

GRACE NOTES

VOL. 30 No. 5

MAY 2021

May Preaching and Worship

May 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter and Reconciling Sunday - Rev. Terri Rae Chattin preaching
May 9	Sixth Sunday of Easter Rev. Amy P. McCullough
May 16	Seventh Sunday of Easter Rev. Amy P. McCullough
May 23	Pentecost Sunday Pastor Dane Wood
May 30	Trinity Sunday Rev. Amy P. McCullough

It has been 14 months since the congregation at Grace has gathered in person to worship in the sanctuary. It has been a blessing to worship together online. Our virtual worship has affirmed the bonds of community that hold us together, and the limitlessness of God's spirit, which can move in ways we never expected. At the same time, it has been difficult to not see one another's face or sit together in the sanctuary. Worship, like our faith, is incarnational and designed for bodily participation. So I'm pleased to share that the Re-entering Well Task Force has identified Sunday, **May 9th** as the Sunday when Grace will resume in-person, sanctuary worship. This is a preliminary plan, requiring that the markers for slow community spread of COVID-19 be in place. Two weeks prior to May 9th we will share information about how to sign up if you'd like to attend worship in person and what to expect when coming to worship at Grace inside. At this point, there will be one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. As always worship will be offered online simultaneously via Facebook and YouTube.

Rev. Amy McCullough

RECONCILING SUNDAY

Join us online **May 2nd** as Grace will celebrate 11 years as a Reconciling Congregation. Members of the Reconciling Committee will be participating in the service and the choir will have a special anthem. Our guest preacher for the morning will be the Rev. Terri Rae Chattin. After the online service, join other members of Grace at 11:30 in the tent on the parking lot where Pastor Dane and Rev. Chattin will be offering communion.

Our witness as a Reconciling Congregation is important as the United Methodist Church continues to struggle with what it means to be welcoming to LGBTQ persons. With the postponement of the General Conference until August 2022, the church is still waiting to see what the future will be.

In the past year, we have become very much aware of systemic racism and as a Reconciling Community, we need to recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons. As we journey to reconciliation, we welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within our church and society.

For 39 years, Rev. Chattin served in various appointment settings within the Baltimore-Washington Conference including pastoring local churches, serving as the Frederick District Superintendent and as Associate Council Director for Youth and Advocacy.

Her specific ministries led to over 35 years participation in United Methodist Church Camps at Manidokan and West River along with extensive travels throughout our UMC connection including teaching in Africa University's Pastors School. With a heart for justice, she was privileged to be part of the beginnings of the Quality of Life Retreats for persons living with HIV and the conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action. She also served a number of years in various leadership roles with BWARM.

Confidence in Terri Rae's (TR's) leadership was made evident by her colleagues electing her as a seven-time Jurisdictional delegate and a six-time General Conference delegate, co-leading the delegations in 2012 and 2016.

Now a retired elder in the Conference, Terri Rae continues to service the denomination and volunteer for Quality of Life Retreats, camps and mission projects.





May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Although we have not been gathering in person during the long months of the pandemic, ministry has continued at Grace. Bible studies, small groups and committees have met via Zoom. Food donations have been brought on Sunday afternoons and then delivered to GEDCO Cares Food Pantry. The Mission-Outreach Team has been discerning community events for the future. The Trustees have continued their good work of caring for our facility, while the Finance Committee has shepherded our stewardship efforts and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has provided care and direction to the church staff. Even amid the distancing of the past 14 months, much good ministry has been in process.

On Wednesday, May 19th all members of Grace are invited to a congregational meeting to hear several updates to our ongoing life and work. The Church Council will share a plan to restructure two of our administrative committees, Trustees and Finance, into one committee. The Facility sub-committee will provide an update on our ongoing discernment around facility renovations. The Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee will offer a slate of nominations to begin serving in July 2021. There will be space to hear from you about how you've stayed connected during the pandemic and to discuss together our Sunday morning experience. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett, will be presiding.

