

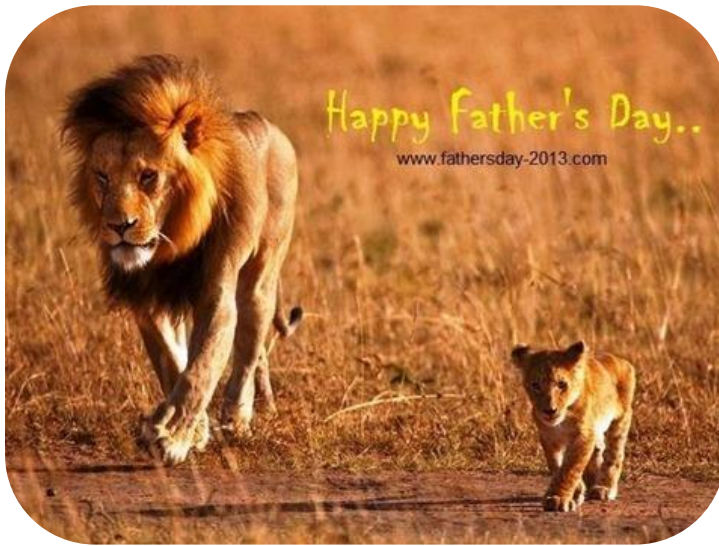


Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Father's Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



JUNE 2020

From Our Pastors



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Remember Flag Day

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Flag Day

June 14, 2020 is Flag Day. Let us all pause a moment and honor the flag of our country and remember what it represents and what it means to each one of us. We also need to fly our flags with pride on this day as symbol of unity and hope for our distressed country.



Catherine's Commentary

You may be aware that the Grace Church Council is working on a reopening plan for our church and at our last meeting, formed a working group to focus on the process. Over the past several weeks, we have received specific reopening instructions from the Episcopal Diocese, the United Methodist Conference, and Chaffee County. These instructions are guided by the state requirements as well as liability implications. They are also grounded in scripture – how best to love and respect each other and attend to spiritual needs.

The instructions tell us when and how we can expect to return to in-person worship and gather

in groups at our facility. After carefully studying the instructions and examining who we are and how we worship, it appears that it may be quite a long time before we can return to in-person worship – perhaps months. I know this may be distressing news to many of you. It is distressing news to me, too. It is a challenging time for us. The Zoom services have been great, but they are just not the same as sharing hugs, communion, and personal conversations on Sunday morning. This seems even more frustrating in light of the fact that other churches in BV are already beginning to have in-

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This is difficult for all of us. But if we can consider this time as a spiritual discipline, similar to fasting, we will be stronger when we come together again.

David's Column – Pentecost Possibilities



As I write this, it is a blustery day.

Where the wind comes from with such urgency and where it is going in such a big hurry is unknown to us. But we do know it is there as it knocks on the window and rattles the building and peeps in through walls thought to be secure. And as it passes by, dancing, beckoning, inviting, it is almost as if the wind is saying, "Leave all things behind and come and follow me."

Was it that way on the first Day of Pentecost when the sound like the rushing of a mighty wind filled the house where the 12 first believers were staying and carried them away into the adventure of a lifetime?

Perhaps.

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Church Council Report

by Ray Stwalley, Chairman



A subcommittee of the council and the clergy have been working to develop a plan for resuming in person worship, study, and social gatherings. The guidance from both the Episcopal diocese

and the Methodist conference as well as the various levels of government is both extensive and not always the same. Our task as a committee has been to develop a plan that conforms to the guidance we have been given and meets the needs of the Grace Church congregation. Hopefully, we will get a plan to resume in person activities and procedures completed before the guidance changes. We are all aware that the situation we are living through is dynamic and local conditions are subject to change.

Once we have a path forward, we will be informing the congregation of what we need to do both individually and as a group as we move forward. As the guidance from one level or another seems to change daily, it is interesting. Watch your email, and we will try to keep you up to date.

Sorry that I don't have definitive information for you at this time, but I assure you that I will send it to you when I have it.

Ray Stwalley for the Grace council

Cookbook Coming!

By Bonnie Young and Judy Epperson

A team of members of Grace church is compiling and printing a new cookbook of delicious recipes, all submitted by members and friends of Grace. *Cooking with Grace 2020* will be completed in time to be purchased for Christmas gifts.

