

THE GRACE VINE

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**16 Ridgecrest Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
Church Telephone: (304) 242-5830
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 AM**

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit" John 15:5

APRIL 2021

Rev. Timothy Spence, Pastor
Home Telephone: 304-905-6188 - gracelutheranwheeling@comcast.net

Called by God's grace, we commit to a life of worship, discipleship, and service in the name of Jesus Christ

Easter arrives April 4. It's a nice break after not being able to worship together for Easter 2020. We expect an attendance of more than 80, so please keep in mind that we will be assigning seats based on numbers and level of vaccination (one shot, two shot, no shots) and social distancing (six feet or three feet). Masks will still be required, and we are not up to the point where we can sing again as a congregation. Hopefully, that will happen soon.

Easter Sunday is expected to be our largest attendance in more than a year, which just goes to show how much things have changed.

We have learned to live without as much cash (debit cards taking over) go longer without haircuts, do take out instead of dine in, to wear masks around everyone except those in our "Covid bubble", to eschew hugs and handshakes, and to rethink where we go and what we will do when we get there. The question at the door of our house as you leave is, "Do you have a mask?"

So the questions are: What have we learned over the past 13 months? Will we be doing anything different going forward? What have we discovered that we value and will take steps to preserve and protect? What have we discovered we can live without and will stop doing going forward? What have we learned about what is important? What new things will we keep doing going forward? What can we live with, and what can we do without?

The year has been a challenging one, but we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel – and it is not an oncoming train!

We can either grieve the year that was lost, or we can be grateful it was no worse than it was and learn from it. We can see the year as a tragedy or a year to accept the changes that were forced upon us and grow from what we learned.

For some this will be hard to do. The loss of loved ones or the after-effects of the virus will leave lasting marks that will not – and in some case should not – be easily erased. But along with the loss there can be gratitude for lives well lived and the care received from the hands of strangers. There can be hope for a future with God and rejoicing at the promise that death is not the last word, and the Easter promise of the power of resurrection.

So we come to a new Easter in the hope of a better tomorrow both in this world and the next. We come to a new Easter with the promise of what will be, and not simply what is. We come to a new Easter proclaiming Christ's victory over death and all that seeks to destroy us, and we come ready to celebrate with joy that Christ is risen, the first of those who have gone into the grave. We come to a new Easter loved and claimed and named by Christ, for "(we) are dead and (our) lives are hidden with Christ in God"(Colossians 3:3).

We come to a new Easter with the confusion of the unexpected, with the announcement that God has surprised us with unbelievable news, and that everything is changed. But we still need to learn and understand what that means. We are not fully Easter people yet, but we are on our way. We come to a new Easter after a rough year. If the tomb is empty, what have we learned, and what will we do about it going forward?

DRIVE-IN CHURCH

We are now broadcasting our services with a limited-range FM transmitter into the parking lot around the building each Sunday morning.

People arriving who want to participate in the service but are hesitant about coming into the building with a larger group of people in an enclosed space can pull into the parking lot, tune their car radio to FM 102.3, and listen to the service in real time. At the appropriate time, communion will be brought out to the cars for those who desire to receive the sacrament.

Even after all Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, we will continue to broadcast services each week on Facebook and YouTube. We are working on making some changes so that those broadcasts can happen in real time instead of being downloaded for afternoon viewing. Drive in broadcasts will continue as long as there is a need but will stop once everyone can safely gather for in-person worship.

ABOUT PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is April 4. While there has been substantial progress towards having a large percentage of our congregation vaccinated, we know that there are still be people waiting to receive a vaccination and that some restrictions like masks and social distancing remain in place.

Therefore, attendance at the Easter Sunday service will be limited due to the maximum capacity of the sanctuary and overflow seating in the Gathering Room given social distancing requirement. Our maximum attendance inside the building will be about 84 people. Therefore, both of these services will be TICKETED events. What this means is that you will have to call the office to reserve a seat a ticket in order to attend that morning's worship.

Reservations for Easter are being taken at the church office and currently 72 people have made reservations. If you have not made a reservation yet, please call to let us know your name and the number of people who will be attending with you. If no one is in the office, please leave a message on the machine. You will also be able to make a reservation when you attend worship on Palm Sunday.

This information will be used to assign seats that will preserve social distancing requirements while still allowing the maximum number of people in the nave.

When you come in, the ushers will have a sheet indicating where your assigned seat or group of seats is. As much as possible, we will try to assign your seats close to where you traditionally sat in the nave "pre-Covid". Once the capacity of seating in the nave is reached, overflow seating will be assigned in the Gathering Room. When all the seats in the Gathering Room are full, you may still attend by doing "drive-in church" in your car in the parking lot.

