

GRACE NOTES

VOL. 29 No. 11

NOVEMBER 2020

WORSHIP SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER



All Saints Sunday - November 1

Pastor Dane Wood

10:00 a.m. virtual service on Facebook and YouTube

Remembering those of our Grace family who have gone to their heavenly home since last All Saints Day

Eleanor E. Megraw - November 21, 2019

Frances A. Eger - December 7, 2019

John Wilhide - December 23, 2019

Bettie Jean Howard - February 2, 2020

Helen M. Langrall - February 10, 2020

Downing Jett Kay - May 15, 2020

John F. Strahan - July 12, 2020

There will also be an outdoor communion service at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, November 2

A special service of evening prayer for the 2020 Presidential Election

Watch E-Notes for more details

November 8

Rev. Amy McCullough

November 15 - Celebration of Ministries/Stewardship

Rev. Amy McCullough

November 22 - Christ the King Sunday

Pastor Dane Wood

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Amy McCullough

You are in our prayers

On Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. members of our congregation gather via Zoom for fifteen minutes of scripture and prayer led by Mark Gruber-Lebowitz. During this time, we lift in prayer those who are on our prayer list and those named by participants. We also pray for the needs of the world and ask God's direction in our lives. It is a very powerful and moving time of prayer with one another. If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office so that we may include your request in our prayers. We want the Grace community to know they are remembered in prayer. We also invite you to join the group on Monday evenings. The Zoom link can be found in the weekly Grace E-Notes.

A summary of the Re-Opening Well Survey

Thank you to all who completed the Re-opening Well survey last month. As of this writing we received 76 responses to questions about how you are navigating the pandemic, how you have engaged with the ministries of Grace, and how you would approach returning to in-person Sunday worship in the sanctuary. Your responses provided helpful insights as Grace thinks about its future worship plans.

In response to the question "What ministries do you use to stay connected to Grace?"

- 90% of respondents indicated they join in the Sunday online worship.
- 56% of respondents participate in a Sunday School class or an ongoing small group.
- 21% of respondents have attended an outdoor worship service.

Many of you commented upon the creativity and quality of Grace's online services. You have appreciated the songs led by soloists, choir members, and Chris Schroeder, the variety of lay readers leading scriptures, and the sermons. Despite our physical distance, we are worshipping together.

Grace's Re-entering Well Task Force has been guiding our opening of the building and resuming worship in person in the sanctuary. All use of the building requires face masks, social distancing, and, in terms of worship, no congregational singing and appropriate limitations on size. When answering the question "If Grace resumes in-person worship in the sanctuary under these protocols, would you attend?"

- 30% responded YES
- 33% responded NO
- 37% responded MAYBE

Factors influencing one's response included 1) assurance that health protocols are being followed, 2) an assessment of one's health situation, and 3) the availability of a vaccine.

Overall, the survey witnessed to the variety of places Grace parishioners find themselves as we enter the seventh month of the pandemic. Some of us are ready to return to sanctuary worship and feel safe doing so. Others feel their needs for worship are being met by the online service. Others acknowledge how different in-person worship will be without congregational singing or physically passing the peace. There is loss that accompanies all of these postures. Many comments began "I just miss . . ." followed by going to church, chatting at coffee hour, receiving a hug or a



smile from a fellow parishioner, hearing the choir or seeing the children at children's time. We miss the pre-pandemic rhythms and rituals of Sunday worship.

Rev. Amy, along with Pastor Dane and Chris Schroeder, have begun worship planning for the rest of the year in light of the survey responses as well as the recently completed upgrade of the audio-visual equipment in the sanctuary. Our hope is to

maintain the quality of our current online worship service while also beginning in-person sanctuary worship with a small group of worshipers. We believe this is the best path forward, one which enables those who wish to worship in person to do so safely and provides for those who need to continue virtual worship. During the last part of October we will be rehearsing a live-streamed sanctuary worship service that includes some pre-recorded portions. We aim to shift to a live-streamed service on Sunday, November 1 and begin allowing worshipers to join the service in person on Sunday November 8. Please watch for sign up information to attend Sunday worship from November 8 onward during the first week of November.

