

Grace Presbyterian News

August 2019

Sunday Schedule at Grace Presbyterian Church in August 2019

Prayer and Praise begins at 9:30 a.m. (We pray for those on the prayer list by name.)

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. (Children's Sunday School is on hiatus through September 1)

Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School Class Continues Study of Philippians

The Adult Sunday School class, led by John Price, is studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. Come and learn more about this important letter, featuring Paul at his gentlest and most thankful. 9:45 a.m. Sundays

Presbytery of the Mid-South – Saturday, August 10, at Huntingdon TN

Grace Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is part of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, which includes congregations in Tennessee between the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers (with a couple of exceptions), as well churches in southeast Missouri. As a Minister of Word and Sacrament Pastor Krech is a member of the presbytery (not Grace Presbyterian Church). LindaJo and Don McKim are also members of the presbytery. The Presbytery of the Mid-South meets three times per year (March, August, November) with each minister in attendance having the right to speak and vote on the matters before us. Each congregation also elects one or more ruling elders to attend a presbytery meeting as commissioners and they also have the right to speak and vote. Presbytery is thus one of the best examples of our form of government at work – a shared servant leadership among ministers and elders. At presbytery we seek to represent and experience our unity in Christ and engage in worship and ministry that reaches out in mission as well as attending to the interior spiritual life of our congregations, ministers, and candidates for ministry. Our commissioner to this presbytery meeting is Ruth Ellen Cox, and the alternate commissioner is Rosemary Gordon.

Presbyterian Women Lunch – Tuesday, August 13, at Noon

Presbyterian Women and their families and guests are welcome to meet for lunch on Tuesday, August 13, at 12:00 noon, at Fat Larry's Restaurant, 7537 U.S. Highway 70.

August Dinner and "What I Did on My Summer Vacation" – August 18, at 6:00 p.m.

Our monthly dinner event for August will be at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 18. We will enjoy food and fellowship. Our program will be Brooks and Elizabeth reporting on their Holy Land trip and Mike, Patsy and Emily, reporting on England.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study Conference – Saturday August 24; 9:30 am

The Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible Study Conference meets on Saturday, August 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, Highway 57, just west of LaGrange, Tennessee, to get an overview of the coming year's study book. The study book for the coming year is *Love Carved in Stone* by Eugenia Gamble. The book is a study in the Ten Commandments "how they were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding can unlock fresh insights for our lives today." The study books are available at the church for \$10. The Presbyterian Women of Grace Presbyterian will study this book, meeting each month, September 2019 through May 2020.

Get Up and Go Bunch to Pink Palace – Tuesday, August 27

The next Get Up and Go Bunch event is a trip to the Pink Palace on Tuesday, August 27, to see the exhibit about the 200th birthday of Memphis. Since Tuesdays from 1:00-5:00 are free, we will leave the church at 12:30 p.m. for those wishing to carpool. If you plan to ride or drive in the carpool, please let Ruth Ellen Cox know in advance.

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

We get together at the church for monthly game night on the last Friday of each month, so that is Friday, August 30, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring your games and snacks and we will have fun.

Visitors in Worship in June and July 2019, who signed the register

Bill & Janie Adams, Ponte Vedra, FL; Nancy Barnes; Heather & Holly Bopp; Bill Britton; Michael & Jocelyn Brown; Rick Brown; Ellen Cox, Hickory Wythe, TN; Kristy, Aiden & Lydia Drake, Canton, GA; Gerald & Jari Dykstra; Michael, Brittany & Oliver Frazier, Huntsville, AL; Nadiyah Gibbs; Helaine Hardaway; Dori & Ken Hathaway; Susie & Al Hayes; Jim & Judy Henderson, Somerville, TN; Sherry Hathaway Hodges, Lee's Summit, MO; Mary Anne Hughes, Hickory Valley, TN; Nicholus Hughes, Liberty Township, OH; Sandra Hurley; Brien, Samuel & Paul Luck; Dan & Roseann Mayo; Linda G. Perry, Troy Poindexter; Catherine Ponder, Walnut Ridge, AR; Susan Smith, Largo, FL; Martha Starnes, Hapeville GA; Randy & Linda, Starnes Minneapolis, MN; Ted, Kim, Samantha, Olivia, Emily Upshaw; Katelyn Vawter; Roger & Ann Wade; Janet Warren; Michelle Warren; Daniel Whitaker, Hickory Wythe, TN; Steve White, Olive Branch, MS Nettie Whitehead, Jonesboro, AR; (Those without a hometown listed are in Shelby County TN, at least at the time of their visit.)