The Congregational Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom details are below. We hope you will join us for an important evening of conversation.

TOPIC: Grace Congregational Meeting

TIME: May 19, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83149259868?pwd=dmlRVll5bzVnMmx3QURTcUd1WldGUTO9>

Meeting ID: 831 4925 9868

Passcode: 580498

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Within the Family at Grace

DEATHS

Mary Frances Manning

March 14, 2021

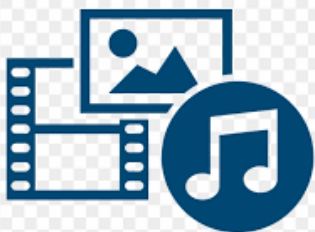
M. Edward Skinner, III

March 15, 2021

We are hiring!

Communications and A/V Specialist

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee recently approved a new position of Communications and A/V Specialist, to meet our expanding need for a strong online presence and technical support in live-streaming worship services. This position will combine our current Communications Coordinator's portfolio with the additional tasks of video editing and managing live recordings in a part-time position of 25 hours per week. Diane Lesman, presently serving as the Communications Coordinator, has recently relocated to North Carolina and will transition out of her current role as the new position is filled. The full job description can be found on Grace's website.



STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND RECONCILIATION

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. II *Corinthians 5:18-20*

We, the people of **G**race, believe we are called by God in Christ to be . . .

Responsive to God's spirit,

Adventuresome in our discipleship,

Compassionate in our actions,

Embracing in love of all God's people.

Created in the image of God, all persons are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all into the full participation in the life of Grace Church, and we will work for the full inclusion of all persons into the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.

As we journey to reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. At the same time, we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

Our call for an inclusive welcome and for the **EMBRACING IN LOVE OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE** by the membership of Grace United Methodist Church demonstrates our commitment to be truly a church with **OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN DOORS.**

October 2, 2010



(for additions or corrections, please contact Claire Greenhouse at 410-337-7407)

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND . . .

- April 11 addition to previous listing: in loving memory of Ross and Grace Pierpont by their daughter Christine P. von Klencke
- May 2 in loving memory of Stephen M. Eicher by his father Bruce R. Eicher; in loving memory of Helen F. Stokes by Vickie Leshinskie
- May 9 Mother's Day: in loving memory of their mother Peggy Bond and their grandmothers, Edith Scott and Kate Bond Ross by Kitty Allen and Barbara Bond
- May 16 in loving memory of John Workman by his wife Marilyn on their anniversary
- May 23 in loving memory of Henry C. Weber, Sr. by his family; in loving memory of Robert Roy Goll by his children and grandchildren
- May 30 in loving memory of the Rev. William Polk by his family; in loving memory of Dora Watson Buffington by her daughter Catherine.

Looking ahead to June:

- June 6 Doris Franklin (1) and
- June 13 Kelly Jackson (1) and
- June 20 Kelly Jackson and Carol Cathcart
- June 27

Easter Memorials

(received after the deadline for the April issue of Grace Notes)

- In memory of Rick Schumacher by Susan Schumacher
- in memory of Cooper and Louise Inglett / J. Doug Corry and John L. Corry by Mimi Corry
- in memory of their Aunt Jacque Bear and in honor of their Mother, Janet Ander by the Vargas Family
- in memory of Ross and Grace Pierpont by Christine P. Von Klencke
- Food Ministries by Angus and Lydia Everton

Praying For Each Other

This last year has really reminded many of us about how valuable prayer can be in our lives. Scripture instructs us to cast our burdens upon God and to pray for one another. We, as a church often share our joys and concerns with each other, inviting our community to lift these petitions to God. We have many active “pray-ers” among us, from our pastors to our Prayer Circle members to those individuals who take the prayer list and pray on their own. We strive to embody this sacred instruction, while knowing that some of us are comfortable with sharing concerns with the Prayer Circle while others prefer that their concerns be held more confidentially.

