



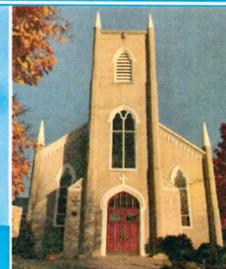
GRACE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Mount Clemens, Michigan

# Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church



February 2020



## GOD & TEARS

After our Blue Christmas service in December, I have talked with several people about their grief and how they don't like thinking about it because it makes them cry. In addition they felt embarrassed to be around people if they were crying so they would avoid talking about their sadness and would not come to church. Even though these are common reasons that people give, the reality is that during these times of struggle and sorrow the best place to be is in church!

All of these individuals were wrestling with something painful happening in their life that was monopolizing their thoughts and feelings. When this happens, we tend to pull back from people and from God and try to deal with it by ourselves. This often causes isolation, despair and depression.

Being overwhelmed and alone can disrupt our jobs, our relationships, our faith and stability. We have been socialized to believe that we can take care of ourselves and that we are supposed to always present a strong and confident demeanor. Tears, however, reveal a softer side to us that many people view as a sign of weakness. So in an effort to maintain a sense of control some of us try at all costs not to cry in front of anyone and if we do, we apologize. The reality, however, is that tears have a healing effect and feeling bad about expressing them is not always helpful.

Whether they are tears of sadness, frustration, pain, fear, guilt or joy, tears always signify that we are overcome with some emotion or experience and our body needs a release.

Tears remind us that we cannot and should not try to keep our emotions bottled up inside.

Tears connect us to our humanity, to our imperfections to our hopes and dreams. Tears push us to admit that we are not in total control, that we need assistance because we cannot make it through this life on our own. We need each other for comfort, consolation, encouragement and support. Tears bind us to our relationships – with self, others and God.

We cry at those moments when we are most vulnerable, when we have let down our guard and allowed the outside world to come in. Our tears pour forth when something or someone has touched us so deeply. These are the moments we realize that there is something greater than ourselves. Tears link us to the reality that we are incomplete, that we are missing something and that we long for wholeness, restoration and reconciliation.

In short, we are longing for God.

Think about it. What does God desire most of all? I think it is our complete trust and faith and our acknowledgment that we need God in our lives. Often the only time we may actually admit this is when we are most vulnerable – when joy, sadness, loss, illness or pain surround us. It is at these times that our tears begin to flow and we are most open to allowing God into our lives. Tears tell us that God is with us, right now in the midst of everything.

I firmly believe that tears are a sign that God is surrounding us, loving us and holding us in that very moment.

Christian community should be an open, understanding place where we can express our pain, sorrow and joy. God wants us to bring our entire selves to worship and place all of our thoughts and feelings in front of the altar so that we may be healed and made whole.

So the next time you find yourself fighting back tears - let them flow and look for the presence of God within and around you. It may be God knocking on the door to your heart!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

## Worship Opportunities

### All are Welcome



Sunday, February 2  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, February 9  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, February 16  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, February 23  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Ash Wednesday, February 26  
12 pm and 6:30 pm, Holy Communion



## February Birthdays

SUZANNE LAMONTAGNE 2-6  
 TISH GERMAIN 2-8  
 JANET POUCHER 2-8  
 VIVIAN DUSINA 2-11  
 LAURA CRAWFORD 2-12  
 HOWARD ROSSO 2-12  
 SUSAN FOX 2-15  
 JANET SEEWALD 2-24  
 HELEN FITZGIBBON 2-28  
 ULRIKE LAMB 2-28



Celebration	Date
<u>Wedding Anniversary</u>	Feb 16 2020
<u>Ministries (Church)</u>	Mar 15 2020
<u>Confirmation Anniversary</u>	April 19 2020
<u>Mother's Day</u>	May 17 2020
<u>Father's Day</u>	June 21 2020
<u>1870 Mass</u>	July 19 2020
<u>Future Worship</u>	Aug 16 2020
<u>Outreach ministries</u>	Sept 20 2020

For our February 16<sup>th</sup> celebration we will be honoring the weddings here at Grace or locally by Grace's pastors through the years. We will have a blessing of all married couples in attendance and reminisce about your special moments. Whether or not you can attend, please send your wedding photos to [gracemtclemens@yahoo.com](mailto:gracemtclemens@yahoo.com) or by mail so we can include you in our display. Please RSVP by February 3<sup>rd</sup> the latest so we can prepare for this special occasion. RSVP to the above email or by phone: 586-465-4573.

