

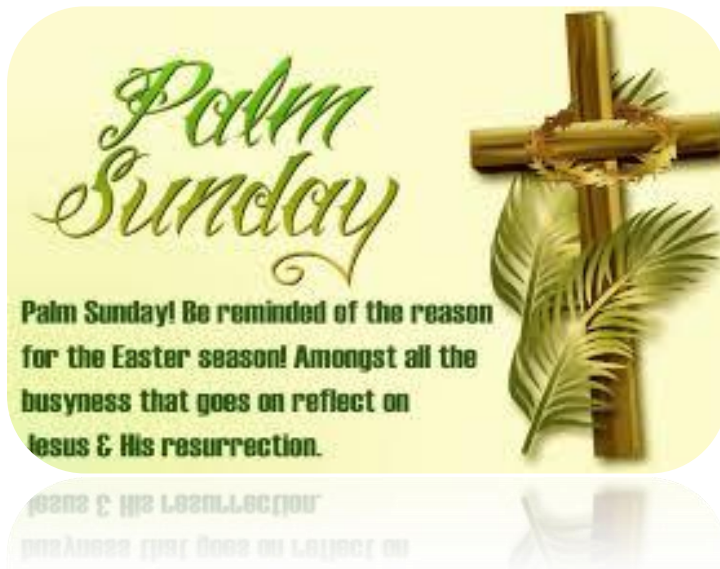


Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
719-395-8868 • gracechurchbvco.org

Palm Sunday

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



MARCH 2020

From Our Pastors



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Palm Sunday

Have a blessed Palm Sunday. Remember a week before he was crucified like a criminal, he rode into the city a king." -Unknown

Catherine's Commentary

The last couple of months we have seen some changes at Grace. With David's departure, we had a few unexpected challenges. But in just a few weeks, we have made good progress.

I think we are well situated with our Sunday coverage. For most months, the Rev. Sharon Robertson will cover first Sundays, and the Rev. Cliff Seay will cover third Sundays, and I will cover second and fourth Sundays as usual. In May, the schedule will be a bit different due to the Bishop's visitation. Bishop Kym Lucas, from the Episcopal Diocese, will be joining us on May 2nd. It will be her first visit to Grace. We won't

be gathering in-person, but she will travel to BV and conduct the service from the church. We will have a Zoom service with curbside communion. Since May has five Sundays, the rest of the month will follow our usual schedule moved back a week, so Sharon will do May 9th, I will do May 16th and 30th, and Cliff will do May 23rd.

With our Sundays covered, we can focus on Lent. As is our tradition, we have joined with the CUCC for our Lenten series, "Nourishing our Souls With (Virtual) Soup & Prayer." We will gather by Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm.

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Let's hope and pray that the pandemic is controlled, and we can be together in-person again in the next several months.

Welcome Pastor Seay



Rev. Clifford Seay, United Methodist, joined Grace Church as a supply pastor for the 3rd Sundays of each month. He retired to Colorado Springs from Pittsburgh, PA, and pastors for Peoples United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs.

Church History: It was founded by Frank Loper, a former slave who petitioned community leaders he knew as a doorman and head waiter at the Alamo Hotel. There was also an appeal in the newspapers "Colored Congregation Need \$450 to Build a Church at Oak and St. Vrain."

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. The Alamo closed as a hotel but was converted to apartments and shops. It, too, is on the historic register. The church has moved to 5110 Hamlin in Colorado Springs. Pictures of the church can be seen on page 4 of *Grace Notes*.

Their service is at 11:00 on U-Tube, which enables Pastor Seay to be with us at 9 am.

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Church Council Report

by Becky Arthur, Chairman



Grace to you all and Peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Grace Church Council met in February to discuss all matters Grace. Things are a little slow because our

allowed activities are so limited, but it is time to start planning for the future.

I attended a meeting of the regional Episcopal wardens and the Bishop and was struck by the fact that we all have very small congregations (Grace's is huge by comparison), some as small as 6. We're also uniformly aging and/or aged. Those tiny congregations all have one thing in common; they are all incredibly involved in community outreach, as are we.

It struck me that we need to find ways to share our rich traditions with others. We have such a wealth of wisdom and love, and PASSION!!

We have a real challenge in this quest. So many in our society have gotten used to Church as a performance, or Church with all the answers. But I know there are people out there who want to wrestle with the scriptures and challenge themselves and each other to apply the wisdom to our lives today.

