

Grace Notes

November 2020
"Come Home to Grace"

From the Minister:

The Same, Yet, Not Quite the Same

It is the end of October as I write this and we are at the leading edge of the holiday season. In a few days they start and follow in rapid succession: Halloween (10/31), All Saint's Day (11/1), then Veterans Day (11/11), Thanksgiving (11/26). After that Advent begins (11/29), Christmas arrives, (12/25) and finally New Year's Day (1/1) to end the old year (good riddance 2020!) and greet the new. How these days are filled with memories and busy times with family, friends, and church!

These days remain the same. They are fixed, immovable on the calendar. Often we observe them the same year after year, sometimes with traditions "set in stone" by our families! We might have many expectations. We might think it just isn't Thanksgiving without Aunt Bessie's slightly burnt pumpkin pie, or Cousin John's somewhat rude joking around, and football on TV while the little ones chase each other through the house.

But this year will be different. At least this year *needs* to be different, if we will try to observe the holidays minimizing the risk of passing along the COVID-19 virus. My family is planning a Zoom Thanksgiving, or some kind of very socially distanced observance. It is not yet known what plans are being formulated for Christmas for the family. But it too, will be different.

Although our observances of each holiday may be different, the meaning of the day remains the same. On All Saint's Day in worship we will have communion and remember what the Church is with a capital "C." Veterans Day will still honor the vets. Thanksgiving will still be a time of remembering to return our thanks to God for blessing us in so many ways. It might not be with a hoard of folks at your house, all drooling over the same roast turkey at the same table, but it can be a time of thanksgiving with your immediate household and yourself. Perhaps this Christmas is a time to start a new tradition, especially if you can't observe it the same way you did before. So, while the holidays are the same, yet, they are not quite the same, which is actually the way it is every year, anyway. An appropriate observance of each holiday may require some more work, or at least different work than you usually do for that day. Maybe baking and *mailing* Christmas cookies to relatives is better than meeting over a punch bowl. Maybe Christmas will be less about worrying what presents to get each family member. Maybe Christmas will be more about your own reflection upon what it means that God Almighty breached the great divide between heaven and humanity by sending own his son, as a gift, being born on earth as a little helpless infant in the most humble of circumstances.

Remember these holidays this year, because next year it will likely be different *again*. And that's OK. God is still God. Our family is still our family. The holidays will still have whatever meaning we put to them. No one can take that away. Not the Devil, not COVID, certainly not Aunt Bessie's slightly burnt pumpkin pie. Enjoy and find a deeper meaning with God and each other this year. Maybe that's what God wants for us: not a "going through the motions" holiday season, but one filled with intentional thankfulness, meaningful reflection, and restoring peacefulness, so when we finally land on the other side in January 2021, we'll be more ready to face the year than we were 2020! Whatever happens, God will be with us and Grace Church members and friends will still be there for each other in whatever way we can.

Grace and Peace on the Journey! -*Pastor Rob*

Sundays in November:

Worship at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary or Parking Lot at 88.3 FM

- 1 Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 Sermon: "The We of Me" All Saint's Day We will have communion. Bring your own elements or get them on the cart on the back porch or in or near the sanctuary.
- 8 Scripture: Psalm 70 Sermon: "Now, God, Now!"
- 15 Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 Sermon: "Risk Management"
- 22 Christ the King Sunday Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 Sermon: "Sheep vs. Goats" We will observe the Lord's Supper. Bring your own elements or get them at the church.
- 29 1st Sunday of Advent Presbyterian Elder Ruth Cole will preach.

(Note: All scriptures and sermon titles are tentative, so don't hold me to them! -Rob)

Annotated Prayer List

Please Pray For:

John Houser of Idaho, a pastor, nephew of Tom and Cheryl Bell. He has COVID-19 and is in the hospital. His wife has it also, but is able to be home.

Our residents at care facilities: Carol Czarneski, Sue Ferguson, Lynn McMaster.

Bev Price, having a difficult surgery on her leg and facing a difficult recovery time.

Martha Skeels, in rehab, post-surgery, after a fall.

Becky Stearns in Salem North to get stronger.

Don Reash with extreme back pain.

Leia Joy, 17 year old daughter of Ben Joy (Rob's son in Parma). Diagnosed with AML leukemia at Rainbow Babies Hospital, part of University Hospital in Cleveland.

Mary Todd, home after knee replacement surgery.

The family of Betty King. Betty passed on Oct. 21. She is Pat Young's sister.

The family of Bill Thomas of Lisbon. Bill died suddenly.

The family of Hannah Jo Nickerson of Corry, PA. Hannah died in an early morning house fire.

The family of Marge Wise. Marge passed on October 3rd. Her funeral was on October 8th.

The election on November 3rd.

(If there are any additions you would like me to make, just text me, call me, or email me. – Rob)



United in Marriage in October:

October 18: Colleen Eisenbraun and Cody Gamble

October 30: Shelley Reash and Michael Powers

GRO Notes:

Thanks to all who have helped with our Drive-Thru Rigatoni Dinners. The response from our customers has been great! Our last dinner for 2020 is Tuesday, November 17. We could use an extra hand or two if you're willing and able to help. Contact Jolane or Diane.

