



Grace Notes

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

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Remember your Sweetheart on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021.

FEBRUARY 2021

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about plans for the next few months.



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National Girl Scout Cookie Day

February 7 is National Girl Scout Cookie Day. We should all celebrate by buying, eating, or just thinking about Girl Scout Cookies. Everyone knows that Girl Scout Cookies have been the best cookies in the country since 1917, that's over 103 years. Most of us grew up on Girl Scout Cookies, and have bought several hundred in our lifetimes. However, COVID-19, has made the sale of Girl Scout cookies more difficult, since the cute little girls can't go from door to door, but they are still available on line, from individual Girl Scouts (if you know any), and from the Girl Scout Council. This is a worthwhile charity that we should all support.

Catherine's Commentary

The next few months at Grace will be busy with some important work. I hope you will be able to participate by sharing your thoughts and contributing your time.

- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. We'll be doing a Zoom service at 6:00pm that evening and we are working on a way to distribute the ashes safely at home. We will be joining with the CUCC for our Lenten program on Wednesday evenings through Lent.
- The Personnel Committee and Council will be working with Chris Carr, the UM District Superintendent, to

find a new UM Pastor. Our new Pastor will be in place by July. We will be preparing a profile of the congregation and a job description.

- We hope to reopen our buildings and be able to gather in-person in some capacity this summer. Planning will be extensive and will need to be approved by the UM District and Episcopal Diocese. We may be able to resume curbside communion earlier in the spring
- As we reopen, the Council will be doing some



Although we are not able to be together in-person for now, Grace relies on all of us to do our part. .

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I will lift up my eyes to the hills —
 From whence comes my help?
²My help *comes* from the LORD,
 Who made heaven and earth.
³He will not allow your foot to ^abe moved;
 He who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel
 Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵The LORD *is* your ^bkeeper;
 The LORD *is* your shade at your right hand.
⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
 Nor the moon by night.
⁷The LORD shall ^cpreserve you from all evil;
 He shall preserve your soul.
⁸The LORD shall preserve^d your going out and
 your coming in
 From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Psalm 121 NKJV

Church Council Report

by Becky Arthur, Chairman



The Grace Council is off to a great start for 2021. Members of our new Council are Jennifer Wright, Susan Shampine, Ray Stwalley, Martha Bauman, Kim Prather, and me. Officers are: Becky Arthur,

Council Chair (that's why you're getting this fun letter from me!), Jennifer Wright, Vice Chair, Judy Epperson, non-voting Secretary, and Dorothy Miller, Treasurer. Please feel free to bring concerns to any of us and we'll be happy to discuss them at our next council meeting.

The Council is discussing our ability (or inability, as the case may be) to meet in person. Although COVID numbers are dropping, statewide, we are concerned about the new variants of the virus that have begun to appear. We are following the news and the Chaffee County Public Health Department's recommendation very closely and reopening is on our agenda at every Council meeting. Since our congregation is composed almost exclusively of people in high risk groups we may seem to be too cautious, but we have agreed, albeit reluctantly, that loving each other from afar is better than grieving the absence of our members unnecessarily.

We fervently hope to reinstate curbside communion following at least the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month very soon.

Break the Bank for St. George's by Bonnie Young

As you know, Grace has participated in the St. George Episcopal Church Community Meals for the past 3 years. Initially, Grace members provided a home-cook meal and fellowship the 1st Saturday. But since the pandemic, the only way to help them with this important mission was financially.

In 2020, with the donations from Ladies Sewing Group, Grace Samaritan fund and individual members, Grace was able to give them over \$2,500 assistance (an estimated amount). In 2021, responding to the comments at the Annual Meeting, we will continue our participation financially until we can again be there in person.

That is why we are starting a **BREAK THE PIGGY BANK FOR ST. GEORGE PROJECT**. This is how it will work: Members are encouraged to donate to St. George each month, similar to their pledge. Other groups like Outreach, Ladies Sewing, Ladies Bible, Men's Bible would be invited to participate.