Please note that, if you do not make a reservation for a seating assignment, we may still be able to accommodate you for worship IF there are seats available. However, once all available seats are taken, given restricted seating requirements you, will not be able to be seated.

COMMITTEE WORK

With the increasing number of vaccines being administered and the declining number of Covid cases, Grace's committees are beginning to meet to plan for events and programs later this year. Four committees met in March and it is hoped that all committees will have met at least once by the end of April.

Meanwhile the year of Covid has offered us a rare and unique chance to step back and evaluate our annual calendar for activities.

Was there something you really missed that we should keep doing?

Was there something that we've been doing that you didn't miss and wouldn't care if we didn't start that again?

Did you think of a different way to accomplish something and would like to see Grace try something new?

All of these are questions for committees to evaluate and consider Grace's ministries as we begin to move forward again.

Please give your ideas and input to Pastor, one of the Council members, or the appropriate committee chairperson.

MISSION, FINANCE UPDATES

Due to continuing limitations on our ability to safely serve and sell food to the public, the decision has been made to cancel this year's Salad Luncheon and Strawberry Festival. It is expected that these two events will return in 2022 bigger and better than ever.

At the same time, the Rummage Sale, which was cancelled in 2020, is TENTATIVELY planned for August 7 and 14. Due to the amount of "rummage", it has been determined that there is too much stuff for just one day, so the event will be spread out over two Saturdays. Of course, if there is a spike in the virus or other complications the event will be postponed.

If you have spent your time in Covid confinement cleaning out your closets, garage, or attic and have items to bring in for the sale, please put them behind the lattice barrier in front of the stage in the Fellowship Hall. If you have furniture, please wait until the end of July to bring it in because space is limited.

As the week of the sale gets closer, volunteers will be needed to help set up tables and move stuff from boxes to tables. Additional information will be in the June and July issues of the *Vine*.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Plan to attend these important events as we remember the Passion of Our Lord between April 1st and 4th:

Maundy Thursday – Modified "Living Last Supper" with Holy Communion
7:00 PM.

Good Friday – Traditional Service with Passion Reading and Adoration of the Cross 7:00 PM.

Easter Festival Service Sunday – We celebrate with joy the resurrection of our Lord! 10:00 AM



POWER *of* **PRAYER**

PRAYER LIST

Ryan Deegan
Henri Fontaine
George Myers
Stephanie Moore-Vetanze
Andrew Lemasters
Barbara Knollinger
Jodi Ennis (Hunt)
Dona'e Albert
Nick Riggle
Karen Walker
Linda Dunnell
Bob McDonald
Art Henry

Hines Rotriga
Amelia DaGrava
Thelma Moore
Addison Lucas
Bill Scholley
Keith McMannis
Susan Falbo
Carolyn Polverini
Coy Davenport
Richard Chrisfield
Kristin McGavitt
Jerry Findel
Sean Datson

Betty Swartz
David Ausdenmoore
Brian Lester
Cindy Roshak
Linda Porter
Doris Schafer
Dorothy Miller
Zane Neuhardt
Betty Danehart
Willow Hollingsworth
Minnie Taylor
Shari Sedilko
Dossie Roy

ON MILITARY DUTY

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

Parker Euri

HOMEBOUND

Dorothy Cox
Good Shepherd Nursing Home
Room 214
159 Edginton Lane
Wheeling, WV. 26003

Howard & Betty Shackelford
333 Dement Road
Triadelphia, WV 26059

Bertha Loth
c/o Grace Lutheran Church
16 Ridgecrest Road
Wheeling, WV. 26003

Debbie Hawkins
Peterson Rehabilitation Hospital
20 Homestead Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003

Kitty Hagedorn
18 Willow Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

Chris Roshak
River Park Hospital
1230 6th Avenue
Huntington, WV. 25701



GRACE COUNCIL 2021

<i>Shawn Pennybacker</i>	<i>April 4th</i>
<i>Bentley Wiley</i>	<i>April 5th</i>
<i>Mary Maquire</i>	<i>April 9th</i>
<i>Laurie Spence</i>	<i>April 12th</i>
<i>Nellie McClure</i>	<i>April 16th</i>
<i>Dorothy Broemsen</i>	<i>April 21st</i>
<i>Cora Nelson</i>	<i>April 23rd</i>
<i>Devan Young</i>	<i>April 25th</i>
<i>Shirley Winiesdorffer</i>	<i>April 30th</i>

