

GraceFull Visions

JUNE 2020

From the Deacons' Desk

Watch out! Be aware and be ready. June starts the season of storms, and, boy oh boy, are we in one now!

Yikes, there are so many distractions in our world. Noisy noise, social media, selfishness, doubt, jealousy and envy, hatred, impatience, loud music, people going the wrong way in Publix, not wearing masks or getting into your personal space. (Stay away 8-10 feet.)

A former prisoner of war for 8 years, US Navy Admiral James Stockton and Damien Echols who spent 18 years in prison for wrongful murder, gave insight for "stormy" times:

1) We must have faith that we will prevail in the end, but we must also confront the brutal facts of our current reality. As awful as our reality might be

right now, we will prevail because we have faith in the power of human love, in creativity, in resilience, in goodness and humor. God is the source of all this and it's never ending so the supply is limitless.

2) Don't live for the future. Don't constantly think about when this storm will be over. Don't allow yourself to have constant fear. It's a waste of energy to look to the future. We just don't know about the storms to come. We will prevail.

We have this day, today.

We encounter all sorts of storms in our lives. Weather, personal, inner emotional, work related, financial, COVID 19, change in our daily routine, etc. Storms that scare us, worry us, confuse us. We feel alone.

Jesus has words for us. "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ... So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:27, 34)

After every storm a newness arrives. With Jesus, we are not alone, and we can see and hear things differently. We may be more kind to our neighbor, we may hear or see something new, or we may step back from the way we were and simply say, "Wow! The Holy Spirit is walking alongside us, helping to guide us in the way of the Lord."

Let's try to start each day with prayer and Jesus BEFORE anything else distracts us.

Worship Update

At its June 9th meeting, the Congregation Council voted to refrain from gathering for worship in the Sanctuary until at

least PHASE 3 of Florida's "Re-Opening" process. In the meantime work will continue on planning what worship

will look like in this new COVID-19 reality. Input from the congregation as a whole will be an important part of this process. In

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Watch out, be aware and be ready to allow Jesus to guide us through any storm and give us hope for a new life.

A wise person told me she wakes every day and asks the Lord "to renew a right Spirit within me."

Be ready for the right Spirit to renew you no matter what storm hits.

- Deacons Susi and Frank

the meantime, our online services will continue. To access, go to our website:

GraceCLW.com

Stewardship

As mentioned multiple times, “Stewardship is how we care for what has been given us”.

What we have been given, recently, is the Covid19 pandemic. It would be silly to say that our duty is to care for this virus. What is not silly is to address how we deal with the effects of the virus: how we protect ourselves and others whose lives are impacted by the disease.

We have little control over the virus other than following the guidelines set forth by our

medical and scientific authorities: stay distant, wash hands, wear facial protection, etc.

What we, as stewards, can do is be cognizant of our personal vulnerability, and that of those close to us and the population we encounter in our daily traffic. Relying on the strength that comes through our prayer life, we can reach out to our church members with cards, letters, phone calls or e-mails to offer encouragement, support and spiritual unity.

As we are able, we can respond to our community and neighbors with supplements to food banks, clothing distribution and similar basics.

When we focus on the possibilities within reach of each of us, personal stewardship becomes a joy, and not a burden.

Your Stewardship Team

May Income

	5/3/20	5/10/20	5/17/20	5/24/20	5/31/20	Category Total:
Pledged Giving:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Giving	\$1,635.00	\$5,428.00	\$1,314.00	\$1,495.00	\$3,352.00	\$13,224.00
Dedicated Fund Giving	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$4.00	\$30.00	\$224.00	\$283.00
On-Line Pledged Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
On-Line Other Giving	\$251.10	\$805.50	\$191.10	\$561.10	\$382.20	\$2,191.00
Adaptive Service Offering	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$125.00
Total:	\$1,911.10	\$6,283.50	\$1,534.10	\$2,136.10	\$2,136.10	\$15,823.00
Total Towards Budget:	\$1,911.10	\$6,258.50	\$1,530.10	\$2,106.10	\$3,734.20	\$15,540.00

In addition, we received \$21,700 from the Federal Government as a PPP Loan on April 30, 2020. If we fulfill certain conditions, this becomes a grant. But until those conditions are met, it’s best not to consider it as unrestricted income. But even without including the PPP funds, we are only about \$13,000 in the “red”, which at this time of year is extraordinary progress towards “breaking even.”

Daily Devotionals

The church has received our supply of ‘Christ in Our Home’ devotionals for April, May, June 2020 as well as ‘Our Daily Bread’ for June, July, August 2020. If you would like to receive one of these, please contact Cindy in the church office and she will be glad to send it to you. Also through the end of June, Christ in Our Home is available as a daily email. Go here to sign up: <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>

Faith Community Nursing

Prayers for the health and safety of all. Hopefully, we are getting closer to the end of this horrible virus and isolation. We do need to continue self-isolation, wearing masks, and limited contact. It will be a glorious time when we all can gather again in our sanctuary and worship. Pastor Jeff has done an amazing job of broadcasting our services and communication with all of the congregation.