When we accumulate \$500, we will break the piggy bank and send the money to St. George. WE HOPE YOU ARE IN! So starting in February, send two checks - one for the monthly pledge and one for St. George, memo "community meals." A computer program is set up to watch how many times we Break the Piggy Bank. Each time, we will recognize this feel-good mission of helping with the food insecurity and celebrate. No names will be published in respect of privacy

As part of the project, visitations to St. George will be arranged for members to see their set up.

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Council Report

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As you know, Rev. David Erickson resigned effective January 24. I'm so glad we had time to express our appreciation for David at the annual meeting, and we'll miss him dearly. His resignation brings the search for a pastor to the Council's agenda. The Council and the Personnel Committee will be defining (again!) who and what Grace is and what sort of pastor we will request.

Rev. Sharon Robertson has agreed to preach the first Sunday of each month through June, when we hope to have a new pastor. We'll have some prayer services led by lay persons for the third Sunday of each month. I'll be asking Bishop Karen Oliveto if she will consider preaching a Sunday by Zoom, and asking Chris Carr the same question. More to come on that!

We hope to share Lent services remotely with CUCC as we've shared them in person for so many years, and conversations are underway. Ashes will be sent to each member of Grace so we can anoint ourselves on Ash Wednesday.

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Catherine's Column

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discernment around identity and how we want to be present in our BV community. An advertising campaign may follow.

- Bonnie is working on a plan to continue to support the food distribution ministry at St. George's in Leadville.
- We are working to cover our UM Sundays and may be calling on some of you to help organize worship services on the third Sunday of each month.
- I'm very happy to announce that Sharon Robertson has agreed to help with our UM service coverage and will preach on the first Sunday of each month beginning in February and going through June. I am so grateful for her willingness to come out of retirement once again to serve at Grace. What a blessing it will be for us!

Although we are not able to be together in-person for now, Grace relies on all of us to do our part. I hope to see you all participating as you are able. There's plenty of work to do!

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Sherry Thomas who suffered a small stroke and asks for healing so she won't have another one. Also pray for healing for her ankle. She strained a ligament and has been in a boot for several weeks.

Betty Dethmers asks for prayers for her grandson, Roman, who tore his ACL during baseball practice.

Bonnie Young asks for prayers for their friend, Ted who is recovering from a stroke.

Carol Holze requested prayers for her friend Frank, who may be a candidate for an artificial heart.

Jennifer Wright asks for guidance as she has multiple offers on a property and wants to make the correct decision.

As always, please pray for peace, cooperation, forgiveness, and healing in our country.

Council Report

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Last, but certainly not least, we are making plans to upgrade our technology to allow for continued remote services even after we can meet in person again. We are thinking broadly of good quality cameras and sound equipment that will allow music to be performed in the sanctuary. We'll need to assess what we want to accomplish and what equipment will be needed to accomplish it. Ray Stwalley is heading up that effort. If you're interested or knowledgeable, please let Ray know!

Really last, this time – the church needs a facilities person. We don't need a handyman, necessarily, but someone who can recognize when something needs fixing and can arrange for a professional to be called to fix it. Please let me know if you have any interest or any aptitude in that area!!



January Full Moon

Photo by Sherry Thomas

Grace Men's Bible Study

by Max Robertson

To the men of Grace Church (or anyone not in the Church) I would like to commend the Men's Bible Study as a worthwhile and beneficial use of your time. Currently we are studying the New Testament in the Book of Matthew.

We are not using a study guide but covering all chapters. For me it has been a life enhancing experience. Our leader, Bob Yinger, is an excellent teacher with extraordinary knowledge of the Bible.

Each person is encouraged to use their favorite commentary to assist in understanding the scriptures, but all that is really needed is a Bible and your willingness to spend the time in reading about a chapter per week.

We meet via ZOOM every Friday at 10:00 am MST. If you would like to join us please let Bob Yinger, Ed Butler, Ray Stwalley or Max Robertson know and we will see that you are given a ZOOM invitation.

You don't need to wear a tux, comb your hair, brush your teeth, take a bath or any other normal-time activity. We don't care! Bring yourself and your questions to the discussion. Our times together will only be enhanced by your participation.

Sincerely, Max Robertson

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Outreach Report by Kathy Prather

elevateHER is an organization in Chaffee County that fosters self-worth and grit in young women through mentoring, outdoor adventure, and holistic wellness programs, and develops an appreciation for the outdoors and supports strong, confident, self-aware women.

elevateHER utilizes mentoring and leadership skills to fortify each girl's inner strength and helps to integrate leadership into all activities. They also hold holistic wellness workshops that promote healthy living and mindfulness. These workshops create a safe place for young women to talk about self-esteem, bullying, stress management and nutrition.

Getting outside and moving are integral to all the elevateHER programs, giving the participants an opportunity to raft, rock climb mountain bike, ski, and snowshoe. No experience is necessary.

This total program is designed to make young women strong, self-confident, and aware.

Grace Church will be sponsoring a young woman through this organization for the coming year as part of the Outreach program.

If you would like to learn more about the organization and their program, visit the website, elevateHerco.org, or phone 970-401-4210.



Beloved Member Lost by Judy Epperson

Grace Church lost another beloved member on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, when Marita Spencer passed away. She was at home when the ambulance was summoned. She died later at the hospital.

Marita and her husband Les were longtime members of Grace and active in the many programs of the church. Most of us remember them as a kind and thoughtful couple that was always willing to help with anything that was necessary.

Marita served on the Altar Guild, and she and Les often served as Sunday Morning Greeters. They also were faithful members of the Thursday Lunch Group that met at Jan's every Thursday for lunch.

The Spencers had moved to the Dallas area to be closer to their children.

Les and Marita celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on January 22, 2021. She was a lovely lady and will be sorely missed by her family and all her friends of Grace Church.



16 Bible Verses for Difficult Times by Patricia Lotich

In case you have been hiding in a cave, the world has gone a little crazy. If I were not living it, I would not believe what we are all witnessing. I think we all hoped that once midnight rang out on December 31, 2020, we would take a sigh of relief now that the year 2020 was behind us.

Unfortunately, things have not improved much. If you are like me, you take your refuge in the Word of God. I am thankful that I can open God's holy Word and find comfort and peace.

Soak on these 16 Bible Verses that give us peace during these difficult times!

1. Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
2. John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
3. 1 Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
4. Philippians 4: 12-13 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
5. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.
6. 2 Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most

Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

7. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

8. Psalm 46: 1-3 God is our refuge and strength, very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

9. Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

10. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

11. Psalm 9:9 The Lord also will be a refuge] for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.

12. Psalm 32:7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

13. Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.

14. Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

15. Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

16. Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Announcements

Lenten Services

We will be holding Lenten services in conjunction with the Congregation United Church of Christ this year starting with Ash Wednesday. Packets of ashes, and instructions will be delivered with to in the mail in time for the Ash Wednesday service. You will receive a Zoom invitation via email. If you don't receive an invitation please contact Judy at admin@gracechurchbvco.org, and she will see that you get one.

Bonnie Young asks all of us take pictures things that remind us that Spring is on the way so she can put them in "How Grace Survives the Corona Virus."

Good News! People from 65 to 69 are now eligible to get the Corona Virus vaccine. You can register to get your shots at the Chaffee County Health Department or check with Buena Vista Drug. Act fast, as the appointments fill up quickly.

If you aren't on the Birthday and Anniversary list, and want to be, please contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org and she will add your name.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

2/9 Eugene Preis

2/18 Bev Gunderman

2/28 John Epperson

Anniversaries

None



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