



THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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JULY 2020
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REOPENING NEWS

A recent New York Times article stated that the most concentrated outbreaks of covid-19 were, at first, in nursing homes, prisons, and meat processing plants. But that has changed.

Now, the big three places for outbreaks are bars, strip clubs, and churches. We have no comment to make about outbreaks in bars and strip clubs, but we do have some comments to make about minimizing the chances of an outbreak in churches—at least, in Grace Church.

The Session has met several times to consider how this could be done. In the process, we have considered LA state health department guidance, CDC statistics and recommendations, LA state fire marshal's office documents on physical arrangement of church sanctuaries, and federal government input. We have received and studied guidelines from the Office of General Assembly, Synod of the Sun, and the Presbytery of South Louisiana. We have discussed the matter and prayed.

Based on the above, with determination 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 when Grace Church does reopen the sanctuary.

Please note that conditions could occur in the future that would require closing the church again; at this point, we cannot be sure of what the virus will do in the future.

We will still have online church services in real time after we reopen the sanctuary.

Until further notice 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 of the sanctuary, facing Roselawn Boulevard. This will restrict walking through the building to get to the sanctuary, thus preventing the need for more major disinfection and limiting time for contagion from others who might possibly be carrying the virus. Do not enter through the kitchen using the keypad as keypads are a source for passing on the virus.

- If you need to enter through the Fellowship Hall, due to health problems, please let the office know in advance, so we can have someone available to let you in through the glass doors and show you how you will enter the narthex and move to the sanctuary.
- As you enter the building, please remain 6 feet apart at all times when you are in the building, except for family groups.
- Masks are required—anyone refusing to wear a mask will be refused admission to the sanctuary. You are encouraged to bring your own, but if you do not have one or forget it, they are available on a table near the wooden doors or in the narthex.
- There will also be hand sanitizer, and individual eyeglass wipes that can be used on any kind of eyeglasses without damaging them: also, the wipe will not damage any lens coating, such as UV ray protection or scratch protection.
- Collection plates will not be passed; there will be a basket for offerings at the entrance to the sanctuary that you may use before or after the service as you enter or leave.
- Please wait at the door of the sanctuary until an usher can seat you, and, again, all people are to observe the social distancing requirement while waiting. Note that it might not be possible to sit where you would like because there will be an empty pew between pews. Because of time limitations in seating, it will not be possible to honor requests for desired seating unless there is a health problem involved, if this is the case for you, please contact us ahead of time so we can plan for it.
- Except for families, people will be seated 6 feet from each other in the pews and according to the fire marshal's directive concerning seating next to the aisles.
- No bulletins; information will be projected onto the screen or given orally. There will be no attendance registers for you to sign in the pews. A photo or video will be taken in order to count attendance, and to aid in contact tracing if needed afterward.
- There will be no singing. We will not have a choir, a soloist, or congregational singing.
- We will remain seated during the passing of the peace. You can wave to each other, but do not try talk to others, who will be at least six feet away due to social distancing.
- The congregational prayers may be read by the congregation but quietly. Speaking also can spread the virus significantly.
- The minister will remain in the chancel area, and wear a face mask when he is not speaking. The first two rows of pews will not be used to increase the distance from the minister to the congregation when he is not wearing a mask.

- For the time being, communion will not be celebrated during a live service.
- We will be dismissed by rows, as directed by the usher, beginning in the rear. Please observe social distancing as you walk down the aisle, through the narthex, through the wooden doors, and down the street to your cars in the parking lot.
- We cannot gather in groups of any size unless it is a group of family members. Although groups of ten are allowed to meet now, this is still to be done with social distancing, according to the state and federal phase we are in. There would be no way to do this properly in the narthex (no time to mark off six feet around each person, in all four directions!!) or on the sidewalk as people who are trying to leave will be behind us.
- Fellowship Hall and the kitchen are closed off as we cannot have after church fellowship or before church meet and greet. Again, we would need to mark off squares of six feet of distance in all four directions for each person who was in there, and it would necessitate considerable extra cleaning and disinfecting of the area.
- Please stay in the narthex or sanctuary. Bring water with you if you might need it, since the kitchen and Fellowship Hall are closed. Do not go any further down the hall than the restrooms if you need to use them.
- This information will be publicized in the July *Gracevine*, by US mail, by Grace Notes emails, and by emails other than Grace Notes. We will have reminders provided.

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 by exposing others to possible illness or death because of our personal preferences or personal inconvenience.

If you need any further information, you can contact the Clerk of Session at 406-0562 or email at lec4242@bellsouth.net. You can contact Pat for more information at 984-6400 or 781-1806 or by email at wad1@lusfiber.net.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT SARAH TO DISCUSS OR HAVE HER EXPLAIN ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION. THE SESSION MADE THE DECISION AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY EXPLANATIONS, AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION.

Thanks for your cooperation!

The Session

Grace Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, Louisiana



COMMUNION – Communion is served on the 1st Sunday of each month. **Our next Holy Communion will be on Sunday, July 5th.** Communion will be done thru our virtual worship service as we have done the past few months. Please remember to gather up the supplies (preferable bread and grape juice or wine) you will need beforehand so that you can join us in the sacrament at home.



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!

SOUND SYSTEM HELPERS NEEDED!!!

Once we start meeting in person for worship on **Sunday, July 12th**, we plan to still have service available on Facebook Live for those who cannot attend worship on Sunday Mornings. **To be able to do this, we desperately need 1-2 volunteers to learn the sound system.** To be able to do “both” in-person and virtual worship, we need more volunteers. Please let us know if you are willing to learn how to work the sound system to be able to help Terry & Bob from time to time. Training will be available. Thank you in advance!!



If you have any non-perishable food items or paper products you would like to donate to UCO during the time we are not able to meet for worship, please drop these items off at Grace. We will gather these items and deliver them to UCO when we receive enough. Items are needed more now with so many people not working and children out of school for the summertime. You can either drop these items off at the church or you can contact Sarah or Pat to schedule a drop off time. Thank you to those of you who are continuing to donate to United Christian Outreach. There are many families in crisis during this pandemic and any help is appreciated.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Horizons Bible Study for the new year is “*Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*” by P. Lynn Miller. Rev. Lynn Miller is an author and practicing artist and art teacher. She has written the study and produced the art work. Lynn’s introduction to the study will be available to anyone after July 1st on PW YouTube. Her introduction is very interesting and those of you who find lamentation is sad will be surprised at the tone of the study. Please tune in if you are interested. Grace has 2 Bible Studies. If you would like to join one, please contact Lynne Castle or Margaret Boone.



If you would like a copy of the “*Our Daily Bread*” for the months of June, July & August, please let Sarah know in the church office. You can either stop by the church to pick up a copy or we can mail one to you. You can contact Sarah at 337-984-6400 or at gracpreb@lusfiber.net.

Some alternative ways to connect with *Our Daily Bread* is to:

- sign up at go.odb.org/devotional to have your devotional delivered by mail.
- Find them on Facebook at facebook.com/ourdailybread
- Visit their website at odb.org



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dawson Jones**
5 Pam Sanders
6 Dorothy Burleigh
6 Patrick Harrington
13 David Jones
14 Melissa Gonzalez
21 Patty Marx
22 Betty Tucker
24 Katharine Schendel
27 Elizabeth Elmore



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 or you can call the office at (337) 984-6400. **Thank you to those who have provided your birthdays to the office lately!**



FACEMASKS - **Sandy Stewart** is making face masks for any of our congregation members and their family members that are in need of masks!

You can contact Sandy at (337) 278-7253 or at sandystewart@cox.net.

Grace Presbyterian Church thanks Sandy for doing this for your congregation!



GROCERY SHOPPING – Bob Hess has offered to grocery shop for anyone who is at risk or elderly that may not want to leave their house during the COVID-19. If you would like Bob to help you with your shopping, please give him a call at (225) 202-0526. Thank you to Bob for helping our congregation during this pandemic.

SUNDAY SERMONS ONLINE

During the time we are not meeting “in person” for worship, we are having “virtual” worship services on Sunday mornings via Facebook Live. **Please join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:30am on our Facebook Site “gracelafayette”**

If you have not yet clicked “like” on our page, please do so today. Facebook will send you a notification when our service is beginning.

We will continue to use Facebook for our worship services even after we start meeting in person on Sunday, July 12th. We need a few volunteers to learn to work the sound system to be able to continue streaming service on Facebook Live. Please let us know if you would like to be a backup/helper for our media system. Thanks in advance!!

