



The Grace Vine

February 2022

Rector's Writ

We spend a good part of winter recovering and remembering. We try to recover from eating too much over the holidays AND on those grey, cold days when we try to keep worry and boredom at bay by snacking. We longingly remember visits with loved ones we don't get to see often enough. We remember in prayer people who are sick; people who've died from COVID or other ailments. At our Annual Parish meeting we remember and give thanks for God's grace and goodness; for people who've kept Grace Church going by how they help; what they give; how they care and pray. We remember God is with us all; whether we worship, pray, and enjoy fellowship in this 'pretty little church' or whether we worship, pray, and practice fellowship from home. God provides strength, sustenance, and blessings because we need them. God also provides, in and through Christ, the light we need to keep us on the right paths in life.

The Epiphany season is all about our Lord's light and goodness. Jesus is the light that guides us; the light that shines upon us and within us. The preface used in the Eucharistic prayer in the Epiphany season reminds us that (God has) "caused a new light to shine in our hearts..." In John's gospel, Jesus speaks to the people, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) The "light of the world... the light of life" is especially important in our times. As followers of Jesus, our work and service include living in his light that brings life to the world.

John Baillie wrote a "Prayer for the Making of a Better World." It's relevant in the challenges of our day where the light of Christ and the faithful work and worship of God's people are needed. Portions of Baillie's prayer follow:

"O Lord, you surround the whole earth with your most merciful favor and you do not will that any of your children should perish. We call down your blessing today upon all who are striving towards the making of a better world. We pray, O God especially—

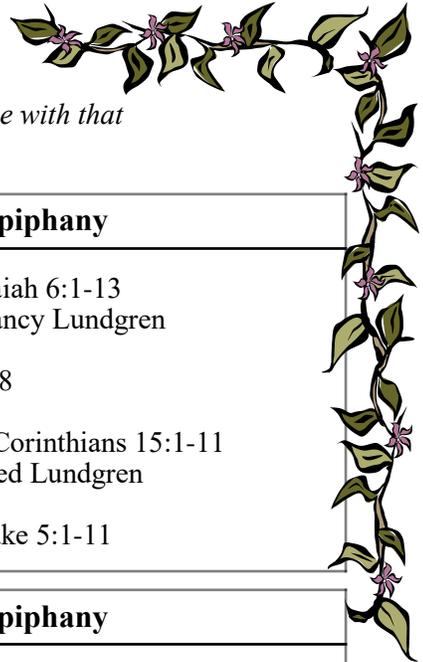
For all who are valiant for truth; for all who are working for purer and (more just) laws; for all who are working for peace between nations; for all who are engaged in healing disease; for all who are engaged in the relief of poverty; for all who are engaged in the rescue of the fallen; ...for all who (live) the gospel. Cast down, O Lord, all the forces of cruelty and wrong. Defeat all selfish and worldly-minded schemes, and prosper all that is conceived among us in the spirit of Christ and carried out to the honor of His blessed name. Amen.

*(adapted from Prayers from the Heart
by Richard Foster, p. 104)*



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, February 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	5 Epiphany
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 6:1-13 Nancy Lundgren
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius		
Greeters	10am Carolyn Englert		Psalm 138
Organist	Fred & Nancy Lundgren		
Video	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Fred Lundgren
Altar Guild	Doug Holzschuh		
Coffee Hosts	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson		Gospel Luke 5:1-11
Counters	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
	Cathy Potisuk & TBA		

Sunday, February 13		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 Epiphany
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10 Tim Splinter
Deacon	10am The Rev. William Snyder		
Wrshp Ldr	10am Nancy Lundgren		Psalm 1
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Carolyn Englert
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson		Gospel Luke 6:17-26
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & TBA		

Sunday, February 20		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	7 Epiphany
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Martha Croll
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius		
Greeters	10am Carolyn Englert		Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42
Organist	Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Video	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Jeff Croll
Altar Guild	Doug Holzschuh		
Coffee Hosts	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson		Gospel Luke 6:27-38
Counters	8am TBA 10am Doris Whipple & Gail Richards		
	Cathy Potisuk & TBA		



Bible Study

Wednesdays
7:00 P.M.

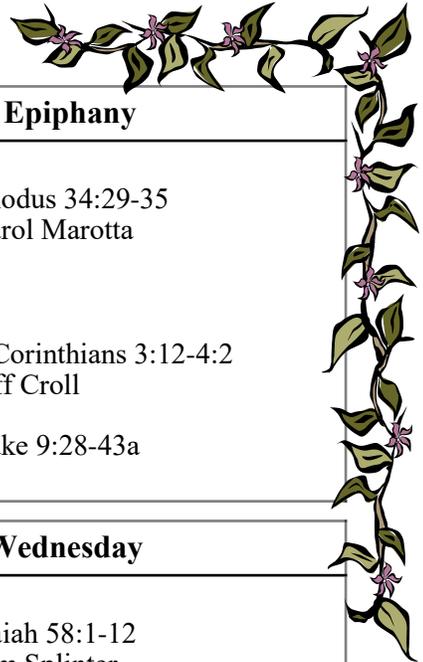
On ZOOM – Please call Carolyn Englert if you're interested in joining the conversation.



Breakfast Club

February 17th, 8:00 AM
Cracker Barrel—Rootstown

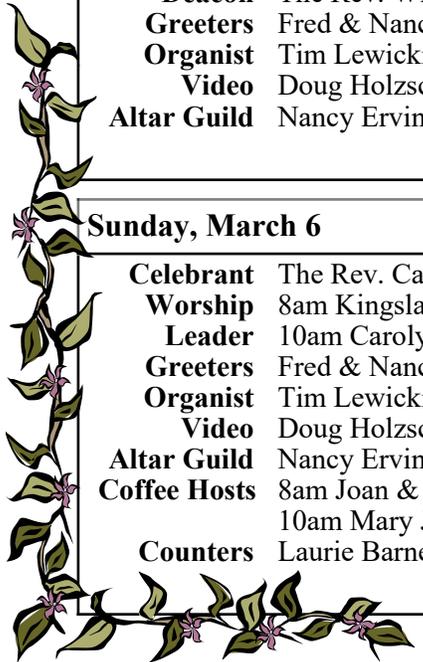
Everyone is invited to join the group! We order off the menu and pay for our own meals.



Sunday, February 27		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Last Epiphany
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Exodus 34:29-35 Carol Marotta
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Psalm 99
Wrshp Ldr	10am Nancy Lundgren		2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Jeff Croll
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh		Gospel Luke 9:28-43a
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8am TBA 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & TBA		

Wednesday, March 2		Noon & 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist	Ash Wednesday
		Noon	1st Reading Isaiah 58:1-12 Tim Splinter
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		Psalm 103:8-14
Wrshp Ldr	TBA		2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Jeff Croll
		7pm	Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		

Sunday, March 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Nancy Lundgren
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius 10am Carolyn Englert		Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren		2nd Reading Romans 10:8b-13 Fred Lundgren
Organist	Tim Lewicki		Gospel Luke 4:1-13
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Laurie Barney & Cathy Potisuk		



Funding Appeal to Send Brown Middle Schoolers to Camp Fitch

Ravenna's school superintendent and the principal of Brown Middle School are making an appeal to help fund the cost of 6th and 7th graders attending an "outdoor education experience at Camp Fitch in Pennsylvania." We receive a LOT of appeals for donations, but the vestry and rector wanted to let Grace members know of this opportunity. We feel it's a way to help youth, and a way to express our interest in the Ravenna community and schools.

The cost per student is \$130 and there are 271 students in these grades, so it's a chunk of change. If anyone would like to support this experience for our local middle school youth, please make a check payable to Grace Episcopal Church and mark Camp Fitch in the memo. We'll then write one check to Brown Middle School. Their donation deadline is Feb. 19, 2022.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!



Did You Know?...



Well, so much for getting back “normal.” It just seems to be getting more difficult to live our lives without being afraid of getting COVID, or any of the million things associated with it. But we’re still here and still making the best of a difficult situation. Our Annual Meeting is planned to take place at the usual time this year instead of sometime in April, as we did last year. That’s kinda getting back to normal. We did opt to forgo the covered dish luncheon and instead we’ll offer cheese & crackers, fruit, and cookies/brownies. Just a little something to hold those who need a snack over...

A few members have come down with COVID but are now on the mend. We thank God and we’re happy they’re better. **Jeff Croll** came down with the virus, and he and wife **Martha** were quarantined at home for 10 days, which included Christmas Eve. Needless to say, they were not at all happy about that. **Carol Marotta** also battled with COVID just recently. **Courtney, Phil, Gerry, Maggie, and Sammy Rich** were fighting it over Thanksgiving. **Nancy & Jim Ervin**, along with the rest of their family, had COVID over Christmas, and it took them awhile to get back to normal. Nancy, who doesn’t complain, remarked that she was just so tired. I guess that’s part of how this virus works. We’re not as young as we used to be...

John Monegan recently had back surgery, and wife **Cherry** reports that the surgery went well and he’s doing much better. John will be in rehab for a while, and we pray that will have good results for him, too...

Sue Ahrens recently went from University Hospital, Cleveland to ProMedica Rehab in Twinsburg after a devastating stroke. We’re praying for Sue and all the Ahrens family. Sue is being supported, visited, and given lots of encouragement by her husband **Bruce**, her son **Fred**, and daughter **Sonja**. The updates they give us are helpful & appreciated...

Barb Popiel reports that daughter **Michelle Davis** is doing well and back to work on a part-time basis. It was discovered that Michelle had two aneurysms in her brain. She had surgery to put a stent in the larger one, and Barb has flown to North Carolina twice to be there for her. She thanks everyone for praying for her daughter’s successful surgery/recovery. Another surgery is in her future in a few months to stent the 2nd aneurysm. Barb spent 11 days with Michelle, Dave and Hannah while Michelle got her

strength back. Barb and Hannah had a good time bonding. Play play play is what they did!...

Midge Myers was in church just a few weeks ago after surgery on the big toe that she almost cut in two. The doctors were afraid she would lose it. But she’s also on the mend. Thanks be to God!...

Junior Warden **Michelle McLaughlin’s** fiancé **Tim** had a heart attack but is doing much better after surgery. They have a wedding planned for later this year and have already purchased a home in Tennessee. Please keep all these loved ones in your prayers...

When the **Crolls** came down with COVID that meant the choir only had three singers and the organist. So it was the **Tim, Tim and Marcia, Marsha** “show.” But we managed to pull it off...

The Poker Boys met last month and had a great time, and you know those “boys” can get out of hand (that’s a fun bunch). I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall when **Jeff Croll, Jeff Marsh, Tony Mercury, and Bill Snyder** all met in the parish hall to play poker, have a snack or two, and razz each other. The funds they take in will go to the church or another worthwhile project; that decision hasn’t been made yet...

On January 9th we had a real treat here at Grace Church when **Joji Lewicki**, 5-year-old son of our organist **Tim Lewicki**, played his violin to *What Child is This*. He played a violin solo on the first verse and then joined in with the choir. He did such a good job and looked so cute standing up there all by himself decked out in a bow tie. And it was so nice to have his mom **Yuka** and baby sister **Mitsuki** joining us in the congregation. What a nice—and talented—young family...

Bette Brooks showed us a picture of daughter **Amanda** on the football field of the Georgia/Alabama game. Amanda works for ESPN and was also at the Michigan/Ohio State game, which didn’t go so well for us, but...we’ll get ‘em next year. What did you think about the game, **Maynard**?! He’s from Michigan you know. Last time Michigan won he wore the maize & blue banner as a cape to church, but that’s a few years back...

Sally Dier has been staying at home, for health reasons, and she & **Dennis** love to have daughter **Beth** bring their “grand-dog” **Mario Andretti** to stay with them. Mario is an Italian greyhound and loves to be with the Diers as much as they love having him. However,

when Dennis takes him out in the snow to do his “business” he runs back in the house and jumps into bed with Sally, and he’s freezing cold. That will wake you up with a start and a smile!...

Joan & Frank Seman’s daughter Susan had a veterinary conference in Florida, so she invited Joan and niece/granddaughter, **Kirsten Seman** to go with her. Joan & Kirsten enjoyed their time exploring the area and shopping while Susan was at the conference. All three of them had a great time at Disney World and making the trip together. Sounds like fun, especially in January! ...

How’d you like that snowstorm we got on MLK day? So many people were snowed in; **Shirley & Mike Johnson** couldn’t get out of their driveway; **Tim & Marcia Splinter** took the day off and stayed in until it stopped snowing so Tim could spend 2 hours blowing out their LONG driveway. **Marsha & Bill Snyder** had to rely on their neighbor to plow them out; **Nancy & Fred Lundgren** were snowed in but they weren’t worried about it because they had plenty of food and they were warm. **Maynard and Rev. Carol** were also snowed in and thanks to **Mike Ervin** for shoveling them out. Mike also used the snow blower to clear a path on the church sidewalks and to the office door and parish hall steps from the back parking lot. The snow is plowed so high around town it’ll be April before we see ground again.



Invitations & Opportunities from the Diocese

Everyone is encouraged to take part in the annual Winter Convocation of the Diocese of Ohio. Due to COVID-related changes, there’s no in person gathering again this year. The diocese is offering **The 20-Day Evangelism Challenge**, which invites everyone in the diocese to share a “20 day experience of following Christ’s invitation to ‘Come and See’ what God is doing in your heart...mind...relationships...in your faith community...your neighborhoods, and in the world.”

This will include two Zoom meetings: Monday, Feb. 7th, 6:30—7:45pm and Sunday, Feb. 27th, 6:30—7:45pm. Between those two dates, participants will receive (by e-mail and on social media) one question, based on holy scripture and our sacramental tradition. The question is offered to “stir our curiosity for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives & ministries and to form our imaginations for...hopeful and loving relationships with ourselves, our neighbors, and God.”

Tricia Lyons, Senior Advisor to the Dean for Evangelism Initiatives at Virginia Theological Seminary, will be “Our Guide for the Journey.” For further info or to register, please go online to www.dohio.org.

For those who’d like to learn more about the **Bishop Search Committee**, the **Search Profile** they have written, or other info about the **search process**, you can check the Diocesan website at www.dohio.org. There is a big link on the front page. The **Search Committee** has also issued a list of **Listening Sessions**—both in person and by Zoom—scheduled for several locations around the diocese.

We also have hard copies of the Evangelism Challenge; Search Committee info; and the Listening Sessions schedule for members to pick up and view on Sundays.

We encourage all our members to respond in faith to these invitations & offerings from the Diocese of Ohio.

Ash Wednesday Services

Just a reminder that Lent begins on March 2nd with the Ash Wednesday liturgy, imposition of ashes, and Holy Eucharist.

We'll observe this solemn day with a spoken service at noon and a sung service at 7pm with Grace's choir & organist.

We hope you'll join us.



Thank You! Thank You!

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

- **John McDonald** for the hours he's spent and the work he did when the boiler system broke down.
- **All** those who wrote their reports for the annual meeting.
- **Nancy Ervin & Hospitality Group members** for providing tasty and healthy snacks for our Annual Meeting.
- **Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks** for doing altar guild two months in a row.
- **Thanks** to our members for being faithful in prayer and remembering members who need those prayers.
- **Marcia Splinter** for being a great treasurer and keeping the bills paid.
- **Our faithful members** who continue to support the church with your pledges.
- **Doug Holtzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access.
- **All those who support Grace Church** with your prayers, giving, and service.

Birthdays

2nd Dale Espey
14th Tim Lewicki
15th Yuka Lewicki
16th Nancy Lundgren
22nd Luke Kearsey
27th Larry Allison
29th Fred Lundgren

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Baptisms

11th Nancy Ervin
14th Emily Summy
29th Kirsten Seman

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.*

St. Valentine

February 14

Around this time of year, lots of people ask, "Who was St. Valentine, and what does he have to do with sending romantic cards and messages?"

St. Valentine is a martyr commemorated on the 14th of February. Probably he was martyred on that date, but little else is known of him. Valentine, priest of Rome, and Valentine, bishop of Ternia, are both commemorated on 14 February, and are now generally assumed to be the same person. There are many legends surrounding St. Valentine and the reasons for his martyrdom. Somehow, this one rings truer than the others.

On February 14, around the year 270 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed. Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military legions. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families. To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 270.

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine." For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your Love in the heart of your holy martyr Valentine: Grant to us, your humble servants, a like faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in his triumph may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.





The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

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

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Phillip Crouse (2021)
Phillip Rich (2022)
Carol Marotta (2022)
Cathy Potisuk (2022)
Barb Popiel (2023)
Michelle McLaughlin (2023)
Laurie Barney (2023)

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