the process of restoring in person worship. This month, Pastor Schul and I will have been out of seminary 10 years. We never imagined being pastors leading worship in an empty room.

Know that as we often have said we love you and miss you and hope to see you soon. As we live into being together in real time, let’s have grace with one another just like the grace we long for when we have to do a stretching thing, or when we find it takes us awhile to get the hang of it again. And let’s remember that some of us will be feeling differently than others, just like those first followers of Jesus. Jesus knows that like those first

disciples, we are all trying to be faithful and learn “on the fly.” That’s why Jesus continually sent the Spirit to empower, to console, to guide and inspire. And Jesus does this still, just as Jesus continues to be in our midst wherever and however we gather to keep us in the faith God has given. It’s a crazy thing to be a church, really, a gathering of diverse people given a shared mission that has to adapt so much and so often the ways it is expressed. But the core never changes - the power of God’s grace and love anyway - for everyone and forever. This is the message of which we are witnesses. I pray we continue to witness it for ourselves, we testify to it in the world. It will continue to stretch us, but remember, Jesus will be right here guiding us, with us to the end of the age. Look how far God has brought us. And the journey continues.

In Christ,
~ Pastor Carolyn

Happy Valley Hikers/“Monday Meanders”

Thanks to Gloria Nieweg, Pastor Carolyn has a new book full of adventures for hiking. Our May hike is **May 1, at Greenwood Furnace State Park**. The trail parking lot is across the road from the visitor center. We will meet there at 9 a.m. This hike is about 5.5 miles - bring water and comfortable boots. June and beyond are in the planning stages.



While sometimes we like a good “get the boots dirty” adventure, other times it is just nice to take a meandering stroll. “**Monday Meanders**” in May are a chance to gather safely for a stroll.

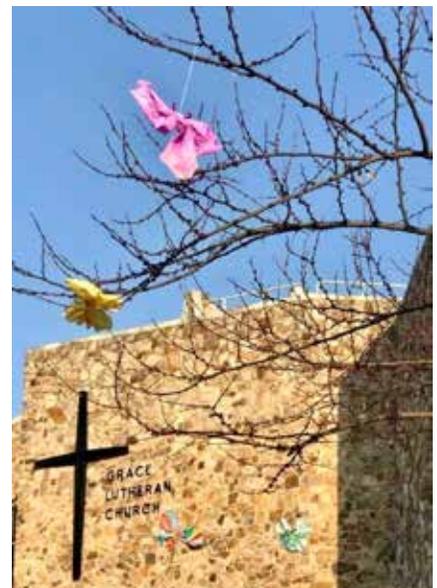
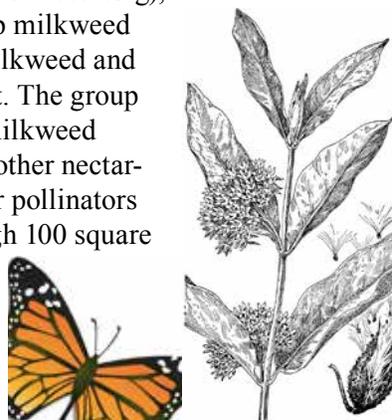
- May 10th at the Military Museum in Boalsburg we meet in the parking lot at 5 p.m.
- May 24th at Circleville Park we meet in the Circleville Road parking lot at 5 p.m. For all gatherings bring a mask.

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m. is our Kickoff event for **Happy Valley Fit Link** at Grace. Happy Valley FitLink is a fitness program for individuals living with intellectual disability coordinated by Grace member, Dr. Jonna Belanger. The group has been meeting virtually during the pandemic and includes some of our Disciples Together as well as others. We plan to share a meal from Good Day Cafe and to “Make a Joyful Noise” with cardio drumming in the Courtyard of Grace. More details will be forthcoming in next month’s Grace Notes.



Green Tip for May

Do you enjoy butterflies? Did you know that milkweed is the only food that the caterpillars of the monarch butterfly will eat? But the use of pesticides, along roadsides, on crops, and in gardens and parks, is wiping out milkweed and consequently the beautiful butterfly. Avoid using Roundup and other glyphosate-based pesticides and speak up to home-improvement stores to stop the sales. Consider planting milkweed in your yard or garden, but be sure to plant milkweed that is native to your area. The group, Monarch Watch (monarchwatch.org), recommends common milkweed, swamp milkweed (which tolerates moist sites), butterfly milkweed and poke milkweed for areas in the northeast. The group also recommends planting at least two milkweed species and at least 10 plants, as well as other nectar-rich plants, to attract monarchs and other pollinators throughout the breeding season. Although 100 square feet is considered ideal, a monarch waystation can be created in an area no larger than 5 square feet or even just a large flower pot or two.