The November 15 deadline for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be here soon. The shoeboxes allow us to reach out all over the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please consider picking up a shoebox or packing one on line.

GRO will once again help **The Way Station** with its **Community Thanksgiving Feast**. We are donating 5 unbaked turkeys and our profit (\$500) from the October Rigatoni Drive-Thru Dinner. Thanks to all who helped with or bought meals at the rigatoni dinner. Your donations allow us to reach out to the community in many ways!

The 5th Sunday Loose Offering on November 29 will be donated to the Salvation Army of Salem to help fund financial and social services and spiritual needs. Donations have declined and needs have increased. You may include your offering in your envelope and mark the "Other Gifts" section with "5th Sunday".

In response to the local food demand, we would like to invite you to participate in a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Simply use the enclosed calendar as a guide to collect as many items as possible for the 24 days of Advent. Return your items by Sunday, January 3, preferably in a box. Your Advent food items will be donated to the 4 C's (Crestview Community Churches Concerns) food pantry in New Waterford.

As you can see, **GRO** we will be busy over the next few months. We appreciate your support for our local, national and international missions. We encourage anyone with time and the desire to help **Grace Reaches Out**, to become a member or contact us with outreach concerns. You can also donate by marking your envelopes in the section called, "Other Gifts". Many people are struggling now and simply need to know that God is with them and they are not alone. Our next meeting is Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall.



Is it that time already?

Oh yes, it is!

The Choir will be selling poinsettias
for the Christmas Eve service.

They are \$10.00 each.

Please look for bulletin insert order
forms soon.



PUZZLE

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

- Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
- Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
- Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
- Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
- Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
- Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
- Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

Consistory Meeting of October 5

Members Present: Kim Davis, Matt Bell, Chris Eisenbraun, Leslie Eisenbraun, Pat Lanterman, Chery Bell, Mark Frost, Tim Reeser.

- I. Devotions—Pat
- II. Duties—TBD
- III. Informal/Discussion/Goal Setting—Discussion of making it in the future of Grace meetings to be able to have members present by way of technology. Mark and Chris will bring ideas back to consistory for possible congregational vote.
- IV. Communications—None
- V. Approval of Minutes—Minutes approved for September
- VI. Financial Secretary Report—Report approved, Chris 1st, Leslie 2nd.
- VII. Financial Committee Report — Working on 2021 Budget
- VIII. Pastor Report — Discussed prayer requests via e-mail and newsflash. Rob encourages opening church for small meetings, keeping guidelines and special distancing, Mark motioned, Cheryl 2nd to allow church authorized activities and meetings with CDC and social distancing guidelines not to exceed 30 with appropriate spacing. September 27 parking lot service, October 4 parking lot and sanctuary. Rob vacation days—October 20, 21, 22 and December 27. Patty 1st, Cheryl 2nd.
- IX. Unfinished Business—None
- X. New Business — Looking for new Consistory members
- XI. Committee Reports:
 - Worship Design—No report
 - Youth Committee — No report
 - Music — No report
 - GRO — working on shoe box project. Rigatoni dinner October 20
 - Pastoral Relations — Met, discussed mood of members, future plans, etc.
 - Property — No report
 - Elders — No report
 - Women's Guild — No report
- XII. Matt adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is November 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.



Don't Forget:
Turn your clocks back one
hour Saturday night, or
you won't be on time!



NOVEMBER

Birthdays

11/1	Tom Hoover Cathy Hoover
11/4	Theodore Bunevich
11/6	Nathaniel Joy
11/7	Wayne Lanterman
11/9	Bill Hoover Samantha Nussbaumer
11/10	David Hanna
11/13	Dick Weber Sharon Frost
11/17	Wayne Sitler
11/20	Kris Reash
11/24	Kathy Reash
11/25	Brady Bell
11/26	Gary Scullion
11/28	Matt Bell Mike Bell
11/29	Shelley Reash
11/30	Bobbi Hughes Heather Kollar

Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, delicious meal, donations, and support shown to us during the passing of our mother, Marge Wise. Mom loved her Grace Church family! Over the years she served as a Sunday school teacher, a Board of Christian Education member, and as president and active member of the Women's Guild. She was thrilled when she was selected Woman of the Year in 2013. Although Mom didn't bake pies, she enjoyed her place at the pie table during the Street Fair Chicken BBQ. She set the tables for many a free community lunch. Now her work on Earth is done, but we're sure God has found her a job to complete in Heaven! "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." —Dr. Suess

—Yours in Christian love, The family of Marge Wise

To my Grace Church family,

Thank you all so much for all your prayers, cards and concerns for me these past several months. It is appreciated more than you know. It is so good to have such wonderful friends. Thank you for being there for me.

—God Bless you all, Love, Bev Price

Special thanks go to the Women's Guild for purchasing the flowers for around the church — a big thanks to Bill and Cathy Hoover for the schedule for all the watering and all the people who helped water and kept them going all summer long. With special attention they have been just beautiful!

Thanks to all that helped.



NOVEMBER

Anniversaries

Jerry & Bobbi Hughes
November 28, 1969

Mark & Sharon Frost
November 29, 1969

Earl & Johanna Crecelius
November 30, 1974

Jack & Evelyn Johnston
November 22, 2014

Grace Notes

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