

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503
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Website: www.gracelafayette.org

OCTOBER 2020

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Are we yet alive?

There is a hymn familiar to many older Methodists entitled “And Are We Yet Alive?” The first stanza reads:

*And are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?
Glory, and thanks to Jesus give*

For his almighty grace!

The hymn was written by Charles Wesley, brother of the founder of Methodism, for general use, and it was included in their hymnals. Before long, however, the hymn began to be used at the beginning of each annual meeting of their conferences. Many of the Methodists and their pastors had not seen each other since the previous year's conference, so the conference was the main event by which they “caught up” with each other's lives and ministries.

The hymn took on ever deeper significance as many of them underwent persecution in many forms in the normal course of their ministry, and even further when the American frontier preachers faced life-threatening hazards alone in the wilderness.

As soon as we began making specific plans for resuming our worship in person, this old hymn popped into my mind. Some of us have literally not seen each other since we last worshiped together here in our sanctuary. Neither do we know all that our fellow church members have endured since then, due not only to COVID-19, but to other natural life events. I am happy to report that, as far as I know, none of our members have lost their lives to this disease.

Zoom has become a way for us to meet “virtually,” but even it is no substitute for being face-to-face with each other. As the song says so effectively, that is, after all, a major part of our relationship as church members. I believe the Church was created by God in large part for the purpose of our support of one another in faith amid all of life's challenges, and that is undeniably done most effectively through regular assembling of ourselves together.

I hope that our resuming in-person worship will both reinforce the value of our fellowship together. I also hope that it will reinforce the importance of each of us taking the prescribed measures to protect everyone else in our fellowship from this insidious virus. I believe that our love and respect for one another is best expressed by believing the health experts and following the measures that they insist are currently our way out of this pandemic.

See you in church!
Pat Wadsworth



RE-OPENING NEWS FOR GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Session voted to resume in-person worship on Sunday, October 4th. Worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. and communion will be served.

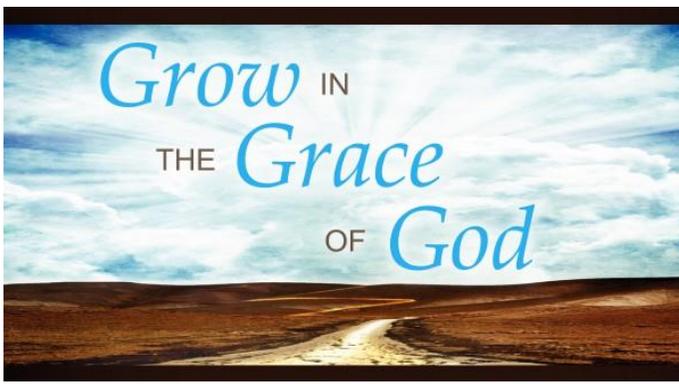
In order to care for all of Grace Presbyterian Church's people to the greatest degree possible, we have developed the following steps that will be implemented.

The "new normal" will be as follows:

- Please plan to arrive at church earlier than before to allow extra time for the seating procedures.
- People attending services are to observe the six feet distancing guideline as they walk toward the building after leaving their cars.
- Entrance and exit will be limited to the wooden doors facing Roselawn Boulevard. This will restrict walking through the building to get to the sanctuary, thus preventing the need for more major disinfection. Please **DO NOT** enter through the kitchen using the keypad.
- As you are entering and leaving the building, including the narthex, please remain 6 feet apart at all times, except for family groups.
- **MASKS ARE REQUIRED.** You are encouraged to bring your own, but if you do not have one or forget it, masks will be available on a table in the narthex.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for your use before and/or after worship.
- Offering plates will not be passed; there will be an offering plate or basket at the entrance to the sanctuary that you may use before or after the service as you enter or leave.
- Bulletins will also be available at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- We will be using every other pew in an effort to social distance.
- We will stand during the passing of the peace. You can wave to each other.
- There will be singing, but masks must be worn during this time.
- The congregational prayers may be read by the congregation, again while wearing masks.
- The first three rows of pews will not be used to increase the distance from the minister to the congregation when he is not wearing a mask.
- At the end of the service, please dismiss by rows beginning in the rear of the church. Please observe social distancing as you walk down the aisle, through the narthex, through the wooden doors, and to the parking lot to your car. Pat will remain at the front of the sanctuary until everyone has exited.
- Fellowship Hall and the kitchen are closed off as we cannot have after church fellowship or before church meet and greet.
- The front bathrooms will be available. Please only one person or family group at a time in the bathrooms. There will be an "OCCUPIED" or "VACANT" sign hanging on the door. Please use the signs to indicate if the bathroom is available.

We know all of the above is difficult and laborious, but the Session made a unanimous decision to observe all of the above, understanding that being a Christian involves doing our best not to cause harm or illness to others. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe and healthy.

If you need any further information, please call Pat on his cell phone at 337-781-1806 or by email at wad1@lusfiber.net. We look forward to seeing everyone in worship.



SOUND SYSTEM HELPERS NEEDED!!!

We plan to still have service available on Facebook Live for those who cannot attend worship on Sunday Mornings now that we have started back meeting for in-person worship. **To make this possible, we desperately need 1-2 volunteers to learn to work the sound system.** Please let us know if you are willing to learn how to work the sound system to be able to help Terry & Bob occasionally. Training will be available. If no one volunteers, then online services may not be available every Sunday.

