



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Thanksgiving

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



NOVEMBER 2020

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about tension in these troubled times.



Rev. Erickson talks about the importance of "Thank you."

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Ministry Reports



Happy Thanksgiving

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Ray Stwalley discusses the problems of reopening church.

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Bonnie Young talks about several events upcoming at Grace Church.

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National Hiking Day

Also known as "Take A Hike Day," National Hiking Day on November 17 may be one of the most important holidays out there. Why? For starters, there's more than 60,000 miles of trails across the nation. Not to mention, hiking is great exercise allowing you to burn over 550 calories per hour. Plus, being in the outdoors allows you to get away from your phone and appreciate nature's beauty and wonder.

Catherine's Commentary

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are just around the corner. We come to this time of the year with a terrible spike in Covid-19. It is hard to think about the holidays and Covid-19 at the same time! We are presented with some confounding tensions. All at once we look forward to the joys of family gatherings while at the same time worrying about the dangers of spreading COVID-19 among those we love. We anticipate the glory of the coming of Christ into the world just as the brokenness and grief in the world is so great. We would love to shop for gifts and feasting while many around us are unemployed or homeless. We

dwell in these and many other tensions as we approach this celebratory season.

I encourage you to spend some time reflecting on these tensions. I have always thought that God dwells in that tension. The tension is a place of energy and inspiration. The tension moves us to action. As we move through the end of this year with COVID-19 on one shoulder and the holidays on the other, we can be open and receptive to God's presence in the least likely places. Our eyes can be open - seeking the many ways God moves in our lives. We can listen for the spirit in the voices of pain

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God moves mightily in times such as these.

David's Column - Thanksgiving



O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
Psalm 107:1-3

Sometimes in today's world a "thanks" can be thrown out and float away with little meaning. It is just a part of "what you're supposed to say". I would like to share with you a good antidote to the empty 'thank you'. I learned it in Indonesia, where they used the phrase terima kasih to say, "thank you". The phrase in Indonesia was used almost exactly like we use "thank you", but I was surprised to learn that the phrase doesn't literally translate to "thank you".

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Church Council Report

by Ray Stwalley, Chairman



As the Corona Virus restrictions continue, and the virus seems to subside and just when you think it's safe to consider dinner out, thanksgiving or Christmas with the family, or maybe just

going to the front range to go to COSTCO, the virus flare up again, and the restrictions are increased rather than being lowered.

Against this background the council and our clergy have been planning for the reopening of the church at least on some limited basis. We have been able to have communion again, not as we did by kneeling at the alter rail, but we have been able to observe the sacrament via the drive up and have communion we were approved for. We are approved for outdoor worship (with masks and social distancing) weather permitting.

I believe that we have proceeded with appropriate caution considering the apparent ease that marks the spread of this disease and the consequences of infection to both individual members and to their families. The data indicates that churches have been major sources of infection when they have resumed in person worship without observing appropriate precautions. Grace certainly does not want to join the list of congregations spreading the disease.

Please accept that we, the leadership are doing all that we can to reopen the church and our various programs as quickly as we are able

This and That

By Bonnie Young

Esty Account. Visit www.queenarthurquilting.com to see some of the items made by the Grace Ladies Sewing that are being offered for sale online. Becky Arthur has graciously offered her site. If you see anything you like, contact Becky Arthur. She is willing to negotiate.

St. George Visitation. For anyone who is interested in attending a service with Rev. Ali Lufkin before she leaves need to make a reservation. St. George is practicing safe distancing, limited numbers, and masks. She will be leaving after Thanksgiving so there are opportunities in November to say goodbye in person. Contact Bonnie Young who is making the reservations for Grace members.

byoung81211@gmail.com



Grace Advent Experience–Hope, Peace Joy and Love is scheduled for Friday December 4, 2020. This Zoom event is open to everyone, members and friends, men, and women. The program will feature the bells played by the Butlers, songs sung by the Grace Quartet, an Inspirational speaker, maybe a skit, gifts, and prizes.

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David's Column

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I was taught that the words actually mean "I receive your love". What a simple definition of "thank you". I still have not forgotten it over a decade later. Many times, in our lives, to say thanks, is to say, "I receive your love", especially when we give thanks to God. Everything we thank God for is a blessing we receive because of the love of God.

So, this thanksgiving as you take time to give thanks, may you be blessed to see through the "thank you" and witness the love behind what we are thankful for. May you be gifted to see God's love in your life, and the love that others have for you: friends, and family. May you also be blessed to offer the love of God to others, those close to you and those in need this holiday season.

Even though 2020 has been a strange year for all of us, we still have a lot to be thankful for. There is much excitement, joy, and possibility on the horizon. Happy Thanksgiving!

Catherine's Column

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around us and within us. God moves mightily in times such as these.

You may also want to be aware of discernment questions that arise. For example, I am praying and reflecting on how to honor traditions and family while keeping everyone safe. Or perhaps you might be thinking of traveling to visit family. Or there may be some needs you see in the community but serving those needs requires you to take some risk. At Grace, we are working hard to figure how to celebrate Advent and Christmas safely. There is a lot to pray about as you plan.

The tensions of this time are not comfortable, but let's not miss the opportunity to enter into that tension and work shoulder to shoulder with God and each other.

And one more thing- thank you to the saint who shoveled out my car after the snowstorm!

TRANSITIONS

Travel mercies and prayers for a good move are asked for Christina and Kelly Sell as they relocate to Washington State.

