

Grace 2 U Newsletter

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Grace Presbyterian Church

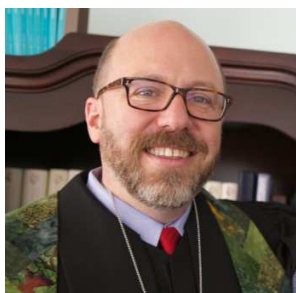
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There have been periods of time in my life when I can recall experiencing a sense of anxiety, feelings of unease, and a temptation to succumb to a mild panic. Some of those periods were related to specific difficult events including my parents' divorce, the U.S. president being shot, the space shuttle Challenger disaster, the AIDS crisis, the 9/11 attacks, and our recent great recession.

Each of these brought its own unique emotional responses and particular feelings of helplessness. In many ways, my life may have appeared relatively unchanged from a certain perspective. During each of the events mentioned, it was still possible to maintain a semblance of normalcy even while trying to understand my circumstances and attempting to adjust to a new reality.

The pandemic we are experiencing as our latest and most pressing crisis is somewhat unique, in that it doesn't seem possible to maintain even a semblance of normalcy as we grapple with a challenging new reality. Our lives have abruptly and noticeably changed, and we are unable to pretend otherwise. We don't know yet how all of this will play out once the crisis has passed, but we can be certain that we will be different people on the other side. Perhaps we will be more grateful, more thoughtful, more careful, and even way more affectionate, when we are allowed to be once again! My hope is that above all we will be even more faithful; that this experience will broaden and deepen our dependence on and trust in God and divine providence.

One way this particular difficult experience is the same as others through which we have come is this: God is with us through the entire ordeal. Sometimes it is slightly more obvious in hindsight, especially when we grow increasingly distracted by all the pain, fear, and anguish we feel during our trial. Looking back, I can see how God's steady hand guided and protected me in the midst of every one of my own trials, sometimes when I didn't even know it. I'm certain God is doing the same for us in this crisis.

Maybe it's challenging for us to see what God is doing, or know exactly what God has in mind, or even feel God's constant presence. But the very essence of Christian faith is our decision to trust in the truth of God's presence in our lives, to believe in God's goodness and love for us, and to hope for God's deliverance from our trial. This is my prayer for us all, that we may experience that level of faith until God brings us safely through this.

Grace to you,

David



HOLY WEEK

(Tentative Holy Week Schedule)

Palm Sunday	<i>April 5 / 11:00 a.m.</i>
Maundy Thursday	<i>April 9 / 7:00 p.m.</i>
Good Friday	<i>April 10 / 12:00 noon</i>
Easter Sunday	<i>April 12, Breakfast / 9:30 a.m. Worship Service / 11:00 a.m.</i>



Frank & Betty Banks

Shirley Hawkins

Sarah Logan

We're glad you're here!



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Just want the congregation of Grace Presbyterian to know that your administrative team is trying to keep things together while we endure the virus. Our ministries are continuing as most of us hunker down. David's message both Sundays was watched by a significant number of people as are his short video messages. Don't forget to support the church as we look forward to the day when we will all return to the historic church in the middle of downtown Dawsonville. Many of us feel this church is the heart of the county. Let's continue to prove this to be true.

Blessings,

Joe



DISCIPLESHIP

I am still in the process of figuring out how to organize my team. Bob Thornton is doing a great job with the adult Sunday School class. They just finished a six-week lesson on Grace and Gratitude and are in the third lesson of six lessons on Illuminating Lent. Currently, there are four adults plus Bob in attendance.

Margie O'Byrne is leading the Women's Bible study group. They are studying a Kerygma book, done by a Presbyterian minister, that walks them through the Bible. They finished the Old Testament three weeks ago and are now working through the New Testament. Margie reports that they are eager to learn how the two testaments go together. The 14 – 18 women who attend the study always begin with prayer lists and request, which Margie says really cements the group together. The ladies meet every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm at the church.

I had Crystal send an email to everyone thanking them for allowing me to be an Elder at Grace and asking for volunteers to join the team. I also made an announcement seeking help with this year's Vacation Bible School. I had three people agree to help me with this task. We have not met yet, but I will be scheduling a meeting in the coming weeks.

David is currently holding Grace 101 classes for our new members.

We will continue to plan for Vacation Bible School, because I know we will be meeting again, and we will need to be ready. If you have any ideas for the VBS, please email or call me. Your help is appreciated.

Thank you for all your support and prayers,
Andy Clemons



THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM

The Fellowship Team hosted the Souper Sunday on Sunday, February 3, 2020. We want to thank all that came and provided the wonderful soups, chilis, salads, crackers, cornbread, and desserts. There was a great turn out and lots of fun and fellowship. I want to thank my team for all the extra help they have given me. We were to host the Ladies luncheon on March 17th which was cancelled. We will be hosting the Easter Breakfast/Brunch on Easter Sunday April 12, 2020 at 9:30 am. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite breakfast item, if there is an Easter service.

