



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

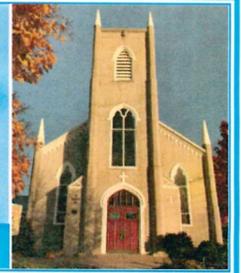
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

May 2020



WHAT IS A NEW NORMAL?

We have been hearing a great deal of discussion, debate and disagreement on the news lately as to what our “New Normal” will be as we move out of this stay at home way of life and return back to our regular daily activities, but what does that mean exactly?

There have been numerous ideas posited, mostly having to do with changes in people interactions, e.g., no hand shaking, smaller numbers of customers being served in restaurants or stores at a given time, having your temperature taken before you enter buildings, wearing masks, erecting various barriers, spacing people farther apart in workplaces and schools, changing the way large gatherings such as sporting events and concerts happen, and the list goes on. But all of these proposed changes are predicated on the notion that we want to go back to life and institutions and systems the way they were before COVID-19. Is this really possible and is it the best thing to do?

The reality is that life pre-pandemic was not working well for a large majority of the world’s population. For this segment of humanity, poverty and hunger was rampant, sub-standard wages and lack of jobs were the norm, access to education and health care was challenging, clean water and housing was a pipe dream, refugees were being warehoused and excluded from safer countries and discrimination prevailed. Do we really want to go back to this type of “normal world”?

I dream about a new normal as being one where all people have what they need, where hunger and homelessness are no more, a place where justice and equity are the norm and the created world is in sync with land, water, air and all creatures. Christians might describe this new normal as building the kingdom of God here on earth. It is possible and I believe that there is movement pointing us in the right direction. But are we as a nation and a world willing to support and work for it?

In 2015 the United Nations Member States adopted a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for everyone and our planet. At the heart of this plan are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals listed below. What do you think? Could this be our new normal?



Are we willing to commit to doing our part to make it happen?

Granted, these are broad goals that will take all nations and peoples to bring about, but we as individuals can start. Pick one goal area and

find something you are able to do about it no matter how small or insignificant it may seem!

Together let us build the city of God!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Worship Opportunities

We are using an online platform called Zoom to communicate. This allows us to do video and audio connections, so people may join us through their computer, tablet, smartphone and **any wireless or landline telephone!** At the appointed time you select, just dial the telephone number listed below and type in the meeting code and you will automatically join in the conversation. To join by computer, click the link in the invitation that will be emailed to you through Constant Contact or posted on our website.

Sundays in May — 8:30 and 10:30 am on Zoom. Worship resources on our website anytime at www.gracechurchmtclemens.org.

A Note from Amy Saari, Music Minister

It continues to be a strange and isolating time for me to be your music minister, as my ministry has been reduced to making videos in my home studio. I enjoy it, but I still feel distant from the community.

Which is why I'm saying thank you to those church members who have reached out to me by phone and other means to let me know that there was still a world out there, that I was still part of a loving circle and still appreciated. Thank you! I appreciate you too. Keep doing what you're doing.

It's perfectly okay (and important) to reach out by voice and video to others in our community where we can, to bring contact to those who would need and welcome it. Also recommended is liking Grace Episcopal Church on Facebook, to get updates and make connections there.

However you connect, there's no wrong way. And I think a lot of us are learning that right now - possibilities remain open to make and nurture strong connections at Grace Church. We just have to remain open ourselves to what's possible - not easy, but don't discount the power of grace in our community when we call upon it.

My friends, thank you again. Stay safe, wash your hands, and check out gracechurchmtclemens.org.



Church services are temporarily cancelled, but you can still bring food directly to Grace's Food Pantry

Recommended Donations

Canned Soups, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Tuna Fish/Canned Chicken, Spaghettios, Hamburger Helper, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Cereal, Applesauce in Cans



Remember:

Regular sizes (Not large) – No breakable containers -- No expired food

Collection: Any Monday-Wednesday- Friday 10AM to noon



GIVING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Even though we are not meeting for Sunday worship we encourage you to continue giving to Grace by mailing your checks to this address:

**Grace Episcopal Church
115 S. Main Street
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043**

You can also set up a regular debit withdrawal from your bank, Please call our office 586-465-4573 for more information. We are also working to setup online giving, we will let you know when this option is ready to use.

