



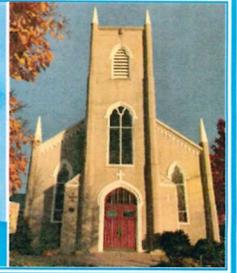
GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church



March 2021



PROCLAIMING GOD

On the first Sunday of Lent I preached about four different life events that Jesus experienced in just six short sentences in the gospel that day. In case you need a reminder of what the passage said it came from Mark 1:9-15 and is short enough to reprint here:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven,

"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

These four events were: 1) Jesus searches for God, 2) Jesus experiences God, 3) Jesus wrestles with God and 4) Jesus proclaims God. I explored how Jesus may have engaged these four events and then I focused on how we today are called to face these same events in our own context.

At some point in our lives we have all searched for God in some fashion and whether we realize it or not we have all experienced God, even though it may not have been in a dramatic way like Jesus did. Then comes our experience of wrestling with God, questioning why things did or did not happen, asking God for help or consolation and maybe even bargaining with God. This will take different forms for all of us because God meets us right where we are amidst our daily life. For some of us this may have been a one-time occurrence, while for others it is a regular routine.

I challenged everyone on that Sunday to spend these days of Lent thinking about these first three events of searching for, experiencing and wrestling with God in our own lives whether they happened in the distant past or are occurring in the moment. Once we have taken some time to ponder these three events, I asked everyone to write them down either electronically or on paper and then send them to me either by email or snail mail to the church office.

This activity is a perfect example of a Lenten discipline that may be done easily and anywhere we find ourselves. No special books need to be purchased and read, no programs watched or meetings to attend. It is just a review of your own life and I believe it will lead to a deeper relationship with God if you enter into this practice.

I believe engaging the first three events are the easiest for each of us to do, while the fourth event of sharing these experiences or PROCLAIMING these experiences of God with others is more challenging and not often done. This is true even in churches because we don't typically make space in our worship time to share our own personal encounters with God.

Hence, I am asking everyone to write these experiences down so that they may be collected and put into a special edition newsletter that we may share with everyone in our congregation. I invite you to attach your name to these statements, but if you really do not want your name associated with the experience just let me know and I will not include that identifying information. This is the fourth event of Proclaiming God and it is through this proclamation that we help build up the faith of others and ourselves.

So will you participate in this communal Lenten practice? If so, I need to receive your written experiences by **PALM SUNDAY**, so that we have a week to put them together and get them out on Easter Sunday as we celebrate and proclaim the resurrection of Jesus!

Blessings, Pastor Steve

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 am
TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY PHONE VIA ZOOM

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 899 8049 9374

Password: 382635

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

7:00 pm on Zoom

Visit our website and follow the link.

Or call: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015

Password: 683930

Worship resources are available on our website anytime.

A Message from Amy Saari, Music Minister

This issue of the newsletter marks the end of a full year of our church living under pandemic conditions. And I must say, it continues to be the oddest, most challenging time I've ever faced as a church musician. But I reflect on what the music ministry has done, there is much to be happy about: a library of over 110 hymn videos for every season of the church year, and a church choir that is still active.

Right now, the choir is taking on a Lenten project of recording a virtual Easter anthem. We're using the upbeatmusicapp.com website to assemble the parts together and create a video that looks like Zoom but sounds like a choir in perfect sync. We're taking a beloved hymn, Christ Has Arisen, from our hymnal Lift Every Voice and Sing, to be our anthem. Pray for our success!

And do pray for all our ministries at Grace—everyone who works behind the scenes to keep things going. Be mindful of those in our community who are vulnerable and less fortunate. Deep winter is tough, especially for those who suffer outages or shutoffs of their gas or electricity. People needing prayer and support are often closer than you think. - Amy

From the Parish Health Ministry:

This scientist is helping to heal psyches, one knitted stitch at a time

By Rita Giordano Ellen Rubin is a scientist. For years, she worked as an immunologist for major pharmaceutical firms. But life, like scientific research, holds much that can't be predicted. For Rubin, that included a problem pregnancy that put her on bedrest, the grave illness of a beloved friend, and the collapse of her marriage. Knitting became her constant through all the challenges, all the heartbreak. She also taught others to knit and, like a scientist observing cause and effect, saw how it helped them, too. "Every fiber of my being was saying, 'This is what I was put on this earth to do.' To work with people and promote the therapeutic benefits of knitting," Rubin said. She saw some of those benefits when she volunteered to teach knitting to children at an enrichment program at her oldest child's elementary school. She said the change in the children was noticeable. "It was in their demeanor, the light that was in their eyes." Rubin said. Since COVID-19, programs are held every other Thursday via Zoom. Rubin collects articles and studies about the benefits of knitting and crafting to relieve stress and tension, compassion fatigue among nurses, and more. The folks who have felt their lives improved by Rubin's tutelage say the changes have been nothing short of amazing. Rubin is quick to point out that she is far from the first person of science to notice the benefits of knitting and crocheting. Albert Einstein, for one, reportedly found that knitting calmed his mind and cleared his thinking. George Washington Carver, who was born into slavery but rose to be a renowned botanist, was not only proficient in knitting and crocheting, but embroidery and weaving as well. And, of course, one of the people who has most keenly felt the benefits of knitting is Rubin herself. "I want to make the world a better place," she said. "I truly believe if more people knitted and crocheted, the world would be a better place."