As we begin this next step in our journey through the pandemic, I want to thank you for your support, patience and fashioned new ways of being church. You have waited, with grace, as we have worked through the logistics of recording and streaming worship services and the protocols to minimize health risks. Your prayers have sustained the Grace staff. We praise God for you and offer our deepest appreciation.

Rev. Amy P. McCullough



The deadline for *Grace Notes* issues for the remainder of 2020 are:

November 10 for issue to be mailed

November 23

November 30 for issue to be mailed

December 14



New piano for Fellowship Hall

Grace Church has been blessed with the gift of a beautiful Steinway piano that now resides in Fellowship Hall. This lovely instrument was donated by the family of Maurice Lapierre (pictured at the piano above), a friend and Christian brother to Chris Schroeder.

Maurice and Chris knew each other from the Dignity-Washington LGBTQ+ Catholic Masses in Washington, DC. Sadly Maurice, at the age of 85, passed on May 2 from complications associated with Covid-19.

We are grateful to Maurice's family and will be installing a plaque on the piano acknowledging the gift from the estate of Maurice Lapierre.

Thank you to all the Grace members who contributed to the piano fund. We were able to use those funds to move the piano to Grace, to tune it and to purchase the plaque. May the gifts that Maurice shared in his life be honored and remembered every time this instrument is played. Thank you, Maurice!



SPECIAL GIFT

We acknowledge with gratitude a gift to the Organ Fund to honor Edward Frederick on his 93rd birthday, November 1st, by his wife Anna Mae.



*Communion under the tent
masked and socially distant but together in
sharing the elements of bread and wine.*



*Post-worship "fun in the sun" as Mary Aikins-Afful
and Pastor Dane play a game of chess.*

"The Content of Our Character" join this online class

Grace's Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. Arthur Sutherland, will lead a two-part class entitled "The Content of Our Character" on Wednesdays, November 11 and 18 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The class builds on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s phrase in his "I Have a Dream" speech by examining the concept of character in the Bible (particularly in Galatians) and raises the question of why character matters now.

You may register by contacting Rev. Amy McCullough via email amy@graceunitedmethodist.org or through the church office, 410-433-6650, x102.

Special advance notice

The annual **HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT** will be filmed at Grace Church this year and available for viewing during the month of December on

<https://www.myiwbc.org/holiday-brass>

More information in the next issue.

Would you be willing to fill a basket?



Once again this year, Grace will be supplying 20 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need in our community. The shopping list for each basket includes the following items in quantities to feed a family of four:

Gravy mix Chicken broth Stuffing mix
Cranberry sauce Canned vegetables Canned fruit
Canned mixed greens Canned yams or sweet potatoes
Drink mix (iced tea, Kool Aid, lemonade)

Instant mashed potatoes Fruit Pies Brown & Serve rolls

The church also offers each family a gift card with which to purchase a turkey or ham.

A donation of \$15 covers the cost of the meat.

Items should be delivered to the church between Friday, **November 20** and **Sunday, November 22.**

Please sign up on E-Notes or by calling the church office.

Christmas Memorials

This year has brought many changes to how we worship and do church. It is also bringing some change to our tradition for Christmas Memorials since we will not be able to worship in our traditional manner in our sanctuary this holiday season.

We wanted to offer another opportunity to remember your loved ones during the holiday and are asking for your support of Weekend Food Bags for children in our neighborhood.

Grace has been providing Weekend Food Bags to families at three area schools for many years. Even though children are learning from home, the need is actually greater because the children are not receiving as many meals at school!

We partner with our Preschool to get the bags packed and volunteers deliver the bags to the school each week of the school year. The number of bags can change from week to week, but it can be as many as 50! Each bag contains enough non-perishable food to get a child or two through the weekend and includes items like a box of cereal, peanut butter and jelly, soups, canned vegetables, proteins like tuna or chicken, fruits and granola bars. A single bag costs roughly \$10 to pack per week.