Faith Formation made “butterflies” to decorate trees outside on Easter Sunday.



State College Food Bank

If you're able, please join us in donating to the State College Food Bank via Grace in May. Contributions may be made via postal mail to our church office with SC Food Bank on the memo line of your check, or electronically via Tithely on the GIVE page of our website, www.glcpa.org.

If you make sure that the hungry and oppressed have all that they need, then your light will shine in the darkness, and even your bleakest moments will be bright as a clear day. - Isaiah 59:10

Interfaith Human Services

Interfaith Human Services is in urgent need of slightly used furniture and appliances for the Furniture Recycling Program. IHS works closely with other organizations such as Centre Safe and the Youth Service Bureau, to move individuals into independent living circumstances. Contact Curt at 814-234-7731 to learn how to donate.



Mid-State Literacy Council

Thank you, people of Grace, for your fantastic support of this year's **Book Drive for Mid-State Literacy Council!** The big blue bin was filled a few times over in just a short time. Your donations will go into the hands of eager readers, young and old, who do not have easy access to books otherwise. THANK YOU!!!

Centre Volunteers in Medicine

Centre Volunteers in Medicine is once again stepping up to meet the needs of our community by providing Covid-19 Vaccine clinics. As of mid-April, CVIM has provided over 16,000 vaccines in our community. CVIM is also looking for volunteers to help staff the clinics. If you are looking for your vaccine, to volunteer or to donate to this great organization, visit www.cvim.net

COVID Vaccine Assistance

Are you in need of a COVID vaccine shot, but frustrated by the difficulty of finding an appointment and the accompanying maze of waiting lists and confusing computer sites?

Help is on the way!

Grace's own Becky Krantweiss is offering to help anyone who needs assistance finding a vaccine appointment. If you would like Becky's assistance, please leave your name with Sheri at Grace's office (238-2478) and she will promptly get you on Becky's list. There is no charge. Becky has graciously donated her time to offer this service.



Council Highlights

At its April 2021 meeting, Grace's Church Council:

- Authorized: (1) the purchase and installation of a four camera video system that will enable Grace to offer a livestream video feed of worship; and (2) the installation of a sound system in the Miller Center that will enable us to amplify the wide range of ministries that take place in that space from preschool events to the annual Christmas dinner. Both systems will be 100% paid for via the Lu Magnussen bequest and therefore will not impact the budget or require any additional giving from the congregation. As many will recall, a Miller Center sound system was part of the initial plans for that space, but had to be eliminated during construction because of cost concerns.
- Approved the proposed 2021-22 budget for presentation at the May 23 Annual Meeting. A summary of the budget will be provided to the congregation in early May as part of the official notice of the meeting that Grace is required to send to members.

Garden of Readin'

The May meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, May 18 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *Run* by Ann Patchett. The discussion will be facilitated by Cindy Keith. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more information.



QNA - Questions, Not Answers

We will meet **Sunday, May 16 at 7 p.m. via Zoom**. If you are interested in attending, please email Carla Rossi at ckrossi@comcast.net for the link to the meeting.

If you previously participated in QNA, we hope you will join us again. If you haven't, newcomers are always welcome.

We will continue the discussion on immigration from last month with a focus on the current situation at the US/Mexico border, but feel free to join in this time even if you missed the April meeting.

Please come, via your computer or phone, with your additional questions; be prepared to leave without answers.



Finances for 2021

Church FINANCES	Actual Income vs Expense March 2021	Budgeted Income vs Expense March 2021	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$ 74,746.60	\$74,270.00	\$476.60	.64 %
Expenses	\$64,562.95	\$74,809.38	(\$10,246.43)	(\$13.70%)
Net Income	\$10,183.65	(\$539.38)		

Offerings in March slightly exceeded budgeted income for the month and were above historic norms. Thank you for your generosity! Expenses were less than budgeted due to many programs taking place virtually, which continues to minimize on-site costs such as building-related expenses and in-person ministries. As we begin to ramp up in-person worship, programs, and ministries, expenses are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels, requiring stable giving at or above the current level of support. To automate your giving, look for the Direct Debit Form on the GIVE page of our website at www.glcpa.org or you can contact Laurel Sanders, Business Manager, at lsanders@glcpa.org. Alternatively, you can set up regular or special giving with most major credit cards using Tithe.ly, which can also be found on our website under the GIVE menu. Thank you!

