

# GRACE NOTES

VOL. 29 No. 5/6

MAY/JUNE 2020

## Spiritual resources at this time and to come

May 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

I pray that you and your loved ones are well in body and spirit as we journey together through the Easter season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunday, March 15 was the first Sunday when worship moved to online platforms, following the social distancing directives prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As I write this letter, Grace has been worshipping for nine Sundays through our Facebook platform, including Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I continue to be amazed by, as well as humbled and grateful for this community as we have adapted to new ways of being church. While I have dearly missed seeing you in person, I have been strengthened by the ways in which we have nurtured our faith in God and remained connected to each other in these challenging weeks.

The Grace Church staff recently began thinking through the anticipated processes around re-opening the building and what church might look like during the spring and summer. We don't know when the stay-at-home order will be lifted. We do know our current situation is fluid. Keeping those things in mind, I want to share with you a few key points we have identified in our discussions.

Our primary concern is caring for you and the entire community by maintaining the requirements laid out for health and safety. We will follow all governmental directives about when the building can re-open, as well as instructions for physical distancing, the size of gatherings and the wearing of face masks. The building will be regularly and thoroughly cleaned. As is true in other sections of our common life, the re-opening of the building and resumption of church gatherings will be gradual, most likely occurring in several distinct phases. During the week, the church staff will work in staggered schedules so that physical distancing can be maintained in the offices. Even when the stay-at-home order is lifted, we anticipate continuing to worship online for the first few Sundays afterward. When in-person worship does resume, we will offer multiple Sunday services so that persons can sit physically distant from one another in the sanctuary. Those human interactions that help viruses spread easily – practices such as handshaking, full congregational singing, in-person children's Sunday School, and large scale churchwide events – will be the last pieces of our common life together to be resumed and only when it is abundantly clear that it is safe to do so.

One of the unanticipated benefits of not being able to worship in the sanctuary in the past weeks has come in our ability to connect through electronic means. It has been heartening to see our congregation gather from across the city, around the state, and even from far-flung places in the world. Some persons who have worshiped with us are ones who are not able to regularly attend church in person. Our worshipping community has grown in these weeks, making it abundantly clear that we want to continue making Sunday worship available online. The staff, with the support of the Grace Trustees, have been laying the foundation to be able to live-stream worship services in the future. For now, whenever it is that we resume in-person worship, we will also make some portion of the service, in some form, available to those who are not able to physically worship with us in the sanctuary.

Beginning these discussions has affirmed, for me, how much has changed since March 13. Navigating our world amid a global pandemic is, for all of us, an ever-shifting, surprising journey. There are logistical issues to tackle, but there are also emotional, relational and spiritual challenges as well. I have been thinking about the spiritual resources we need to cultivate now to stay connected to God and to one another. My daily prayers have been focused upon how to strengthen the bonds of this body of Christ and how to increase our ability to be of service to those in need. Practicing physical distancing over the past weeks has increased my awareness of the importance of community, the value of being known and knowing others. While many of Grace's small groups have continued to meet during the shutdown, not everyone in our congregation is a part of a small group. If you are not connected to a group where you can give and receive support, I invite you to consider joining one now. It is in these smaller groups that one can share worries, fears,



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joys and prayers with others who care and whose presence becomes a conduit toward God. If you would like to be a part of such a weekly connections, then sign up to join a “Circles of Grace” by contacting me, [amy@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:amy@graceunitedmethodist.org).

A second spiritual resource needed at this time is the opportunity to serve. We know there are persons who are struggling without the needed resources to sustain life during the pandemic. Grace’s Mission-Outreach team has been working to identify avenues through which we together can make a difference. Several projects have been identified, including making sandwiches for Manna House, volunteering with Project Transformation this summer, supporting the food pantry at GEDCO Cares, and continuing to make face masks. Information about ways to serve can be found in this issue as well as in upcoming communications.

I am so glad you are a part of the Grace community. And while I long for the day when we are all gathered together again, I know that God is far greater and far closer than the physical distance that separates us, finding ways to bind us together and strengthen us for the living of these days. May the God of all peace, who brought back from the dead Jesus Christ our Lord, sustain you this day and forever more.