Prayers requests and concerns get passed to the church office in many ways, sometimes resulting in confusion for the congregation and the staff. We hope it will be helpful to create a process that will clarify one’s wish to be prayed for simultaneously respecting one’s wishes for privacy when desired.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST. All prayer requests should go to Diane Cole, our church administrator. She will coordinate sharing the request with the pastors and the Prayer Circle. Diane can be reached by calling the church office – 410-433-6650, emailing her at admin@graceunitedmethodist.org, or by submitting your prayer request on our website (found in the “Resource” drop down menu). When you contact the church requesting prayer, please indicate whether the request is for you personally or confirm that you have the permission of the other person to share the wish. It is important to honor another’s privacy. Diane will take the details of your request in confidence and ask whether the prayer request is to be circulated amongst the pastors, the Prayer Circle members, and/or added to the list of needs or concerns published in E-Notes. You may indicate whatever level of sharing you desire.

Published prayer concern list: This list is where we share urgent and pressing joys and concerns. Names of persons listed on this list remain there for roughly a month, unless the need is on-going, or a specific request is made to be on the list for a longer period.

Prayer Circle: The Prayer Circle is a group of persons who pray daily for all of the requests, both public and private. They pray even for some needs indefinitely. Grace also seeks to remember those of our congregation who are grieving, and their names remain on this list for roughly two weeks.

Pastoral Prayers: Your pastors are always happy to pray with you, at any time. Please contact Diane if you have a need by phone or email and she will forward the request to our offices.

JOIN THE PRAYER CIRCLE: If you are interested in praying actively for our congregation, we would love to have you join the vital ministry of our Prayer Circle. The spiritual discipline of praying for others can be a big part of one’s faith life, whether going through the request list daily or for prolonged periods of prayer or even just a list of names you use for quick prayers as you go about your day. Prayer matters and makes a difference. You can join that effort! Please email Pastor Dane at dane@graceunitedmethodist.org or call his office to learn how to join the Prayer Circle or participate in our Visitation ministry.



SPECIAL GIFTS

We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts

To *Mission Outreach*

in memory of **Lee Starkey** by

Nathan and Kathy Arnold Amy Madsen Barbara Wilson David Brock

In memory of **Laura Headley** by David Brock

To the *Music Fund*

in memory of **Lee Starkey** by John and Judith Gillan

In memory of **Laura Headley** by John and Judith Gillan

in honor of **Robert Cantrell** and in memory of his Mother by Nathan and Kathy Arnold

To *Grace’s Food Ministries*

in memory of her sister Jacque by Janet Ander



Birthday Greetings

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

- 1 Ashby Heath
- 2 Elizabeth D. White
- 3 Robert Graziosi
- 4 Robert McIntire
- 5 Laura Bowers, Garrett McGuire
- 6 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 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
- 19 Clarke Bowers, 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 Gwen Farrugia, Jeanne Gayler, Sandy Kick
- 29 Stephen Howe
- 30 Stephen McIntire
- 31 Sean Casey, Sue Rinker, Jeaneen Wingate

Grace Preschool growing

The enrollment season is winding down and Director Tami James is happy to report that Grace Preschool is growing and the enrollment is strong. She is equally as excited to report that they are looking for creative individuals who enjoy collaborating with other early childhood educators. The majority of the faculty started out as parents, and she believes it is part of what makes our community so special.

If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for our school, please don't hesitate to reach out.

https://www.aimsmddc.org/networking/apply_now.aspx?view=2&id=645930



If you or someone you know is graduating this spring from any level - elementary, middle, high, college, postgraduate - please let us know so that we might recognize this achievement in a future issue of *Grace Notes*. Be sure to give us the name, what school and degree, any special honors, and any plans for future education or employment. Send the information to kitty.allen@verizon.net or to the Church Office. Our next deadline is May 10.

