

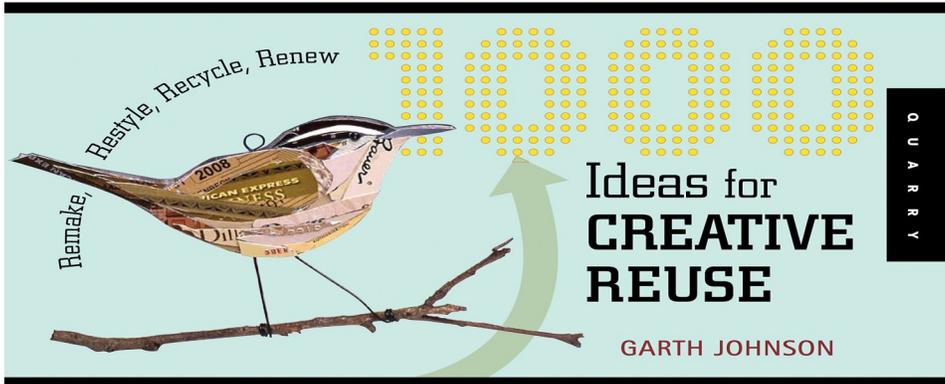
Good News from *Grace*



March 2020
Volume 1 Issue 3

Our Purpose

The purpose of our church is to make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.



GRACE YOUTH GROUP (GYG) SCHEDULE

APRIL 2020

- 4/5 Palm Sunday TBD
- 4/10 JYG & GYG Local Service Day TBD
- 4/19 4:30pm GYG Game Day TBD

MAY 2020

- 5/3 4:00pm National Youth Gathering Planning Meeting GYG Night
- 5/17 Last GYG Night Sunday Sundae Ushering & Coffee Hour
- 5/31 Graduation Sunday



Look for the book above in your local libraries or online

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

Join us via [Livestream](#) on Sunday, March 29th at 9:30am to hear Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes, Associate Professor of Worship at Union Theological Seminary in New York, in the pulpit as part of our "reLent" series focusing on our calling to care for creation. *Dr. Carvalhaes is a regular worshipper at Grace - you may have seen him sitting with his family on Sunday mornings: Katie, Libby, Cici, and Ike!*

A NOTE FROM PASTOR COVER...

In this crisis, we are called as church to heed Paul's words and to "pray without ceasing" - 1 Thessalonians 5. I have heard first-hand how our own members working in healthcare are overwhelmed—both emotionally, carrying a huge responsibility, and physically, with unrealistic demands. That doesn't even include the risk they take to contract the virus themselves as they care for those in need.

In this time we find ourselves in, I call on our church to pray for all medical professionals, healthcare workers, and all who work in public healthcare workers, and all who work in public health. Please send us the names of people you know that we can specifically pray for in this way — a friend, neighbor, old college roommate, or church member that you would like us to hold in prayer. Email them to the church office, or to Pastor Cover, or call us and leave a voicemail.

We will share the list with our congregation, so everyone can hold these names in prayer during the week, and we will lift them up as we gather together remotely on Sunday mornings for our livestream worship +Pastor Virginia Cover

Grace Church will continue to remain closed for worship and public activities through March 31st, per the bishop's recommendation. This is an evolving situation, and the closure could be longer.

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We hold in prayer especially this week...

Debbie Aldridge, Joyce Allan, Pastor Evan Houck, Sis Hoffman, Amy Downs, Garry Murray, James Silcox, Dave Buchanan, David Feaser, Tim Butler, David Ozimok, Janet Gordon, Art Hall, Sr., Vernon Frazier, Barbara D., Sue Daniella, Dean Jury, Charlie Buchanan, Tricia Snavely, Brad Bert, and the Family & Friends of Larry Sayre.

We hold in ongoing prayer...

