

# THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church  
518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503  
E-mail: [gracpreb@lusfiber.net](mailto:gracpreb@lusfiber.net)  
Website: [www.gracelafayette.org](http://www.gracelafayette.org)

APRIL 2020  
Facebook: [gracelafayette](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette)  
Phone: 337-984-6400

## Easter Lies Ahead

The last time I wrote this column I had no idea that by now we would be where we are vis-à-vis the coronavirus pandemic as a community, as a state, as a nation, or as a world! I'm sure you didn't either.

But here we are, facing perhaps the biggest challenge our world has ever seen. It threatens not only our health, but our economy, our social relationships, and our very way of life. Further, it is likely that as a result of this crisis, some of the ways we have been accustomed to doing things will never be the same as they were—will never return to “normal.” Unfortunately, no one can tell us at this point all the aspects of our lives that will change, or in what ways they will change. It may actually be better that way, given the circumstances, as we probably couldn't bear all of it at once.

For many of us, this situation is also a crisis of faith. Such dramatic threats and other challenges cause us to question everything from the will of God to unanswered prayer to the meaning of life itself. “What kind of God would let this happen?” “Why didn't God grant my request for my wife's healing?” “If life is this fragile, what is the purpose of going on?”

Yesterday's lectionary reading from the Gospel of John was the story of the raising of Lazarus. How ironic that this story comes to our attention at this time! Jesus' initial reaction to the news of Lazarus' illness is surprising to us, but it teaches us that there are more important priorities to God than our physical health, or our survival itself! The story teaches us that sometimes when our prayers seem to go unanswered, God has a greater purpose in mind, not only for us, but for those around us as well.

The story is also a reminder of God's sensitivity and compassion for us amid life's difficulties. Many people remember the shortest verse in the Bible: Jesus wept. That short sentence teaches us that, even when he has a greater purpose waiting in the wings, God acknowledges and shares our sorrow, disappointment, and grief in the meantime. He knows that we cannot always understand his purposes and the ways of his love.

When Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, he demonstrated the glory of his glorious purpose, not only for Lazarus, whom he loved, but for Mary and Martha as well, whom he also loved, not to mention the rest of the crowd, who came to faith in Christ as a result. Jesus quite deliberately and methodically went about his plan to both teach and display for all to see one of his greatest powers: to bring life out of death.

Every time we recover from a crisis—loss of a job, loss of a marriage, or even the loss of someone dear to us—we are experiencing the power of God in our lives to bring life out of death. That is the central message, not only of the story of Lazarus, but of Easter itself. When Jesus died on the cross he paid the price for our new life, and when he rose from the tomb he proved the power of new life in him.

In the midst of our current coronavirus crisis, when we will not likely be able to gather in our sanctuary for worship together, we must hold fast to our faith and live as a people who know the ultimate outcome, and it is glorious new life in Christ!

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**The Session (Governing Body) of Grace Presbyterian Church** approved cancelling Worship Services which began on March 22, 2020.

The Session has agreed to suspend ALL Church Activities, including use by Community Groups and the Mother's Day Out Program that meets at our Church.

The Session will continue to evaluate when we should resume Worship and Church Activities, but closure of the building and suspension of activities will continue until further notice.

We ask you to join us in Prayer for God's Guidance and that His will be done.  
God Bless You!



**During the time we will not be having Worship at the Church, we ask that Pledges and Donations be mailed to the Church.** Our address is ***518 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70503.*** Our Church Secretary is continuing to collect the mail, pay bills and make deposits. We are relying on our offerings to be able to continue to keep our Church Staff on payroll and to continue paying our bills at Grace. Thank you to everyone who has been making donations to your church during this pandemic. We rely on you!



**COMMUNION** – Normally Communion would be served on the 1st Sunday of the month, however, due to the COVID-19 Situation, this will not happen on April 5th. **We plan to have communion on Easter Sunday (April 12th) but in a different way.** Communion would be done thru our virtual worship. Rev. Pat would say *“The Body of Christ broken for you”* would be the signal to eat your bread you have at home and *“The blood of Christ shed for You”* would be the signal to drink you juice (any kind). We will have more information on the emails before Easter Sunday. We know not everyone has a computer, so we are working out the details.