Starting June 1, 2020, the team will publish a submission form which will be sent to each member via email, or it can be requested from Bonnie Young or Judy Epperson. Please complete the information on the form for 3 to 5 of your favorite recipes and return either by mail to Judy Epperson at Grace Church, PO Box 1559, or email to byoung81211@gmail.com. All recipes should be submitted no later than July 31, 2020.

The team will evaluate each recipe and we will do our best to include all the recipes but due to limited space, not all recipes may be used. There will be no duplicate recipes.

This cookbook is meant to represent Grace Church and we hope that you all will participate. The cost of the book is yet to be determined.

For more information please contact any member of the team. Team members are Bonnie Young, David Erickson, Kathy Prather, Dorothy Miller, Judy Epperson, and Jo Rodeheffer.

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Was it that way at the first moment of creation when the wind from God swept over the face of the waters and the spirit of God caressed the uncreated chaos and brought forth Life?

Perhaps.

Was it that way at the moment of deliverance when a strong east wind divided the waters from the waters again and the Children of Israel passed through the restless sea on dry ground?

Perhaps.

Will it be that way for us, too? Undoubtedly.

For the God who spoke the universe into existence still speaks. The wind that blew at the first moment of creation still blows. The invitation into an adventure of a lifetime offered to the first disciples is still offered to us.

Leave all things behind and come and follow me. Listen!

The wind is blowing. The adventure beckons.

The invitation is extended.

And the unexpected portico is waiting. The time for choosing is now.

Will you follow?

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

person gatherings.

I have asked Judy to include in this newsletter a covenant that our Episcopal Bishop, Kym Lucas, distributed a few weeks ago. It helps us understand that our patience and forbearance in these months – as we wait for the time when we can gather together – are acts of love and care for each other.

So, I ask you all, in the months we have before we can come together in-person, for your understanding and patience. This is difficult for all of us. But if we can consider this time as a spiritual discipline, similar to fasting, we will be stronger when we come together again. This is my prayer for all of you and for our congregation as a whole. Please continue to pray for each other and for Grace Church. May we emerge from this pandemic as a stronger and more loving community.

Sherry Thomas has entered a photo contest benefiting the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association. She is entered in two categories, Water and Flora/Fauna. Each vote costs a dollar. You can view Sherry's pictures and vote for her entries at www.gogophotocontest.com/garna.

TRANSITIONS

David's mother has returned to her memory care facility and is doing well. Please pray for her continued recovery.

Prayers of condolences for Martha's friend, Donna who lost her daughter in a car accident.

Dorothy's eye surgery went well. She can see again.

Please pray for all the people who have died who didn't have COVID-19, and their families.

Please pray for Fred and Bev Gunderman who are recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Prayers of condolence for Judy's friend Lois Martinez on the death of her husband John.

Cheryl asks for prayers for her friend, Jim, who is in the hospital with a leg infection.

Please pray for George Floyd and others in the situation of generational poverty and abuse.

Community Covenant: A Season for Sacrificial Love

From the Office of the Bishop

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

The season for entering our churches for small gatherings and worship is approaching. It will not happen in all places across Colorado at one time, but instead at different times and in different ways based on our multiple and widely varying contexts and rate of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. These stark realities bring many questions.

How will we enter this new season? When can we return to the way things were before? If we test positive for the virus, what will we do?

This time of pandemic is like no other season in our lifetimes. We are being called to act in unfamiliar ways, staying home, distancing ourselves from others, wearing protective masks when we are in public places, and disclosing when we have been exposed to the virus. At first these new behaviors seem to fly in the face of our beliefs, yet upon deeper reflection, our actions can reflect the core values and beliefs of our Christian faith.

The Covenant we make at baptism expresses what it means to follow Christ and what it means to be a Christian. In the midst of these promises, we commit to live faithfully both inside and outside the church walls, seeking to serve all persons in Christian love:

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.

This will be a season that requires establishing and committing to a new covenant for each of our communities as we gather again in person. It is critical that clergy, parish leaders and community members all commit to a covenant that will demonstrate Christian love and care and provide for the health and safety of every person.

We covenant in community to take these selfless actions:

- We will wash our hands carefully and fully.
- We will enter our spaces with care and intention.
- We will keep the recommended safe distance from others.
- We will wear masks.
- If we test positive, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason and any reason and will disclose our test result to our clergy or parish leader so the church can provide assistance with quarantine, medical attention and take steps for the safety of the community
- If a member of our household or family tests positive, or if we believe that we have been exposed to the virus, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason for at least 14 days
- We will assist with compassionate contact tracing.