Diane Brokenshire, David Harman III, Howard Lauver, Priscilla Walter, Caroline Witmer, Paulette Lauver, Lesly Richards, Elijah Conroy, Delores Miller, Frank Blizzard, Jim Stoll, Susan Blumberg, Lisa Leen, Eileen McCann, Mary Heverling, Mike Lutz, John Eck, Destiny Glenn, and Reinhard C.

We also hold our shut-ins in prayer:

John Hench, Shirley Hughes, John Shuey, Phyllis Patterson, John Titzel, Jane Peters, Betty Bennett, Phyllis Probst, Harlow Fluevog, and Dick Cromer.

In our military:

Charles Hildebrand, Corey Latsha, Alex Robison, Larry G. Lackey and Gabriel Bailey.

CALLED TO BE CHURCH

Earlier this year we had a sermon series on how we as Christians are "Called to be Church". Now is the time to step up and make this happen. We are committed to providing assistance to those in need during this crisis, specifically via the benevolence fund Pastor Cover uses to assist individuals and families with grocery cards and utility bills, as well as through the Giving Pantry. The Giving Pantry will be by appointment (out of virus concerns) - or by a drive-through service on Wednesdays from 3:00pm—6:00pm. They can, also, deliver needed items and leave them on a doorstep. Please call GarriAnn directly if you wish to schedule a deliver at 717-856-2760 or Hearn2003@comcast.net.

If you wish to help with The Giving Pantry contact GarriAnn Hearn. The number of volunteers she can have a one time is limited. West Shore School District is packing

the boxes so there is a tight schedule as to who can be helping. GarriAnn is thinking of doing "Soup & Sandwiches to Go" next week for the meal. If anyone is willing to make soup or donate cans of soup that would be great! Contact her if you are interested in helping this way.

Assistance for congregational members who need help obtaining groceries or other necessary items is, also, available. Please call the church office and leave us a message (we will retrieve it), or call Pastor Cover directly at 717-525-4617. We are here to serve you.

The Sunday School families are making cards for our isolated members as well. Thank you to everyone who is helping serve and care for one another in this time.



Assistance for congregational members who need help obtaining groceries or other necessary items is, also, available.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is posting a sign up genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DADA623ABF94-food>) for food that would be appreciated during this time. They also plan on taking food to their families in transitional housing as well as past guests. The sign up genius didn't give individual slots for each item so please list in the comments how much of something you will be giving.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

New Hope Ministries is calling on healthy volunteers who can give their time to ensure that food services and other essential programs can continue. If you are interested in volunteering please call The West Shore Center, Bosler Ave. Lemoyne (717) 774-6255 or The Mechanicsburg Center, Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg (717) 766-7333.

We are also appealing to the generosity of our supporters and communities to donate funds to support our essential services during a time of expected reduced support and increased need.

[Click here to donate online to New Hope Ministries](#)



BUNNY POTLUCK

Because the closure of schools until April 6, the Bunny potluck will be postponed to a later date. Look for updates on the website, Facebook or by calling 717-737-0439 ext. 14.

ONLINE AND MOBILE APP GIVING

Our new and secure giving portal is up! Just in time for us to give online—right on our website (or, on an app on your phone) and keep our church afloat during this time. We are continuing to pay bills and staff; we want to have a church when this is all over! Thank you for your contributions! For more about the online giving go to <https://www.gracecamphill.org/give>



Don't have a computer or a smartphone. No problem you can mail in your contribution to the church: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - 1610 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill PA 17011

DAY CAMP AT GRACE

Come for a week of fun in a Christian community setting **June 22-26th at Grace Church from 8:30am - 4:30pm**. Open to all K-5th graders based on the grade they completed in 2020. The camp will be led by trained staff from the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA.

Attendees will need to pack a lunch and we will provide the snacks and fun! In addition to the camp-style fun, games, and singing, we will spend one afternoon at a local pool, and one afternoon bowling!

At the end of the week on Friday at 4:30pm family & friends can join us at Kentland for a celebration.