In normal years, the Weekend Food Bag program is supported by funds raised at our Annual Spring Gala. This year, however, Gala had to be cancelled leaving us without the financial backing for this ministry. Food security is such a desperate need at this time with so many people struggling to work and remain healthy. The Missions Committee and Pastor Dane felt that by directing our Christmas Memorials to this program, we could continue a long-time ministry of Grace while also addressing a pressing need in our community.



Christmas Memorials

I/We wish to purchase _____ Weekend Food Bags (@\$10) TOTAL \$_____

In loving memory of

In honor of

Given by _____ Envelope No. _____

(Please print name as you wish it to appear in Grace Notes)

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30 to be published in Grace Notes

Grace 2021: Faithful. Grateful. Bold.



The faithfulness of the Grace Church family during the pandemic has been amazing. Your generous gifts have sustained our ministries through a time when life was anything but normal. Thank you. The Finance Committee is undertaking its work for 2021, creating a proposed operating budget and a modified fall stewardship campaign. Our theme for this year is Faithful, Grateful, and Bold, resting on Paul's assurance in Philipians "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you."

Stewardship materials will be mailed at the end of October, in both printed and electronic forms. While the brochure offers a broad vision for the year ahead and a summary budget, you are always welcome to contact the church office for the full detailed budget.

Questions about our 2021 plans can be directed to Jane Benson, Finance chair, Al Saxon, Stewardship subcommittee chair, or one of the pastors.

If you are able, we encourage you to make your pledge online at <https://www.graceunitedmethodist.org/give/stewardship-2021/>.

We ask for your pledge by Sunday, November 15th.

Thank you for inspiring generosity through this year and beyond.

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Altar Flower sponsors FOR OCTOBER

(donors will be billed only if flowers are used)

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and...

October 4 - in loving memory of Iona & Raymond Shepherd by their daughter and son in law, Debby & Steve Jencks and granddaughters, Sarah & Melissa, and in honor of Lynn Beachler by Diane & Don Topper and David & Annette Beachler

October 11 - in loving memory of Eleanor Key Lynn on her birthday by sons Tom and Jim, and in loving memory of Sara & A. H. Nichols by their daughter Sara and grandchildren Celia, Susannah & Drew

October 18 - in loving memory of Elmer Wingate on his birthday by his wife Jeaneen, and in loving memory of her brother, F. Carvel Payne, by Claire Greenhouse

October 25 - in honor of Beth Vargas on her birthday by her parents, Janet & Paul Ander, and in memory of Elizabeth Stroh Payne on her birthday by her daughter Claire & Walter Greenhouse.

FOR NOVEMBER

November 1 - Dick Frank and Peggy McCabe

November 8 - Carol Polk and Tonya Sapre

November 15 - Pat Volker (1) and _____

November 22 - Pat Boughter and Carole McCrory

November 29 - _____

FOR DECEMBER

December 6 - Janet Ander and Mary White

December 13 - Laura Getchel/Connie Mech and Lynn Beachler

December 20 - Catherine Buffington and Kristin Turner

December 25 & 27 - Jack Danz (1) and _____

Urns - Thom Rinker and Dr. Nancy Blackstone
Poinsettias for Organ Bays - George Kahl

Please contact Claire Greenhouse with any questions or changes or if you are interested in remembering someone by sponsoring an arrangement: 410-337-7407 or aschoolrn@verizon.net

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Within the Family at Grace

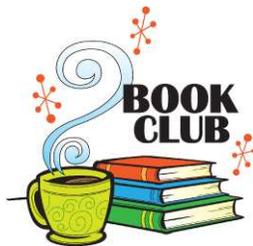
Congratulations to Susannah and Nick Sowell on the birth of Beckett Christian Sowell - October 6, 2020
He is the grandson of Sara Nichols and nephew of Celia and Drew



Birthday Greetings

Heartiest congratulations to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in November.

