



# Grace 2 U Newsletter

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As of this writing, we have just passed the one-year mark for experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was just over twelve months ago that we had our first online-only streaming worship service. Thanks to the foresight, ingenuity, and generosity of Roy Blackwell, we had video equipment in place and were already prepared to share our services with the online community. In fact, our services were shared online for several years prior to 2020. However, doing so while no worshipers were physically present in our sanctuary was a new experience for us all in 2020.

Our members were required to adjust to a new way of participating in worship. Perhaps some may have even enjoyed the opportunity to avoid getting up and getting dressed on Sunday mornings, instead opting for the comfort of pajamas, coffee, and a comfy couch at home. Our worship team needed to learn how to lead worship in an empty room, and how to sing (un)comfortably while masked. We even experimented with recording the service in advance, and sharing it later during the traditional 11:00 worship hour.

Some of our activities were put on hold for a while, and some have stopped completely for now. Our Bible study classes eventually resumed, and now Bob Thornton's class is meeting again on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the parlor. The ladies' Bible study is meeting again at 10:00 a.m. each Tuesday morning, also in the parlor. The Sunday fellowship time, that blessed event where we can enjoy delicious snacks while visiting with friends and church family following worship, is still on hiatus. What a joy it will be to safely resume that activity, along with the church picnic,

the Thanksgiving lunch, and the Easter breakfast. While we are not currently passing the communion elements or an offering plate, we look forward to resuming that practice soon.

As vaccination counts increase and life approaches a more familiar footing, many of our most beloved worship practices and church activities can safely begin again. Your faithful support and participation over the last difficult and unprecedented year has been indispensable in allowing your church to continue ministering to our community and the world. I want to personally thank our staff and ordered ministers, the deacons and elders who have led us so admirably during this time. Also, on behalf of your deacons, elders, and staff, I want to thank you, the Church, for your steadfast commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As challenging as this year has been, you have made the very best of it and we could not have come through this without your prayerful, loving, and gracious support every step of the way.

Grace to you,

David



*Lauren Collins*

*David Muir*

*Glorianna Wilson*

We're glad you're here!




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## WORSHIP TEAM

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Grace to you from the Worship Team.

Happy Easter! He is risen.

We hope this article finds you healthy and safe. Holy Week is one of my favorite weeks out of the year. It is a week full of history and the fulfillment of many promises. It brings me great hope for the return of our savior in the future. Holy week has many traditions that brings us closer together starting with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter.

As Pastor David reminded us in service last Sunday, the preceding year we did not get to participate in Holy Week at our church. This year we will have the option of attending the events at church or online. The worship team will be ready to provide a great service experience no matter which median you choose to participate in.

Speaking of service, the worship team could use someone's help to schedule ushers throughout the year. Since the church is seeing an increase in members at church, we will need ushers again in the near future. If you are interested, please let me or David know.

Again, Happy Easter!

God Bless.

Mark Hageli




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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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At Casa Homans, “Read Through the Bible in a Year” has become “Read Through the Bible in a Year and a Half.” On the lists of lessons learned over the past 12 months, the extension seems a divine intervention. Every day there has been a message that pulls us back on track. Some days you are the hare and some days, the tortoise...

As we approach Easter, I pray Lent 2021 has been especially meaningful to you. This last year has taught us all a lot about change. I pray that, like me, you have received a blessing for the changes you have grown to appreciate. I have been on a mission to reduce my waste, to be mindful of what I will leave behind. The desire was born of a goal for Lent, circa 2019. I continue it with growing commitment, even today. Last year I began the season of Lent with lofty goals that quickly ghosted when the reality of Covid 19 set in. Sometimes getting through the day is enough. This year, I “gave up” something that was part of my every day. As of this writing, I have 12 days to go and every day I ask God for the strength to fight the day together and we do. I do not know what day 13 will bring, but I welcome change if it strengthens my walk.

I look forward to beginning the wade back into in person activities. The business end of the Social Justice team is service in the community, I look forward to a time when we are all vaccinated, the virus is manageable, and we can return to many of the activities we enjoy.

I look forward to being together....Especially eating together. The smells, the sounds, the fellowship...I look forward to that the most.

Peace and Grace to you, Kristie




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## GRACE NOTES

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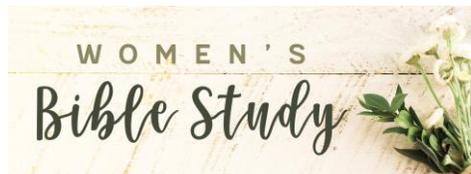
It is amazing to think that only a year ago as we moved through the season of Lent, everything came to a grinding halt. I believe many of us then thought this was just a temporary issue, a couple of weeks and we would be together for Easter again. Those weeks stretched into months and long months they were. Finally, there is a light at the end of this long, dark tunnel! The pews have begun to fill again as more people are vaccinated and we are closer than ever to resuming a semblance of what regular church service will look like. I anticipate that this Easter will be quite the contrast to a year ago.

From a music perspective, things continue to improve as well. Congregational singing has begun again, and our interns have done an amazing job in keeping worship through song moving forward. While we are not in a place where we can have a full choir in the loft each Sunday yet, I can see that time approaching much sooner than it appeared it would even at Christmastime this past year. I fully anticipate the regular restart of Chancel Choir rehearsals in August, if not sooner. Until then, our worship team will continue to provide music each week and hopefully we will add some guest musicians along the way (including other choir members!).

Speaking of our interns, we have been so blessed by TJ, Madison, and Lauren this past year. Your impact touched Lauren so much that she chose Grace as her home and became a member on February 28th. What a glorious occasion that was and we are so happy she will continue her faith journey with us. As seniors, Madison & Lauren will be leaving us as interns at the end of this year and I look forward to celebrating their service these past two and a half years later this year. While it is sad to think of them moving on, your impact on their lives will continue to follow them as they begin a new journey. Thank you, Madison and Lauren, and congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Grace2U,

Gene Seese  
NFHS Choirs



The women's Bible study of the book of Revelation just finished chapter 11 in our 9th week. We are almost halfway done, but it is not too late to join in. If there are any women who are still interested in maybe taking the plunge into this book, please come join us in the parlor on Tuesday mornings beginning at 10:00am. We would love to see you.

Carol Watkins



**In Our Prayers:** Donna Adams (Margie O'Byrne), Laurie Allison (Marsha Loftin), Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, the family of Paige Berrigan (Joe Fortune), Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Cathy Cameron (Jeanne Kendall), Tom Cole (Dan Scott), Collins family, Connie Daniel (Donna Bailey), the family of Sam Cooke (Lauren Collins), Jeff Coombs (Bill and Joann Keller), Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Katy Dennis, Arlene Devience (the Hageli family), Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Cindy Estes (Kay Parrish), Rachel Lynn Foster, Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), Sandy Grimes, Paula Harris, Marty Horne, Amy Gibson's Family, Joan (sister of Paula Halteman), Doug Jones (Margie's brother), Winfred Kelley, Louise Kelly (Chris Seese), Lamar (Richard Smith), Rich LeDuke (Father of Dana Loring), Shelby Lee, Jason Leonard, Linda (Mal Zajac), Rhonda Lindquist, the family of Jon Lorenz, Lucas (Nephew of Dana Loring), Julie Mannheimer, Cecile McGuire, Nancy McNeill, Nancy (Mark Hageli), Bailey Oliver (Marsha Loftin), Karen Permenter, Chuck & Diane Piatt, Zoe Putnam, Ann Quandt, Harvey Rainey (Husband of Rebecca Rainey), John Rushin (Marsha Loftin), Dan Scott, Chris Seese, Mel Smith (Margie O'Byrne), Sawyer Smith (Sandra Grimes), Mandy Stallard (Marsha Loftin), Nancy Stamp (niece of Grace Walden), Emily Steinemetz (Granddaughter of Hanne Gear), Brad Taylor, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), Vernon (Reed Maurer), Sam and Judy

Wadsworth, Tom Whalen (Davida), Wyatt, Barbara Zajac's family, Kara Zajac, pray for those with the Coronavirus and those who care for them, the Volunteers of Good Shepherd Clinic who are still serving the citizens in need by providing a healthcare home during this Pandemic .

**Assisted Living:** Marian Hopkins, Betty Rhodes

**Nursing Home/Rehab:** Carol Ann Groebner



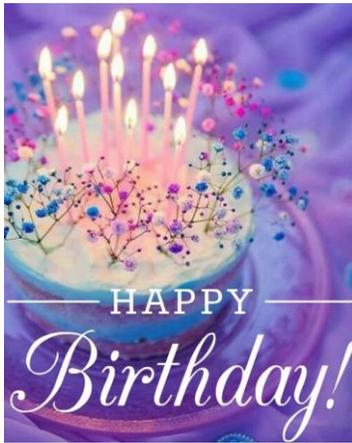
*Grace Presbyterian is scheduled to serve at the Ric Rack food pantry from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates this quarter:*

- *April 5, 7, & 9*
- *May 17, 19, & 21.*
- *June 28, 30, & July 2*

*Please email [gp2@trailwave.net](mailto:gp2@trailwave.net) if you would like to volunteer. The food pantry is still accepting donations, the store is located at 829 Hwy 9N, Dawsonville, GA 30534.*



<i>Palm Sunday</i>	March 28	11:00 a.m.
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	April 1	7:00 p.m.
<i>Good Friday</i>	April 2	12:00 p.m.
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 4	11:00 a.m.



### April Birthdays

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

### May Birthdays

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill Weeks  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Mickie Schaide  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Warren King  
 24<sup>th</sup> – John Kinney  
 26<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Crouse  
 29<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Collins

### June Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Gene Seese  
 7<sup>th</sup> – Mike Ball  
 10<sup>th</sup> – Sharra Kelley  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Bill Loring  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ann Sheehy  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Ann Riggs  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ruby Lorenz  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Betty Rhodes  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Joan Davis  
 26<sup>th</sup> – Bill Keller



### *April*

8<sup>th</sup> – Jane & John Joh

18<sup>th</sup> – Gretchen & Roy Blackwell

25<sup>th</sup> – Judy & Dan Manke

29<sup>th</sup> – Barbara & Tom Quintrell

### *May*

7<sup>th</sup> – Joan & Randy Davis

22<sup>nd</sup> – Christy & David Jordan

### *June*

3<sup>rd</sup> – Joann & Bill Keller

4<sup>th</sup> – Jeannette & Gordon Brand

5<sup>th</sup> – Dana & Bill Loring

6<sup>th</sup> – Elaine & Ron Coker

8<sup>th</sup> – Judy & Sam Wadsworth

12<sup>th</sup> – Linda & Andy Clemons

14<sup>th</sup> – Fran & Paul Dimick

14<sup>th</sup> – Margie & Jim Hambright

30<sup>th</sup> – Kristie & Joey Homans