Rev. Amy P. McCullough, Lead Pastor

## ONLINE WORSHIP AT GRACE

Worship  
with us  
from  
HOME

For over two months now, Grace has worshiped online. In the first weeks of the building’s closure, we held Facebook Live services, recording in the sanctuary with a small number of people. More recently, Sunday worship has been a pre-recorded service with participants taping their respective parts from their homes. Although many of us were newer to the process of creating a video of worship, it has been a wonderful process of being creative, collaborative and innovative as we worship God through new media. Grace’s online service has

extended the ministry of Grace beyond our normal Sunday congregation. On Easter Sunday we recorded almost 1,000 views of the service. Any one “view” may represent several persons watching the service together. While many viewers are located in Baltimore, other views came from a distance. Viewers spanned from across the United States, as well as Germany and Japan. Viewership for all of Holy Week worship, as well as in the weeks following Easter, have also been strong and growing. Thank you for your comments, “shares” and virtual passings of Christ’s peace. It has been great to stay connected in this way during the weeks of being physically apart.



We thank the many persons who have contributed to our online services by reading scripture, leading prayers, or sharing a picture or personal experience. And we say a special word of thanks to Philip Schroeder, great nephew of our own Chris Schroeder, who has been serving as our video editor. We could not have created these services without you, Philip! If you would like to participate in an online service, please let us know by reaching out to Rev. Amy or Pastor Dane. We would love to have you participate.

All of Grace’s recent worship services are available for viewing on our Facebook page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the services. Each week, the video from the most current Sunday service is uploaded to our website [[graceunitedmethodist.org](http://graceunitedmethodist.org)] for viewing there. Videos of the sermon from Palm Sunday onward are

available on the sermon page of our website.

\* \* \* \*

You can also ZOOM in to Children’s Church through June 7, Coffee Hour on Sunday at 11:15;

Noontime Prayers with Rev. Amy Tuesdays and Fridays via Zoom;

Exodus Bible Study with Pastor Dane on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2 with Pastor Dane on Facebook.

Check biweekly E-Notes for details

## Sermon Notes – “Life in the Belly of a Fish”

*These excerpted notes were taken from the sermon that Pastor Dane Wood preached online on Sunday, April 19, 2020.*

I want to take a moment to say thanks.

This isn't exactly the way I imagined coming back to preach. Not exactly the deal. I suppose when I started this cancer journey back in November, I thought I'd be coming back around now with a Sanctuary full of people, bright Easter colors and flowers, and lots of fanfare. That's all a bit silly but I certainly didn't imagine myself sitting in my own office, on my wife's laptop, pre-recording a sermon days before it will broadcast. Nobody saw this coming, I'm not sure anyone could have guessed just how much our lives would change.

*He told of doctor's appointments, his surgery, and several weeks of recuperation, tests and more tests, complicated by the holidays.*

Then before I know it, I'm in chemo therapy, 9 weeks for me, and Ash Wednesday comes and Lent is already here, I feel like I missed Epiphany entirely. Then after the 9 weeks, I'm rushing around the church trying to get us prepared for a quarantine world. In the middle of all of this, my spiritual calendar and clock is being wrecked. Our church calendar runs a little different than the secular one. Our “new year” begins at Advent, late November sometimes December. We start the year with 4 weeks of waiting, a time of anticipation that is then fulfilled on Christmas Day. This is spiritually meant to be a building time and then climatic, a celebration that then moves to Epiphany 12 days after Christmas, and then transitions into the repentant season of Lent, then Easter and finally Pentecost. It's long season until Christ the King Sunday at the end of the year.

We encourage this ebb and flow, this push and pull in your spiritual life in order to constantly grow, prune, rest, and begin our spiritual work anew. The church seasons rise and fall emotionally because we as people rise and fall emotionally... or that's normally how it works. It has not been working for me. I'm not sure I ever left Advent. I went from one quarantine to another with barely a week in between. A part of me is waiting for something... I'm still wanting that deliverance promised at Christmas and carried out at Easter, in some way. I'm not saying I don't believe or that has been damaged... No, what I am saying is that it's hard to see the glory from the darkness.

I loved our Holy Week services this year, Thursday's virtual prayer stations, the numerous lay readers on Friday, and a wonderful Easter morning service. But for whatever reason... I don't feel risen from the tomb... I'm still there. I'm still hung up on whether I have cancer or not. Testicular Cancer is curable, 95%. I had my first post treatment scans and those came back clean... mostly. But now I don't know when my next scans will be... COVID-19 has messed that up. It's safer not to know. Some days I wonder if anything happened at all and others I know I'm forever different and will always feel... odd. None of it feels... risen. I feel more like I've been chewed up and spit out, a bit unsure of what is going on at all.