Cost per Camper: \$ 150.00/week

Drop off up to 9:00am and pick up after 4:00pm will be here at the Church (1610 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill), but some days will be spent at Kentland. For Registration and payment information go to

www.gracecamphill.org/daycamp.



At-home worship resources will be shared next week as we prepare for the possibility of a Holy Week spent at home.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Due to the Governor closing all non-life sustaining business we are no longer able to take Easter Flower Orders.

If you purchased flowers we will still be receiving them and using them in the church some future date. After that service you will be able to take your potted lilies or tulips home with you.

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATIONS VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE



We are having a Virtual Campfire! But we need your help. Post a video of your family singing a favorite camp song or performing a skit. Tag us in the upload and use #lccKirchenwald #lccNawakwa #lccVirtualCampfire or send the video to campfire@lutheran camping.org and we'll upload it. Then check out our social media pages for uploaded videos.



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|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Connie Angus | Ted Evans | Herbert Linderer, Jr | Clair Smith |
| Earl Artz | Eric Flook | Benjamin Long | Kim Smith |
| William R. Barlup, II | Jaxson Flook | Louis Lore | Theresa Snyder |
| Ann Barnett | Tanya Flook-Cuevas | Charles McInnes | James Statler |
| James Bectel | Jacob Gabler | Alexander McQuade | Stephen Sultzaberger |
| Lois Boor | Ian Gainor | Ray Miller | Bonnie Taylor |
| Gloria Boyer | Madeleine Glidewell | Connor O'Haren | Charles Thomas, III |
| Cashlyn Bozart | Janet Gordon | John Ozimok | Joyce Thomas |
| Reed Bozart | Gavin Graves | Matthew Ozimok | Stephanie Thomas |
| Cynthia Briel | Liam Gunnett | Jessica Painter | Kim Trout |
| Diane Brokenshire | Gregory Hartman | Kathryn Perella-Carvalhes | Bryan Weber |
| Laura Brouse | Mitchell Hearn | Brandon Potteiger | Kamryn Weber |
| Caroline Buchanan | Amy Helmuth | Sharon Potteiger | Bonnie Young |
| Megan Clista | Brandon Hoover | Elaine Price | Danny Zimmerman |
| Angela Cramer | Sean Hyser | Jeffrey Ramsey | Josaphine Zimmerman |
| Kelly Curran | Joseph Jackson | Ray Ramsey | Thomas Zimmerman |
| Amy Evans | Rachel Jacoby | Ruth Rhoads | |
| | Elizabeth Jury | Becky Rohrbeck | <i>Note: Due to privacy</i> |
| | Allison Kirsch | Cole Ryder | <i>issues we will only be</i> |
| | Kimberly Kirsch | Lori Ryerson-Mains | <i>listing the names of those</i> |
| | Sherry Kiser | Larry Sayre | <i>born during the month</i> |
| | Michael Klaiber | Kaden Scharein | <i>instead of listing their</i> |
| | John Lane | Tyler Schurtz | <i>actual birthday in the</i> |
| | Donna Leisenring | Valerie Sheaffer | <i>newsletter.</i> |

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

The hymn that I want to share with you today is ELW 574, Here I am Lord. It comes to us via GIA Publications and Daniel Schutte. When we left our parish in Ohio in 2000 to move to Pennsylvania I remember listening to a recording of this hymn as I was driving down the Pennsylvania turnpike. It was a difficult move for me but the words "I will go Lord if you lead me" gave me some comfort that I was doing the right thing and that He would be with me. During this time of isolation may the words of this hymn give us comfort that God is in control and he will be with us.

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom Shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied, I will give my life to them. Who Shall I send?

REFRAIN:
Hear I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

During our separation from each other may God uphold you in all ways. Maybe this is the time when we draw a little closer to our God. Soli deo Gloria! May God be with you all!