Anyone who wishes to help prepare for this event is welcome to join the committee meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> in social hall at 6PM. Any questions feel free to contact Ann Strevel or Tish Germain

## Priests emphasize peace and justice after Seattle-area Episcopal churches vandalized on MLK Day

By David Paulsen [Episcopal News Service] Clergy members in the Diocese of Olympia, in the wake of an outbreak of vandalism at their churches over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, have responded with messages of love that invoke King's own words advocating peace and justice in the face of hatred.

The vandalism at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington, defaced a white outer wall of the church.

The diocese had no information that any other churches were targeted or that the attacks were connected, Josh Hornbeck, the diocese's communications director, told ENS.

Hate-filled graffiti that singled out the LGBTQ community and Muslims was found on a door at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Seattle, Washington, over the holiday weekend, according to the diocese, which didn't give an exact date. The Rev. Britt Olson, vicar at St. Luke's, said in a statement released by the diocese that the graffiti was discovered quickly, before most arriving worshippers could notice it.

The church also has received threatening letters, emails and phone calls, "for its mission of caring for those on the margins," Olson said. The attacks have been "deeply disturbing" and "it is infinitely worse to know that this hatred is the daily experience for many in our community."

At St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, black paint was sprayed on a white wall forming a message in bold letters that included the phrases "Marxist Idiots" and "Wake Up!" The Very Rev. Steven Thomason, dean of the cathedral, wrote that he assumed the message was intended to provoke anger, but he felt a greater sadness upon first seeing it. "I find myself prayerful – for those whose lives are filled with such hatred that they can justify desecrating a church, for this community that we might bring the fullness of our hearts and souls into this call to be the Body of Christ ... and for this nation whose political discourse seems to condone acts such as this vandalism as justifiable in the course of partisan disagreements," Thomason said in a written statement.

In Everett, north of Seattle, vandals spray-painted inverted crosses on the main doors at Trinity Episcopal Church on the evening of the King holiday, Jan. 20. To remove the graffiti, the doors must be sanded and re-stained, the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton said. She noted that King preached "that love on the level of society looks like justice."

Thomason, in his statement, quoted King's reassurance that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington, put a large banner across its wall until the recent graffiti could be painted over. Photo: St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

"We have work to do my friends, in the cause of justice," Thomason said. "Let us do so in God's name, with courage and faithfulness."

The cathedral's plan to immediately paint over the graffiti has been delayed by cool, damp weather in the region, cathedral communications director Gregory Block told ENS by email. "Our solution was to conceal the message by re-purposing a banner that was last used in 2014 for a visit by author Karen Armstrong," he said.

The giant banner contains just two words: "Love Wins."





Sunday Soup Kitchen  
Motor City Archery members donated hygiene products, socks and made bagged lunches for our guests. One of the Archery members wives is a teacher and her class collected hygiene products and socks for 4 weeks before Christmas. The stu-



dents also made fleece scarves for our guests with a cheery Santa face and a hand printed Merry Christmas message. Another example of loving kindness and generosity of our community.

**SHROVE PANCAKE SUNDAY February 23, 2020**

Yes, you read that correctly! We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on Sunday! Please join us for a pancake breakfast after the second service on that day. There will be special music and a recessional parade to the social hall in keeping with Mardi Gras tradition. Never heard of Shrove Tuesday and pancakes? Come and find out what it is all about!



**PALMS** Please bring your palms from last year with you on Shrove Pancake Sunday and we will ceremonially burn them and use the ashes on Wednesday.



**ASH WEDNESDAY February 26, 2020** Lent is almost here!

We will begin this liturgical season on Ash Wednesday with two services at 12:00 pm and 6:30 pm. There will be ashes and communion at both services so we hope you are able to join us at one of those times.



Laurie from FreeStar Financial in Mount Clemens delivered several boxes of hats, gloves and socks collected from their office's Giving Tree. They are being distributed to families or individuals who come to the Food Pantry and Community Supper.



**THE CONSECRATION OF THE REV. DR. BONNIE A. PERRY**

February 8 @ 10:30 Am - 2:00 Pm

**Details:**

Date: Saturday, February 8

Time: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Website: [www.edomi.org/consecration](http://www.edomi.org/consecration)

**Venue:**

The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave

Dearborn, MI 48126

Phone: 313-943-2350

Website: <https://www.dearbornfordcenter.com/>



**Vestment Gifts for the Bishop-elect**

The Transitions Committee believe that it would be a lovely gesture for the people and congregations of our diocese to honor our Bishop-elect by contributing funds so that she can be gifted with sets of vestments in red and in a purple & blue shade. Each set will include a cope, mitre, chasuble and stole.