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 2

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. -- Zoom Family Sunday School
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. -- Zoom Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 16

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. -- Zoom Family Sunday School
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. -- High School Youth Group at Grace

JUNE PREVIEW

Sunday, June 6

10:00 -10:30 a.m. -- Sidewalk Sunday School

Friday, June 18

Drive-in Movie Night at the Grace -- dusk

Sun., June 27- Thurs., July 1

Hop, Skip, Jump VBS (see article for details)

Easter Egg Car Scavenger Hunt

Thank you to all who participated in the Easter Egg Car Scavenger Hunt on April 10th. Fun times for all!



Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues on Zoom and with the resources on our website. May's topic is "Love." Please check your email for the Zoom link during the week prior to Sunday, May 2nd and May 16th. Typically, we are on about a half hour beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school resources are posted on our Faith Formation website (<http://www.glcfaithformation.org/sunday-school.html> with the password **Grace2020**).

High School Youth Group

May's Youth Group will be on **Sunday, May 16 from 6-8 p.m.**

at Grace. We will informally celebrate our graduates and the end of the school year with ice cream! Summer plans will also be discussed. Join us as we gather at Grace for fun, fellowship, and games.



Sidewalk Sunday School

We are transitioning to Sidewalk Sunday School. Sidewalk Sunday School will be once a month during the summer months. Plan to gather on **June 6 at 10:00 a.m.** on the **Miller Center** sidewalk. The initial plan is to have a lesson and activities that can be taken home and/or followed up on the website.

Movie Night at the Grace Drive-in

You're invited to join us at the Grace Drive-in on **Friday, June 18!** (Rain date Saturday, June 19). The feature film will begin at 8:30 p.m. Bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks, and drinks and enjoy as a family! Individuals of all ages are welcome to join and we ask that you stay in your pod as much as you are able. Look for movie and parking details in June's Grace Notes.





Confirmation Classes

We continue to be impressed with the thoughts and reflections of our confirmation students. From prayer and forgiveness to grace and mission, you have wrestled with the core ideas of what it means to be a Christian in the world and done a wonderful job. For our last Confirmation of the school year, we will have our final zoom session for this school year. Plan to meet on Zoom for a lesson on **May 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Check your email for the Zoom link in the week leading up to May 2nd. If you have missed any of the spring sessions, please see the website and send us your thoughts and responses to the questions!

Family Vacation Bible School - Save the Date: Sunday June 27 - Thursday, July 1, 2021

Hop, Skip, and Jump into our Vacation Bible School, rain or shine! This will be a full family activity, parents/guardians will stay with their children and there will not be crews of kids as in previous years. Join us on Sunday, June 27 at 6 p.m. for our VBS kick off! For Monday, June 28 - Thursday, July 1, we will have a morning session and an evening session with the same lesson each day. So you can come in the morning or the evening as it works in your schedule. Sign up at www.glcfaith-formation.org/vbs.



CHRISTIAN FOCUS FOR MAY!
 TAKING CARE OF GOD'S CREATION
 "FOR EVERYTHING CREATED BY GOD IS GOOD." – 1 TIMOTHY 4:4
SCIENCE EXPLORATION FOR MAY: DISCOVERING NATURE-ANIMALS
ENRICHMENT CLASSES THEME: POND LIFE

Dates to Remember!

The week of May 3-7

Moms are Magnificent Week and Teacher Appreciation Week

Tues. & Wed.. May 11-12

Centre Gives community fund raiser

Thurs. & Fri., May 13 & 14

Chapel

Tues. & Wed.. May 18 & 19

Spirit Days "Dress as your favorite book character"

Wednesday, May 26

Last day of GLPK for MWF classes

Thursday, May 27

Last day of GLPK for TR and M-F classes

Openings for the 2021-2022 School Year

We are currently accepting registrations for the new school year.

We offer small structured classes, flexible options and a caring Christian environment to help children reach their full potential.

- 2-, 3-, and 5-day morning classes for children aged 2y 7m, 3y, 4y, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Prep.
- Morning classes are licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Afternoon enrichment classes (home-packed lunch, monthly theme, experiential classes) as an add-on licensed by the PA Dept. of Human Services.