Blessings, Ruth Ann Ball, Your Servant in Christ,
Fellowship Team Chair



SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed,

for the Lord God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

Greetings my fellow congregants! What a surreal time we are living in currently. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and humor as we weather Covid-19.

Dr. Sherry Weeks created a Social Justice team that works tirelessly and with little or no instruction in so many ways, not only in our church but also throughout the community. They are big shoes to fill but what she created works on its own....Thank you to the people in our church that go about their missions with joy in their hearts.

Just this week the decision was made to suspend our Grace in a Box mission at the Good Shepherd Clinic. Many of you have been tireless volunteers at the clinic in multiple roles throughout this ministry that began in our fellowship hall so many years ago. Thank you. All of you, in the roles you fill, thank you in a million different ways on a million different days. What you are committed to has made such a difference in so many lives in our community.

Shelby Lee And Ruth Ann Ball quietly go about their mission at Ric Rack, collecting and helping to fill the needs of the community.

Christy Jordan organized and chaperoned an outing for the young ladies of the Rainbow Children's Home at Outside The Lines Art Studio a few Saturdays ago...The girls were able to select a piece of pottery and had a really good time designing and painting!

It is one of the treasures of my week to be with you all on Sundays when the Lord truly “Binds us Together”. It was a prayerfully considered decision to worship at home these past and coming weeks. It was not one made of fear but

caring. When we watch what David shares online, I can feel your presence, I hope you feel it too.

We owe a great debt of gratitude of the ones who came before us that knew streaming our sermons was an important outreach to not only the community but now to us, as a congregation.

I know these past weeks we owe gratitude to Mark Hageli and Daniel Manke as they man the audio/video on Sundays. I cannot help but feel Wayne and Larry standing somewhere close by...

Peace and Grace to each of you and the missions of our church that are supported with our monies and our actions. You were commanded and you answered...

Well done....



WORSHIP TEAM

Grace to you from the Worship Team!

Our Choir continues to grow! Thank you, Shirley Hawkins, for joining the choir and sharing your voice. If any member of the congregation is interested in joining the choir, please see Gene after the service.

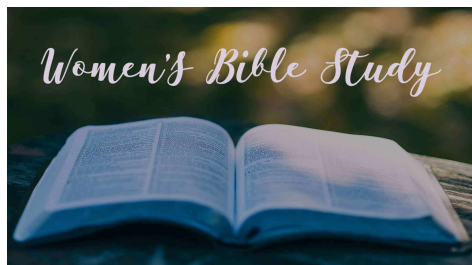
The Worship Team is busy preparing for Holy Week! Palm Sunday is April 5th. Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7pm on April 9th with Good Friday service at Noon the next day. We will have a great celebration on Easter Sunday!

We are hopeful that the Coronavirus will have subsided enough for our congregation to return to worshipping together by Holy Week! If not, I am confident that we will be able to stream a service for everyone to enjoy and participate with through the Spirit. If you were able to watch the streamed service on March 15th and 22nd, I think you will agree that Pastor David did a great job with his sermon and prayers. God will work through all of us to ensure Easter will be a celebration no matter where we are.

We are working on purchasing new robes, music, and sound equipment for the choir. You will also soon notice a new knee wall extension at the front of the church enclosing the area around the digital piano.

God Bless You and Happy Easter!!

Mark Hageli



Women's Bible Study, like Church, restaurants, schools, malls etc. has been postponed until the virus is gone. Meanwhile, keep studying and we should all be Bible brilliant by the time we meet again!

Stay safe.

Margie



In Our Prayers: Sonya Albertson (Betty Banks), The Aliucci Family (Hageli Family), Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, Noah Barnes (Mary Ann Sheehy), Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Becky Burger (Janie Mori), Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Caleb (Hubert's Nephew), Cathy Cameron (Jeanne Kendall), Becky Crownover (Friend of Marsha Loftin), Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Katy Dennis, Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), Marti Goodman (Margie O'Byrne), Donna Greene (Marsha Loftin), Sandy Grimes, Rachel Hageli (Sister of Mark Hageli), Paula Harris, Marian Hopkins, Marty Horne, Tate Ingram, Amy Gibson's Family, Donna Greene (Marsha), Carol Ann Groebner, Joan (sister of Paula Halteman), Doug Jones (Margie's brother), Winfred Kelley, Louise Kelly (Chris Seese), Lamar (Richard Smith), Landon (Sherry's grandson), Rich LeDuke (Father of Dana Loring), Shelby Lee, Linda (Mal Zajac), Sarah Logan, Lucas (Nephew of Dana Loring), John McCormick (Ryan McDuffie), Andrew McPherson, Nancy McNeill, Payton (Granddaughter of Sherry Weeks), Chuck & Diane Piatt, Jeff Plunkett, Penny and Zoe Putnam, Ann Quandt, Dan Scott, Chris Seese, Nancy Stamp (niece of Grace Walden), Emily Steinemetz (Granddaughter of Hanne Gear), Kyle Styron (Marsha Loftin), Tanner (Marsha Loftin), Brad Taylor, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), David Trombly (Kathy Westra), Vernon (Reed Maurer), Sam and Judy Wadsworth, Tom Whalen (Davida), Karan Winters (Mary Ann Sheehy), Wyatt, Barbara Zajac's family, Kara Zajac

