



# Grace 2 U Newsletter

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In 2020, my wife Christy and I have been reading through the Bible together, using the daily Bible reading plan provided to the congregation through the initiative of ruling elder Kristie Myers and the Discipleship Team. Through the unintended blessing of abundant time spent at home over the last three months during quarantine, we have had plenty of opportunity to engage in our practice of reading each day's assigned passage aloud to each other. We've grown so accustomed to the habit of picking up our Bibles and reading each evening, that it has become an activity that is difficult for us to forget. Whereas we once might have easily overlooked this daily commitment, it has now become a natural part of our evenings together.

I've read the Bible through on other occasions, but this is the first time for me to do so aloud. At the time of this writing, we are just about halfway through and are currently reading the book of Job as we continue our journey through the Hebrew Scriptures. There is something different about the experience of speaking the Scripture out loud, especially to one another, that changes the experience for the reader. The lengthy genealogical passages, for instance, can become an incredible challenge when you're reading aloud hundreds of complex unfamiliar names. There is also a surprising amount of repetition among the Old Testament history books, allowing one the chance to hear certain stories, names, and details multiple times.

We have encountered heroes and villains, admirable characters and scoundrels, devout worshipers and unbelieving scoffers, and everything in between. We have found ourselves saying, "I don't remember that,"

“What on earth is that about?” and “I like this part- that’s such a good story.” We’ve wondered, “Why was this written down?” and “Why didn’t the writer explain more about that?” We’ve also asked, “What should we do with this? How does this matter to us right now?”

While some passages can be a chore to work through (I’m looking at you, ancient census), and others can be difficult to picture (tabernacle blueprints, anyone?), there are many more which can be an immediately inspiring and life-affirming pleasure to read (Way to go, Ruth, Esther, and Job!). If we continue on this pace, I think we will look back on 2020 with mixed emotions. We are certain to remember this as one of the worst years we ever experienced in many ways, but also as the year we spoke the Word of God aloud to each other, breathing into our lives the blessings of Scripture in a way we had never experienced before.

If you’re not already reading along with us via the plan we shared at the beginning of the year, feel free to join us now. I expect you will also experience the tremendous blessing of interacting with the life-giving Word of God in a new and vital way.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17



## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Grace Presbyterian Church Administrative  
Elder’s Report June 2020

- **Financials** The church finances continue to be doing well. Offerings are up and expenses are down. The coronavirus has had little to no impact on our bottom line.
- **Safety and Security Team** No activity since we are not meeting in the building.
- **Building and Grounds** Church doorknobs and all surfaces in the restrooms are cleaned and disinfected each week. If you must come to the building to see David or Crystal, you should find the building virus free.
- Church Painting is complete and under budget. Total cost to power wash and paint outside of building including the steps was \$9,500.

Joe Fortune



## EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

During our lockdown period this spring, much of what we often think of as “local mission” and “Christian evangelism” as traditionally practiced by Grace Presbyterian members and staff has

been severely curtailed. However, that doesn't mean that the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God isn't being proclaimed and shared with our community and our world.

Some good news on the evangelistic front in the mission field to which we have been assigned includes the growing number of people who interact with us online via our streaming web videos of worship services, devotional messages, and updates.

- In a 30-day period between May 23rd and June 23rd, 71 unique viewers watched all or part of our online worship service for a total of 390 views.
- During the same period, our Grace Facebook page reached 1,024 people with worship service videos, devotional sermonettes, and general information with 994 visitor engagements.
- In the last six weeks, our new Grace YouTube channel has achieved 38 subscribers and has had as many as 35 viewers for a single worship service.

Our online presence was already established before the advent of a global pandemic, but our viewership among our members, families, and guests has blossomed tremendously during our experience in quarantine, which is great news for our kingdom ministry.

Another encouraging sign that our reach has not been diminished by distance is the New Worshiping Community we support in Dahlonga. After a three-month hiatus, our ministry to restaurant servers and bartenders and local retail workers whose "essential" status kept them engaged with the public have resumed. While adhering to social distancing protocols, people involved with Shift Change have begun to gather for prayer, Bible Study, and communion (with their own communion elements). The Holy Spirit is moving among the

unchurched population in Lumpkin County and Grace is playing a pivotal role in sharing Jesus Christ with them.