Worship Schedule

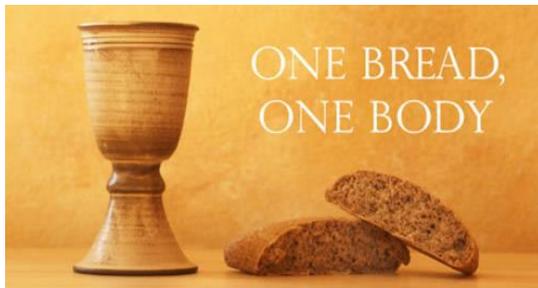
10:30 a.m. Worship

Church Office Hours

M-Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A Nursery is available every Sunday during Worship in Room 4.



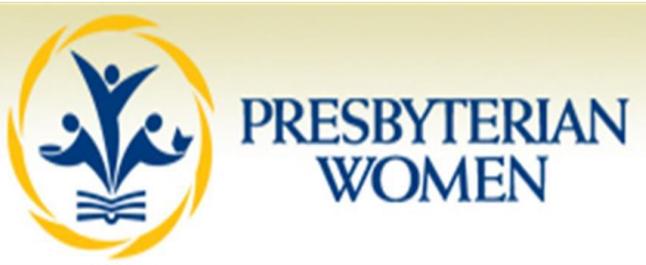
COMMUNION - will be on **Sunday, October 4th**. If anyone is home bound and would like to receive communion, please let us know in the church office so that we can bring communion to you.



Thank you to everyone who has continued to support your church during the pandemic by mailing in tithes. Now that in-person worship is starting back on Sunday, October 4th, we will have an offering plate at the entrance of the sanctuary for donations. You can place your donation before or after service in the plate. We will not be passing the plate during service as we have done previously. If you are not ready or able to attend in-person worship, you can still mail in your donation if you chose to. **The Church Address is 518 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70503.**

Committee Meetings

SESSION – next meeting will be on **Monday, October 12th** at **6pm**. Please let Lynne Castle know if you cannot attend this meeting.



PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING 2020

Thank you to everyone who contributed this year to the Presbyterian Women's Birthday offering which was collected in September. We collected \$115 thanks to the help of the congregation. By means of this collection throughout the PCUSA, grants are made to groups in both the USA and abroad. These grants help groups that are working to meet the needs of people who require assistance.



The **Reverend Dr. Ron Sutto**, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, will retire effective December 31, 2020. The Presbytery of South Louisiana has been blessed by the loving, creative leadership and ministry to which he has devoted himself for many years in South Louisiana. 14 of Ron's years of service were as General Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Everyone at Grace Lafayette wishes Rev. Ron the best in his retirement.



IT'S A BOY!!

We are so blessed to announce the birth of our sweet little baby boy, John Jimmy Self. He was born on 9.13.20 at 2:18 am. He was born a month early, and was sent to NICU. He was having trouble maintaining his oxygen and blood sugars. He was hooked up to oxygen, feeding tube, and IV. He is doing so much better now and already home. We are so excited to start this new journey and want to thank you all for the prayers!! Mom and baby are doing well!

With much love,
The Self Family





Ann Palombo passed away at the age of 74 on September 27th. A funeral service was held on October 1st at Crossroads Church in Lafayette to celebrate the life of Ann. She was a devout Christian, a faithful servant of God and a longtime member of Grace Presbyterian Church where she previously taught Sunday School and served as an Elder. Ann was a three-time cancer survivor. She is the sister of Connie Elmore. Please keep the Elmore's and the rest of Ann's family in your prayers during this difficult time.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Don't forget to show your Pastor how much you appreciate him this month! The official day in October for this celebration is the 2nd Sunday in October. Thank you to Rev. Pat Wadsworth for all you do for Grace Presbyterian Church.



KITCHEN WINDOW IDEAS - we are looking to change the window coverings in the Grace Kitchen. Currently we have mini-blinds over the windows (*the largest blind in the kitchen is currently broken*). We were thinking maybe drapes would look nice? But what color? What style? If you have any ideas, please contact Terry Wolfold at 337-233-8071 or at 337-501-2458. Any suggestions are welcome and appreciated!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Debbie Foreman
- 7 Jysele Jones
- 18 Larry Fontenot
- 18 Jim McLain
- 22 Nelson Elmore
- 27 Paul Guillot
- 31 Caroline Elmore Salmon

If we do not have your birthday on our list, please let the church office know your special date so that we can add you to our list and wish you a Happy Birthday.

MOTHER'S DAY OUT



OPENINGS – **there are openings in the MDO nursery!!** If you know anyone looking for a daycare, please have them contact the Grace MDO by phone at 337-993-1231 or by email at mdoatgrace@gmail.com.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

A ZOOM RETREAT designed especially for all women of
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

Troubling the Waters: Holy Discomfort and Other Gifts of the Spirit

Led by the Reverend Sara Chancellor-Watson
Associate Pastor for Mission – St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church – New Orleans

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION INCLUDED

Saturday, October 24, 2020

10 until 11:30 am

By ZOOM

No cost for the Retreat – but reservations required

Please reserve your spot - email or phone by 10/22

To Miriam Hollar, Retreat Coordinator

231-330-5754 or Miriam.hollar@gmail.com

Mission Project – HURRICANE LAURA DISASTER RECOVERY in PSL:

Financial donations may be mailed to Presbyterian Women in Presbytery of South Louisiana to PWP Treasurer – Pat Wright – 287 Baird Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Consider making this a Circle or Church effort of women wanting to help our sisters in Southwestern Louisiana following the storm. Hygiene kits, clean up buckets!!



10:30 am - Worship	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 <i>Worship 10:30am</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Worship 10:30am</i>	12 <i>Session Meeting 6pm</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Worship 10:30am</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Worship 10:30am</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i>

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