Some of us even saw the COVID restrictions as a gift in that our busyness has slowed and we can gift attention to life as it is in its simplest form.

Ark Valley Humane Society

By Kim Prather

Ark Valley was formed in 1991. This year, 2021, they will turn 30. Their mission: Ensuring the welfare of companion animals through compassion and care. They perform this mission by maintaining a compassionate, no-kill, animal shelter for homeless, lost and unwanted pets without regard for time or space, reducing the number of unwanted pets through spay/neuter programs, connecting homeless pets with adoptive homes, and offering support services for the prevention of cruelty to animals and presenting public education for responsible ownership.

The most current data shows that Ark Valley Humane Society was able to assist 890 animals in 2019, a 98% live release rate. The pandemic did have an impact on their good work, but as of 12/16 they were still able to care for and place 234 homeless pets. Over the years, AVHS has expanded capacity to serve all of Chaffee County with stray intake, animal relinquishment, reclaim and adoption services in both Buena Vista and Poncha Springs.

AVHS appreciates Grace's and everyone's continued support. In 2019, Grace Church purchased two bricks for their facilities fundraiser. They continue to work towards their goal of being a model animal welfare organization operating a state-of-the-art facility that offers progressive, no kill, humane programs. Volunteers make a big difference in the lives of shelter animals. To join the volunteer team or for additional information regarding support for AVHS go to www.ark-valley.org or call 719-395-2737.



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Pasto Seay
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The top picture is a historic collage of Peoples United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs. The bottom picture is of the current Peoples United Methodist Church.

We thank Pastor Seay for taking time out of his busy schedule to join Grace Church as our pastor on the third Sundays of the month. He is a welcome addition to our congregation, and we look forward learning from him.

Catherine’s Column
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We will be examining different forms and methods of prayer.

I am pleased to announce that, barring any spikes in COVID, we will begin curbside communion on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Sharon and I will be doing the service together by Zoom and I will serve communion. The Council is also working on plans for reopening the church. Let’s hope and pray that the pandemic is controlled, and we can be together in-person again in the next several months.

Book Delivery

Hello! I am looking into the possibility of setting up a book delivery service here at Buena Vista Public Library. Before doing so, would like to make sure there are enough people who would appreciate having delivery/pickup from library.

Any input appreciated. Thank you!

--
Judy Koler
719-395-8700
Buena Vista Public Library

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Lee Briggs son-in-law, Steve who has brain cancer and is in hospice.

Carol Holze asks for prayers for her friends, Jack, and Phyllis. Jack has an abscess in his throat and is in the hospital.

Remember to pray for the families in Texas who are recovering from the recent cold wave. Many are still without heat and running water.

Betty asked for prayers for her neighbor and his wife Darlene. Don had a stroke lasts week.

Please continue to pray for Betty’s grandson, Roman, who had surgery this week for a torn ACL.

Kathy and Kim ask for prayers for Alex, their friend’s son, who is in the hospital with a serious bacterial infection.

Please pray for Christina who has a pipe burst and her house was flooded.

Please pray for Kay Gibson, a former member of Grace, recovering from a knee replacement

Council Report

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I wonder if there are opportunities out there to reach people who may have slowed down enough to welcome some quiet spirit into their lives. People of passion, who are ready, willing, and excited to share their blessings with others who are not so blessed.

Please, let us join in prayer and discernment to see where we can reach out to others in our community who may be yearning for a more mature and thoughtful religious experience, perhaps who miss the liturgical church but have scars from life that cannot be reconciled with the strictures of many such churches. And who perhaps yearn to reach out to those less fortunate.

Ok, back to business...

The Diocese has released a handbook for dealing with COVID going forward, and we've provided a copy to the Council Members for review before March's meeting. We have been very cautious because we're all in a high-risk group and we want to see each other at least on Zoom rather than causing a tragedy, but won't it be wonderful when we can meet in person again, even in a limited way?

We've also circulated to the council a copy of our Bylaws, modified a bit to reduce the number of council members, correct some typos, and allow for a bit less definition in regard to the preparation, presentation, and review of our budget. After the council has discussed the changes and feel the Bylaws are ready to be presented in their modified form, we will

Council Report

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we will circulate them among the congregation and have a short meeting to approve the amended bylaws. We hope to have this bit of business complete shortly after Easter.

May God's abundant and rich blessings be with us all as we look expectantly into the future!!

The Beauty of God's Creation!



