



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



Photo by Sherry Thomas

MARCH-APRIL 2022

From Our Pastors



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Earth Day

April 22, 2022, is Earth Day, an annual global event that celebrates the environmental movement and raises awareness about pollution and ways to maintain a clean habitat. This year marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day. On this day let's remember the importance of our environment and the debt we owe to future generations to leave them a clean and healthy world to live in.

From the Desk of Rev. Seay

Our origin of lent once began with the recognition of longer winter daylight with the coming of spring. This adaptation into the Christian community was symbolic to prepare the human heart for the remembrance of the most significant death the world has ever known. As spring weather brings a change to the brown grassy fields and to the skeleton looking trees with no leaves, so it is in the Christian community a rebirth, and a spiritual time of renewal. The six weeks before Easter known as Lent, begins with Ash Wednesday anointing, the burning of last year's palms mixed with oil

and the anointing of one's forehead. It was and is still an outward sign of what has taken place in one's own heart. It is a sign of Christian sacrifice and remembrance of Jesus through self-denial, by fasting or the giving up of a pleasure, with prayerful concerns and with a commitment of self service for others.

As the Christian world reflects in the season of Lent, television newscast reports on the destruction of war raging in Europe, the Russia army invaded the country of

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Ed Butler Wins Quiet Disciple Award



Ed is an exemplary quiet disciple as a lifelong Methodist. He has served on the Council & Finance Committees. He was drafted as church organist the first time he attended a service at Grace Church in June 2003. He does more than just play the hymns. He goes the extra mile to perform classical pieces during the service and also works with clergy in selection of hymns.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic it was determined we needed to have a hybrid service. Ed, working with others, was instrumental in acquiring the needed audio equipment. When the church organ quit working, Ed diagnosed what the problem was, and fixed it. (This included hauling the replacement part to the crawl space under the historic church sanctuary.)

Ed has used his set of handbells to lead small ensemble ringing at church and was one of the founders of a hand chime choir for elementary school children. Ed helps where help is needed, whether it is shoveling snow, pulling weeds in the garden or

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Church Council Report

by Jennifer Wright, Chairman



At our February meeting, the Council approved a Sunday Night Worship Service for a group headed by Leslie Quilico (called Wild Goose Worship!) If you haven't had a chance to attend a

service, I highly recommend you go! (Sun 5:30-7pm) They have been filling the sanctuary up - 75+ people in attendance and it is a very cool service.

Items that were discussed and approved at our March Council meeting:

Childcare training for Wild Goose services - Peggy, Janet Yinger, Rev Seay, and myself will all have the necessary training to supervise any children's activities. Leslie and several of the Wild Goose members will also have the training.

Electronic/keyless locks - moving forward, we are planning to install new electronic locks on the side door of the Sanctuary, and on the front (or side) door of the Parish Hall to facilitate access when needed by those using and/or renting the Parish Hall and Sanctuary.

If you currently HAVE a key to any church building, please make sure to let Judy Epperson know so she can put you on our Key Log.

What is Outreach?

By Kathy Prather

Outreach is a means to share the love of Christ by donating funds to help those in need, in the community.

At Grace Church, the Outreach mission is simple: "To disburse funds to organizations to help those in need." It's also important to mention that Grace Outreach focuses on the needs of organizations in Chaffee County. However, we also keep our eye out for disaster relief around the state, as well as the country. In 2021, a small portion of our funds went to help the families affected by the Marshall fire in Boulder County. And we designated funds to UMCOR to go to tornado relief in Kentucky. Our team consists of Peggy Finkowski, Carolyn Hayes, Kim Prather, and Kathy Prather.

Where do the funds come from? They come directly from the generous tithe and plate offerings of our congregation. 10% of what is taken in each month is allocated to the Outreach fund. Also, individual members who wish to donate to Outreach directly can do so as well. This is important to know since YOUR money is going to these worthy organizations and helping others in need. That is different from "Loose Threads," the sewing group, who raise their money through their work sewing and crafting and selling those items at Grace craft fairs. We are two separate entities with similar goals! We are striving to coordinate with all groups within Grace to provide the most support where needed.

Our committee meets on a regular basis to review funds and decide which organizations have the most pressing needs. We are a unique team in that we deal with funds in arrears since we can't give out any funds until they have been accounted for from the prior month. We met on January 18, 2022, to disperse the final funds from December 2021 and close out our year.

If you would like more information about what
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remodeling bathrooms. Over the years he's also gone on mission trips to Estonia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and several US states.