That's where my mind was while I was driving on Sunday from the house to the church, only 2 minutes around the corner. I was headed there to upload the Holy Week services to our website. In the very short span of minutes, a poem came across the radio. It grabbed me, spoke to me, reflected my own spirit right now. So I thought I would share it with you.

The poem is titled, “**Things to do in the Belly of the Whale**” by Dan Albergotti.

**Measure the walls. Count the ribs. Notch the long days. Look up for blue sky through the spout.**

**Make small fires with the broken hulls of fishing boats. Practice smoke signals.**

**Call old friends and listen for echoes of distant voices. Organize your calendar.**

**Dream of the beach. Look each way for the dim glow of light. Work on your reports.**

**Review each of your life's ten million choices. Endure moments of self-loathing.**

**Find the evidence of those before you. Destroy it.**

**Try to be very quiet and listen for the sound of your heart.**

**Be thankful that you are here, swallowed with all hope, where you can rest and wait.**

**Be nostalgic. Think of all the things you did and could have done.**

**Remember treading water in the center of the still night sea, your toes pointing again and again down, down into the black depths.”**

*(The Boatloads 2008) [read by members of the Choir]*

That poem was written 12 years ago... but it feels like my soul right now -- a chaotic storm of self-loathing and thankfulness, shame and honor, busyness and laziness, dead and living. I've been reading that poem over and over again since Sunday, a hundred times at least. Naturally it also brought me to the story of Jonah and the Fish. And it was in Jonah that I was reminded of how deliverance isn't always what you expect.

Jonah's story begins with a little-known man, called a prophet by tradition but never called so in the book. God calls Jonah to travel to Nineveh and cry out against it for its wickedness. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire and the most dreaded and horrible place any self-respecting Israelite could imagine going to. It's truly a hive of scum and villainy. And so Jonah decides to turn tail and run, and he hops on a ship for Tarshish. Tarshish is the end of the earth,

the far western end of the Mediterranean. While at sea, Jonah comically sleeps through the troubles on the water, the raging storms around him, acting oblivious to the disasters, only to be violently tossed into the depths of the seas where he is swallowed by a fish.

Now I don't know what you had going on in your life before Quarantine... but I feel like my life was violently tossed into a raging sea and that my body and soul have been swallowed up, carried deep into darkness, and left to sit there, living life in that belly. I would imagine that many of you feel that. You hardly need a trial like cancer before all this to feel cut-off. Just the closing of schools, and work, the directives to isolate, the stress of the word "PANDEMIC." At least for me, I'm relating to Jonah and this Life in the Fish's belly a lot right now.

Jonah was avoiding the plan God had for him. Jonah was more interested in his own way of things, his own understanding, his own plans. This is a story where Jonah represents the desires, the worries, and the plans of the world. One cannot follow both the World and God; it does not work. I've felt that many times, I feel it even now. How much of my life do I actually follow God, or am I going through motions in order to do what the World desires? Have I ever even stopped long enough to think about it, to pray about it? When will I ever have time to spiritually search myself and listen for what God is saying?

Jonah's 3 days in the Belly of the Fish is not a punishment, it's an opportunity. Jonah is stripped of the world, cut-off, isolated, quarantined. He was placed in a position where he could not run away. We are being given a similar opportunity. We are isolated and separated; we have an opportunity to be made holy. Holy, you may know, means separated. All your lives are Holy right now... but are you treating it as such?

What is it that Jonah does or says that makes him Holy? Well, it's what he prays. The text from Jonah today is chapter 2 and is a Psalm of Thanksgiving that Jonah prays. Thanksgiving for what? Deliverance, a deliverance that hasn't happened yet. Jonah starts praying in the Belly giving thanks for something that has not happened. But he prays in the past tense, assured that God did deliver, is delivering, and will deliver.

"I called out to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of 'The Deep' I cried, and you heard my voice."

"As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple."

Jonah's holiness did not come from action but a change of heart, a change of will. He shifted his perspective away from his desires, worldly concerns, and his own expectations, and instead prayed. He did not pray for change, or deliverance, he didn't pray for a cure from disease. No, Jonah prayed in thanksgiving because he knew God has already delivered him. It's that understanding, that faith that God has worked, is working, and will work that takes Jonah from the World and makes him Holy.

With Jonah's change comes his deliverance, the LORD speaks to the fish and Jonah is spewed out upon dry land. I love that... spewed... it's meant to be funny, and it's even better in Hebrew. They dress it up in the English translation because the direct translation is too... uncouth. "Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land." Bleh... and there we have deliverance. It's so painfully funny to me. Easter comes with its grand celebrations and we so often expect some glorious signs that will happily change us and everything as we are delivered. And that does happen, I've seen it, I've felt it before. But that's not always... sometimes it looks and feels a little different. Sometimes you are spat out, onto dry, coarse, hot sand in the baking sun.

I know that doesn't sound exactly exciting, but I'm not here to lie to you, I'm giving you the truth. Coming out of Cancer, coming out of Quarantine, or depression, or addiction, or abuse... is not easy. It can be violent getting out just like it is getting in. Sometimes the drool and spit of the fish hangs on you a while as you get up and trudge through the burning sand. But what's in front of you is a new path, a new life, a new city up on a hill.

That's what lies before me, before all of us. When we get spewed out from Quarantine, when we raise up from our tombs, what will we be? Will we have taken this opportunity to become more Holy? Will we willingly struggle to get up to the City on a Hill, or will we continue on as we always did? Will we just try and find another boat to get us going the other way?

I'm not the same person I was 6 months ago. I will never be him again. I am forever changed by Cancer. None of us are the persons we were 2 months ago. We are all changed by COVID-19 and social distancing. The realization I have had for my own journey, is that I need to stop worrying so much about getting back to normal, trying to live in the past or my future deliverance, stop getting hung up in desires and dreams, things that may never be... and I need to get on with being Holy, get on with thanking for what I have been given, and praising God for the Deliverance that has already been received. My deliverance has already happened... God has promised it and proven it over and over again, bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, spewing out Jonah and rolling the stone away.

The Disciples had gathered up in a room and locked the door. All but one of them. They were afraid... they were hiding... they were isolated. They just didn't know yet, that deliverance had already happened. Jesus was already up, and soon to breathe on them and push them onto the new way, the new life before them. Christ is already risen for you... will you let him breathe on you and... spew you out... into a new life? Amen.

## Our Trustees: Hard at Work

Now, even as we are dealing with COVID-19 and a closed church, the Trustees continue to care for the building and property.

Back in March we saw the gardens being weeded, mulched and edged. (How nice our Courtyard and Columbarium looked for the filming of our Easter service!). We had a tree taken down and a new one planted to replace it. Now we are experiencing the weekly mowing of the grass.

Recently we had two sewerage backups in the parsonage basement. Upon closer inspection, we found the sewerage line was broken and blocked just in front of the parsonage. Temporary repairs were made and a contract signed to have 16 feet of the sewerage line replaced in May.

As many of you are aware, one of the short term goals arising from the facilities study was the upgrading of our sound system and the installation of a video system. Back in November of last year, the Trustees asked George Kahl to seek proposals. After meeting with three companies and receiving two proposals, the Trustees awarded a contract for this to be done. The project will include new loudspeakers, microphones, three video cameras, new assisted listening system and all the support systems that are needed to support this upgrade. There will also be a control desk in the balcony where someone can monitor the sound, video cameras and recorders. It is our hope to have this completed by the end of June. When the project is done, Grace will have the most current audio and video system available. It will give us greater control of the sound in the sanctuary and the ability to video our services and special events.

During this time of closing our building for COVID-19, we have become very aware of just how important it is to be able to video our services for sharing over the internet. When this installation is done, we will be able to live stream any and all services and activities in our sanctuary over the internet. This will give us greater visibility and allow Grace to live out its mission statement to “act so that God’s love is felt by all.”

### Barbara Blair retires

Barbara Blair will conclude her years as Director of Grace Preschool in June, after 30+ years of faithful service. A service of thanksgiving and celebration of Barbara’s ministry, originally scheduled for May 17, has been postponed and will be rescheduled.



To our Dear Grace Family,

Words cannot begin to express our deep gratitude for the outpouring of love and compassion that you have shown to Walter and thus to me during this past month as we have sought much needed medical attention. The outcome for Walt was very extensive heart surgery and we can now say that his “broken” heart has been mended and he is on the slow road to recovery! Your cards, calls, offers to help, good food to sustain us and most of all your prayers have seen us through this time complicated by social distancing. Walt has been especially touched by his special Sunday School children and their parents. Each card brought a smile to his face and happy tears to his eyes.

As all of this was happening, my brother was fading from this life into his eternal rest. Your cards and prayers have helped so much to heal my broken heart! Please accept my deep gratitude.