# WONDERFUL *Wednesday*

Since we are not able to meet for Wonderful Wednesdays during this time, below is a link to **"The Walk" by Adam Hamilton** if you would like to continue where we left off or join in from the beginning if you were not part of our Wednesday Night group.

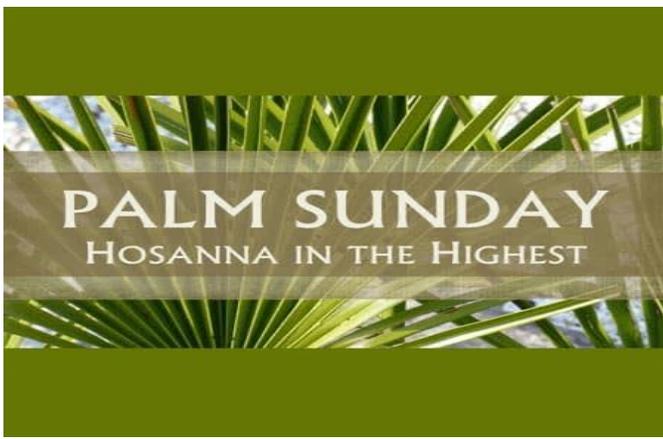
This is great, as it will allow all of us to see the videos for Chapters 5 and 6 at our leisure! In fact, we can watch any of the video episodes, particularly if we want to go back and refresh our memories, or we just like to "binge" watch video!

Just click on the link below and select the episode you want to see.

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/29224-the-walk>



**EASTER LILIES** - For those who purchased Easter Lilies....would you rather us still get your Lilies and you can pick them up at Grace, have us return your money to you in a few weeks, let the \$15 be a donation to the Church, or deduct your Lily cost from your next donation?? (Please let Sarah know which you would rather do) We still have a couple people we are waiting to hear from.



## PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 5TH

For Palm Sunday this year, we suggest that you put a branch on the door of your house or on your window to celebrate Palm Sunday since we are unable to meet for worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

It can be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

Want to join?

We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the members of the body of Christ.

We are the Church!!



Thank you to everyone who purchased Baked Goods on Sunday, March 15th. This money raised will help our youth to get to Camp Agape & Synod Youth Workshop this summer.



sharing resources. changing lives.

Normally on Easter morning we have our special One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This year since we will not be able to meet for Easter Worship at the Church, we invite you to donate to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" online. This offering helps those who are hungry, thirsty, without shelter or a safe place to call home. From people living in your community to those around the world, your gifts have a global reach, providing food and water, relief from the effects of crises and catastrophic events, and assistance for those stricken by oppression. This is a great cause to donate to.

[www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)

## MOTHER'S DAY OUT



**Our Mother's Day Out Program at Grace Presbyterian is not in session at this time. They follow the Lafayette Parish School System Schedule. They hope to reopen in May but all depends on when things will go back to normal and the "stay at home" order is lifted.**

**CO-DIRECTOR MOVING -Emily Cart** will be moving to Kingswood, TX this summer. Her husband was transferred to Texas. It is with a heavy heart that she leaves Grace but she is also excited for this new adventure for her family. She plans to finish out the school year at Grace MDO (depending on when the school can reopen).

Grace Presbyterian Church wishes Emily & her family the best on their new journey!



If we do not have your birthday on our list, please let us know and make sure all your family members are included. We would love to have everyone's birthday included on our list so that we can wish you a Happy Birthday on your special day! Birthdays can be emailed to [gracpreb@lusfiber.net](mailto:gracpreb@lusfiber.net) or you can call the office at (337) 984-6400.



**Dr. Ghulam Sarwar** passed away at the age of 74 on **March 9, 2020**. He was the husband of Grace Church member, Catherine Sarwar. A small gathering was held at Catherine's house earlier in March. Please keep Catherine & her family in your prayers during this difficult time.