As we all look forward to more normal time, I want to tell you that plans are being made to work with Brad Taylor in a new mission effort. Brad has some ideas as to how our congregation might possibly be able to help with some needs at an orphanage that he has told me about. I believe it could be a very meaningful project for all of us, but details will need to be worked out and announced as we progress through this pandemic.

I pray that we all may be protected and stay safe as we move through this time together.

Grace to you,  
Mary Ann Sheehy




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### THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM

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We have reserved the pavilion at Rock Creek Park for our annual picnic on Sunday, September 27th after church service. We have missed seeing everyone at our church building for worship.

Love, blessings, and grace to you all.

Ruth Ann Ball, Fellowship Team Chairman




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### SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

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I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe.

2020 is not a year we will forget! Can I get an AMEN? We have had to learn new ways to greet, communicate, share, and worship. I do not know about you, but some days I am exhausted with all the “new normal” and long for the “old familiar”. Alas, each day it seems this current way of life may be with us for a while.

NOA and AA have begun meeting again in our Fellowship Hall. We have had faithful members continue to supply food and Joe Fortune keeps the area squeaky clean.

Ric Rack continues to have needs as our community struggles with the fallout of our economy and unemployment due to the pandemic.

I have reached out to them; their wish list includes:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Mac and Cheese
- Pasta
- Rice
- Cereal
- Beans

I encourage you to drop off your donation Monday through Friday from 12-4 p.m. They are appreciative of all donations.

Many of you have enjoyed “Tailgate” worship from the parking lot on Sunday mornings. It is good to see familiar faces! Weather permitting, this will continue indefinitely. Like each of you, I look forward to the day we can all be together in the sanctuary. Until then, I continue to be thankful for those who put so much time and effort into our online service. Every week a bit

more “normal” is added and I am spiritually lifted by their efforts.

I pray continued good health to each of you and if you have any needs please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Social Justice Team and we will do everything we can to meet those needs.

Grace to you

Kristie




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## WORSHIP TEAM

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Grace to you from the Worship Team.

We find ourselves in interesting times. I reviewed my last newsletter to you back in March. At that time, we had made decisions regarding the choir and getting ready for Holy Week.

Now, we find ourselves becoming masters of social media. We log onto Facebook or YouTube to watch the service. We also can congregare in the parking lot on Sunday mornings with fellow members to listen or watch the service and then catch up with one another.

What strikes me, however, is even with these changes due to COVID-19 there is so much the same. Our church is open. Yes, we must participate in the service through a different medium but there can be no doubt that God is with us.

Pastor David is still giving meaningful and moving sermons. We are blessed with the

singing from choir members during the service. We are still enjoying the sacrament of communion. There is no doubt that God is still with us, guiding and always showing love.

While I look forward to worshipping again in our sanctuary with each of you, I know the session is working on deciding when that time will be. Until that time, I hope you will join me in having gratitude for all that is the same with our worships whether it is through Facebook or YouTube. I hope to see you in the parking lot of Grace.

God Bless!

Mark Hageli




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## GRACE NOTES

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The last time I stood in front of the choir as director was the last time we had a church service on March 8th. In fact, it would be the last time I stood in front of any choir for almost 2 months. If we had known then what we know now, perhaps we would have taken time to appreciate the gift of sharing the gospel through music more deeply. Indeed, I believe we understand now more than ever what we have lost due to this pandemic and its repercussions will be felt for years to come. However, the church did not stop and music does not either. I wish to thank you all of you for your commitment to keep music moving forward, supporting us through your gifts and your patience as we navigated a new road of technology and the growing pains that come along with it (my apologies to anyone who might have gone deaf on Easter Sunday 😊).

