



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy 4th of July!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen.



JULY 2021

From Our Pastors



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July Holidays

I bet you thought the only holiday in July was the 4th of July.... Well, here are a few that you probably didn't know about. July 5 is National Bikini Day, (I guess we can be glad that one's past), July 9 is National Sugar Cookie Day, July 16 is World Snake Day (go pet a snake as long as it's not a rattlesnake), July 19 is National Ice Cream Day (I'll see you all at Louie's), July 24 is National Tequila Day, July 26 is National Aunt and Uncle Day, July 27 is Bagpipe appreciation Day, July 28 is National Hamburger Day (Shall we gather at K's) and most important of all July 31 is Harry Potter's Birthday(Grab your wands and I'll see you in the Gryffindor Common Room).

Catherine's Commentary

Welcome to Pastor Cliff Seay! Pastor Seay officially starts at Grace on July 1. You have met Pastor Seay on the Zoom Sundays he covered for us for the first half of the year. His first Sunday in-person is July 4th and I hope you will be there to graciously welcome him!

As usual, July 4th will be a busy day at Grace! We won't have our 4th of July concert (maybe next year!), but we will have our craft sale in the parish hall and Quilts of Valor on display in the church. We hope to have lots of visitors that day and will need all

hands on deck to provide a warm welcome for our guests.

These events – the sale, QOV, and Pastor Seay completing our staff – make me feel like we are getting closer to normal each week. The past year has been quite a test of our resilience and I am so thankful for how well we have weathered the storm. So many of you pitched-in in new and creative ways. With all of us working through a tough time, we can now look forward and recreate ourselves. But there are still a few folks missing that we

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It's time to come back to church!

Rev. Seay's Column



Reverend Seay hails from Chicago IL and in his own words... "I have traveled a unique ecumenical path in my life as a minister, embracing denominational and racial differences, which abetted my spiritual growth." Previous church congregations have said, he is a gifted minister, an exceptional Bible based no manuscript preacher with sermons that are relevant to life today. A caring, passionate minister to his congregations. He is a grandfather, father, (son and daughter) and a husband to Adelfa Hinate.

Pastor Seay's previous pastorates were Green Valley United Methodist Church and Highland Grove United Methodist Church McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Both churches were cross-racial appointments under Bishop, James Mase Ault of the Western Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Church. Reverend Seay would later become the pastor of the Church Our Savior the historic African American Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The

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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!

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

Once again, we have had a fantastic and a terrifying month!

It' been so wonderful to see each other in person nearly every week in June, and to have a new pastor with whom we're already comfortable appointed to our church!! Members of the Council and the Personnel Committee met with Rev. Seay and his wife, Adelfa, on Wednesday June 30, and he was here in person the very next Sunday. What a joy and a blessing!!

Our in-person experience has been marked by some bumps including almost burning down the sanctuary! Fortunately, the people still in the church were quick to respond and the fire was extinguished before it caused damage to other than a banner. Thanks to Judy for spearheading the cleaning/recovery effort required by our insurance company.

That same morning, Bryan Butler, Ed and Margaret's son, had set up audio equipment to capture a better Zoom experience.

BV Hope

By Kim Prather

BVHOPE was started in 2014 because of the increasing danger of human trafficking in the United States. The vision of BV Hope is to eliminate human trafficking within Central Colorado through education. We focus on educating Buena Vista, CO citizens to prevent trafficking in our community. Our efforts are concentrated on school-aged children, teachers, and school bus drivers. Different awareness programs from the A21 curriculum are used to reach different age groups.

We also work with adults, parents, grandparents, teachers, first responders department of human services and the medical community. Recently we are expanding these efforts to other communities nearby.

BV HOPE partners with the A21 curriculum to create awareness of any kind of slavery all over the world. BV HOPE paid for the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking to give continuing education seminars at the welfare offices for Chaffee, Fremont, Lake and Sawatch counties.

BV HOPE volunteers in Salida and Buena Vista attended multiple Bags, Blankets and Bracelets events where they packed restoration bags for human trafficking survivors, made blankets for the bags and bracelets. Other local events include Shine a Light on Slavery Day, 9 Health Fair table, 4th of the July Art in the Park booth, after hours for the BV Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus breakfast and presentations to numerous community groups and churches.

The BV HOPE website is www.bvhope.org. The website is a great resource for information and events including. **1-866-455-5075**



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Rev. Seay's Column
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past six years he has served the Peoples United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs.

Reverend Seay is a life-long learner a graduate of Allegheny College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, earning Associate Degrees in Arts and Science, Bachelor of Arts in Education with Honors University of Pittsburgh, College of Education. He received a scholarship to the Iliff School of Theology Master of Divinity Program while serving as assistant to Pastor Dan of Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church of Denver Colorado. Also, additional graduate studies at James Madison University, Arlington, Virginia and Virginia Union University School of Theology, Richmond, Virginia. Reverend Seay has received numerous honors, recognitions, and awards for his contribution to ministry and in education as a teacher.

Catherine's Column
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have not seen back in church. Please take a minute to notice those who are not back yet and invite them to return to the fold.