Photo by Sherry Thomas

What A Year!

On Friday, March 13, 2020, we received notice to suspend all in-person activities within Grace Church due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On Sunday, March 22, 2021, Grace Church began virtual worship services using Zoom. At the time, it was felt this would be for a couple of months and then we would be back to normal. On Sunday, March 21, 2021, Grace Church will have been conducting Zoom Worship Services for 1-year. Prior to the suspension Grace Church was averaging 27 in Sunday Worship and after Grace Church began Zooming the service the average grew to 34 because folks living out of town were now able to participate.

Grace Church like many other churches have an ingrained mission of changing lives. Over the past year, the lives of the folks involved in Grace Church have been changed and continue to be changed. Additionally, Grace Church has continued to change the lives of others through their missions and ministries. A few of the previous ministries have not been continued as a result of the safety issues involved, but most hap continued and some new ones (e.g., sewing face masks and publishing a cookbook) have emerged.

At first, other meetings and activities took a break, but eventually returned to the schedule in a virtual format.

Grace Church was able to successfully accomplish all that they did in the past year because of the loving of and caring dedication of the Grace Church family.

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Everyone deserves a pat on the back and THANK YOU for all you do for Grace Church, your friends and neighbors and the surrounding areas (Buena Vista, Leadville, Chaffee County, etc.).

May God continue to shine on Grace Church and its people and may the LOVE of God continue show in their lives. AMEN!

Watch out! Vi and Martha are cleaning the sewing room. Take a look. If anybody wants this.....free(or donation?), call Martha Bauman.



2021 District Gatherings

The theme of the 2021 District Gathering is "Where Love Lives," stemming from the Western Jurisdiction theme of the same name. All districts except for Trinity will gather on April 17th. Trinity district will gather on April 24th.

Each district will host their District Gathering on zoom. Bishop Karen will share a message and Communion. Keynote speaker, Rev. Amanda Henderson, will offer a message about finding unity in divisive times. Henderson partnered with Iliff School of Theology to create the Institute for Religion, Politics & Culture as a place for scholarship and research about the way legislative initiatives are shaped by religion.

Each district will also process business such as election of Equalization Members. Registration will open the week of March 1 and will come out through District Offices and Conference E-news.

2021 MSC DISTRICT GATHERINGS
**WHERE
LOVE
LIVES.**

Bev Gunderman

Bev Gunderman died early February 11. Bev was recently diagnosed with late stage cancer and things progressed quickly. Her companion, Fred Woodcock, has his children around him. Fred's daughter believes he will return to Grand Lake this summer. Arrangements and memorial designations will be announced later.

Bev was a valued member of Grace Church for many years and was active in the Ladies Sewing Group and a strong supporter of the Quilts of Valor program. She will be sorely missed by her friends at Grace Church.

Cards may be sent to: The family of Bev Gunderman 8111 N. Ancient Trail Prescott Valley, AZ 86315.4



Announcements

Palm Sunday

Since we can't have our usual procession on Palm Sunday, palms will be placed outside the front door on Saturday March 27, 2021 so that members of the congregation can pick them up before the Palm Sunday Service. The congregation is asked to bring the palms to the service and wave them during the first hymn as a symbolic procession. 100 palms have been ordered, so feel free to take more than one.

St. George's

Congratulations, Grace Church! The Piggy Bank is broken. Due to the generosity of the members of Grace, \$1300 has been raised for the meal program at St. George's Episcopal Church in Leadville. Bonnie Young and several members who donated are going to Leadville next week to present the check in person. Keep up the good work, and let's fill the Piggy Bank again.

Devotional Guides

If you would like a copy of any of the daily devotional guides, *Upper Room*, *Our Daily Bread*, or *Forward Day By Day*, please let Judy Epperson know at admin@gracechurchbvco.org, and she will send you a copy. Once we start drive through communion, the books will be available at the church.

Drive Thru Communion

Barring obstacles, Drive Thru Communion will resume on Easter Sunday. Rev. Catherine Tran will officiate.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

3/2 Chuck Covert
3/14 Dorothy Miller
3/24 Kurt Miller
3/28 Tom Clark

Anniversaries

Bob and Maryanne Freed



Grace Notes is a publication of Grace Church in Buena Vista, Colorado

Grace is an Episcopal-United Methodist Ecumenical Fellowship where people of all Christian faith traditions are finding a spiritual home.

Please send articles and pictures to editor Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com