Please contact us to request a classroom visit or for more information.

E-Mail: glpk@glcpa.org • Phone: 814-238-8110 • Web: www.glcpapreschool.org

Save the Date for Centre Gives

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten will be participating in Centre Gives this year. All donations will go toward our tuition assistance fund to help bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and the amount an individual family can afford. Centre Foundation's 36-hour online giving event is set to begin on May 11 at 9 a.m. and conclude on May 12 at 9 p.m. This event is designed to support the great work of local nonprofits serving Centre County.



NOTICE: Teacher and Substitute Teacher Positions for 2021-2022

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is searching for lead teachers and substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is required. Substitute teachers only need a love for working with young children. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org.



Kindergarten Prep celebrated 100 days of school by making 100 objects posters for their "homework" assignment.

April Photo Highlights

Spring has sprung and all of the GLPK classes celebrated Easter. We are well into learning about new life through plants, trees, flowers, sunshine and April showers.



Mrs. Wylie and Miss Lauren's class found their Easter bags filled with surprises.



Miss Anne and Miss Maria's classes painted wooden eggs for their Easter egg project.



Mrs. Wylie's class has avid builders that always want a photo memory of their creations.



Miss Debbie and Miss Liz's class made fluffy lambs and explored live worms.



Miss Teri and Miss Lonni's class opened plastic egg-filled treats. They also cut out colorful bean shapes for the Jelly Bean Prayers that they shared with their families at home.



Miss Amanda's class went on a playground egg hunt and made beautiful cross pictures.

May Worship Sponsors



Bulletin Covers

- May 2** - Gerry Slear dedicated in memory of Leon Slear
- May 9** - Sally Keiser-Bankert and Polly Keiser McWilliams dedicated in memory of their mother, Lois Keiser on Mother's Day
- May 16** - Linda Domin dedicated in honor of her granddaughter Sarah's college graduation
- May 23** - Richard & June Walter dedicated in honor of their 46th wedding anniversary
- May 30** - Cheryl Klechner dedicated in honor of grandchildren Anabeth and Juliana Tomalis, Connor and Kaleb Klechner, and Madison and Weston Klechner

Radio Sponsors

- May 2** - Earl & Lorraine Lutz dedicated in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary
- May 9** - Kathy and Greg Weimer dedicated in honor of our mothers Margaret Schrock and Marie Weimer
- May 16** - Joyce Sipple dedicated in memory of her son Scott Sipple
- May 23** - Ken & Irene Harpster dedicated to the Glory of God
- May 30** - Louise Tarman dedicated in honor of her family

We sincerely thank all of our
generous sponsors!

Prayer List for May

All Military & Nat'l Guard
and all serving in war-torn
countries

Theresa Alves, friend of
Brenda Kim

Deb Baysinger's cousin

Sylvia Belanger, mother of
Joe Belanger

Jo Bortz

Phil Bucher and family, upon
the death of Mary

Bonnie Burris and family upon
the death of Don

Cathy Carlson, sister-in-law of
Jerry & Sara Carlson

Sandy Cassady

Ann Cathcart

Denise Centini

Linda Coe, friend of Jerry and
Sara Carlson

Scott Cocolin

Carol Confer

Cathy Cutter

William Davies

Marie Dallery mother of
Sharon Shurgalla

Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of
Rachel Wolkenhauer

Patrick Dugan, grandson of
Paul & Kathryn Mackes

Steve Ellis

Craig Evanego

Rose Fedora, friend of Elaine
Ebeling

Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of
Holly Stoltzfus

Vicki Garvin

Lori and Scott Given, friends of
Don & Deana Coine

Mary Ann Hanelly and family,
friends of Betsy Will

Shawn Hintosh

Dick Houtz

Bob Igoe

Kate Kempf, daughter of Pete
and Angie Kempf and grand-
daughter of Merle and Kathy
McCalips

