



Grace 2 U Newsletter

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Here comes 2021.

I hope we are ready for it. It seems like we entered 2020 last year with an optimistic outlook and a sense that life might be trending upward. At the very least, we may have felt that there was no way it could be worse than 2019. Turns out we may have underestimated a year's potential to be memorable in all the wrong ways. In addition to the many cultural and societal ills with which we have been confronted here in the U.S. and abroad: social distancing, mask-wearing, and drastically altered worship services have been among the problematic experiences we have encountered right here at Grace. What might a new year bring?

Even though there is no actual magic or even anything all that extraordinary about flipping our calendar from December 31 to January 1, it is a transition we are accustomed to observing as important. There is something psychologically encouraging about the thought of a new beginning and a fresh start. We tend to imagine that maybe things will be different this time; better, we hope. There is also some appeal in finishing that which needs to finally end. We tend to enjoy drawing the curtain, closing the book, seeing the credits roll and pressing the 'off' button. Then what? How do we change what happens next?

Whether New Year's resolutions are our thing or not, this particular transition from one unusually difficult and challenging year to the next (hopefully better) one offers each of us an intriguing opportunity. We don't know what the future will bring. We can't be positive that 2021 will be filled with only blessings and no curses. Yet, even though we don't

know what will happen, we can choose how we want to respond.

My prayer for us all is that we may resolve to respond to whatever comes our way in 2021 with the qualities, virtues, and attitudes that the Apostle Paul referred to as the 'fruits of the Spirit.' In the new year and beyond, may my life and my character resemble that of my Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, and may I react to every challenge and every blessing, every difficulty and every joy, every critic and every supporter with the following: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Think about the fruits of the Spirit. Pray for the fruits of the Spirit. Put them into practice, try them out. Decide to embody one of these qualities every single day in the coming year. When we do this, I think two things will happen: we will be profoundly changed for the better, and then we will fundamentally transform our world. And isn't that ultimately what a New Year's Resolution is all about- change, improvement, and transformation?

Pray for me that I can hold myself to this, and I will pray for you, too. Regardless of what 2021 has in store, good or bad, God will never abandon or forsake us, Jesus Christ will show us how to live, and the Holy Spirit will give us the power and strength to do it.

Blessings,

David



EVANGELIS / MISSION TEAM

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Generous gifts to the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old.

By joining our gifts together, however large, or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

How it works:

You Give a Gift.

Give a gift that represents a cause that is close to your heart. Or make a gift in someone's honor and choose a ministry they would love.

Your gift joins with others

You unite with thousands of others giving to Presbyterian Mission through the Giving Catalog, increasing your gift's capacity to bring hope to communities around the world.

You Make a Difference

Your gift provides help, hope and relief to people, families, and communities in need.

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN GOAL

Links of Love – We will create a visible display of our gifts (like the samples below) by creating a chain of paper links for each gift given. Our children’s ministry will make the chain to hang in the church. It will be fun to see how long it can grow and then connect with other Presbyterian churches.

For Example:

Sewing Machine - \$50.00 -- A stable source of income for a family in a developing part of the world.

Family of Chickens - \$25.00 – Improves the food security and livelihood of farmers and families around the world

Rainwater Catchment System - \$75.00 – Helps communities collect usable water for irrigation and washing

Fishing Net -\$15.00 – Small-scale fisherman rely on their catch for income and food

Community Food Bank - \$200.00 – Community gardens supply nutritious produce where it is most needed, while providing employment and educational opportunities that nurture communities right here in the USA.

Want to learn more and get involved?

Visit presbyteriangifts.org

PICK YOUR GIFT!

Mary Ann Sheehy



WORSHIP TEAM

Grace to you and Happy New Year from the Worship Team!

We hope this article finds you healthy and safe. We all have enjoyed returning to the sanctuary to worship these past few months. Though the future remains uncertain with the increase in Covid-19 cases, we expect to leave the sanctuary open allowing members to make the best choice for themselves and their families. With the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine, we anticipate numbers will come down fast. Regardless of whether the sanctuary is closed or not, the church will remain open through online streaming, Bible studies, and small group activities.

As I look back at 2020, I am amazed with the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church. The generosity, the family atmosphere, and the feeling of God’s presence among us in the church and in our meetings. I am proud of how the congregation has faced this pandemic.

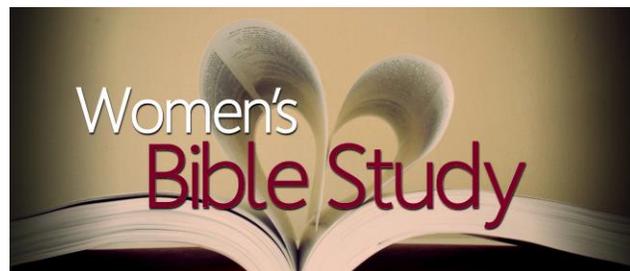
As we look forward to 2021, let us keep faith and hope as we see the Holy Spirit work through our church and community. Let us participate in our church however we can. Take part in a Bible study, join a committee like the Worship Team and contribute remotely by creating a liturgical calendar, or invite a friend to watch the service online.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for us in 2021 and know that this

congregation will continue to be the same faithful people they have always been.

God Bless!!

Mark Hageli



In the past year, the Women's Bible Study group has been struggling to finish our study, "Discovering the Bible, A New Generation" from Kerygma. We had to stop meeting the end of February due to the Covid virus. Margie arranged for us to return on October 27, socially distanced and masked, in the sanctuary. However, the attendance was low so it was decided that we stop meeting until a vaccine was available to everyone.

In the interim, I have been approached by several of the women to teach a short Bible study to fill the time. The Session and Margie approved. So – I am inviting anyone who is interested to meet us, with your mask on, in the parlor of the church beginning January 5 at 10:00 am to spend some time exploring the book of Revelation. As David stated in his sermon on December 6th, it is better to have knowledge instead of fear, hope instead of despair. Understanding the prophetic scriptures will impact the way we live in the days ahead.

Carol Watkins

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
(Revelation 1:3)



In Our Prayers: Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, the family of Charles Barry, Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Cathy Cameron (Jeanne Kendall), Tom Cole (Dan Scott), Collins family, Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Katy Dennis, Arlene Devience (the Hageli family), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), Sandy Grimes, Paula Harris, Marian Hopkins, 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), the family of Jon Lorenz, Lucas (Nephew of Dana Loring), Julie Mannheimer, Cecile McGuire, Andrew McPherson, Nancy McNeill, Bailey Oliver (Marsha Loftin), Chuck & Diane Piatt, Zoe Putnam, Ann Quandt, Harvey Rainey (Husband of Rebecca Rainey), Dan Scott, Chris Seese, Sawyer Smith (Sandra Grimes), Gail Smith, 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 .

Nursing Home/Rehab: Carol Ann Groebner,
Betty Rhodes



Grace Presbyterian is scheduled to serve at the Ric Rack food pantry on January 11, 13, & 15, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please email 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.



March

6th – Paula & Howard Halteman

20th – Sherry & Bill Weeks

21st– Janie & Hubert Tinsley



January Birthdays

3rd – John Joh
6th – Eleana Garrett
12th – Linda Clemons
16th – Don Boney
18th – Penny Kelley
24th – Nancy McCue
24th – Cecile McGuire
30th – Tom Quintrell

February Birthdays

1st – Barbara Ritcheson
9th – Rebecca Rainey
15th – Marsha Loftin
15th – Priscilla Taylor
16th – Fran Dimick
16th – Janice Dunbar
16th – Judy Manke
17th – Margie O’Byrne
20th – Christine Seese
21st – Rachael Lorenz

March Birthdays

1st – Richard Smith
7th – Joyce Ball
9th – Joe Fortune
10th – Ron Coker
12th – Kay Parrish
18th – Kathy Westra
18th – Marian Hopkins
20th – Jim Hambright
25th – Reed Maurer
30th – Jane Miller