Hospital: Penny Putnam

Nursing Home/Rehab: Zoe Putnam, Betty Rhodes

Sympathy: The Family of Jon Lorenz

USHER/GREETER/LITURGIST SCHEDULE**Liturgists:****Ushers:**AprilApril

4/5	Communion Servers: Bonnie Fry, Mary Ann Sheehy, Carol Watkins	
4/5	Paula Harris	Marsha Loftin & Mary Ann Sheehy
4/ 12	Peggy Thornton	Jim Hambright & Margie O'Byrne
4/19	Sam McDuffie	Joey & Kristie Homans
4/26	Grace Walden	Frank & Betty Banks

Liturgists:**Ushers:**MayMay

5/3	Communion Servers: Andy & Linda Clemons, Grace Walden	
5/3	Randy Davis	Bonnie Fry & Doris Greijack
5/10	Joyce Ball	Joan Davis & Nancy McCue
5/17	Margie O'Byrne	Don & Priscilla Taylor
5/24	Paul Dimick	Ron & Elaine Coker
5/31	Joey Homans	Betty Powell & Grace Walden

Liturgists:**Ushers:**JuneJune

6/7	Communion Servers: Jim Hambright, Margie O'Byrne, Doris Greijack, & Betty Powell	
6/7	Paula Harris	Mark & Shannon Hageli
6/14	Randy Davis	Bob & Peggy Thornton
6/21	Peggy Thornton	Sam & Judy Wadsworth
6/28	Kristie Homans	Bill & Joann Keller

GRACE IN A BOX SCHEDULE

Grace-in-a Box and its Volunteers continues to support our community thru the Churches Meals Program(G.I.B.)

April

2nd– Betty Banks (9:00-11:00am)
Joe Fortune (1:30-5:30 pm)

9th – Sherry Weeks (9:00-11:00am)
Andrew McPherson (1:30-5:30 pm)

16th – Bill & Joann Keller (9:00-11:00 am)
Ann Riggs (1:30-5:30 pm)

23rd– Randy Davis (9:00-11:00 am)
Doug Powell (1:30-5:30 pm)

30th – Priscilla Taylor (9:00-11:00 am)
Betty Powell (1:30-5:30 pm)

May

7th– Nancy King (9:00-11:00 am)
Elaine Coker (1:30-5:30 pm)

14th– Joan Davis (9:00-11:00 am)
Tom Quintrell (1:30-5:30 pm)

21st– Robert Ivy (9:00-11:00 am)
Kristie Myers (1:30-5:30 pm)

28th – Bill & Joann Keller (9:00-11:00 am)
Carol Watkins (1:30-5:30 pm)

June

4th– Priscilla Taylor (9:00-11:00 am)
Ann Riggs (1:30-5:30 pm)

11th – Sherry Weeks (9:00-11:00 am)
Betty Powell (1:30-5:30 pm)

18th– Doug Powell (9:00-11:00 am)
Andrew McPherson (1:30-5:30)

25th– Kristie Myers (9:00-11:00 am)
Joe Fortune (1:30-5:30)

REMINDER:

ALSO: Please remember that on the day you volunteer, you are asked to provide fresh fruit to go with the box meals.



April Birthdays

3rd – Judy Wadsworth
 11th – Dallas Kelley
 13th – Daniel Miller
 13th – Dan Scott
 17th – Gretchen Blackwell
 20th – Jeanne Kendall

May Birthdays

3rd – Bill Weeks
 9th – Martha Lynn
 11th – Mickie Schaide
 14th – Warren King
 24th – John Kinney
 26th – Barb Crouse

June Birthdays

1st – Gene Seese
 7th – Mike Ball
 10th – Sharra Kelley
 14th – Bill Loring
 16th – Mary Ann Sheehy
 19th – Ann Riggs
 22nd – Ruby Lorenz
 24th – Betty Rhodes
 24th – Joan Davis
 26th – Bill Keller
 29^h – Lauren Collins

April

8th – Jane & John Joh
 18th – Gretchen & Roy Blackwell
 25th – Judy & Daniel Manke
 29th – Barbara & Tom Quintrell

May

7th – Joan & Randy Davis
 22nd – Christy & David Jordan

June

3rd – Joann & Bill Keller
 4th – Jeannette & Gordon Brand
 5th – Dana & Bill Loring
 6th – Elaine & Ron Coker
 8th – Judy & Sam Wadsworth
 12th – Linda & Andy Clemons
 14th – Fran & Paul Dimick
 14th – Margie O'Byrne & Jim Hambright
 30th – Kristie & Joey Homans