MOTHER'S DAY OUT



MDO REOPENING – The Mother’s Day Out Summer Program began on **Tuesday, June 9th**. MDO had been closed since mid-March due to COVID-19. All children have their temperature checked each morning before entering and no parents are allowed inside the building. Extra cleaning is being done during this time. The MDO Teachers are also wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID.



Change of Address

Please make a note in your phone directory that **Mary Louise Lamm** now has a new mailing address. Her new address is 124 Teche Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503.

Committee Meetings

SESSION – next meeting will be on **Monday, July 20th at 6pm.** Please let Lynne Castle know if you cannot attend this meeting.



The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church voted at their last Session Meeting (*held on June 15th*) that we will NOT allow for outside groups to use our building for meetings yet. Groups that normally use Grace Church as their weekly meeting spot were told that they are allowed to meet anywhere on the church grounds as long as there is no access to the building.

Office Hours

Pastor Hours have changed: Pat will be in the church office on Monday – Thursday Mornings.

Secretary Hours remain as they were: Monday – Thursday 9-3:30 and Friday 9-noon.



Clarice Burch's brother, Carl Black passed away at the age of 89 on June 17, 2020 in Jackson, MS. He would have been 90 years old in August. Carl was a devoted father, faithful husband, retired attorney, committed Jacksonian, avid patron of the arts, and community & church leader. A small family ceremony was held in Mississippi on June 24th celebrating Carl's life. Due to COVID-19 challenges, there was no visitation or public gathering. Please keep Clarice & her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

CAMP + AGAPE

When: Labor Day Weekend

September 4-7, 2020 (Friday-Monday)

Where: Feliciana Retreat Center

Who: 1st – 12th grade

- **Intro Camp – Middle School**
(Completed 1st Grade – 8th Grade)
Cost - \$220
- **High School**
(Completed 9th Grade – 12 Grade)
Cost - \$250

****Contact the Church Office for a registration form!**

****Don't miss out on 3 amazing days of fun!**
(Energizers, Bible Lessons, Communion, Armageddon, Cookout, Rec Activities, Block Party and Hot Diggity Dogs)



Synod Youth Workshop

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

Where: ONLINE

Who: Youth going to 9th grade to Graduated Seniors

Website: synodyouthworkshop.com

Cost: FREE

****SYW will now be online. Register today at..... www.synodyouthworkshop.com**

****If you already signed up, you should have received an email with paperwork that you need to fill out. This paperwork was due on July 1st. Please contact Sarah in the Church Office if you have questions.**

SYNOD YOUTH WORKSHOP **SERVICE DAY**

One of the most meaningful and memorable parts of Synod Youth Workshop is always Service Day!! This year's Service Day project is to help feed hungry people in your community. Many people have lost their jobs because of COVID-19 which means local food pantries have seen increases in the number of people needing food. Synod is challenging their participants this July to simply collect non-perishable food items and donate them to their local food pantry during the week of Synod Youth Workshop. Each youth will be asked to count their items collected and report how many they donated so that SYW can tally up how many items were collected by everyone who attended SYW this year.

The Presbyterian Women of Grace Church gave 5 children from our congregation an at-home Vacation Bible School opportunity. Titled "*Camp in a Box*", it was produced by the Ferncliff Retreat Center (Presbytery of the Pines) in Little Rock, Arkansas. Just as our Camp Agape had been postponed until the end of the summer, Ferncliff was not able to have its scheduled camps this summer due to the epidemic.

Camp in a Box had materials for 5 half-day Vacation Bible School experiences, and was designed for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. It was developed so it does not make too many demands on the parents' time. Everything needed was packed in the box, including a magnifying glass for studying what's going on on the ground in your yard! The theme was *Deep Roots, New Leaves*; it stressed the presence of God through change and growth.

The boxes were shipped to the families around the middle of June.

Please contact Lynne Castle at 337-406-0562 or lec4242@bellsouth.net with any questions.



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 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	4 
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Re-opening for Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	13 <i>Synod Youth Workshop (online)</i>	14 <i>Synod Youth Workshop (online)</i>	15 <i>Synod Youth Workshop (online)</i>	16 <i>Synod Youth Workshop (online)</i>	17 <i>Synod Youth Workshop (online)</i>	18
19	20 <i>Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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