For us as Christians, washing our hands and wearing masks becomes acts of care and devotion. Our masks provide only limited protection to us, but much protection to others if we are unknowing asymptomatic carriers.

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In doing this, we are required to acknowledge two truths. First, that we live in community and Jesus commands love for our neighbor, sometimes above ourselves. Second, that we are not invulnerable and that "To dust we shall return." Our ultimate hope lies in God.

As we consider how we will gather together in person again, we realize our gathering will necessarily look different than it did before this season of pandemic. We now must remember and take care to protect every person present as well as everyone with whom they will have contact. There is no shame when we act from selfless love. We will do this out of the abundance of our Christian love and service as we commit ourselves to this community covenant.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
COLORADO

Pentecostal Prayer

This Pentecost Prayer was written for Pentecost 2020 by Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer Benson and is used by permission.

May the strange fire of Pentecost
fuel and fan into flame
a deeper desire
for holiness,
for justice,
for understanding,
for fruits of the Spirit

May the strange fire of Pentecost
refine,
and purify,
and burn down
IN ME
all racism,
and self-righteousness,
and hardness of heart.

Because the God of fire
is also the God
who sits with us in the ash heap,
and gently kneels
to breathe new life
into the dust and ashes.

I pray to be ready for this fire,
and for what things must turn to ash
in me,
in you,
in us,
for new life to emerge.



My Dad

by Vicki Frye

If I could write a story,
It would be the greatest ever told.
I'd write about my daddy,
For he had a heart of gold.
My dad, he was no hero
Known around this world.
He was everything to me,
For I was his baby girl.
I'd write about the lessons.
He taught me right from wrong.
He instilled in me the values
That one day I'd be strong.
He taught me to face my fears,
Take each day as it comes,
For there are things that we can't change.
He would say what's done is done.
He would say hold your head up high,
Carry yourself with pride.
Thanks to him, I am somebody,
I will never run and hide.
If I could write a story,
It would be the greatest ever told.
I'd write about my daddy,
For he had a heart of gold.

A Song for Flag Day

by Alfred Nesbitt

Your Flag and my flag!
And how it flies today
In your land and my land
And half a world away!
Rose-red and blood-red
The stripes forever gleam
Snow-white and soul-white
The good forefather's dream
Sky-blue and true-blue with stars to gleam
aright —
The glorious guidon of the day; a shelter
through the night.

Your flag, and my Flag
And oh, how much it holds
Your land and my land
Secure with its folds!
Your heart and my heart
Beat quicker at the sight'
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed,
Red and blue and white.
The one Flag, the great Flag, the Flag for
me and you
Glorified all else besides, the red and white
and blue!

Your Flag and my Flag!
To every star and stripe
The drums beat as heartbeat
And lifers shrilly pipe!
Your Flag and my Flag,
A blessing in the sky.
Your hope and my hope
It never hid a lie!
Homeland and far land and half the world
around,
Old Glory hear our glad salute and ripples
to the sound!

Announcements

Lee Briggs, a long-time summer member of Grace, died on Sunday, May 31, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Mary Briggs. They would have celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary on June 16.

He also is survived by his daughters, Sandy and Carol, and a son, Chuck. He had 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Cards can be sent to Mary Briggs, Apt 717, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78245. Donations can be given in his memory to Grace Church, Buena Vista Colorado.

Please remember to turn in your recipes for the *Cooking with Grace* cookbook. The deadline is July 31, 2020.

If you would like a copy of *The Upper Room*, *Our Daily Bread* or *Forward Day by Day* devotional guides, please email Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org, and she will send one to you.

The Grace Church Council will meet on Sunday, June 21, 2020 immediately following the service. All members of Grace Church are welcome to attend.

Remember to send in your monthly pledges so that the regular business of the church can continue. The church mailing address is P.O. Box 1559, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

If you have prayer requests, you may send them to Kathy Prather at mountainkat@gmail.com, and she will put them on the prayer list.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Say Happy Birthday to these great people!

Birthdays

6/3 Becky Arthur
 6/8 Mary Hallman
 6/13 Keith Baker
 6/18 Ray Stwalley
 6/22 Margaret Butler
 6/25 Danny Simpson
 6/26 Tom Bauman
 6/27 Lenee Erickson



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