Gratefully,  
Claire Greenhouse



E-Notes go out by email twice weekly with the latest information about Grace Church - Sunday services, including Zoom info for Sunday School and Fellowship Time, and other ways you may connect to your Grace community and pastors. Updates, announcements and how you can help during this “stay-home” time are also in e-Notes. If you are not currently receiving them, please email Diane Lesman at [comm@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:comm@graceunitedmethodist.org) and ask to be added to the e-Notes list.

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Remember that you can be updated about all things Grace via our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/gracechurchbaltimore/](https://www.facebook.com/gracechurchbaltimore/)

We post information several times a week, and you don’t have to have your own Facebook page in order to go to ours!

**Please remember your pledge  
and keep your giving up to date.**

**A TREMENDOUS WORD OF THANKS** to Grace Church soloists Leah Inger, Mairin Srygley, Patricia Hengen, Timothy McGowan and Robert Cantrell for their unprecedented efforts week after week in presenting high quality musical presentations for our pre-recorded worship services. Each one of them have brought a grace and unwavering commitment in their continued offerings of musical excellence each and every week! We are tremendously



blessed to have such dedicated and extremely talented musicians as part of our worship team! Thank you Leah, Mairin, Patricia, Tim and Robert! You are well loved and appreciated! A special word of congratulations to Patricia Hengen on her virtual wedding to Anthony Shields! Their wedding at been scheduled to be at Grace on April 19<sup>th</sup> which had to be postponed. They look forward to celebrating in person with their friends and family. Congratulations Patricia and Anthony!!

**INTRODUCTION AND THANKS** to our pre-recorded worship services editor and producer – Philip Schroeder is an

electrical and technology engineering student at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN and is the great nephew of Chris Schroeder. Philip’s knowledge and experience of video and audio production started in high school when he assisted his family’s church in Richmond, IN with their in-person and recorded worship services. Philip is doing a tremendous job for us and we so very much appreciate his gracious and exceptional expertise week after week!



**A NEW WAY OF WORSHIP** – With our new way of presenting worship comes a new process of preparation and presentation of the music for worship.

Musically, for every piece of music that is offered in our pre-recorded services, the amount of time it takes to present the “finished product” takes roughly four times as much time to complete as usual. In addition to the normal selection process and rehearsal of said pieces, the actual recording of each of those pieces is a three-step and sometimes four-step process with recording, editing, downloading and syncing. We are grateful that technology allows us to be able to do this! We have learned a lot in a short amount of time, and we appreciate all the positive feedback that we have received.

**CHANCEL CHOIR OF GRACE CHURCH** – Members of the Chancel Choir at Grace Church have expressed their grief and disappointment in not being able to sing at church week after week because of this pandemic. I am sure congregational members are also feeling the pain of not being able to express their faith and their prayers through the weekly singing of hymns. We are slowly realizing that singing in a choir and with others in a congregation will most likely be one of the last things we as a church will be able to return to. Scientists and musicians around the world are continuing to understand the risks involved and the possible new ways of sharing that amazing experience of singing with others once again. In the meantime, members of the Chancel Choir who are able to, are grateful for the chance to continue to meet



every Thursday evening, albeit virtually through a Zoom session online, to catch up, check-in and stay connected with their vocal counterparts. Please pray for our musical community and for all those who are finding new ways for us to participate in an activity that for some of us has been a lifetime spiritual experience.

**EVERY EVENING at 7 p.m.** Grace Church joins others around the world in ringing bells from our church tower to honor all those who are working every day to help us through the challenges of this COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to ALL our essential workers for their amazing week!

– Christopher Schroeder

# COVID 19 Brings March-May Flowers!

*Claire Greenhouse, Flower Coordinator*

One of my last tasks as a volunteer in the church office on Friday, March 13 was to complete the altar flower order for the remainder of March, all of April and May. Rev. McCullough approached me that afternoon and said that I could close the office early since a directive had been sent by the Bishop to cease all church services and activities. I packed up my flower order and headed for home. Since that day we have moved through Lent, celebrated Easter and moved into May.

What should be done about the flowers that grace our Grace each week? How should we acknowledge those who had so graciously given the flowers as a special remembrance of loved ones and friends? Each week in the church bulletin these kind acts are listed. So today, and many weeks later than we ever anticipated as our church doors closed on March 13, we would like to acknowledge the special gifts of flowers and sanctuary adornment during these difficult times.