A Note from the Prayer Group

The following letter was sent to the prayer group by a friend of Tish Germain. We have been sending her prayer cards on a regular basis for some time now and she really appreciates it. The prayer group sends out prayer cards to all people on the prayer list as well as praying every day in our own homes. We meet once a month as able during this pandemic and would love to have new members join us. Please contact Jill Cottrell, Ann Farrell, or Ann Strevel for more information.

"I wish to thank you, once again, for the continued prayers and thoughtful cards your prayer group has sent along. Tish Germain has requested that I am a part of your prayers, and I could not appreciate it more. Having been diagnosed with 2 primary cancers in 5 months time has been devastating. The second surgery on January 18th to remove the nodule from my lung was more entailed than originally thought. They performed a 'thoracotomy' which is a long and brutal recovery. With God's grace, I will get through this. And with your prayers, I remain hopeful that I will recover completely. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



GIVING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS Even though we are not meeting for Sunday worship we encourage you to continue giving to Grace and its ministries. You can give online through a link on our website at www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

**150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SPRINGS FORWARD....**

It seems so long ago we started these monthly celebrations to remember the past, honor the now, and keep the hope of a better future for Grace Church.



On Sunday, March 21, we are planning a special Zoom service to honor all those who serve in ministries that support our worship services: Altar Guild, Building & Grounds, Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Healing Ministers, Lectors, Pastoral Care, Ushers, Worship Committee. We hope everyone will be able to join us for the 10:30 service to honor our parishioners who give their time and use their special talents to bring us a wonderful worship experiences throughout the years. We had hoped by now to be back in our sanctuary as one community, but *Through the Grace of God*, we will make do.

This is not the first time our church has been closed for service. In the fall 1918, during the Spanish flu pandemic, churches were ordered to close. Selfridge was put under quarantine to protect the soldiers. When you read stories of what went on back in 1918, it sounds very much like 2020-21. One big difference was that our state was in the middle of supplying the armed forces with machinery to fight World War I. Plus, they did not have TV! Only a few people had the “wireless box” known today as the “Radio.” Schools were closed so the teachers could become nurses, since so many were sent to care for soldiers. The state sent teachers to residents’ homes care for the sick and help with childcare. When I read the history and remember the stories of my grandparents from that time, I feel very blessed with all we have been given to get through this pandemic. Maybe the 2020s will become our roaring twenties. Oh, what we have to look forward to....

God’s Peace,
Tish Germain
Co -Chair
150th Anniversary Celebration



From the Women’s Prison Ministry Outreach

First, I would like to thank Grace Episcopal Church for the gift of new funding for 2021. I would also like to thank Interfaith Center for Racial Justice and Carol Sullivan for providing office equipment to continue the Women’s Prison Ministry Outreach during the Covid-19 pandemic. Just when I thought that this ministry had ended due to the pandemic, God sent you all to the rescue once again. I have missed you all very much.

I am happy to share with you that I continue to be in close contact with the original five imprisoned women throughout this time. Two of them became infected with Covid-19. Both have since recovered and are doing well, but the conditions that they endured were deplorable and inhumane. For several months, they were under lockdowns 23 hours a day. They were not provided with meals or showers for extended periods of time. Correctional staff also suffered. Finally, the National Guard was called in and this brought great relief and assistance.

Following is a message from the mother of Brittny, one of our inmates. Brittny has a seven year old son named Tony who is being cared for by her mother. The Prison Ministry was able to give Tony a \$100 gift card. It is so important to help the families as well as the women.

I am so grateful for the support and assistance from Mary and the prison ministry! It has been such a blessing and so helpful. My grandson Tony gets so excited when gifts come from his mom through this program. I am truly appreciative for Mary's thoughtfulness and prayers which keep my spirits up during my daughter's incarceration.
Alisha K.

The reason I feel prison ministry is so important is that the day that Jesus died for all our sins on that cross, two criminals were crucified alongside him. One repented, and he went to Paradise that day with Jesus Christ our Savior.

Mary Williams



COVID-19 VACCINE CENTRAL

The Macomb County Health Department is responsible for making the COVID-19 vaccine available for citizens and those that work to protect us.

The following people are currently eligible to be vaccinated against the Coronavirus:

- Residents over the age of 65

These essential workers who live or work in Macomb County:

Paramedics and EMS workers, Home health and hospice workers, Other health care workers with direct or indirect contact with patients, School employees, Law enforcement and correctional officers, Workers in child care institutions, adult/child protective services and homeless shelters, All municipal employees, Persons who volunteer for any of the above.

New vaccination appointments open weekly on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. and close when all available doses have been allocated.

To schedule an appointment, call: 586-463-8777

Or, use the online scheduling system to make, confirm or cancel an appointment: www.macombgov.org/covidvaccine

March Birthdays

Rachel Graham 3/6	Shirley Rumpel 3/22
Diann Simmons 3/6	Deborah Warner 3/24
Nina DiGaetano 3/8	Gwen Sarns 3/25
Scot Lau 3/16	Nancy Johnson 3/27
Ernie Simon 3/21	Christa Carpenter 3/31



Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Visit our website and follow the link.
Or call: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015
Password: 683930

“B” BUCKS for Blessings in a Backpack

If your wallet has any dollar bills with B on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.



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.



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



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Currently

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays and Sundays at 4:30 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

2021 Vestry

Pam Sherry, Senior Warden

Jim Smith, Junior Warden,

Karen Davenport, Kris Eckert,

Ann Farrell, Brooke Lau, Martha Houser,

Marilee Racine, Tom Stotz

Treasurer: Tish Germain • Clerk: Tom Stotz

Grace Episcopal Church

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