

Grace Presbyterian News

May 2023

In Person Worship with Masks Optional

We continue Sunday worship in person in May with masks optional. We continue to live stream the service as well. The link to live stream is at our website www.grace-pres.org. Pastor Mike Krech

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School meets in person Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for children, youth, and adults. The adult class, led by John Price, is studying the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Children and youth study lessons related to the day's lectionary readings.

Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Morning prayer on Zoom continues each Wednesday in May 2023. Email Mike at jmkrech@yahoo.com to receive the link to join us. You will get an email by Tuesday noon with the link to join the Zoom chat. We try to open the room by 9:20 a.m. so we can visit, start at 9:30, and end by 10:00.

Thursday Night Study Group on Zoom – New Study Begins May 4

The Thursday night book group on Zoom will be reading *Markings*, by Dag Hammarskjold, who was Secretary General of the United Nations, from 1953 until his tragic death in an airplane crash in 1961 as he attempted to mediate peace in the Congo. Mike Krech will lead this study each Thursday in May at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you were not part of previous Thursday night studies, but would like to join this one, send Mike an email at jmkrech@yahoo.com.

Presbyterian Women Circles at Church and on Zoom (Lesson 9)

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

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

If you have questions or need the Zoom link, email patsykrech@gmail.com

PW Gives Opportunity for May and Potluck Meal on May 21

Presbyterian Women Gives in May will focus on the PW Birthday Offering, whose recipients this year are the Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee, Florida, serving young mothers facing major obstacles in raising their children, and the Berhane Yesus Elementary School in Ethiopia, which is seeking to construct a kindergarten building.

Game Night Friday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m.

We meet at the church for fellowship, word games, and trivia. Bring snacks as early as 6:30 p.m.

Last Sunday of the Month – Lunch after Worship at a Restaurant

Several folks went out to eat following worship on April 30, kick-starting a tradition that was going strong prior to COVID. So, it will happen again on the last Sunday in May – May 28.

Nursery Available During Worship for Children 5 Years Old and Younger

We are joyous at the attendance of more children recently, and child care is provided in the nursery (Room 103) during worship for children 5 years old and younger. Our nursery room size and staff size are not adequate to care for children older than 5. Children older than 5 are welcome and encouraged to remain in worship.

Graduates

Please help us be aware of all graduates in the church family. We would love to recognize them in worship on a Sunday in May or early June convenient for them.

Summer Camps at Pinecrest

CAMP	DATES	GRADES (completed)
Leaders in Training	June 4-9	10th or 16 yrs old
Discovery 1	June 11-16	1st-6th
Discovery 2	June 18-23	1st-6th
Mini-Camp	June 18-21	K-2nd
Night Owl	June 25-30	4th-8th
Taste of Camp	July 5-7	1st-4th
Dangerous Camp	July 9-14	3rd-7th
Outdoor Challenge Camp	July 9-15	5th-9th
Discovery 3	July 16-21	1st-6th
Middle School/High School	July 23-28	6th-12th

First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Tennessee, Bicentennial

First Presbyterian Church of Jackson TN holds its Bicentennial Celebration Open House, Sunday, May 7, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Carillonneur Kathleen Huneycutt will play musical selections for the first half hour. A scavenger hunt will lead visitors through the main attractions of the Arboretum. Docents will be available to answer questions. 1573 North Highland, Jackson, TN

Saying Amen – Reflections by the Pastor

It is always appropriate for worshipers to say “Amen,” when moved by the Holy Spirit to an agreement deep in the soul with something that has been spoken or sung in worship. Saying Amen is, in my view, much preferable to applause, which generally has association with an audience’s approval of a performance. In worship if there is an audience at all, it is the audience of One – that is, God. We are a gathered congregation, not an audience. The preacher and musicians are not performers. We are carrying out leadership in worship as we have been called to do by the congregation. Occasionally, as pastor, I may lead a round of applause when people, such as our graduates, are recognized during announcement time. This is an expression of appreciation and good will for the accomplishments being celebrated. I am writing this not because we are having a “problem with applause,” but to try to explain why, in my view, the Amen is the more traditionally churchly way of affirming that we have been moved by the Spirit to thankfulness and praise.

And since there is space for a further thought – this. Each Sunday after the opening hymn and the opening sentences, I offer the prayer for the day to which all are invited to join in saying the Amen. This is ancient practice of the church that can apply to all prayer. We join in saying the Amen along with the leader as our assent to, and affirmation of, what has been prayed. Our Amen need not be delayed until after the speaker’s Amen, but we join when it is said by the one praying. So, for instance, with the prayer for illumination, usually prayed by the lector for the day, everyone can join in saying the Amen to the prayer along with the lector. Other prayers I lead, such as with the children, feel free to join in saying the Amen with me. The kingdom of God does not rise or fall with this, but I do find that some of the long traditions of the church have a way of being theologically sound and profound ways of expressing our faith in community.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike Krech

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Names in italics indicate that it is that person's birthday.</i>			9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>Blake Raghianti</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Markings</i> by Hammarskjold Study on Zoom Bartlett Chorus sanctuary		9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal <i>Karen Wilson Hicks</i> <i>Matthew Washburn</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live streamed/ Easter 5 <i>Kaylee Eno</i>	7:00 p.m. PW Night Circle at church and on Zoom	10:00 a.m. PW Day Circle at church and on Zoom	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	7:00 p.m. <i>Markings</i> Study on Zoom Bartlett Chorus sanctuary		9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live streamed/ Easter 6/ Mother's Day	6:00 p.m. Session Mtg on Zoom	<i>Rickie Cooke</i>	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>Alan Sefton</i>	Ascension Day 10:00 a.m. Child Care End of Year Program; 7:00 p.m. <i>Markings</i> Study on Zoom; Bartlett Chorus sanctuary		9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live streamed/ Ascension Sunday 12:00 PW Gives Potluck Lunch		9:30 a.m. Presbytery Meeting on Zoom <i>A.Z. Ndingwan</i>	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>Jane McGoldrick</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Markings</i> Study on Zoom; Bartlett Chorus sanctuary	7:00 p.m. Game Night Bring snacks as early as 6:30	9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
28	29	30	31			
9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live streamed/ Pentecost 12:00 Out to a Restaurant for Lunch	Memorial Day <i>John Gordon Hannah McAdams</i>		9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom			

Scripture Readings for Worship:

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

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

May 21: Acts 1:1-14; Psalm 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 28: Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104
Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

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: