

Grace Episcopal Church

"Experience Grace: Creating opportunities to know and share the love and joy of Jesus Christ."



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*June is
the gateway
to
Summer*

The Good News May-June 2021

From Our Priest

Dear People,

We celebrate the blessing of our risen Lord through the darkest and brightest seasons of the Liturgical Year. The 2020-2021 cycle of violence, political turmoil, and pandemic seems to be an endless one. "When will it end?" "When can we gather in person again?" Yet, all the while, we have been living in the promise of new life. I am reminded of Paul's witness in his letter to the Romans (8:35-39).

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Isaiah it is read, (55:10 - 56:1)

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed."

There was a documentary about the Shroud of Turin on the History Channel a number of years ago. With the use of computer technology, a scientific team reconstructed the face of the "man" on the shroud. A priest on the team noted, "It really doesn't matter if the image on the shroud is the 'Real Face of Jesus' (the title of the documentary). What matters is that it causes us to focus on Jesus' passion and resurrection."

This is what we do as God's people. We focus on the passion and resurrection of Jesus. And we seek his face in others. We look for him to show himself more fully that wounds may be healed and enmity resolved. And we hope that we may have the eyes to see the face of our resurrected Lord, not just on a piece of cloth or hanging on a wall in the office or our homes.

There was strength and joy in our celebrations this year. As we emerge into a new and vibrant form of worship, I remain grateful for each of you, both far and near, who have joined in lifting hearts and voices in song and prayer. Let us continue the good work in the seasons to come. Let us seek the face of Jesus when days are short and when days are long.

Grace and Peace in our Resurrected Lord,
Tom+

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Sunday in person Worship will resume May 30, 2021.

Covid Church Office Hours

**Monday & Thursday
9:00am—1:00pm**

Call for appointment
260-432-9221



Worshipping Together Again

NOTICE

Please know that **AT ALL TIMES** inside our building we will follow the direction of our Bishop above that of any civil authority.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Fellow Grace worshippers and friends in Christ. The date when we will restart worship together in our building is fast approaching. Sunday, May 30th will be the date we begin again to see each other's faces (albeit masked) in person. Current diocesan guidelines do not limit us to any specific level of attendance, provided we maintain social distancing, and adequate measures to prevent disease spread, *i.e.* masking. At the diocesan leadership meeting this past Wednesday (19 May) we were advised to adjust our attendance policies to reflect the needs and realities of our specific congregations. For now, we will elect to ease ourselves into "reattendance" using a slightly gradual approach. Vestry meets Monday May 24th: at that time we will discuss the path forward and hopefully agree to a plan that will allow us to re-engage in person safely. Stay tuned! We sent out a notice this past week about how to "sign-up" for in-person attendance starting on Monday at noon before each upcoming Sunday. We have adopted this approach so that everyone has a chance to attend at least two or so (likely more) services per month. Given our typical attendance of ~40-50 or so, almost everyone who wishes should be able to attend. While the main rules to be followed are a sensible maximum number of people in the building (not just the sanctuary) along with social distancing and masking, we also believe that it's best not to attend in person unless you have been fully vaccinated. (Of course, anyone who is immuno-compromised, sick, or symptomatic, or even just in doubt about exposure to others can take advantage of our Zoom service.) During the service, responses and singing will be allowed, however, we ask that all remain masked and not "belt it out" like any other normal Sunday. Singing softly is likely anyway since taking a "singing breath" is heavily impeded with a mask on. Demasking for Father Tom and service leaders will be allowed consistent with diocesan guidelines, but we will re-mask as much as possible after each element of the service is completed. Additional guidelines will be presented before each service to help us remember what we are to do especially during communion.

It has been a "Long and Winding Road" through the last year to get to this point. The remarkable continued participation of our members in worship via Zoom has been something that I think most of us would not necessarily have viewed as a blessing a couple of years ago. But now that we have the capability of "hybrid worship" anyone who cannot attend in person can still experience the beauty and reinvigoration of our devotions together. We hope that all those at great distance who have attended via Zoom in the last year will continue to worship with us, and reconnect as much as possible. There will be some changes to detailed execution of the service as we proceed, so please be patient as we establish what works best for this new phase of our worship together.

Thanks,
David Smith, Senior Warden

The Grace Library

An area in the church building that has been relocated to the main floor and reorganized is our own religious studies library. You may borrow freely from this collection - just return the book(s) when you are finished. There is no due date or check out procedure.