A thank you note



I'm very grateful to the Grace Church family for your prayers, cards, calls and gifts of food during my convalescence. Blessings for all of you.

Jorge Gaitán

“Pedal for Pediatrics”

On May 7, Grace Preschool will sponsor an event to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Division of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. The Grace Preschoolers, who are in the Threes, Fours, and Kindergarten, will bring their bikes, trikes and scooters to school with them that day and ride a course especially laid out for them in a secured section of the parking lot.

Pediatric oncology research is tremendously underfunded and it is often very challenging for pediatric oncologists to raise money for their grants. Every single dollar raised at Grace will support research at Hopkins, helping them to find safer and more effective cures for childhood cancers.

If you would like to lend your support, you may write a check payable to Johns Hopkins with “Pediatric Oncology” in the memo line or you may donate online: <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/pedalforpeds>.

BOOK CLUB

The book selection for the May 10th meeting is

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Questions: Maureen Danz – Maur.danz@verizon.net



Spring Bazaar

MAY 8th 10:00-2:00

The Christmas Bazaar sponsored by Grace Preschool is a time-honored community favorite. It could not be held this year because of the pandemic but it didn't stop them! The Grace Preschool Parent Group is excited to host the FIRST Spring Bazaar ever.

Mark your calendars!

Great vendors and Grace Swag!

Just a few of them...

*The Pearl's Nest Cane Collective LLC Play.Sense.Discover.
Sensory Kits by Lauren Gundalow Gourmet Lisi Lerch
Cotton Honey Monograms The Rover Jewelry*



A PARABLE:

For a Cherokee Indian youth to be considered a man, he must endure the 'Rite of Passage.'

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the morning sun shines through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of his experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human who might do him harm. The wind blows the grass and earth and shakes his stump, but he must sit stoically, never uncovering his eyes. Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold.

It is then he discovers he is not alone. His father is sitting on the stump next to him, having been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We too, are never alone, no matter how frightening our circumstances. Even when we are not aware, God is watching over us, always protecting us. When we are afraid and feel alone, all we have to do is reach out to Him. He may not always give us the answer we want, but **He is present!**

John Danz, CLM
Minister of Pastoral Care

EMORY GROVE

Life doesn't usually allow us to live in *three centuries*, but should you own a cottage in wooded, peaceful Emory Grove in historic Glyndon, MD, you could do just that. (That got your attention, didn't it?)

Emory Grove, originally a camp meeting ground, was organized by Methodists from Baltimore City the same year as Grace Church - 1868. Church services in the camp meeting style and related events were held for two or three weeks each summer, with participants living in tents and worshiping in the open-air tabernacle.

Today the Grove is still listed as a religious site, with church in the same tabernacle each Sunday evening and hymn sings on Wednesday evenings during July and August. The busy camp meeting schedules and preaching styles were gradually abandoned, coming to an end after WWII.

For 100 years now members of the Emory Grove Association have lived comfortably in cottages that copy the long, thin designs of the tents. Concerts, lectures and other community events are held throughout the summer, many at the historic 1887 hotel. The actual "season," i.e. when residents can actually occupy their cottages, runs from April 15th to November 1st. Right now there are just a few of the 47 cottages for sale, with prices running from around \$15,000 to \$45,000 depending on size and condition. Where else can you live in a place about 16 miles or so from Towson that echoes the slower atmosphere of the 19th or 20th centuries while offering the amenities of the 21st?

I would be delighted to introduce you to Emory Grove with a tour. Just email me at annwellerdahl@gmail.com and we'll set a date.

Ann Dahl

* * *

"The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children." —Elaine Heffner

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT NO. 642

Address service requested

This issue mailed April 26
PLEASE RUSH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 28 - July 2, 2021

9:00 - 12:00

Explore the ways God's great light shines in the world and shows us how we can reflect that light in our own lives. From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, Explorers are guided by a Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories.

Contact Carolyn Young, Director of Children's Ministries

carolyn@graceunitedmethodist.org