## **The flowers today are given to the glory of God and...**

- March 15 in loving memory of Billy Lynn by his brothers Tom and Jim, and in honor of Barb and Chuck Starkey by Andy Trofatter and Jim Fitzgerald
- March 22 in loving memory of Donald Benfer by his wife Carolyn, and in loving memory of Kenneth F. Trofatter, Sr. by his son Andy
- March 29 in loving memory of Edith Gordon by her husband Tom and sons C. T., Chris, Steve and their families
- April 5 **Palm Sunday** in loving memory of Hilda and Earl Collins by their daughter and son-in-law Maureen and Jack Danz, and in loving memory of Milton Volker by his wife Pat  
The palms are given in memory of Thom's sister, Betty Rinker King by Thom and Sue Rinker
- April 12 **Easter Sunday** *altar flowers* in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lee Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Weiss by Tom Moore and grandsons Bill and Thomas Lee, and in loving memory of Dr. Autumn M. Klein  
*The hydrangeas* - in memory of Flora Jane Moore by her husband Tom and sons Bill and Thomas Lee  
*The palms* - in loving memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Nelson Bond and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Scott by Kitty Allen, Barbara Bond and Margot Wittich  
*The urns* - in loving memory of Charles and Mildred Hatter and Maurice and Odo Starkey by Lee and Wilma Starkey, and in celebration of the Risen Christ by Vicki and Al Saxon  
*The Paschal Candle* - Dedicated to the glory of God by Nancy and Alan Seitz
- April 19 in honor of Sheldon Gruber-Lebowitz's 59<sup>th</sup> birthday by his husband Mark Gruber-Lebowitz
- April 26 in honor of Diane and Don Topper's wedding anniversary by Lynn Beachler, and in loving memory of Marie E. Spann by her daughter Jeanette Cosper
- May 3 in loving memory of Stephen M. Eicher by his father Bruce R. Eicher, and in loving memory of Helen F. Stokes by Vickie Leshinskie
- May 10 **Mother's Day** in loving memory of our mother Peggy Bond and grandmothers Edith B. Scott and Catherine Bond Ross by Kitty Allen and Barbara Bond
- May 17 in loving memory of John Workman by his wife Marilyn on their anniversary, and in celebration of John Parks Stephen Navarro's baptism by his parents Sara and Pedro
- May 24 in loving memory of Henry C. Weber, Sr. by his family, and in loving memory of Robert Roy Goll by his children and grandchildren
- May 31 in loving memory of The Rev. William Polk by his family, and in loving memory of Dora Watson Buffington by her daughter Catherine



## Altar Flower Sponsors

- |         |                                      |         |                               |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| June 7  | Doris Franklin (1) and _____         | July 5  | Carl Weber (1) and _____      |
| June 14 | _____                                | July 12 | Janet Ander (1) and _____     |
| June 21 | Carol Cathcart (1) and _____         | July 19 | Mimi Corry (1 or 2) and _____ |
| June 28 | Claire Greenhouse (1 or 2) and _____ | July 26 | _____                         |

Please contact Claire Greenhouse if you would be interested in remembering someone by sponsoring an altar flower arrangement. She can be reached at [aschoolrn@verizon.net](mailto:aschoolrn@verizon.net) or 410-337-7407.

## Easter Memorial gifts

*Before the announced cessation for ordering lilies for the Easter chancel or gifts to the Music Fund, several donations had been received, which we are acknowledging below*

### EASTER LILIES

in honor of our children and grandchildren by Burt and Linda English

in honor of Barbara Blair by Burt and Linda English

in memory of George and Verlean Newton by the Newton family

in honor Sister June by Dr. Doris Franklin

in honor of Lynn Beachler, Dave and Annette Beachler and Tom Hicks

by Diane and Don Topper

in memory of Ruth Ann Beachler, Elton and Eva Beachler, WP and Gladys Hicks,

Donald and Mary Topper by Diane and Don Topper

in memory of Elmer Wingate by Jeaneen and Family

### THE MUSIC FUND

in honor of Linda and Doyce Graham by Amanda Graham

in honor of Lynn Beachler, Dave and Annette Beachler and Tom Hicks by Diane and Don Topper

in memory of Ruth Ann Beachler, Elton and Eva Beachler, WP and Gladys Hicks, Donald and Mary Topper by