If you wish to donate a book to the library, please **ONLY** include theology books which have been *published in the last six years* and are in good condition. Our space is limited.

Materials for you to borrow are loosely organized into these categories:

Bibles and Bible reference books

Christian Theology
Jesus
Devotionals
Grief
DVDs
Race Relations

World Religions
Judaism
Islam
Buddhism
Hinduism

Do browse this collection and borrow what interests you!



Congratulations Graduates!

CHRISTOPHER DEROCHE, grandson of Janet DeRoche, earned his BS in computer Science with a Minor in Business from Indiana University in Bloomington.

ZACHARY HODGSON, son of Cindy & Dave Burns, earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Manchester University College of Pharmacy.

REBEKAH SIMS, daughter of Beth Nygaard & Mike Sims, earned her PhD in English at Purdue University, May 2021. Her research and dissertation addresses how to teach effectively in culturally diverse settings. She will join the faculty at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland as an assistant professor on June 1.

WILLIAM WELLING, son of Beth Welling, earned his Associates Degree in Computer Information Technology from Indiana Wesleyan University.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to our May Birthdays!

- 7 Anna May Gillette
- 9 Laura Rowland
- 14 Phillip Salisbury
- 23 Iris & Thomas Salisbury
- 25 Cindy Burns
- 27 Bruce Meyer



Happy Anniversary in May!

- 3 Gail & Mike McGuire
- 12 Jane & Ron Caldwell
- 31 Josie & David Smith



June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to our June Birthdays!

- 1 Garry Williams
- 3 George Donner
- 3 David Smith
- 4 Destiny Alessi
- 11 Nathan Carter



Happy Anniversary in June!

- 2 Beth Nygaard & Mike Sims
- 9 Anena & Ken Rolofson
- 13 Pat DaRif & Sally Thomas



What's been happening at Grace

SO MUCH has happened over the last couple of months at Grace!

- ◆ Our new furnaces and air-conditioning system (with new filters) has been fully installed.
- ◆ A completely new roof went on the building.
- ◆ New sanctuary chairs have been ordered.
- ◆ The Food Drive has continued with great success.
- ◆ A new security camera system has been installed.
- ◆ The wooden window sills have all been refinished.
- ◆ New tech equipment has been installed in the sanctuary.
- ◆ The garden has been maintained.
- ◆ The sanctuary carpet has been professionally steam cleaned.

We are so very grateful to everyone who had a part in making these things come to be.



Yes, that's a person up near the steeple!



FPT Committee

The Financial Planning Team will have an opening for a new member effective June 1. If anyone has an interest in helping with decisions concerning Grace's finances, please consider joining us! We normally meet quarterly so it's not a time consuming commitment. The ability to understand Grace's financial statement is the only needed skill.

For more information please contact Sue Rowland. If you know you are interested, please contact David Smith.

Food Drive

This month's food drive delivered not only a huge amount of food, but also \$370 in financial contributions to the food pantry at Faith Lutheran. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this ministry to feed those less fortunate than us. And thank you also to our group of volunteers who go to Faith to help serve meals. In addition to bringing food, you are always welcome to bring cash or **checks made out to Faith Lutheran Church** (food ministry in the memo line), and drop the check off at Grace or mail directly to: Faith Lutheran Church
1700 E Pettit Avenue
Fort Wayne IN 46806

Dates for the remainder of 2021 are:

June 13

July 18

August 15

September 12

October 17

November 14

December 12

These nonperishable items are most needed by food banks, including the ministry at Faith Lutheran Church:

peanut butter (large and small jars), canned fruit, canned meats any size (chicken or tuna), canned beans, hearty canned stews and chili, pancake mix, crackers (Saltines or Ritz), toothpastes, and bars of soap



THANK YOU!!!