The family of Robert Kovach,
upon his death

June Krumrine

Paul and Sandy Larson

Lois Laurence, cousin of
Carolyn Fishburn

Linda Leslie, mother of Brianne
Slane

Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd

Shirley Lucas

Tom Lucas

Paul Mackes

Carol Major, friend of Brenda
Palmgren

Danielle McHenry

Kim Marsh

Amy Nevling

Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob
Igoe

Margie Prothro, sister of Ed
Jenkins

Bruce Rathfon and family upon
the death of Elaine

Dottie Roberts

Becky Rogers

Bev Sampsell

Margaret Schrock, mother of
Kathy Weimer

Nancy Schuchert, mother of
Joe Schuchert

Ken Shultz

William D. Snape Sr., brother of
Phyllis Favorite

Emily and Charlotte Spearly

Jack Sylves and family and
grandparents Tom and Marj
Eakin

Karen Tupman, cousin of
Phyllis Favorite

Jan Walk, friend of Elaine
Ebeling

Brenda and Ken Walsh

Greg Weimer

Walter Wiczorek, friend of
Elaine Ebeling





May Birthdays



1 Danielle Lazorcik	8 Kristin Knowles	17 Benjamin Krantweiss	25 Celeste Newcomb
1 Michael Solo	8 Lester Griel III	17 Samuel Krantweiss	25 Nathan Maggi
1 Joseph Franklin	9 Kevin Hosterman	17 Joann McCormick	25 Mark Roberts
2 Megan Showalter	9 Kristen Kewitt	17 Daniel Albert	25 Gina Rossi
3 Bonnie Burris	9 Deborah Kaufman	18 Gary Delafield	25 Andrew Lovell
3 Charles Michael Lombardi	10 Mike Shilling	18 Catherine Griel	25 Jennifer Reutzel
3 Alex Moore	10 Robert O'Donnell	19 Les Cutter	25 Kimberly Baysinger
3 Jonathan Sweeney	10 Gareth Roof	19 Manfred Kroger	25 Ferris Shurgalla
4 Linda Jeanmenne	11 Paul Bowman	19 Derek Farr	26 Sharon Rivell
4 Stephanie Chastain	13 Linda Odland	20 Lee Gruver	26 Samantha Asencio
4 Elizabeth Brigger	13 Benjamin Stroschein	20 Matthew Maggi	26 Sandy Bender
4 Ansley Davidson	13 David Wolfe	20 Thomas Vermillion	26 Peter Kempf
4 Cale Kremser	13 Bruce Rohrbach	20 Thomas Verderame	26 Connie Ripka
5 Ethan Hardyk	13 Tina Ludwig	21 Erika Reutzel-Bechtel	27 Calvin Peiffer
5 Benjamin Seaton	13 William Albert	21 Sue Forster	27 Conner Donghia
5 Turner Malik	13 Declan Tucker	21 Janice McClure	28 Scott Fozard
6 Kenneth Kalbach	14 Amy Preston	21 Mimi Edwards	28 Samuel Janik
6 Madelyn Fallon	14 Hannah Donnell	22 Deborah Lux	28 Kevin Franklin
6 Beth Shisler	14 Gage Ollendyke	22 Noah Droege	29 Adam Houseknecht
6 Megan Stoltzfus	14 Brecken Bush	23 Laura Egan	29 Vicki Cable
6 Claira Espenshade	15 Julie Donnell	23 Frank Bendik	30 Edward Prince
6 Theodore Espenshade	15 Alexander Johnson	23 Phillip Rodgers	30 Nathan Glocke
7 Jeffrey Debnar	15 Aaron Rohrbach	23 Elinor Franklin	30 Robert Larson
7 Michelle Peiffer	16 Megan M. Kay	24 John Zipf	31 William Bahnfleth
8 Douglas Keith	16 Valerie Updegrove	24 Enola Weaver	31 Lucy Barber
	16 Jason Long	25 Donald Burris	31 Molly Solo

April Pastoral Acts

New Births and Baptisms

- Drew Landon Dunkle, son of Kristen and Donnie Dunkle, was born April 14, 2021. He is joining his big sister, Brooke.

Deaths - Funerals/Memorials

- Barry Fisher - graveside service held April 6
- Mary Bucher - graveside (Columbarium) service held April 24
- Elaine Rathfon died April 20; a graveside service (Columbarium) will be held May 22.
- Don Burris died April 25: graveside (Columbarium) service pending

Creation-wide praise chorus

“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only “young men and women alike, old and young together” (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: “We human beings . . . should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest.”

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Parking Lot Drive-in Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Columbarium Courtyard

10:30 a.m. Limited In-Person Worship and on the Radio
Broadcast on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM

Enjoy pre-recorded Sunday Video Worship from our
website: glcpa.org anytime



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church
churchoffice@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool and Kindergarten
glpk@glcpa.org
814-238-8110
- Faith Formation Ministry
faithformation@glcpa.org

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.