Diane and Don Topper

in memory of Elmer Wingate by Jeaneen and Family

The Newton Family

in memory of our parents by Burt and Linda English

in memory of June and George Kahl, Ted L. Pearson, Jean Gisriel by George A. Kahl

in honor of Weston and Lily by Janet and Paul Ander

in memory of Irene, Albert, Jerry, Phyllis and Marvin by Janet and Paul Ander

in memory of George Getschel, Marian and Karl F. Mech, MD, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rushton, Jessie and Henry Seidel

by Constance C. Mech

in honor of Jean S. Burbage, 96 years young by Ross Burbage

in memory of Landon W. Burbage, Jr. by Ross Burbage

*We give special thanks to those of you who would have donated your gifts of remembrance during these times and we honor with you the lives and special celebrations of your loved ones.*



## SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**GEDCO Cares** needs your support! We have been long-time mission partners with this local food pantry run out of St. Mary's Church at 5502 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212 that serves the Govans community. This pandemic and quarantine have caused a dramatic increase in need and this pantry is working hard to keep up with demand. If you are interested and are able to help, please purchase staple food items – cereals, canned goods, tuna, beans, mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, veggies, etc. – and bring them to GEDCO on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Maureen and Jack Danz are also willing to take your donations to the food pantry for you, if that would help. Email Maureen to make arrangements: [maur.danz@verizon.net](mailto:maur.danz@verizon.net).

You can also donate financially to GEDCO by going to their webpage:

<https://gedco.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/>

or by writing a check to Grace UMC and designating it for GEDCO on the memo line.

**Project  
Transformation**  
*is coming to  
Baltimore!*



Project Transformation is a national ministry that focuses on building reading skills in underprivileged children while also developing young adults with leadership and ministry skills. Pastor Dane had the opportunity to work with this ministry in Memphis and is super excited to see them coming to Baltimore for their first year.

Grace UMC is committing to provide support for this program through monetary donations, craft and school supplies, and volunteers. **YOU CAN HELP!** If you are interested in being a reading tutor online through Zoom or volunteering to pack supply bags, email Pastor Dane at [dane@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:dane@graceunitedmethodist.org). You can also give directly to Project Transformation and provide donations supplies directly. Go their website: <https://projecttransformation.org/washington-dc/covid-19-partner-churches>.

Belated congratulations to those of our Grace family who celebrated birthdays in **May**.

- 1 Ashby Heath
- 2 Elizabeth D. White
- 3 Robert Graziosi
- 4 Robert McIntire
- 5 Laura Bowers, Garrett McGuire
- 6 Emily Seeberger, Tanya Spedalere
- 7 Jack Bayne, Charles Chery-Hise, Addie McGuire, Mason Paul, Molly Thorne
- 8 Avery Heath, Isabella Zimmerman
- 9 David Doub, Elizabeth Madsen, Kristin Turner
- 10 Chayla Rowley, Nancy Seitz, Dorothy Shindle, Zachary Wyatt
- 11 Luke Friar
- 12 Ella Berzins, Ellyse Wiseman
- 13 Kevin Shaner
- 15 Charlotte Benfer, Christine Bowers, Chloe Canter, Lisa Greenhouse
- 16 Marguerite Stucki
- 17 Daniel Hanley, Virginia Jeffrey, Lauren Simmons
- 18 Michelle Fields, George A. Kahl, Charles Maxwell
- 19 Clarke Bowers, Chris James, Kristen McGuire
- 20 Delight Scouten, Sue Williams
- 21 Megan Green
- 23 Ethan Hayes, Kathryn Mullan
- 24 Nancy Gibson
- 25 Susan Baukhages, Alexander Gilmore
- 26 Katarrinna Gause, Taren Weidner
- 27 Michael Paul, Whitney Paul
- 28 Meredith Bickham, Gwen Farrugia, Jeanne Gayler, Sandy Kick
- 29 Stephen Howe
- 30 Stephen McIntire
- 31 Sean Casey, Carole Redline, Sue Rinker, Jeaneen Wingate



## Birthday Blessings

- Congratulations to those of our church family celebrating in **June**:
- 1 Karen White
  - 2 Ed Caster, Erica Underland
  - 3 Duncan Barnes, Holland Barnes, Bob Gayler, James Thorne, Angie Wasylak
  - 5 Tom Gordon, Laura Headley
  - 6 Piper A'Hern, Jackson Davis, Drew Landgren
  - 7 Anna Mae Frederick, Lani Sinfield
  - 8 Annette Beachler, Christen Bradley
  - 9 Lynne A'Hern
  - 10 John Thorne
  - 12 Genevieve Schuh
  - 13 Jeanne Achuff, Grace Hayes, James Topper
  - 14 Lorraine K. Foley, David Haile, Thomas Lynn
  - 15 Kitty Allen
  - 16 Allison Trumpler
  - 17 Hailey Benson-Williams
  - 18 Casey Humbyrd
  - 19 Susan Hennighausen, Leah Inger, James Pflaum, Chelsea White
  - 21 MaAn Barcelo, Joyce McKissick, Kwesi Turkson, Carl Weber
  - 22 Susan Schumacher
  - 23 Chelsea Doak
  - 24 Emma Draper
  - 26 Diane Chambers, Maggie McGrath, Lois Wellener, Marie Yeh
  - 27 Corey Schmidt
  - 28 Sharon King, David Klindienst, Gregory Ruff
  - 29 Judson Arnold, Sarah Guth
  - 30 Rob Murray