Something NEW is coming

NEW SANCTUARY CHAIRS

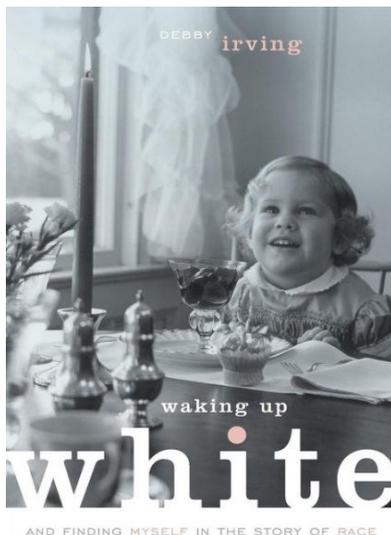
New chairs are on order. Yes, after 20+ years, the red chairs in the sanctuary have served their purpose. If you've ever reached into the pocket to pull out a hymnal and had red on your hands, you know well the deterioration of the fabric, as well as the unsightly holes showing the padding. The Vestry voted last year to spend some of the memorial money to purchase new chairs for the sanctuary. A committee comprised of Pat DaRif, Beth Nygaard, and Dale Tucker initially looked into recovering our current chairs, finding the cost more than double of buying new chairs. Then they researched numerous companies—studying Better Business Bureau reports, warranties, styles, prices, and other vital points, and settled on a company that focuses on church furniture. Our new chairs will be a pleasant change from what we've had and will not only be a different color, but will also offer lumbar support, more firm seating with a rounded back, and book racks below rather than pockets. They will have a lovely blue fabric that will not attract every hair and piece of fuzz like our red chairs, and the leg grips will be non skid. We will replace all chairs in the sanctuary and conference room, and the best of our current chairs will be moved to the undercroft for use there. We are also replacing the fabric on the altar chairs and on the benches in the narthex and hallway. A fresh, contemporary look for Grace!

Thanks to Beth and her postings on Craig's List, etc., we have already disposed of the worst of our chairs to people who wanted them no matter the condition.

We ask that you not bring coffee or anything that would stain our new chairs into the sanctuary. Once coffee hour resumes, let's fellowship in designated areas where spills can be cleaned up more easily.

Thank you to Pat, Beth, and Dale for hours upon hours of research, phone calls, texts, etc.

Study on Race Relations



During April and May a group of about 15 Grace members has been meeting weekly, via Zoom, to discuss the book “Waking Up White” dealing with discrimination, particularly of the African American Community, in the United States and indeed in our own state and city. Leaders of the discussions are Beth Keen, Nancy McCammon-Hansen, David Smith, and Sally Thomas. In light of the issues with police and the black community across the country, this issue is being addressed by the national church as well, and there are multiple resources available on the national website if you'd like to be involved or educated on the matter. Copies of the book we are using in this study are available if you would like to read it. Just contact Dale in the office, and he'll arrange for you to borrow a copy from one of the participants.

Outreach

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

For the past year or so, several of us at Grace have participated locally with Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization focused on systemic solutions to hunger. Please know that persons of all faiths are welcome to join this effort.

This month we are reaching out to Fort Wayne residents and asking them to participate in Bread's **Offering of Letters Campaign**, in which individuals write to their congressional representatives in support of anti-hunger initiatives. This issue is of even greater significance this year due to the global pandemic.

We invite the people of Grace to participate in the **Offering** this year by writing letters to Senators Mike Braun and Todd Young and Representative Jim Banks.

Although donating to food pantries is important, it is also important for us to urge our elected officials to look at passing legislation that will make access to food not only easier but also more affordable. This particularly applies to children.

If you are interested in this effort: Go to the website <http://ol.bread.org>. You will find there information about the work of Bread for the World and a link to submit your letters online. You will need to know your full nine digit Zip Code to use the portal. Bread for the World asks that you change the format provided by at least 15% to increase the impact of each letter. For example, you could start by writing "*As an Episcopalian for over 45 years, I am writing ...*"

If you prefer to email a letter or write a hard copy, that's fine too. You can use the addresses listed below. Our local bread head volunteer suggests that using the local address is best.

And please check out our local Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BreadFW>.

If you would like to be on the email list for further information, please let Nancy know and you will be added to the list. Thanks so much for your consideration in this important effort! And feel free to share this information.

Senator Todd Young
1300 S Harrison Street, Suite 3161
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Senator Mike Braun
203 E Berry Street, Suite 702B
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Representative Jim Banks
1300 S Harrison Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Thank you,
Nancy McCammon-Hansen
nmccammonhansen@gmail.com

Pat DaRif
pdarif217@gmail.com

June 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Garry Williams	2 Mike Sims & Beth Nygaard	3 George Donner David Smith	4 Destiny Alessi	5
6 Worship 9:30am	7	8	9 Anena & Ken Rolofson	10	11 Nathan Carter	12
13 Pat DaRif & Sally Thomas Worship 9:30am FOOD DRIVE 11am-noon	14	15	16 Faith Lutheran 5pm	17	18	19
20 Worship 9:30am	21 Vestry Meeting 7:00pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:30am	28	29	30			