Carolyn Houck

MUSIC SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"
April 12th (Easter Sunday)
\$ 62.50 Choral
\$ 40.00 Instrumental

"Jesus Shall Reign"
April 12th (Easter Sunday)
\$ 48.75 Choral
\$ 40.00 Instrumental

INTO THE UNKNOWN: SERMON FOR MARCH 18

A midweek sermon for March 18, 2020.

Well, its Day 4 or 5 of social distancing, depending on when you started counting. Early on yet, in many ways, and yet the longest days of our lives for some of us. I have seen posts on social media with warnings—no, not really about the increasing spread of this virus, but about the dwindling mental state of your extroverted friends! They can't get out and socialize. Other posts I have seen from young parents, who suddenly have their kids at home 24-7 with no places to take them for entertainment, like Sky Zone, because its closed, along with everything else. They are saying things like, "pep talks for each other is how we get through the day," and "I have homeschooled for 3 days, and I'm here to tell you, teachers need a billion dollars more a year than they currently get paid!"

In our congregation, we are especially concerned for our seniors, for those in the at-risk category with this virus for complications, which is anyone with a preexisting condition, and anyone over 65 or 70. Our Council took a list of members who are 70+ and divided it up and are calling each and every one of them just to make sure they are ok. Another member emailed and confessed, "I cannot imagine being at home alone with no visitors in the near future... What can we do for these folks?" Which birthed an idea – have young kids make cards and drawings for them, and older kids engage in a pen-pal type arrangement, and send it all through the mail.

We are all trying to navigate unknown territory, in this time and place. Even the preachers had to change their sermons mid-paragraph last weekend, and shift the focus from the woman at the well to the coronavirus. God bless us all, we are trying our best.

At our house, we have been trying to keep a normal "school schedule" on some level, but we are admittedly also catching up on family-friendly films in the evenings. Mrs. Doubtfire was a big hit last night; the night before we re-watched the latest Frozen movie, which had the unintended consequence of songs from the film getting stuck in our heads. We walked around all day singing "into the unknown," literally – just those words, because who remembers the verses? *Into the unknown.*

Verses aside, the chorus in that song is the best music for our time, I think. Every day here as we social distance, as we make decisions about what to close and what to leave open, whether or not its worth it to go out to the grocery store, and when and if Easter will happen as it has in the past – everyday is a journey "into the unknown," right there with Elsa and Anna and Olaf and Sven.

When you break down the film's plotline, Elsa does go into the unknown, and what she discovers is a familial connection – that she & Anna's mother is from the Northuldra tribe, not just Arendelle as they thought; and that they, as descendants of their mother, are descendants of this ancient people, who respect the earth and its magic. This journey into the unknown leads them to discover the truth about their ancestor's greed and mistrust of others – their grandfather built the dam to keep the Northuldra people contained and then he killed their leader by stabbing him in the back. Going into the unknown, the daughters can't undo the past, but they can pave the way for a new future, a different and more just future – starting with destroying the dam, and telling the truth about the past.

Before a worldwide pandemic happened, our church had taken up a theme for Lent and these midweek services of reLent—"spiritual and practical ways to renew our calling to care for creation." Our appointed scripture for today was Leviticus 25: 1-7, what we call in short "The Sabbath of the Land." I was going to talk about soil, and how it has the power to hold carbon, and agricultural practices, and I was going to consult my soil scientist cousin and it was going to be an amazing ode to the power of dirt. But that was three weeks ago, when I picked it. Yesterday, I was going to scrap it altogether, in favor of something more virus-relevant. But then I realized nothing could be more relevant.

Its part of a long speech, the giving of the law at Sinai to the people, a people who had just left everything they knew back in Egypt, and had crossed the sea, into the unknown. When you think about it that way, and our own unknown state of things, you can begin to see how the people viewed this law as a gift-not a punishment. Its like "here is way to live now, here are some practices to keep and guidelines as you navigate the unknown." I could use some of those right about now, how about you?

