

Grace Presbyterian News

May 2017

The Day the Lights Went Out in Worship

From before church began on the morning of April 30, it appeared wise to prepare for the unexpected. The storms from Saturday night had already knocked out the electricity in some members' homes, as they reported upon arriving at church. On Sunday morning rain had come down in torrents. As Bette Davis put it in the movie *All About Eve*, "Fasten your seatbelts; it's going to be a bumpy night." At around 10:40 a.m. a few of us in the sanctuary noticed lights flickering – bearing witness to a possible power surge, the same phenomenon that knocked the organ out of service on Palm Sunday. But worship began with the organ functional and all proceeded normally until about the middle of the sermon, when another rain squall came along. The rain beat against the windows and the wind blew, even opening the west door at one point. Just as I was about to bring the sermon in for a landing the power went totally out. I would claim credit for that, but the timing was not quite pitch perfect. Unable to see my notes I did my best from memory. (Note to self: take a penlight into the pulpit from now on.) What to do next? Keep calm and carry on seemed the best plan. Our eyes adjusted to some degree to the situation. The candles shed some light my way and some worshippers got the lights on their phones to work. Jean calmly went to the piano for the hymn after the sermon and we proceeded through creed, prayer, offertory, Communion and hymns as though nothing had happened. We all just did the best we could with the little bit of light coming through the windows, the candles, or phone-enabled. After the service a couple of people remarked to me that the candle-lit mood was actually spiritually enhancing. I thought so too, at least as soon as I was convinced that I had enough light to see the Communion liturgy. As you know by now, I believe worship is the center of our life together, and this sacred hour should be interrupted for only the gravest of reasons. To me, the power outage was not any excuse to stop the service or even amend it. We carry on, not because we are so "tough," but because God meets us in worship in a way unlike any other, and the semi darkness was another way of meeting God.

How to become a Member of Grace Presbyterian Church by Pastor Mike Krech

We welcome all people to worship with us and be part of the life of Grace Presbyterian Church at a pace in a way that seems right for them. As I sometimes say, "We want to be welcoming without being pushy." But if you are not formally a member of Grace Presbyterian and would like to become a member, please know that we receive members in three ways. If you have never professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and you are ready to do this, then that is the first way. This can be accompanied or soon followed by your baptism. If have professed faith in Christ and you hold membership in another congregation, I can write to that church and ask them to transfer your membership to our church. If you have professed faith in Christ, but you are not on any other church's roll, then you can be received by re-affirmation of faith. Church membership is an appropriate way to indicate publicly your faith in Christ and to clarify your relationship with our particular congregation. I will be glad to discuss this with anyone who is considering it and answer questions that you may have.

Youth Flowerbed Project - Sunday, May 21

We will gather after worship to work on putting in a flowerbed outside the middle entrance of the building. Any willing adult volunteers are welcome to join us. Lunch will be provided. Please consider making a donation toward the purchase of flowers and supplies. This was postponed from April due to bad weather.

Game Night – Friday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Graduates

Please help us be aware of all graduates in the church family. We would love to recognize them in worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, or on a Sunday in May when they can be present, as their schedules require.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings in May

The Night Circle meets Monday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

The Day Circle meets Tuesday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

Weekly Events at Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday Prayer and Praise begins at 9:30 p.m. We sing and pray by name for those on the prayer list

Sunday School begins at 9:45 p.m.

Sunday Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

Bell choir rehearsal is held most Sundays after worship at about 12:00 noon.

Chapel for the Extended Care is held on Mondays (through May 15) at 4:15 p.m.

Choir rehearsals are held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

GrandPals read to children in the preschool on Fridays (through May 12) at 11:00 a.m.

A Financial Update from the Commitment Committee

For the first quarter of the year, the church's expenses exceeded its income by \$1,372. In a related matter, pledged offering for the first three months of 2017 was \$1,677 below expectations. The Commitment Committee would like to gently remind everyone who made a financial commitment to the church for 2017 to make every effort to stay current with your pledges. The budget for this year is balanced, and we are confident that our income will meet or exceed our expenses by year's end.

Help Needed in Maintaining the Church Grounds

As I'm sure you've noticed, the growing season has arrived, which means that there is much to be done in order to maintain the church grounds. We at Grace Presbyterian are committed to the idea of doing our own yard work on a volunteer basis rather than paying rather large sums of money to have it done for us. This noble principle encounters some difficulty from a practical standpoint given the size of the church's property. It's big, including the large field to the east of the church building. So there will be much mowing, edging, and trimming to be done from now until October. The church owns several gas-powered string trimmers, two push mowers, one of which is self-propelled, and a zero-turn riding mower. The trimmers and push mowers are easy to operate. But if you haven't used a zero-turn mower before, you will need a little training before you are ready to use it. It's not hard to use, just a little tricky. We know that most of us don't view yard work as fun, but it's good exercise, and you'll be helping the church keep our grounds attractive and be good stewards of our financial resources. If you'd like to help, contact Kevin Bopp, chairman of the Property Committee. Any help that some additional volunteers can give will be greatly appreciated.

Visitors in Worship who signed the register in March and April 2017

Charles Bagwell; Bill Britton, Millington; TC Campbell, Memphis; Milton and Diana Chambley, Bartlett; Paul Chapman & Alyssa Van Blaricom, Broomfield, CO; James Cockcroft, Bartlett; Jennifer Collins, Kansas City, MO; Gabriel Davenport, Bartlett; Keith and Turid Dulin, Bartlett; Greg Elmore, Bartlett; Nadiyah Gibbs, Memphis; Ken and Dori Hathaway; Sherry Hathaway Hodges, Lee's Summit, MO; Russell Jones, Bartlett; Joe King, Russellville, AR; Ryan, Addie, and Will Krech, Destin, FL; Roseann and Dan Mayo, Bartlett; Shawn McGoldrick, Memphis; Don and LindaJo McKim, Germantown; James and Sheryl Moroschak and family, Bartlett; Linda G. Perry, Bartlett; Hollie Price, Bartlett; Quinn Family, Bartlett; Smith Family, Largo, FL; Anna and Steve Tate, Bartlett; Ted, Kim, Samantha, Emily, Olivia Upshaw, Bartlett; Roger and Ann Wade, Bartlett; Steve White, Olive Branch; Linda Young, Bartlett.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care	2	3 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Blake Ragghianti</i>	4 12:00 noon National Day of Prayer Japanese Garden behind city hall	5 11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers	6 <i>Karen Wilson Hicks Matthew Washburn</i>
7 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Easter 4 Lunch at Pinecrest	8 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care 7:00 pm PW Night Circle	9 10:00 a.m. PW Day Circle	10 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers	13
14 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship/ Easter 5	15 4:15p Chapel for Extended Care 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg	16 <i>Rickie Cooke</i>	17 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship Easter 6	22	23	24 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Jane McGoldrick</i>	25 Ascension Day	26 6:30 pm Game Night	27
28 9:30Prayer&Praise 9:45SundaySchool 11:00 Worship Easter 7/ Ascension	29 Memorial Day <i>John Gordon Hannah McAdams</i>	30	31			

Usher Schedule

May 7 & 14: Brooks Keiser & Elizabeth Velazquez

May 21 & 28: Ken Hathaway, Harold Howard

Scripture Readings for Worship:

May 7: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2:19-35; John 10:1-10

May 14: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 21: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 28: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

A Prayer for the Ascension of Christ

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: