



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Alleluia! He is Risen.

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



APRIL 2021

From Our Pastors



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National Laundry Day and Tax Day

April 15 is National Laundry Day. It is also Tax Day. So.....you can save up all your laundry and do it on April 15, while you finish your taxes so that you won't be in trouble with the IRS. If you don't have enough laundry of your own to do, ask your family, friends, and neighbors if you can do their laundry and/or help them with their taxes. It would be an excellent way to get to know your neighbors.

Catherine's Commentary

After a long dark winter, it is wonderful to welcome spring! The warm temperatures, the melting snow, and lengthening days are uplifting. The vaccine adds to the spring energy and makes this a hopeful time. I feel hopeful and optimistic about so many things, but especially for a good summer at Grace Church.

I expect that we will be able to gather regularly for services this summer. We will probably have to be outside, but the summer weather makes that a pleasant prospect. We will be required to follow some strict guidelines, such as distancing and mask wearing. We may not be able to sing hymns yet. We might have to bring our own chairs, but at

least we will be able to gather as a congregation. We will also be able to have communion as long as we are careful about how it is served, and we are already familiar of those procedures with our curbside communion.

I am hopeful that small groups may be able to meet inside before the summer is over. The CDC guidelines suggest that small groups of people from different households are safe as long as everyone is vaccinated. Pretty soon, all adults in Colorado will be eligible to get the vaccine and we know that many folks in the congregation are already fully vaccinated. We are moving in the right direction!

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Let's enjoy our time together during the summer and remain hopeful for a better winter in 2021!

Bishop Oliveto's Easter Message



Greetings, friends, as we prepare to experience Easter Joy once again.

Today we will gather around a table to remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Whether we are with others in person or virtually, we will recall the night Jesus gathered in the upper room and washed the feet of his disciples. We, too, will take the bread and cup and be nourished by the spiritual food Christ offers us and be made one through the meal.

And we will recall the new, the final commandment Jesus gave, when he turned to them and said, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

But then, the world is turned upside down by hate and death as Jesus is arrested, tried, convicted, scorned, nailed to a cross and buried in a tomb.

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Church Council Report

by Rebecca Arthur, Chairman



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

I will have received my second "jab" before you all get this, and I know most of us have gotten at least one of the COVID

vaccinations. What a wonderful world we live in, when such a minor inconvenience is almost guaranteed to keep us healthier, safe from random infections and out of the hospital! Let's remember to pray for our nation and the whole world that very soon all can get protected!

The ramifications for us are really exciting. I am hopeful that once we're all fully vaccinated, we can meet in person again, if not sing together quite yet. We continue to research what will be needed to incorporate live worship and Zoom so we can continue to see and hear all our brothers and sisters who don't live in Buena Vista while we see each other face to face here.

The Grace Church Council met in March 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, and we had a great brainstorming session. How do we get information about Grace to the community? How do we describe how fabulous we are? A phrase that came up was "Traditional Worship with contemporary thought." Ideas ranged from touting our maturity (maybe not so compelling at first glance, although I think that can be a selling

BV Pregnancy Center

By Martha Bauman

Grace Church has been in a relationship with the BV Pregnancy Center (which is a non-profit) for over 10 years. We support them in a number of ways: monetary donations (this past year was \$500), with baby items made by the woman's sewing group, baby bottles filled with loose change and other fundraisers.

BV Pregnancy Center services include free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, STI testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, birth control information and abortion education. Truthful information on pregnancy, parenting, adoption, abortion, and miscarriage is offered.

Our client advocates are here to walk alongside you as you make informed decisions. We do not provide OB/GYN or pre-natal care, birth control prescriptions, fertility testing, abortion services or referrals for abortions or adoptions.

We are here for you. You are not alone!

Buena Vista Pregnancy Center
28350 CR 317, #12
719-395-6703
BVLifeChoices.com



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Bishop's Easter Letter continued from page 2.

Love one another, just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.

In the space between Maundy Thursday and Easter morning it feels as if love has lost. Love seems to have no strength in the face of the powers and principalities that be. And the disciples, the ones whose love should be shining bright, turn from love, turn from Jesus himself, running to protect themselves and even denying they knew him.

I look at our world and in my weakest moments I wonder if love is enough. I look at the heavy cost of racism on siblings of color and I ask myself, where is the love? I see people walking around without masks while a virus still rages and I ask myself, where is the love?

I see children living in poverty and I ask myself, where is the love? I see people alienated, ostracized from their families because of who they are, what they've done, what they do, who they love, and I ask myself, where is the love?

How are you making your love visible? Can people tell by the love that you share that you are a follower of Jesus?

Where is the love?

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Catherine's Column continued from page 2

We are accountable to the UM Conference and the Episcopal Diocese and we must wait for them to provide the guidelines we will follow this summer. The latest communication from the Diocese reiterated the guidelines we have lived under for the last year. A lot will depend on what happens with the virus in Colorado in the next few months. Let us hope and pray that we do not see a surge in our state like we are seeing in other parts of the country. If things continue to improve, next winter may be much more like normal.

Let's enjoy our time together during the summer and remain hopeful for a better winter in 2021!



TRANSITIONS

Sharon Robertson's mother, Weeze, is in hospice. Please pray for Sharon and Max and the rest of Sharon's family in this difficult time.

Also, pray for Catherine's parents as they are still displaced and living in a hotel room.

Bill Fitzgerald requests prayers for his brother, Tim who suffered a stroke.

Bev Herrle was taken to the hospital last weekend. She was severely dehydrated and was in the hospital for several days. Please pray for her speedy recovery.

Continue to pray for Sherry Thomas and her broken ribs. She is still in a great deal of pain.

Please pray for the victims of gun violence in the country, and that our leaders can find a way to end it.

Pray for the leaders of our country, that they may work together for the good of all our citizens.

Council News

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point if we can phrase it right) to emphasizing our focus on the community through our outreach. If any of you has an idea or two, please share it with a council member!

We thought of making a brochure to give local realtors for their clients who buy houses here, or with the Chamber of Commerce for their visitor packets. Again, any ideas are welcome.

The Council reviewed the revised By-Laws and asked Judy to circulate them among the congregation. She has done so, and we will have a congregational meeting soon to approve them. There were some minor language changes as well as a change to the required number of Council members – from 9 to 7 since our congregation is so small now. Once the congregation approves them, we'll send them to the Conference and the Diocese for their blessing.

Bishop Kym will visit us in early May, and the council hopes to meet with her in person, perhaps having a lunch on our patio.

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

Bishop

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Sometimes it feels as if we have gotten stuck in Holy Saturday's shadows. The silence too loud to bear, the void too empty, the despair too great. We break our solidarity with one another and with God. All that escapes from us are sighs too deep for words.

Thank God that God doesn't leave us there. For Easter is coming. The women will come to the tomb and find it empty. Love's redeeming work is done as death no longer has the final say.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

As Easter morning dawns, may you discover God's resurrection power which busts us all from our tombs of despair, of violence, of hate to reach for love, which makes all things new. May the many places of death in our lives and world be overcome by Love's power. May our relationships, our communities, our homes, be infused with this love in which God invites us to participate in life together.

As you view the empty tomb, may you see the living Christ all around you: in the phone call from a friend, in the child who reaches for your hand, in the one who asks for small change at an intersection, in the tear-stained face of one who has felt the sting of racism.

And then may we all soar where Christ has led, following our exalted head, to make Love the visible testimony of our commitment to Jesus as we seek to do the work he began.

May you have a joyous experience of Easter this year!

With love,
Bishop Karen

Easter Love

By Joanna Fuchs

On Easter we celebrate love,
 love coming down from heaven,
 love blanketing the earth
 in a transforming embrace;
 unique and infinite love,
 giving more than we can imagine
 for us, to cleanse our sin,
 a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,
 the walking, talking Word.
 He is teacher, role model, friend,
 this God in human form,
 dying, then rising from the dead,
 will also rise
 to have eternal life, with Him,
 Lord of all.
 Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!



April Fool's Day

Submitted by Sherry Thomas

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy Days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observance of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to passionate presentations by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling, saying "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter, and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair, saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyers said, "Your honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!



Stations of the Cross

by Judy Epperson

Thirty people from Grace Church and the CUCC gathered on Good Friday afternoon to walk the Stations of the Cross. The service was led by Rev. Catherine Tran of Grace Church and Rev. Rebecca Poos of the CUCC. Catherine acted as narrator and Rebecca read the part of Christ.

This is a traditional service for Grace Church, but this year it had a new look. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the service was held outside on the Grace Church grounds. All the stations were built by members of the CUCC and Grace and some members of Grace participated as part of the stations.

There are 14 stations of the cross, which follows Jesus through the last day of his life, from his trial by Pilate to his death on the cross. All the stations were beautifully done, the weather was wonderful, and everyone in attendance was moved by the experience.

Many thanks for all the hard work done by the members of both congregations.

The Stations of the Cross are :

1. Jesus is Condemned to Death,
2. Jesus Takes up His Cross;
3. Jesus falls for the first time;
4. Jesus meets his mother;
5. Simon helps Jesus;
6. A woman wipes Jesus' face;
7. Jesus falls a second time;
8. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem;
9. Jesus falls a third time;
10. Jesus is stripped;
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross;
12. Jesus dies;
13. The body of Jesus is placed in his mother's arms;
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



Jesus is Condemned to death.



Jesus falls a second time.



Jesus Dies



Jesus body is placed in his mother's arms.

Photos: Judy Epperson & Peggy Finkowski

Announcements

Drive Through Communion

Don't forget curbside communion at the church on Sunday, April 4, 2021 after the Zoom service.

Sherry's Contest

Sherry Thomas has entered 10 photos in the National Wildlife Federation contest. People's choice voting is free. Just got to the National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest, go to Gallery, put in Sherry's name, and vote for her photos. She entered birds, landscapes, plants, and animals. Click on all the categories for her pictures and vote. There are a lot of entries, so let's all vote and help Sherry win the People's Choice Award.

Mini-Blessings Needs Help

Mini-Blessings is looking for dedicated and motivated people serve on the Board of Directors. No previous horse experience necessary. If you would be interested in joining this up and coming non-profit, contact Susan Shampine at 719-207-1867 for further information.

Grace Church Workday

The Sanctuary needs cleaning, the parish hall needs airing, the lawn needs raking, there are weeds in the garden and the shed is a mess. Grace Church needs a workday. So, grab your work gloves, and meet at the church on April 24, 2021 at 9am help get the building and grounds in order for worship and fellowship. If you have questions, contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org for more information.

Stations of the Cross

A full set of the pictures of the Stations of the Cross will be sent out by separate email.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

4/2 Nancy Fox

4/13 Sherry Thomas

4/18 Bonnie Young

4/25 Kathy Prather

4/29 Carolyn Hayes

4/30 Tam Tran

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