Every section in the speech begins, "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people and say to

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them....” Our chapter reads like this: The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: ²Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. ³Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵You shall not reap the after growth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. ⁶You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you; ⁷for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.”

HOW GRACE STAFF AND LEADERS ARE WORKING IN THE PANDEMIC

Our staff is committed to serving our congregational members and community, even when we cannot be physically present with many of you. Here are a few ways we are continuing to serve:

CHURCH OFFICE

Even though our church office is closed to the “public”, we have one staff person, Wendy, in the office working Monday - Thursdays to keep things running. She is able to retrieve messages from our voicemail system regularly, check the mail, and help our volunteers get connected to each other and to the projects they may be helping with.

Our custodian, Ed, continues to go about his regular work -- a lot of cleaning, of course! But, also, regular maintenance, and many small projects that are usually saved “for later” when he has time.

Diane, who puts together our Grace News and enters contributions, works from home. She has remote access to pretty much everything, enabling work to continue as usual.

Chris continues to come into the office, using the desk in the small conference room (rather isolated) to pay our bills and handle receipts.

Pastor Cover works from home and works from the office.

WORSHIP STAFF

Bonnie and Carolyn are working closely with Pastor Cover to plan and offer weekly live stream worship services with meaningful messages and music. Tune in every Sunday at 9:30am! Chris runs the camera from the balcony, making it all possible. In addition, we are preparing Holy Week services using the limited information we have about dates when we can gather in groups larger than 10 or 50.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Jesse will be gathering together our youth and young people on various occasions to check-in, give tips on “remote schooling”, hold everyone in prayer, and even host a virtual GYG Night! Our new Zoom account at the church helps us with these technological feats!

PASTOR EVAN

Pastor Evan hopes to use our new Zoom account to hold weekly Bible Study. Stay tuned for more information! Pastor Evan has instructed our Lay Eucharistic Ministers to call their homebound members weekly to check in on them.

OUR COUNCIL

Our church council communicates regularly via email, and now we will have regular Zoom meetings to stay up to date and make decisions as needed. In addition, they have divided up members in the congregation aged 70 and over to call weekly and check-in on. If there are others you think should be on our list, we would appreciate your help with those names. Email or call the church office.

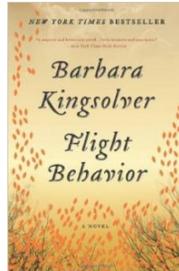
THIS MONTH AT GRACE

The **Sanctuary Lamp for March** is given by Pat Good in memory of husband, Jim and in celebration of our family.

The **Special Benevolence for March** is **ELCA World Hunger**. Please indicate "ELCA World Hunger" on the front of offering envelope under Comments, and make checks payable to GELC.

STAYING CONNECTED ,,,

The membership directory that is on the website has recently been updated with phone numbers and email addresses. You will need a password to access it. If you do not have it please call the church office at 717-737-0439 or email gelc@comcast.net and we can send it out to you.



BOOK & DESSERT CLUB

Since book club was canceled on Tuesday, March 24th we will be discussing the book "Flight Behavior" on **Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00pm.**

Be sure to keep updated via website, Facebook or by calling 717-737-0439 ext. 14.

IN MEMORY

Dr. Larry Sayre passed away on March 18th. The family held a family only service due to COVID-19 and plan to hold a Celebration of Life at a later date. We hold his family and friends in prayer.



reLent Resources

Click on the links below for instructions on "How to use a reLent box" and reLent Devotional booklets. Call the church if you need it mailed to you.

[How to use a reLent box](#)

[reLent Devotional Booklet 1](#)

[reLent Devotional Booklet 2](#)

Good News from Grace articles are due by 12:00pm on Tuesdays. Email to gelc@comcast.net

Join us for Worship!

Sundays at 9:30 AM

[via Livestream](#)

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Livestream available at
www.gracecamphill.org

Sundays September to May
at 10:45AM

Sunday School for ALL ages!



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