Senior Assisted Living

Assisted Living. Org (<https://www.assistedliving.org>) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of older adults by compiling comprehensive research, the latest studies, and real-world insight from experts, caregivers, and seniors into easy-to-understand, actionable guides, and resources.

They have gathered data for over 20,000 assisted living communities serving seniors across the US, and nearly 100 statewide to help people choose the best facilities that suit their needs. Her is a dedicated section to help seniors and their families explore the different options available to them:
<https://www.assitedliving.org/senior-housing/>.

For more information contact Heather Cora, Community Outreach at www.assistedliving.org.

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

Ukraine. When looking at these horrific events, I would encourage you to look for the thousands of good people in Ukraine's neighboring countries. Those who hand out bread, bottled water, food, and clothing to families who flee their own country for safety. Yes, look at the good people, who open their homes to the refugees for a place to lay their head. Those women and children forced to flee while the men defend their homeland are being welcomed by strangers in other countries. Yes, keep looking for the good people as they help in service others. All goodness comes from God. God is good. His way of fighting is not our way, watch and wait. "God has spoken once and twice have I heard this that all power, all power belongs to God." (Ps.62:11) God is still in charge. So, "Lift up your heads and the king of glory shall come in." They asked, "who is the king of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, He is the king, He is the King of Glory." (Ps:24)

Blessings Extended,

Rev. W. Clifford Seay, Pastor

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Scarlet Smith who has been diagnosed with a rare heart condition.

Margaret asks for prayers for her friend Laura, who is recovering from surgery.

Please pray for safe travel for Jennifer and Jo who are traveling abroad.

Prayers are requested for all the people of Ukraine and the horrific conditions there.

Please pray that the wildfires can be kept in check.

Also remember Carol and Ken Holze as they return to Texas.

Continue to pray for Max Robertson as he continues treatment for leukemia.

Kurt Miller requests that we remember the local fire fighters and for a local man who lost his business in a fire.

Peggy asks for prayers for her sister, Marie, who fainted after giving blood, hit her head, and

What is Outreach?

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we do, or donating directly to us, please contact Kathy Prather 913-787-0740. And please see our bulletin board in the Parish Hall which we update regularly, so you can see where your funds are going. Also, please look for the monthly articles we place in Grace Notes highlighting and summarizing the many organizations we donate to.

Following is a list of the organizations we gave to in 2021:

Ark Valley Mission \$500.00
 The Alliance \$500.00
 Boys and Girls Club \$1000.00
 CUCC Backpack Ministry \$500.00
 Ark Valley Helping Hands \$500.00 Ark
 Valley Humane Society \$500.00
 BV Strong \$300.00
 BV Hope A21 (human trafficking) \$500.00
 Mini Blessings \$1200.00
 SolVista \$1000.00
 Elevate Her \$1200.00
 BV Pregnancy Center \$500.00
 BV High School (toys for tikes) \$500.00
 Valley to Valley Senior Center \$1000.00
 Shop with a Cop \$500.00
 Disaster fund (Marshall Fire) \$975.15
 Advance GFCA (UMCOR) \$1000.00
 NAMI Chaffee County \$1000.00

TOTAL \$13,175.15.00

Council News

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Thanks again to all the Council Members, Committee Chairs, and members. I think we have made GREAT progress in the first quarter of 2022!

Blessings – Jennifer

2022 Council Members –
 Jennifer Wright, Council Chair
 Susan Shampine, Vice-chair
 Peggy Finkowski, Lay Leader (Methodist)
 Jane Yinger, Senior Warden (Episcopal)
 Kim Prather – Building & Grounds Chair
 Ed Butler
 Nancy or Rick Fox
 Judy Epperson, Secretary
 Becky Arthur, Treasurer
 Rev. Clifford Seay, UM Lead Pastor

Easter Schedule

by Bonnie Young

April 9 – 10am to Noon – Clean Church in preparation for Easter

April 10 – Palm Sunday – Meet in Parish Hall at 8:45 am for Procession of Palms from Parish Hall to Church

April 14 – Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae Service at 6:00 pm in Sanctuary

April 15 – Good Friday – Joint Stations of the Cross with CUCC at 2:00 pm on Grace Church Lawn

April 16 – Noon -4 pm – Open Vigil in the Sanctuary

April 17 – 9:00 am Easter Sunday



Easter Lily Dedication

by Judy Epperson

There is still time to dedicate an Easter Lily for the Easter Lily Garden, even if you live out of town and would like to participate. All you have to do is send me an email at admin@gracechurchbvco.org, with the following information:

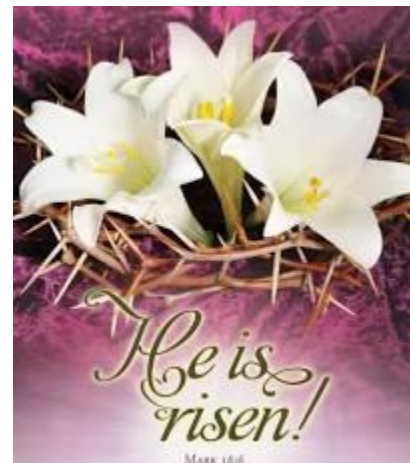
In memory of - include the names of the person or persons you wish to remember.

In honor of - include the names of the person or persons you wish to honor.

Please be sure to sign your name so that we can give you credit in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

The suggested donation for the lilies is \$20.00. Checks can be made to Grace Church, with "Easter Lily" in the memo line.

The lilies will be displayed in the church on Easter Sunday and the Sunday after Easter. After that, they can be claimed by the people who donated them. If you are from out of town, you can designate someone in Buena Vista that you would like to have the lily and it will be delivered to them.



Ark Valley Helping Hands by Kim Prather

Ark Valley Helping Hands is a non-profit trusted partner in Chaffee County that supports older adults, so they can remain independent and in their own homes, as well as stay connected to their neighbors and our community.

The target population includes folks that are 65 and older, as well as individuals in their 50s and early 60s. Twenty-six percent of Chaffee County's population is 65 and older. The percentage of Chaffee County residents who are 55-64 years of age is 16.8% (Source: U.S. Census Bureau). So, 42% of Chaffee County residents are over 55 years old.

The ongoing menu of services includes transportation to appointments, prescription pickup, running errands, grocery shopping, in-home chores/house cleaning, cleaning gutters, technology/computer assistance, yardwork, snow shoveling, friendly visits, companionship, help with bills, care calls, social/educational events, caregiver respite.

With the help of volunteers, Ark Valley provides a human connection, peace of mind, and in turn, a better quality of life. Older adults who live alone, or even with a partner/spouse, need an engaging day-to-day to thrive rather than just survive. AVHH steps in to create a safer home environment, meet basic needs and combat loneliness.

In 2021, Grace Church Outreach donated \$500 to AV Helping Hands.

For more information, contact us at (719) 530-1198 or info@avhelpinghands.org.

Office hours are Monday through Friday.

Easter Means Eternal Life

By Joanna Fuchs

A perfect God demands a perfect justice;
He cannot let us get away with sin.
We used God's gift of our free will to trespass,
So heaven's gates were closed; we couldn't get
in.

Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice,
To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.
"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with
sorrow;

"I'll send my only Son to be the one."

Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus,
The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.
He took our guilt and blame upon Himself,
So we could be with Him in paradise.

On Easter morning, he came back from death;
He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.
His resurrection means eternal life
For us, the ones he came to earth to save.

This summarizes all the Easter story
And because of it, we'll be with Him in glory.



Announcements

I will be on vacation from April 14 – April 19, 2022, but won't be back in the office until Thursday, April 21, 2022. I can be reached on my cell phone or by email should you need me for anything. Judy

Coffee Hour will resume on April 24, 2022. Please come and join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

The Grace Church Council will meet on April 24, 2022, at 10:30 in Parish Hall. All interested members of the congregation are invited to attend.

We will be placing flowers on the altar beginning on May 1, 2022. If you would like to dedicate flowers for that day, please let Judy know.

Sign-up sheets for flowers and coffee hour will be posted on the bulletin board by April 24, 2022. Please remember to sign-up.

Remember the Wild Goose Worship Service every Sunday evening in the sanctuary at 5:30 pm. All are invited.

Please check the Holy Week schedule in this publication and plan to attend the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Services.

Men, the Men's Bible Study meets at 10am on Fridays, via zoom. If you are interested in joining, contact Max Robertson or Bob Yinger.

FYI - The library has COVID tests and masks for free if you are interested.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

March Birthdays

3/1 Carol Holze
3/2 Chuck Covert
3/14 Dorothy Miller
3/24 Kurt Miller

April Birthdays

4/2 Nancy Fox
4/13 Sherry Thomas
4/18 Bonnie Young
4/25 Kathy Prather
4/29 Carolyn Hayes

No Anniversaries in either month.

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