To add your contribution towards this gift from the people and congregations of the Diocese, go to [edomi.org/vestments](http://edomi.org/vestments). You will be directed to either donate via credit card through Paypal or to mail a check.

We invite everyone at Grace to consider making a donation toward the vestment gift for our bishop-elect. You may do so individually by following the directions above or you may put money or a check in an envelope marked Bishop Gift and put it in the offering plate on any Sunday in February. Please make checks payable to Grace and we will write one check to send in as our congregational donation.

**2020 FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, February 8th** Admission: \$15  
All event proceeds go to partnering ministries

**FAMILY FEUD Live**

Abigail's Ministries	Calls For All God's Children
Means 4 Homes	Love For A Child
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	Trinity Community Care

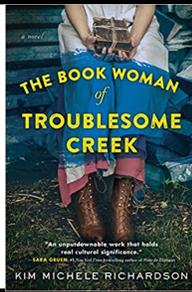
**LOCATION:**  
Lutheran High School North  
16825 24 Mile Rd.  
Macomb, MI 48042

**Event Schedule:**  
5:00 - Doors Open  
5:00 - Silent Auction Begins  
6:00 - Game One  
7:00 - Game Two  
7:45 - 8:00 - Silent Auction Ends  
8:00 - Game Three

For more information visit: [trinityutica.com/family-feud](http://trinityutica.com/family-feud)

**Trinity** ONE night - THREE Games - SIX teams - THIRTY Players  
Silent Auction Baskets - Appetizers & \$6,000 in Prizes!

**Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm here at Grace. They will be discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson. If you have questions, please see Ann Strelv.



**“B” BUCKS for Blessings in a Backpack**  
If your wallet has any dollar bills with B on them, please put them in the offering plate to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.



**KNITTING & CROCHETING MINISTRY** will meet on Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 in the Parish Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those who want to be are welcome. Please call Rosemary at 586-719-9693 or Mimi at 586-359-3346 to let them know you are coming so they can update you of any changes. Yarn will be provided.



**Absalom Jones Celebration**

Feb 23, 4pm, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry, Bishop-elect, invites the People of the Diocese of Michigan to attend a Choral Evensong commemorating the life and ministry of The Rev. Absalom Jones, Prophet, Priest and Pastor. The Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont will preach.



**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Thursday, April 2, 1-7 pm,  
in the Parish Hall Schedule online at [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Code: GRACE , or see Martha Houser



**Becoming the Beloved Community**  
On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, our Becoming Beloved Community conversation continues with a focus on the New York Times 1619 Project which looks at the history and consequences of the first Africans being brought to Virginia as slaves in 1619. We as a church and a nation need to have these honest conversations about how slavery has shaped our country, the problems that we still face and ways that we can address these issues.

**February Meetings and Events**  
Bible Study between services in the Guild Room every Sunday  
Yoga Thursdays downstairs 7 pm  
Sat, Feb 8, 10:30 am..... Prayer Group Meeting  
Mon, Feb 10, 6 pm.....150th Anniversary Mtg  
Mon, Feb 10, 6:30 pm.....Vestry Meeting

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
115 South Main Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
Office 586-465-4573 Fax 586-463-9162  
Email: [gracemtclemens@yahoo.com](mailto:gracemtclemens@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://www.gracechurchmtclemens.org)  
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 am–4:00pm

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES**  
**COMMUNITY SUPPERS**  
Sundays at 5:00 pm (November-March)  
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, year-round  
**GRACE FOOD PANTRY**  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
**BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**  
Sending weekend food home for 300 needy Mt. Clemens schoolchildren. Backpacks are packed on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm during the school year.  
**McLAREN MOBILE CLINIC**  
Free medical care in our parking lot 8:00 am—11:00 am the **THIRD TUESDAY** of every month.  
*All outreach ministries welcome volunteers, financial, food and clothing donations Call the Church Office for more information at 586-465-4573.*

**Grace Episcopal Church Staff**  
**Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik**  
Cell: 203-641-2068  
Email: [pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto: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, Gay Gillespie,  
Charlie Carroll, Martha Houser,  
Tom Stotz, Nicki Urban,  
Treasurer: Janet Seewald • Clerk: Tom Stotz