The Centrality of the Worship of God – Thoughts from Pastor Mike Krech

On Sunday, July 21, we and much of the church read as our Gospel lesson the story of the visit of Jesus to the home of Martha and her sister Mary. Martha busied herself with “much serving,” desiring to provide Jesus with a larger or more elaborate meal than Jesus wanted. Mary “sat at Jesus’ feet,” listening to him. When Martha complained that Mary was not doing enough to help her, Jesus responded that Mary “had chosen the better part.” Mary was listening to him rather than busying herself with matters of food and serving. Over the years my sermons on this passage have provoked a fair amount of response from listeners, often because people see themselves in either Martha or Mary. The “Marthas” of the world point out, with some merit, that the ordinary labor of meal preparation is not a frivolous enterprise and that meals do require work. Point taken. As I tried to stress in the sermon, Jesus cares about our actions. That was evident in the lesson the previous week, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, where what made the Samaritan “good” was what he did something, helping the man who was robbed and left for dead.

However, I continue to believe that the value of the Martha and Mary story is that it reminds us how important it is to “sit at Jesus’ feet,” that is, to listen to Jesus. Otherwise, our lives become a chaotic mashup of various interests, possibly none of which are what Jesus wants us to be doing. If we do not ever listen to Jesus, how do our lives ever become ordered to Jesus’ will? Occasionally in social situations I meet people who, upon learning that I am a pastor, proceed to tell me some of their complaints and objections to the church and how they have not gone to church in years. Often however this does not seem to prevent them from having an opinion on what the “Christian” point of view should be on social and political matters. To which, I want to say, and occasionally have, “If you have not been to church in years, how do you know what Jesus’ will is? You have not opened yourself to the transformative experience of worship, which wants to crack open your defenses against the Gospel and soften your heart so that you both listen to Jesus and help the neighbor on the roadside.”

Some Sundays I feel there is a plot afoot to distract us in worship from focusing upon God. Would you join in a covenant to be more like Mary when it comes to worship? Can you arrive on time, or preferably early enough to both greet others for a bit before the prelude begins and then when the prelude begins, be quiet and let Jesus begin to speak to you. Can you participate as fully as possible in the full worship service? Sing when we sing; pray when we pray; listen to the Scripture and sermon and do not leave the room unless absolutely necessary, and if you must, when you return, quietly take a seat at the back for the remainder of the service? Yes I think worship is a serious matter. It calls for Mary-like attention, not Martha-like distractions. I spend much of my week trying to make the worship service an opportunity for all of us to praise God and listen to Jesus. I always appreciate your help.

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Matthew Smith</i>	2	3 <i>Clyde Getman</i>
4 9:30a.m. Prayer & Praise 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00a.m. Worship/ Don McKim	5	6 <i>Nathaniel Smith</i>	7 Choir rehearsal on hiatus, resuming September 4	8	9 4:00 p.m. Mustard Seed <i>Karen Gordon McAdams</i>	10 9:30 a.m. Presbytery Meeting at Huntingdon TN
11 9:30a.m. Prayer & Praise 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00a.m. Worship	12 <i>John Price</i>	13 12:00 noon PW Lunch at Fat Larry's Restaurant <i>Scott Hunter</i>	14	15 <i>Bob Harrold</i>	16 4:00 p.m. Mustard Seed	17
18 9:30a.m. Prayer & Praise 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Reports from trips <i>Olivia Cooke</i>	19 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg. <i>Leonardine Campbell</i> <i>Adam Price</i>	20	21	22	23 <i>Eve Gammon</i>	24 9:30 am PW Bible Study Conference at Pinecrest <i>Jenny Pickren Murnan</i>
25 9:30a.m. Prayer & Praise 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00a.m. Worship <i>Ginger Johnson</i>	26	27 Get Up & Go Bunch to Pink Palace Carpool from church at 12:30 for a 1:00 p.m. arrival	28 <i>Elizabeth Pickren Sanders</i>	29	30 6:30 pm Game Night <i>Tiffany Bopp</i>	31

Scheduled to Serve in August

Ushers

August 4: Hugh Bishop & Sandy Kehrl
August 11 & 18: Chuck Walker & Kendall Walker
August 25: Ruth Ellen Cox & Becky Stirling

Lay Readers

August 4: None
August 11: Bob Harrold
August 18: Bob Gammon
August 25: Suzanne Getman

Elder Closing Church Duty

August 4: Ruth Ellen Cox
August 11: Janet Vawter
August 18: Elizabeth Velazquez
August 25: Elizabeth Velazquez

Scripture Readings for Worship:

August 4: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9,43;
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Matthew 25:14-23

August 11: Isaiah 1:1,10-20; Psalm 50:1-8,22-
23; Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 18: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 82;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 25: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

A Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: