



The Grace Vine

August 2022

Rector's Writ

Jesus frequently told his disciples and people who followed him not to be afraid, not to be anxious. He told Martha she was worried and distracted by many things. Yet, especially in our day we have more than enough to deal with in the way of worries, concerns, anxieties. Our nearly three year battle with COVID has added considerably to that, and now it's monkey-pox...and a new flu season just around the corner. There's also a surge in gun violence and crime, not to mention poverty, inflation, and any number of political issues. It's likely no accident that Paul includes "enmities...anger...dissensions...factions" in his list of the works of the flesh. There's the very real risk of hostility and excluding or marginalizing others when we get stuck in any of those problematic places. The devil gladly steps in to ramp the hostilities up when we're not focused on the fruit of the Spirit and the teachings of Jesus. It's obvious which one we hear more about in news from Washington D.C., our state capitals, and political centers.

It's up to Christians to embrace the gospel values Jesus taught—especially matters of justice and truth—and the fruits of the Spirit. It's up to us to do that difficult and imperfect work of living by the values of God's kingdom rather than by the worldly ways of the flesh. We do well to practice and live by Christ's ways and the Spirit's ways, which have the power to change people and change the world. There's a wise and quiet power, a holy goodness, and dignity in the fruit of the Spirit which includes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

None of us are perfect in our love for God and one another. Yet we keep the faith and practice carrying God's love into a world that needs to hear God's word and see believers trying to live it, with obedience, hopefulness, and a joy the fleshly and worldly ways can't ever provide. Henri Nouwen writes of the joy that Jesus offers his disciples; one that comes from Christ's own joy in and closeness to God. "This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression, or persecution. It's present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated." (from Lifesigns by Henri J.M. Nouwen)

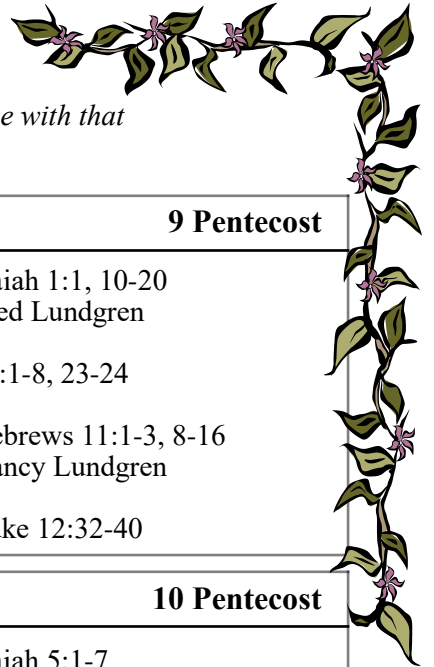
May we and all our Lord's people choose joy over despair;
love over hatred; peace over violence; and faithfulness over fear.

Carol+



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

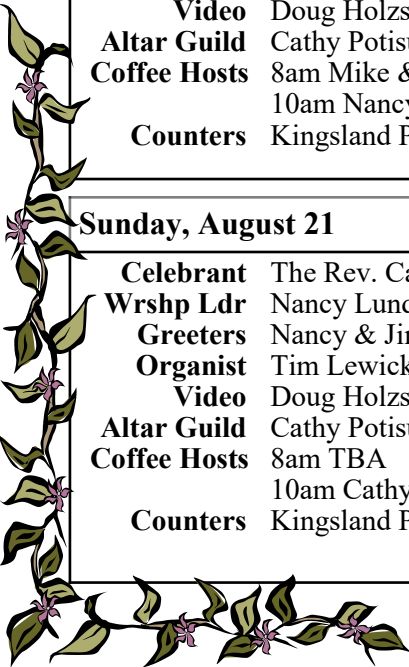
If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.