It's time to come back to church! For the past couple of months, we have had in-person church on 2nd and 4th Sundays. With Pastor Cliff Seay joining our staff, we will have in-person church each week. We will also be providing the Zoom experience for those who can't attend in-person, but for those of you who are able, we hope to see you in church soon and often.



Rev. Clifford Seay, Grace United Methodist Pastor and Rev. Catherine Tran, Grace Episcopal pastor.

Photo by Sherry Thomas

TRANSITIONS

Continue to pray for Rick Fox who is recovering from surgery due to a broken heel.

Vi Hardy needs our prayers as she faces the final stages of her life.

Please pray for Christina's daughter-in-law, Ali, who is expecting a baby on July 11.

Prayers of thanksgiving for our new United Methodist pastor. We welcomed him on Sunday, July 1.

Also, prayers of thanksgiving for Sharon Robertson and all the work she's done while we were searching for a new pastor.

Keith Baker asks for prayers for his co-worker's son Owen Devoy who fell and fractured his skull last week.

Nancy asks for prayers for her friend's brother, Adrian, who is suffering from an extremely aggressive form of brain cancer.

Council News
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He was instrumental in putting out the fire and in showing us a good way to have better audio in our Zoom presentations. He and Ed have cahootenized and Ed has submitted a list of audio equipment that will be considered by the council.

Ray has studied the video side of things and has suggested a simple solution to that side of our Zoom experience. We hope to have things in place very soon.

Kathy, Susan, and Jennifer have posted information on our Facebook page that brought some shoppers to the Ladies' Sewing Group sale July 4. I had a few folks in the grocery store mention the birdhouses they saw on Facebook. Thanks to them for updating and managing that aspect of our "outreach"!!

We've had visitors at church, and they brought their friends to our July 4 sale, sponsored at least one Quilt of Valor, and in general I feel hopeful that our little church will grow and prosper in our new post-COVID world. We've had such fun getting back together and working for programs we trust the Lord will use to help people we may never have met.

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

Photos of the Craft Fair by Sherry Thomas

4th of July Craft Fair

The Ladies Sewing group held a craft fair on Sunday July 4, 2021. There were many tables of hand made crafts, quilts, books, household items, and much more. Lemonade and cookies were served to the shoppers while they made their selections. An early report said that around \$1200 dollars was made. Congratulations, ladies on your success and thanks for all your hard work.



Grace Notes Facebook Page by Kathy Prather

Grace Church has a Facebook Page!

We really want to get the word out about our wonderful church and one of the best ways to do that is to use Facebook. We will be posting on Facebook monthly regarding our church and activities we are having.

If you are a member of Facebook, please go onto our Facebook site which is currently GRACE CHURCH, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BV. Please like the posts that you see and then share some onto your Facebook page. Just click the share button. This will share the posts with any of your friends.

If you are not on Facebook and would like to be, just log into [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and sign up.

Also, anyone who would like to share something regarding our church or an activity in our church on Facebook, can email information to Kathy Prather at mountankat@gmail.com. Pictures are always helpful as well.

Project Updates by Bonnie Young

St. George Episcopal Break the Bank

We just broke the amount of \$500 so we can send St. George in Leadville a check to help them with their community meal and pantry program. Thank you everyone who participates in donations for their mission of feeding those who need it.



Quilts of Valor

We had 16 quilts in the church for the July 4 Sunday worship. Rev. Seay blessed the quilts during the service. A big thank you to all the sponsors of the quilts this year. All the quilts have a sponsor so within the next two weeks, they will be prepared for their final journey to a service person. In addition, thank you to those who made the quilts tops, made the backs, quilted, and then finally sewed on the final binding. This is an act of love from our church.



New Granddaughter!

MacKenzie Arlene Erickson was born on July 5, 2021. She weighs 6lbs 1 oz. and is 18 inches long. The proud parents are Alyssa and Brent Erickson. Grandparents are David and Lenne' Erickson, who are extremely proud of this beautiful baby girl.



Grace Pets

Kim and Kathy Prather shared these pictures of their dogs, Grace the Golden Retriever, and Bear, the Black Lab mix. Looks like they really like to ride in the truck.



Grace and Bear at the Drive In



Bear and Grace Camping.

Announcements

Coffee hour and flower dedication sheets are up on the bulletin board in Parish Hall. Please remember to sign up for both these items when you are at the church, or feel free to email Judy Epperson as admin@gracechurchbvco.org. to get your name added to the list. The cost for flowers is \$27.00.

Judy is revising the Birthday and Anniversary list for *Grace Notes*. This hasn't been done for a few years and there are people whose names aren't on the list. If you want your name on the Birthday and Anniversary list, please contact Judy Epperson at admini@gracechurchbvco.org. Thanks.

Remember, we are now having in person church every Sunday –first and third with Rev. Seay and second and fourth with Catherine. Zoom is still available for those who are in town and can't attend church or who are out of town and want to join in the service. If you aren't on the Zoom list and would like to be please contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. to get added to the list.

Calling all pets! Your pictures are needed for *Grace Notes*. Please tell your humans to take your picture, write a short story about you, and send it to Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. to be put in *Grace Notes*.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Rick Fox 7/15
Peggy Finkowski 7/16

Anniversaries

Kim and Kathy Prather



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