Life Link Screening was scheduled for May 16 at Grace. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled due to all of the mandates enforced in the attempt to lessen the effects of Covid-19. Sunday Falco will be rescheduling this important event when Life Link is once again available to perform the screenings. It could happen in the fall, but you will be notified as soon as possible. If you already have scheduled a screening, a new appointment can be scheduled

as soon as we have the new dates available. You can call 800-718-0961. When you do reschedule it might be helpful to notify the church office at 446-5026 in case of any changes.

We are always available for any questions, concerns of referrals. You can call Ellen Duncan at 727-940-3024 or eclotzduncan@gmail.com or Karen Crabbe at 727-647-6271 or kcrabbe@tampabay.rr.com.

Masks Update

Yvonne Hauschild continues to make masks for general use. If you would like two, (to help make sure you have a

clean one at all times), please contact Cindy at the Church Office to coordinate delivery. Yvonne is also very thankful

for all of the donations of materials and funds that have kept her busy.

Card Ministry

Volunteers are needed for the Card Ministry Committee. This includes sending greeting cards for birthdays, anni-

versaries, Christmas, etc. Stamps will be provided by the office. If you are interested, let Phyllis Dumdie know.

During this time of social distancing, the Card Ministry is especially important.

Giving to Grace Online

We now support online giving through a company called VANCO. Through them you can give directly to Grace using your checking account (an electronic check, which has no fees attached) or with a

debit card or credit card (we are charged fees for each of these transactions). If you do choose to use a credit/debit card, please consider including the offset option, which adds a small amount to help

cover the transaction fee. To make the online donation, go to our website at Grace-CLW.com and click on the "Give Here!" button in the upper right corner.

Lydia's Closet

In view of everything that has been going on, we, The Closet Crew, have decided to make some necessary changes...

For the past 10 years this outreach has become an important part of the Saturday Community Breakfast helping many in our neighboring communities. But we feel at this point we must simplify the closet in the following ways:

We definitely will continue to make health kits and we appreciate everyone who has donated travel size toothpaste, tooth brushes, tissues, body wash, soap and all other items. As traveling is out of the picture right now, if necessary, we will purchase such items with Lydia's Closet funds. Don't hesitate to ask your dentist for dental items...

Also, we feel it's important to distribute new underwear to

both men and women. Our new procedure is to separately bag each item in individual plastic bags with the size marked on front of each bag. We always appreciate donations, but again, we will purchase such items with our funds, if need be. As a reminder, we find our men like boxer type underwear. Don't forget ladies' undergarments such as bras and panties.

We found that many times the donations we receive are clothes which our homeless or less fortunate cannot wear. With that being said, we would appreciate any donations you drop off only be:

Men's and Women's jeans as well as khaki type pants, plain tee shirts (with no sorts of company logo) or casual shirts. Good condition sneakers or casual shoes. Works boots are always needed and baseball type caps are also appreciated. We do not need

men's or women's suits, dresses or fancy blouses. Please, no high heels, men's loafers or dress shoes.

The less fortunate can always use backpacks and luggage with wheels. Blankets and towels are always requested, but please no more household items.

For the safety and health of "the Crew" we will no longer be accepting any bags left outside the church doors. We have spent many hours going through bags of clothes and many times just re-bag and either send to the Salvation Army or throw out. This is so time consuming.

Thank you for being such a vital part of Lydia's Closet and please do not hesitate to call me, Florence B. if you have any questions or suggestions. I always welcome new input.

Duke Tieman's Special Ministry

This time of isolation especially among Assisted Living Facilities and similar communities has meant that many activities that would be provided to residents by folks from the larger community have been cancelled. At the Oaks of Clearwater where Duke Tieman lives, that meant that the Sunday morning worship services that normally were led by a rotation of local congregations of various denominations were can-

celled. But Duke Tieman stepped up for them, even though he himself rarely participated in the services. With continuous guidance from Pastor Jeff and using Grace's worship resources, Duke has led a Service of the Word for the residents every week since March. We even provided Duke with enough of the Communion kits at Pentecost for an additional twenty+ people to be able to receive Communion, some of them

for the first time since the pandemic forced the isolation of the residents. Please pray for Duke in this special ministry. He of course looks forward to the time when he can join the rest of the congregation in regular worship in Grace's sanctuary, but in the meantime he will continue to extend Grace's ministry of the Word to his fellow residents.

Personal Notes

Thank You

Thank everybody for so many kind letters and cards and messages of condolence and spiritual encouragement at this time of mourning our loss of Phyllis. Our faith in Christ is strong, and it is an Easter faith, as was hers also. We look forward to that day of resurrection when we will be united together in eternity with our Savior. God bless each of you and all of our family at Grace.