Sunday, August 7		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	9 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Wrshp Ldr	Carolyn Englert		Fred Lundgren
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	50:1-8, 23-24
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh	2nd Reading	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		Nancy Lundgren
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald	Gospel	Luke 12:32-40
Counters	Kingsland Pretorius & Barb Popiel		

Sunday, August 14		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	10 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Jeff Croll
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	Psalm	80:1-2, 8-18
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh	2nd Reading	Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		Carolyn Englert
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin	Gospel	Mark 10:17-31
Counters	Kingsland Pretorius & Barb Popiel		

Sunday, August 21		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	11 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Wrshp Ldr	Nancy Lundgren		Martha Croll
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin	Psalm	71:1-6
Organist	Tim Lewick i		
Video	Doug Holzschuh	2nd Reading	Hebrews 12:18-29
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		Tim Splinter
Coffee Hosts	8am TBA 10am Cathy Potisuk & Cindy Ward	Gospel	Luke 13:10-17
Counters	Kingsland Pretorius & Barb Popiel		



Walking Group

Come walk with us! Walking group continues, weather permitting, each Sunday, 12 noon. Meet at Chestnut Hills Park, N. Chestnut Street, Ravenna.





Did You Know?...



We've begun the "dog days" of summer; hot and dry. Boy, do we need the rain! We've had several members of Grace in the hospital: **Pat Williams** had back surgery and is recovering at home with the help of family and friends. **Michelle Davis**, **Barb Popiel's daughter**, had her second round of surgery; this time to place a stint in the smaller of two brain aneurysms. The surgery went well and Barb is happy to report that Michelle is doing find. Barb went to North Carolina to be with Michelle and her family, and granddaughter **Hannah** didn't want her to leave! **Gail Richards** spent some time at Akron General (including ICU) after being diagnosed with TIA mini-strokes and pneumonia. We hope Gail feels better soon...

Sue & Bruce Ahrens had family home to celebrate the July 4th weekend. Their son **Fred** and daughter **Sonja** made sure each of their families were ready for the gathering. Bruce was prepping for a tradition that includes boat rides on the lake, (and on land) sack races, tug-of-war, a lot of good food, fun, and all kinds of fireworks. Sonja, grandson **John**, and granddaughter **Madison** had home Communion with Sue and Bruce, and that meant a lot to them both...

Cathy Potisuk had foot surgery and is now on the mend...

Sally Dier has spent time in the hospital with her lung issues. She's being closely watched and trying to be careful not to overdo it on the activities & hobbies she enjoys...

Joanne Sarver found out she has cancer of the eye and is now in treatment....

Bette Brooks' sister-in-law Bev has some serious health concerns. Bette's daughter, **Beverly**, is helping to care for her aunt since she's been home from the hospital...

Jamie Popiel (Barb's daughter) had to put her 14 year old dog **Buster** down. He had cancer and was ready to go over the Rainbow Bridge. Barb & Jamie were with him during this time and of course it was very emotional. He was like family. He will surely be missed, especially by Jamie since Buster was her first dog.

Please be sure to keep all these members of our Grace Church family in your prayers.

Cathy Potisuk and Marsha Snyder took a road trip to Dover, Ohio to visit and spend time with **Kingsland Pretorius**. We had lunch and Kingsland was kind enough to give us a tour of Dover and New Philadelphia

and show us their new house. I know it's a long way for lunch, but it was worth it. It was lovely, and our thanks to Kingsland...

Shirley & Mike Johnson and high school classmates of the class of 1960 celebrated their 60th reunion. The event should have been in 2020, but because of COVID, that didn't happen. But, it all happened this year. The class used our parish hall for the dinner catered by Guido's. Nearly 40 people attended and had a wonderful time. Shirley & Mike, **Kathy Summy** (who took the day off work to help), Shirley's friend **Betty Coss**, and other classmates set up all the tables and decorated – and it looked wonderful. That parish hall can look good with a little help. The Johnsons even hosted the class breakfast at their home that Sunday morning. About a week later, Shirley & Mike hosted the Sit n' Stitch group and husbands at their home for the annual summer lunch gathering. Talk about BUSY!!...

Kay & Ralph Wise and Frank and Joan Seman and their families spent time this summer at the outer banks in North Carolina. They had a wonderful time and enjoy those family gatherings...

Marcia Splinter got to spend a three day weekend in New York for a multi-year High School Class reunion, and they plan to do that again...

Thanks to **Carol Marotta** for organizing the church picnic at Chestnut Hills Park in Ravenna. Some of those attending were: **Carol and her husband Eric, Gail Richards and friend Bill; Doris Whipple; Carolyn Englert; Cindy Hoskins; Nancy & Fred Lundgren; Cindy Ward, Jameson & Xaniya; Laurie Barney; Caitlin & John, George and baby Matthew Fritsch; Doug Holzschuh & Kingsland Pretorius; Jeff & Martha Croll; Nancy & Jim Ervin; Midge Myers; Marsha & Bill Snyder; and Rev. Carol**. It was a nice day, a little warm, but we had a breeze. The food was delicious, and we got to see Caitlin's new baby **Matt**. (if we left anyone out, please let us know) Our thanks to Carol & Eric, Midge, and any others who shared in grilling the burgers and hot dogs. People brought some delicious food to share, and we all enjoyed the fellowship. Plus, Caitlin & John's baby Matthew drew quite an admiring crowd!

Thank you! Thank you!

Our thanks & appreciation to those who serve & help at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **Kingsland Pretorius** for being willing to serve on Grace's vestry, filling an unexpired term.
- **Nancy Ervin** for planning meals for people recovering from surgery & for members who've provided the meals.
- **John McDonald** for fixing dents, making door repairs, and painting (several) doors.
- **Bill and Marsha Snyder** for serving their annual 4th of July hot dog lunch to the members of Grace Church.
- **Shirley Johnson** for supplying the Sit & Stitch group and the Rector with treats at our meetings.
- To all those who volunteer to be greeters, lectors, worship leaders, coffee hosts, and members of the altar guild.
- To all those who are still quarantining and still make sure your pledges are sent to the church.
- **Shirley and Mike Johnson** for hosting the Sit & Stitch picnic.
- **Doug Holtzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access.

Breakfast Club

August 18th, 8:00 AM
Brimfield Steak House

Everyone is invited to join the group! We order off the menu and pay for our own meals.



Outreach Projects

We are starting up our Outreach again!

Raven Packs - We will start again in August when the new school year starts.

Ravenna High School - Men's deodorant & other men's hygiene products, laundry detergent to be sent home with students, girls cosmetic bags and items such as: makeup samples, roll-on perfumes, tissues, etc.

Center of Hope (red wagon) -Peanut Butter, canned Tuna/Chicken, Ramen Noodles, and Mac & Cheese

Center of Hope - Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, Dental Floss, and Combs

There will be containers in the Parish Hall for all of these items.

Please be generous with these Outreach projects as we all know the need is great.

Thank You!
Grace's Vestry

Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends

By Bette Brooks

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

Clare of Assisi (1194—August 11, 1253)

August 11

Clare Offreduccio, born in 1194, was the daughter of a wealthy family in Assisi. When she was eighteen years old, she heard a sermon by Francis of Assisi, and was moved by it to follow the example of the Franciscan brothers and vow herself to a life of poverty. Her family was horrified and brought her back home by force; but one night, in a gesture both tactical and symbolic, she slipped out of her house through "the door of the dead" (a small side door that was traditionally opened only to carry out a corpse) and returned to the house of the Franciscans. Francis cut off her hair and placed her in a nearby convent. Later a house was found for her, and she was eventually joined by two of her sisters, her widowed mother, and several members of the wealthy Ubaldini family of Florence. Clare's best friend, Pacifica, could not resist, and joined them, too.

The sisters of her order came to be known informally as Minorettes (Franciscan brothers are Friars Minor = "lesser brothers") or as Poor Clares. When the order was formed, Francis suggested Clare for the Superior. But she refused the position until she turned twenty-one. The Clares devoted themselves to prayer, nursing the sick, and works of mercy for the poor and neglected. In fact, St. Francis was nursed by The Clares during his final illness.

They adopted a rule of life, written by Clare, of extreme austerity (more so than of any other order of women up to that time) and of absolute poverty, both individually and collectively. They had no beds. They slept on twigs with patched hemp for blankets. Wind and rain seeped through cracks in the ceilings. They ate very little, with no meat at all. Whatever they ate was food they begged for. Clare made sure she fasted more than anyone else. Despite this way of life, or perhaps because of it, the followers of Clare were known as the most beautiful young girls from the best families of Assisi.

The community of Poor Clares continues to this day, both in the Roman and in the Anglican communions. They remain a cloistered, contemplative order.

Prayer: O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we, through his poverty, might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of your servant Clare, may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.





The Grace Vine

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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

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The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
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Cathy Potisuk (2022)
Barb Popiel (2023)
Michelle McLaughlin (2023)
Laurie Barney (2023)

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