Nancy Weeks, President
Dennis Niess, Vice-President
Lutz Albrecht
Diane "Dee" Coughlan
Brian Crawford
Linda Dunnell
Pat Franklin
Vicki Gilmore
Tami Tysk
Shawn Gilmore, Treasurer
Amanda Keller, Secretary



<i>Dane & Evelyn Birch</i>	<i>April 5th</i>
<i>Casey & Devan Young</i>	<i>April 14th</i>

**happy
Birthday**

APRIL 2021

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship 7:00 pm	2 GOOD FRIDAY Worship 7:00 pm	3
4 HE IS RISEN!!!! Worship 10:00 am	5 Dance 5:00 pm	6 Strands of Comfort 4:30 pm Missions Committee 6:00 pm Baton 6:00 pm	7 Handbell practice 9:30 am	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 am Sunday school 10:45 am	12 Dance 5:00 pm Council 6:30 pm	13 Baton 6:00 pm	14 Handbell practice 9:30 am	15	16	17
18 Worship 10:00 am Sunday school 10:45 am	19 Dance 5:00 pm	20 Strands of Comfort 4:30 pm Baton 6:00 pm	21 Handbell practice 9:30 am	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:00 am Sunday school 10:45 am	26 Dance 5:00 pm	27 Baton 6:00 pm	28 Handbell practice 9:30 am	29	30	

WORSHIP LEADERS APRIL - MAY 2021

Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Bread	Crucifer	Greeters
April 4, 2021		Pat Franklin			
April 11, 2021		Pat Franklin			
April 18, 2021		Pat Franklin			
April 25, 2021		Pat Franklin			
May 2, 2021		Elaine Sedilko			
May 9, 2021		Elaine Sedilko			
May 16, 2021		Elaine Sedilko			
May 23, 2021		Elaine Sedilko			
May 30, 2021		Elaine Sedilko			
	Welcome Desk	Lector	PA/Sound	Prayer Leader	Ushers
April 4, 2021		Lutz Albrecht		Pastor Spence	Buffy & Chris Schenkel
April 11, 2021		Brian Crawford		Nancy Weeks	Buffy & Chris Schenkel
April 18, 2021		Jeanie Deem		Lutz Albrecht	Buffy & Chris Schenkel
April 25, 2021		Pat Franklin		Pat Franklin	Buffy & Chris Schenkel
May 2, 2021		Kim Kochy		Pastor Spence	Joe Kochy, Bill Stees & Jay Wallace
May 9, 2021		Elaine Sedilko		Nancy Weeks	Joe Kochy, Bill Stees & Jay Wallace
May 16, 2021		Tami Tysk		Lutz Albrecht	Joe Kochy, Bill Stees & Jay Wallace
May 23, 2021		Nancy Weeks		Pat Franklin	Joe Kochy, Bill Stees & Jay Wallace
May 30, 2021		Marcie Woloshan		Pastor Spence	Joe Kochy, Bill Stees & Jay Wallace
	Flowers for	Flowers given by	Counters	Assisting Minister	Distribution Minister
April 4, 2021	none		Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Pat Franklin	Nancy Weeks
April 11, 2021	none		Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Shawn Gilmore	Nancy Weeks
April 18, 2021	none		Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Vicki Gilmore	Nancy Weeks
April 25, 2021	none		Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Don McNabb	Nancy Weeks
May 2, 2021	none		Joe & Kim Kochy	Tami Tysk	Nancy Weeks
May 9, 2021	none		Joe & Kim Kochy	Nancy Weeks	Marcie Woloshan
May 16, 2021	none		Joe & Kim Kochy	Marcie Woloshan	Nancy Weeks
May 23, 2021	none		Joe & Kim Kochy	Brian Crawford	Nancy Weeks
May 30, 2021	none		Joe & Kim Kochy	Pat Franklin	Nancy Weeks

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BETHLEHEM
WHEELING WV 26003**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE!

THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES

***Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday Worship Service
7:00 PM.***

Friday, April 2nd, Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 PM

Cans for Watch

Grace members are collecting aluminum cans for WATCH. They will crush, recycle, and use the proceeds for client events. Please bring them at any time, and place them in the large box behind the kitchen door.

Riesbeck Gift Cards

Riesbeck Gift Cards to benefit Thrivent are available from either Judith Myers or Tami Tysk.

Drive in Church

Sunday mornings beginning at 10:00 AM., in our parking lot, FM 102.3