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Lynne Castle  
12 Connie Elmore  
19 Jean McLain
- 

**Our Pastor & Secretary are mostly working from home but are continuing to stop by the Church to get essential things done.**

**If you need to contact us during this time, here is the numbers/emails you may need:**

Church Phone # 337-984-6400

Church Email  
Address: [gracpreb@lusfiber.net](mailto:gracpreb@lusfiber.net)

Pat's Cell Phone # 337-781-1806

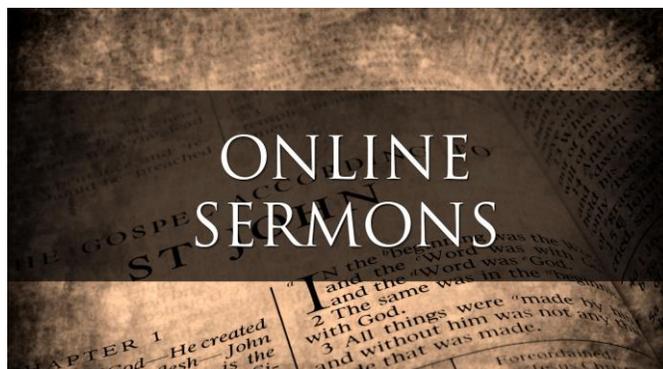
Pat's Email Adress: [wadp1@lusfiber.net](mailto:wadp1@lusfiber.net)

Sarah's Cell Phone # 337-652-5024

Sarah's Email  
adress: [SLLDG2006@yahoo.com](mailto:SLLDG2006@yahoo.com)

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**If you have not already clicked "like" on our Grace Facebook Site, please do so today so you do not miss anything. Our site is gracelafayette.**



## **SUNDAY SERMONS ONLINE**

We have certainly seen our struggles with technology since we were issued the "stay at home order". We have now turned to youtube and facebook to be able to get our Sunday Sermons to you "on time". Going live on Facebook did not work great when we tried to do this from the church the past few Sundays.

The Sermon from Last Sunday (March 29th) is available on our Church Facebook site (gracelafayette) in case you missed it OR you can search for it on youtube (grace lafayette)....space after grace if on youtube.

We will have our Palm Sunday Sermon up on Facebook and Youtube on Sunday morning (April 5th).

Below is the direct link to the March 29th Sermon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJc4DWhY8-M>

Rev Pat. Has also been working on doing daily devotionals also. You can also find these on our facebook site and youtube channel.

**With everything going on right now, we are in hopes that summer camps will still take place this summer!**

**We have not heard anything yet, but we would think that early bird discounts may be extended since everything is uncertain at this time.**



## Synod Youth Workshop

**When:** July 13-18, 2020 (*Monday-Saturday*)

**Where:** University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

**Who:** Youth going to 9<sup>th</sup> grade to Graduated Seniors

**Website:** [synodyouthworkshop.com](http://synodyouthworkshop.com)

**Early Registration is from February 1st – June 1st. (*Price increases after*)**

**Cost:** \$396 for youth and adults with a Home Group

**\$495 for individual youth without a Home Group**

**ALL Registrations require a \$100 deposit**

*Synod Youth Workshop is designed to provide youth and adults with an opportunity to receive and share the Gospel of Christ, create communities of faith, reach out to the world around the event, and honor our calling to be Christ-like.*

*\*\*\*Registration forms are available in the Church office OR you can email us and we will get you a form....send email request to: [gracpreb@lusfiber.net](mailto:gracpreb@lusfiber.net)*

## CAMP + AGAPE

**When:** June 7-13, 2020 (*Sunday-Saturday*)

**Where:** Feliciana Retreat Center

**Who:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

- Explorer Camp – those who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade (\$410)
- Pathfinder Camp – those who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade (\$410)
- Adventure Camp – those who have completed 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade (\$450)
- Senior Intern Program – those who have completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade (\$210)

**Early Bird prices end on April 30th. Please make sure to mail your registration form and \$75 before the end of April. (or give to Sarah to mail)**

*\*\*\*Registration forms are available in the Church office OR you can email us and we will get you a form....send email request to: [gracpreb@lusfiber.net](mailto:gracpreb@lusfiber.net)*



	9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 6:30pm – Al-anon	9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO 9am – UL Writing Class 9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 6pm – Co-Dependence	9am-2pm MDO 5-6:45pm – AA 5:45pm – Baby Boot Camp 7-8pm – Al-anon	9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 1:30pm – Al-anon	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5  PALM SUNDAY	6	7	8	9  Maundy Thursday	10  Good Friday	11
12  Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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