As we slowly begin the process of opening, we face many challenges and questions. Our biggest question is “What will music in worship look like?” A couple things we do know:

- Solo and small group/instrumental performances will continue, but performances from your chancel choir will have to wait until such a time where we can safely sing together again without the fear of spreading COVID-19 amongst ourselves and the congregation. There are many studies being conducted right now to establish the best and safe practices for group performances moving forward and those results should be available soon.
- Congregational singing, such as hymns, responses and benedictions will also have to wait for now. This may be the hardest part for many of you that enjoy singing with us as a part of your worship. All these elements will still be included in worship but presented in a small group/solo format, much like you have observed online. I would encourage those of you who have an instrumental and/or vocal talent that would like to be a part of this new musical approach to contact me so we can share your gifts with our congregation.

Most importantly, know that music will return in all its pre-covid glory. When it does, what a glorious day of tears and joy it will be! Until then, I leave you with these words from a favorite hymn that helps me keep my focus and hope alive through these troubled times:

“We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from Him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe Him near.”

Grace2U, Gene



In Our Prayers: Jim Albertson (Betty Banks), Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Becky Burger (Janie Mori), Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Caleb (Hubert's Nephew), Cathy Cameron (Jeanne Kendall), Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Katy Dennis, Arlene Devience (the Hageli family), Donna Duke & family (Kay Parrish), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), Donna Greene (Marsha Loftin), Sandy Grimes, Paula Harris, Marian Hopkins, Marty Horne, Tate Ingram, Amy Gibson's Family, 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), the family of Jon Lorenz, Lucas (Nephew of Dana Loring), Julie Mannheimer, John McCormick (Ryan McDuffie), Andrew McPherson, Nancy McNeill, Lori Sims Parrish & family (Kay Parrish), Chuck & Diane Piatt, Jeff Plunkett, 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), 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 .

Sympathy: The family of Penny Putnam

Nursing Home/Rehab: Betty Rhodes



*Grace Presbyterian is scheduled to serve at the Ric Rack food pantry on July 27, 29, and 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*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.*



### July Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Roberta Coleman  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Daniel Manke  
 4<sup>th</sup> – Hubert Tinsley  
 7<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Grimes  
 10<sup>th</sup> – Rev. David Jordan  
 12<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Quintrell  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Randy Davis  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Paul Dimick  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Winfred Kelley  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Michael Putnam  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Christy Jordan  
 27<sup>th</sup> – Anna Simpson  
 29<sup>th</sup> – Karan Winters  
 30<sup>th</sup> – Nancy King

### August Birthdays

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Andy Clemons  
 4<sup>th</sup> – Jeannette Brand  
 4<sup>th</sup> – Mark Hageli  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Sam McDuffie  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Nancy McNeill  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Joey Homans  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Betty Banks  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Ryan McDuffie  
 20<sup>th</sup> – Leigha Rainey  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Sherry Weeks  
 27<sup>th</sup> – Donald Taylor

### September Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Gault Robertson  
 4<sup>th</sup> – Foster Kinney  
 6<sup>th</sup> – Grace Walden  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Grayson McDuffie  
 13<sup>th</sup> – Doris Greijack  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Frank Banks  
 16<sup>th</sup> – John Grimes  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Betty Powell  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Jeanne Tompkins  
 20<sup>th</sup> – Martha Shaw  
 20<sup>th</sup> – Reagan Parrish  
 30<sup>th</sup> – Joann Keller



### *July*

- 12<sup>th</sup> – *Davida & Jarrett Simpson*  
 16<sup>th</sup> – *Barbara & Randy Crouse*  
 25<sup>th</sup> – *Ryan & Sam McDuffie*  
 25<sup>th</sup> – *Shannon & Mark Hageli*  
 30<sup>th</sup> – *Don & Priscilla Taylor*

### *August*

- 1<sup>st</sup> – *Nancy & Warren King*  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Peggy & Bob Thornton*  
 10<sup>th</sup> – *Christine & Gene Seese*  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – *Nancy & Dick McNeill*

### *September*

- 7<sup>th</sup> – *Betty & Frank Banks*  
 8<sup>th</sup> – *Jane & Dan Miller*  
 19<sup>th</sup> – *Sandy & John Grimes*