- From George Clark and Family

Thank You

A special note of thanks to all who have sent cards, greetings and phone calls during this time of "quarantine". It's such a blessing to be part of our Grace church family and to feel all that LOVE. I'm keeping everyone in prayer until we can again safely gather in person. - Gloria Holtzclaw

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for me during my illness. - Gail Elder



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RCS Food Donations Still Needed

During this difficult time, please continue to remember those who are food insecure. This is a most difficult time for many who have lost jobs, etc. You can still bring your items to Grace Church during office hours.

Or you can take them to RCS Food Pantry located on Druid Rd. at 503 S Martin Luther King Jr Ave, Clearwater. They request they be dropped off Monday - Friday in the mornings only, at the back door of the building, not the

side door. (They will not take food in glass containers.)

For your safety, all workers are screened for Covid-19 before they enter the building. Thank you.

Regular Event Updates

Groups on Hiatus

12 Steps Tranquil Mind
 Adult Sunday School
 Ballet Folklorico
 Book Club
 Confirmation
 Confirmation
 Deutche Kirche
 Elizabeth Circle
 Grace Choir
 Handbell Choir
 Men of Grace
 Movie Time
 Piano Lab
 Prayer Chapel
 Sones de Mexico
 Suncoast Symphony Orchestra
 Young @ Heart

Groups Still Meeting:

The next **Congregation Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 14** at 6:30 pm. It may be a video conference call, or a standard conference call.

Gophers are still meeting as they can qualify as “outdoor recreation” as long as participants practice physical distancing of at least 6’ from each other at all time and stay outside.

Community Breakfast & Lydia’s Closet

There will be a restricted Community Breakfast and Lydia’s Closet for June. But access to food and maintaining social distancing are the biggest challenges.

Zoom Video Conference Meetings and Gatherings

Besides connecting as a video conference call on Zoom, you can now also join in our Zoom gatherings using your regular telephone. The number to call is 301-715-8592 for any of our meetings. However, each meeting then has its own code. To make it work, call 301-715-8592 and then it will ask you to enter

the Meeting ID. Depending on which meeting you’re trying to join, use its specific code:

9:45am Service Pre-Gathering Meeting (Now starting at 9:15am)

Code: 258-749-478## (Yes, hit the “pound” key # twice.)

11:15am Service Pre-Gathering Meeting (Now starting at 10:45am)

Code: 413-743-908## (Yes, hit the “pound” key # twice.)

Prayer Chapel (Starting at 11:00 am every Tuesday)

Code: 408-431-583## (Yes, hit the “pound” key # twice.)

Event Coordinator’s Recent Activities

- Booked our 60th Anniversary and Christmas luncheon location and finalized menu.
- Working with Pastor Earnest from City of Praise; with any issues that may and have arisen during this sensitive time. Continue to work with the two Cleaning Services and

Shopping for much needed supplies.

- Filing forms with the County’s Free School Lunch Program for the Summer Camp and Community.

- Working with Grace Lutheran Church’s nine fulltime renters, scheduling, concerns

and any other matters that may arise.

- Staying in touch with new renters that have already made deposits, while waiting until the facility may be used.

June Birthdays

6/02 Anne Cousins
 6/03 Sue Cooperrider
 6/04 Iris Valentin
 6/06 Vicki Eis
 6/07 Dale Davis
 6/08 Carol Smitley
 6/09 Nicholas DeTrano
 6/18 Pr Jefferson Cox

June Anniversaries

6/06 Bob & Darby Graves
 6/07 Nova & Lorraine Bickell
 6/08 Steve & Dale Davis
 6/26 Tony & Pat Falco
 6/28 Jim & Maureen Bjorgo

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

Prayer Corner

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays as a Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/408431583> or call 301-715-8592 and then enter code 408-431-583## (Yes, hit the “pound” key # twice.) There’s also a link on the homepage of our website www.graceclw.com. Submit prayer requests online at: www.graceclw.com/prayer-request---congregation.html

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Bidle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, Rose Marie Piff, Gary Mostrum, Vici Kennedy, the family and friends of Rose Corbett, and George Floyd, and the over 100,000 people in the United States & the 350,000 people worldwide who have died from COVID-19, and those suffering from other natural disasters (including the flooding across the United States), violence, & terror.

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson, is stationed in San Diego. She is a mechanic in charge of maintaining aircraft.

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne Hauschild is in the Air Force. And has been deployed to one of the difficult locations. He is married with four children, and would appreciate your prayer.

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally. He works at Bayfront Health Hospital and attending college. No longer living at home.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart’s grandson. He is back in the States.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony’s granddaughter, was com-

missioned as a lieutenant. in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco.

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

*Constitutionally-Mandated
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting*

NEW! SPECIAL TIME AND PLACE!!

Saturday, June 27, 2020

7pm - 7:30pm

Outside Under the Grand Oak

Please wear a mask!

Limited Agenda Includes:

1. Election of New Council Members

And Maybe

2. Consideration of a Usage Agreement for a Pre-School