Martha Bauman asks for prayers for her son, Toby, who is having some personal problems.

Please pray for Jim, Mark Thomas's father-in-law who fell and broke a vertebra in his back. Mark is Sherry Thomas's son.

Thank you, prayers, for the healing of Susan Champine's cat, Ollie, who was poisoned by eating a black widow spider.

Prayers are requested for Barbara O'Donnell's son-in-law and all people who are suffering from pancreatic cancer.

Christina asked for prayers for the elections and the aftermath that the nation will come together and unite in peace and harmony.

Council Report

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to. Letters sent to you, the congregation, listed the ongoing planning to reopen, and the concerns of the diocese and the conference about opening before it is appropriate. As Governor Polis said recently, wear your mask and be careful. I endorse this sentiment. Currently, an excess of caution is more appropriate than too little caution.

Thanks for your time.

For the council

Ray Stwalley

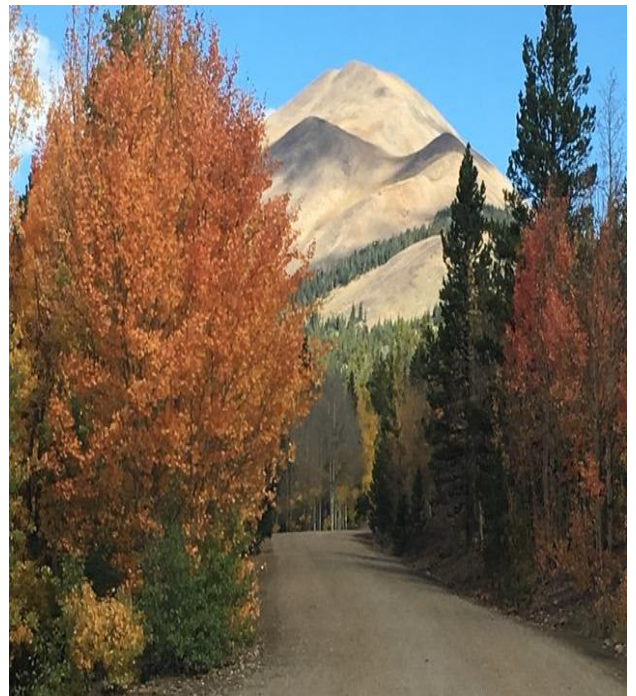


This and That

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RSVP to Judy Epperson
admin@gracechurchbvco.org as an individual or gather family and friends as a unit (masks required) with your name, address and number in the party. Prior to the event, we will deliver a package of items needed to participate. If you are registering from out of town, we will mail your package so give us plenty of time to get it to you.

A Love Offering will be asked of participants that will support a local outreach need. A basket will be at the drive-thru Communion starting Sunday, November 1, the beginning of Advent. Any questions can be directed to Bonnie Young byoung81211@gmail.com or 395-84



Alpine Orchestra Concert by Mary Hallman

The orchestra, due to COVID-19 restrictions could not perform a live concert with our usual fan filled concert venues and full orchestra programming. Thanks to a generous donor who suggested we put together a shorter, virtual concert utilizing each section of the orchestra, we have put together this ensemble concert.

The various musicians have been working for several weeks, in socially isolated spaces with masked faces, to prepare this concert for the communities which have supported us throughout the years. Please tune in on Nov. 14th and remember to donate either by mail or our "PayPal Donate" button on our website. www.alpineorchestra.org

ENJOY!!"



Blessing

contributed by David Erickson

B-egin your day with

L-ove in your heart

E-xpect blessings

S-hare goodness

S-hine like the sun

I-nspire someone

N-ever forget that

G-od is with you all the time



Gingerbread House Bazaar

The Gingerbread House Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 in its temporary location at the Buena Vista Community Center at 715 E. Main Street from 9am to 3pm. Credit Cards are accepted, and masks must be worn. Attendance will be managed for proper social distancing.

There will be many great items for sale including cookies and candies prepackaged in plastic bags, handcrafted seasonal and décor gifts, pantry items and jams.

All cookies/candies made by home cooks wearing a mask and gloves.

The event is sponsored by the Lutheran Women in Mission.



Announcements

ATTENTION!

New editions of the bestselling *Cooking with Grace* cookbook is coming off the presses almost daily. There are only 25 copies of the must have volume still available. Don't be the only person at the Zoom meeting without one. Order yours today. They are available at the special price of \$15.00. There may not be a second printing. Contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org to place your order, and join the happy eaters of Grace.

Be sure to make your reservations for the Grace Advent Experience that Bonnie mentioned in her article, "This and That." This could be the event of the year at Grace. I know you won't want to be the only one not signed on. Contact Judy Epperson for reservations.

Remember to return your pledge cards if you haven't already. The finance committee would like to have them in by next Sunday, if possible, so we can do a pledge dedication service. If you didn't receive a pledge card in the mail, email Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org, and she will send you one.

If you haven't picked up your directory, the church office will be mailing them out within the next week.

If your name isn't on the Birthday and Anniversary list (see the next column), please let Judy Epperson know, so your name can be added. We don't want to miss the opportunity to say, "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Anniversary."

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

11/5 Bill Fitzgerald
11/18 Mickey Mouse
11/18 Minnie Mouse
11/28 Barbra Clark
11/30 Ed Butler

Anniversaries

11/25 Rick and Nancy Fox



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