May Birthdays

- 1 Linda Williamson
- 5 Julie Saph
- 5 Wendy Oravec
- 12 Jim Smith
- 12 Mary Ann Bagdasarian
- 13 Donna Hodgson
- 14 Frankie Dion
- 14 Lisa Ewalt
- 14 Lori Simon
- 21 Mary Williams
- 22 Ann Strevel
- 23 Charlotte Kalligeros
- 26 Lucy Smith
- 29 Terry Hitchcock



A message from the Prison Ministry, by Mary Williams

This Meditation from Forward Day by Day for April 29 really spoke to me: I hung on a cross next to his. Me, a criminal; him, an innocent man... and so much more. My punishment was deserved; his was not. He was hung there, pierced by nails and thrones, pierced by unseen wounds of disbelief. But he forgave them... and me. The last words I spoke were: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he answered "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." I hungered and thirsted for love that day as I hung on a cross next to Jesus.

First of all I would like to thank all of Grace Episcopal Church for all your prayers for the women inmates that are part of this Prison Ministry during this coronavirus pandemic. In the United States the overall of inmates that have tested positive for the coronavirus is 9,437 inmates. Here in Macomb County Jail they have released approximately 100 inmates the county jail now only uses two floors to house the total amount of inmates which has helped cut down on the spread of the coronavirus. The Women's Huron Valley State Prison did not release anybody due to health conditions or sentences because of the coronavirus. The virus has spread rapidly throughout the state prison system here in Michigan. Inmates and correctional officers have tested positive. My prison ministry has seven women inmates and out of those inmates one has recently tested positive. I would like to ask you to please continue to pray for these women. I am thankful that I have been able to stay in close contact with them all. Thank you again for your prayers and May God's peace be with you.

Fill out your 2020 Census today.
Respond online at **2020CENSUS.GOV**



Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

Updates from Grace's Outreach Ministries

The Food Pantry continues to provide emergency food to Macomb County families and individuals in need. Distribution is taking place in the parking lot on Mon, Wed and Fri from 10 am until noon. They would welcome donations of food staples that are currently sold in limited quantities, such as: bread, cereal, canned vegetables and fruits. See the website for more needed items.

Our Wednesday Community Supper continues to provide hot, nutritious meals to individuals in need each week. Last week, 125 meals were given to homeless people, who ate them in the parking lot, and others taking meals home to their families. They were also able to distribute homemade masks. Donations are welcome, and can be made by mailing a check to the church, or visiting our website at www.gracechurchmtclemens.org.

MCREST, which was to be hosted at Grace at the end of May, is currently housing their guests in motels, so their stay at Grace is cancelled. This is, however, an expensive alternative, so MCREST is asking for donations to help them continue to provide this care. Visit MCREST.org to see how to help.

Blessings in a Backpack has, unfortunately, had to suspend this program until the start of the new school year. Their only means of distribution would have required assistance from school cafeteria food service personnel, who have limited resources and are unable to take on this added responsibility. The food in our current inventory will keep until the fall when hopefully the schools will reopen. Clearly, there will be needs to be met in the new school year. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors!

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone,
iPad, Android & Kindle

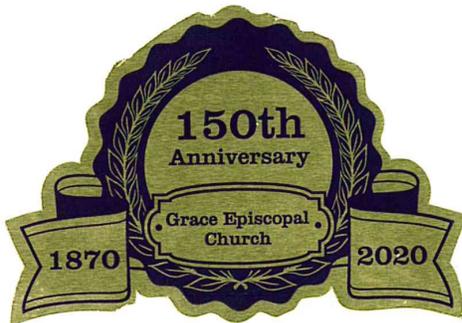


Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Grace Episcopal Church

115 South Main Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Office 586-465-4573 Fax 586-463-9162
Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com
Website: www.gracechurchmtclemens.org
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 am–4:00pm

*Reach out &
touch someone!*



*Show them that you care. Let them
know
that they are not alone.*

*Be loving, Be kind, Be
Compassionate!
Do unto others as you would
have them do unto you.*



Loving from Quotes 2012



**O U T R E A C H
M I N I S T R I E S**

Currently

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, take-out only

GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Curbside distribution.

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan

Minister of Music: Ms. Amy Saari

Parish Administrator: Donna Hodgson

2020 Vestry

Pam Sherry, Sr. Warden

Jim Smith, Jr. Warden

Rosemary Berger, Charlie Carroll,

Gay Gillespie, Martha Houser,

Tom Stotz, Nicki Urban,

Treasurer: Janet Seewald • Clerk: Tom Stotz