- 1 Ed Frederick
- 2 Jonathan Howe, Dr. W. Richard Shindle, Joanne Weber
- 3 Suzanna McCullough, Priscilla Newton
- 4 Jim Fitzgerald
- 5 Alice Mack
- 6 Amanda Friedel, Sam Harris
- 10 Dr. Susan T. Strahan, Arthur Thompson
- 11 Jason Bradley, Maureen Danz
- 12 Patsy Andrews, Carl Armstrong, William White, David Wingate
- 13 C. William Clark
- 14 Holly Troyer
- 15 Douglas A'Hern, Sara Mullan
- 16 Kayley Harris, Lois Klein, Carole McCrory
- 17 Brady Bayne, Jacob Bissett, Linda English
- 19 Matthew Green, Helen Mosher
- 20 Cecelia Adams
- 22 Francette Boling, M. Lee Starkey
- 23 Marcos Calderon, Scott Hudson, Amy Coates Madsen
- 24 Diane Lesman
- 25 Elizabeth Adolph, Linda Benson, Barbara Simmons
- 27 Marina Chobanov, Sheri Gimigliano
- 28 Jennifer Ward
- 29 David Jones, III



Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. will be the next Zoom Book Club meeting. The book selection for this month is *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. This is the story of Virginia Hall, an American spy in WWII. To make the story more interesting for us, she is from Baltimore.

If you would like to join our group for our Zoom meeting, please email me at maur.danz@verizon.net and I will add your name to the list and send you the link. Stay healthy and join us on November 9th.

– Maureen Danz

A Church Without Walls: A Ministry of Pastoral Care at Grace

The King will reply. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matt. 25:40 (NIV)

Grace's Visitation Team, under the guidance of our pastors, has had to become innovative as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to March, we were visiting members of our congregation who could not attend Sunday services by visiting them directly in their residences. All of this changed very quickly and substantially with the onset of the coronavirus. These changes became very acute for those members living in retirement communities or recuperating from illness in a hospital.

How do we fulfill now the charge given by Christ to visit those who have a need? The situation required some fresh thinking.

My wife and I were shopping for some groceries a few days after Easter. When we entered to store there was a display of potted plants, mostly tulips and hyacinths. Suddenly it occurred to us that we could buy the plants and deliver them to our members whom we would normally visit. So, we loaded our shopping cart with potted plants.

When we got home, we placed each plant in a bag along with a card. Over the next several days we delivered them to various locations.

In essence, while we cannot visit directly, each plant functions as a surrogate for us – it remains even longer than we could visit. Since that first time, we have repeated our "Bag Care" visits each month. Phone calls have also been an effective way to keep us in contact.

We will continue our Bag Care program as long as the COVID-19 restrictions remain in place. Of course, as soon as we are able, we will resume face-to-face visits. If you or if you know someone who should be "visited," please call the church office.

Jack Danz, CLM

Minister of Pastoral Care



Return to standard time
Sunday, November 1

Grace United Methodist Church
5407 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210-2024

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Address service requested

This issue mailed October 26
PLEASE RUSH



It's not too late

We are in the midst of creating a new pictorial directory to keep us all connected. If you sent in a photograph and current contact information in response the recent E-Notes, wonderful! Thank you. But we still would love to hear from those of you who have not yet done so.

PHOTOS

You may submit a JPEG photo via email to admin@graceunitedmethodist.org. Several have asked if they could repeat the photo that appeared in the 2015 directory - YES! Paul Redline has graciously sent us the file so that we can honor your request.

ADULT INFORMATION (MEMBERS OR FRIENDS OF GRACE)

Please submit all of the information requested. You may stipulate that any or all of it should not be printed, but it would be helpful to have it for our records.

Please identify the people in the photo, left to right or by what they are wearing.

Include the preferred phone number for each member.

Give the mailing address for each adult (street, city, state, zipcode).

List the email address(es) for each adult.

CHILD INFORMATION

Please list children's names, grade in school, and age. If none, please so indicate.

If you do not have email or a way to submit the information electronically, please mail it to the church office, **5407 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210**

Questions: Please call Diane Cole - 410-433-6650