## Within the Family at Grace

WEDDING

**Patricia Hengen and Anthony Shields**

**April 19, 2020**

Because of the church's closure, Patricia and Anthony's wedding could not be held in the Grace sanctuary. Rev. Amy McCullough officiated at a small spiritual ceremony for the couple and their families via Zoom during which they exchanged vows and rings. Their photographers came to their home for a little photo shoot outside - 6 feet away. They hope to have their as-planned ceremony and reception at Grace at a later date.

Warmest best wishes to you both!



If you or someone you know from Grace Church is graduating this spring/summer,

please send their name, school, any special honors, and future plans to the editor, [kitty.allen@verizon.net](mailto:kitty.allen@verizon.net) for publication in a future Grace Notes. We would love to celebrate this special occasion with them!

# It All Goes Back in the Box

by Jack Danz, our Minister of Pastoral Care

Last evening, I was reminded of something I read a while ago. I think it is very appropriate for our current crisis.

Remember the thrill of winning at checkers or Parcheesi when you were young? You became Master of the Board - the victor over everyone else. But what happens next?

You know the answer: It all goes back in the box. You don't get to keep even one token, one chip, one game card. In the end the "winnings" of the game add up to nothing.

In his book, *When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*, John Ortberg points out what's fleeting and what's permanent in God's Kingdom. Being Master of the Board is not the point; being rich toward God is what is important.

Winning the game of life on Earth is a temporary victory; loving God and other people with all our hearts is an eternal one. When we focus on winning "the right trophies," we begin to sort out what's fleeting and what's permanent in God's Kingdom. Being Master of the Board is not the point; being rich toward God and our fellow men is the point.

The current COVID-19 crisis brings this very much into focus. Our lives have become disrupted. Many of our plans and dreams have been run off the rails.

Crises make us focus on what is real, what is eternal. The non-essentials fall to the wayside. We need to focus on one another, not the pieces on the board.

St. Paul said it best; three things are important - faith, hope and love. The most important being love.

*The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts,  
the safest place to be is in someone's prayers,  
and the very best place to be is  
in the hands of God.*



## THINGS NOT CANCELED

Love . . . has not been canceled  
Mercy . . . has not been canceled  
Prayer . . . has not been canceled  
Attentiveness . . . has not been canceled  
Goodness . . . has not been canceled  
Thanksgiving . . . has not been canceled  
Loving Relationships . . . have not been canceled  
Kindness . . . has not been canceled  
Music . . . has not been canceled  
Conversation . . . has not been canceled  
Learning . . . has not been canceled  
Poetry and Storytelling . . . have not been canceled  
Courage . . . has not been canceled  
Meditation and Contemplation . . . have not been canceled  
Family . . . has not been cancelled  
Faith and Hope . . . have not been canceled  
God's presence with us . . . has not been canceled!

— Thomas Merton

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PLEASE RUSH



Grace Church is located on the corner of a very busy intersection of several major roads and bus routes, making it a perfect place for specially designated buses to transport medical

employees going to and from GBMC and St. Joseph's Medical Center. The number of regular transit buses had been cut because of the virus and the MD Department of Transportation wanted to work with the hospitals to facilitate in transporting their essential staff. Our circular driveway is an ideal solution and we are happy to be of assistance. It is a 24/7 operation whereby employees from both hospitals can find a regularly scheduled bus to take them to and from work, and from all reports, the buses are especially quiet late at night and early in the morning. Grace is giving back to the community in yet another way.

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**WARNING:** People are “pfishing” and we need to be careful. If you receive an email that appears to be from Rev. Amy or Pastor Dane asking for money, gift cards, etc. do not respond or open any attachments. Grace Church would not reach out to you in this manner.



Scenes from the “Families at Grace” potluck dinner at the Parsonage on March 1 - our last social gathering