



The Grace Vine

February 2023

Rector's Writ

In recent weeks we've been gathering worship stats, stewardship figures, and 2023 budget projections, as well as writing and giving yearly reports---all part of annual parish meetings and prep for Parochial Reports. Once we wade through the facts and figures, we Episcopalians like to get our focus back to spiritual matters. The Ash Wednesday service and liturgy invites us to tune our inner compass and outer lives to "the observance of a holy Lent." The word 'observance' is a bit deceptive because it sounds do-able. Anyone can OBSERVE, right? We observe that it stays light a little longer each day. During Lent we observe the tone of worship is more solemn---no flowers on the altar, no Gloria, no alleluias...and not a lot of joy until Easter.

Yet in our observance of a holy Lent, we're called beyond what we can see. We're called to make a commitment from within by "self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by reading and meditating on God's holy word." The irony of this inner commitment is that it opens us to God's presence; His holy goodness and grace at work in our worship and service; our relationships and our lives (*prayer and spiritual life AND life in the world*).

Whenever we are disciplined enough, bold enough or humble enough to do this inspection and reflection, we realize there are a few gaps in our lives. We sin and miss the mark, and all that can fill those gaps is the grace of God. We find hope and meaning, not in what we turn away from or take on during Lent, but in the LORD WE TURN TOWARD in worship, faith, and humility. Our repentance is answered with God's forgiveness; our meditation and prayer are met with the Spirit's loving presence; our hope and faith endure by Christ's grace. In Lent and all seasons of life we rely on God's compassion, mercy, and steadfast love.

We're planning to use for our Lenten study, *Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength*. It's one of the seasonal resources from the Living Compass group and presents a holistic approach to life's struggles and joys, and simply trying to apply Christian practices to our everyday lives. Please plan to join us on Tuesday evenings of Lent, Feb. 28th---March 28th. (Details are in the Lent Program & Fellowship article in this issue.)

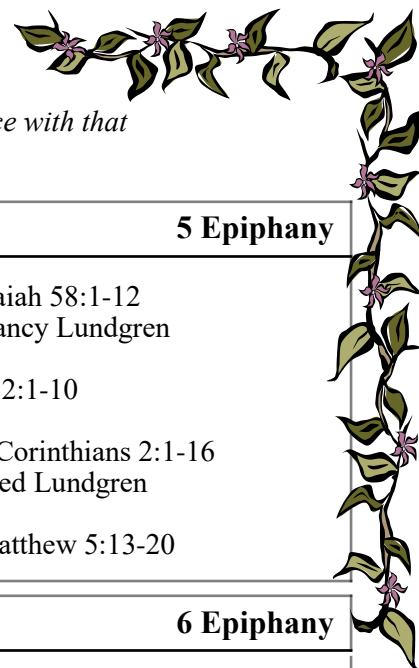
May the remainder of this Epiphany season and the upcoming Lenten season be a time for us all to listen to, learn from, and draw near to God.

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, February 5 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5 Epiphany

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 58:1-12 Nancy Lundgren
Wrshp Ldr	10am Carolyn Englert	Psalm	112:1-10
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Fred Lundgren
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Matthew 5:13-20
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		

Sunday, February 12 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6 Epiphany

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Tim Splinter
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	119:1-8
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Martha Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Matthew 5:21-37
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		

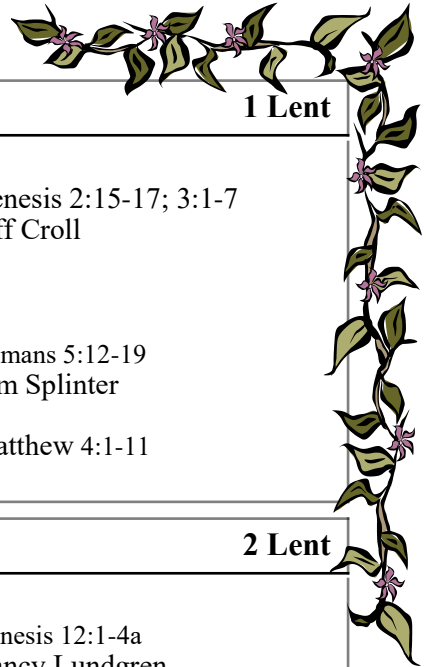
Sunday, February 19 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Last Epiphany

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Exodus 24:12-18 Carolyn Englert
Wrshp Ldr	Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	2
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin	2nd Reading	2 Peter 1:16-21 Jeff Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks		
Coffee Hosts	8am Kay & Rallph Wise 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		

Sunday, February 22 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist Ash Wednesday

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Tim Splinter
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	103
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Carol Marotta
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		





Sunday, February 26

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

1 Lent

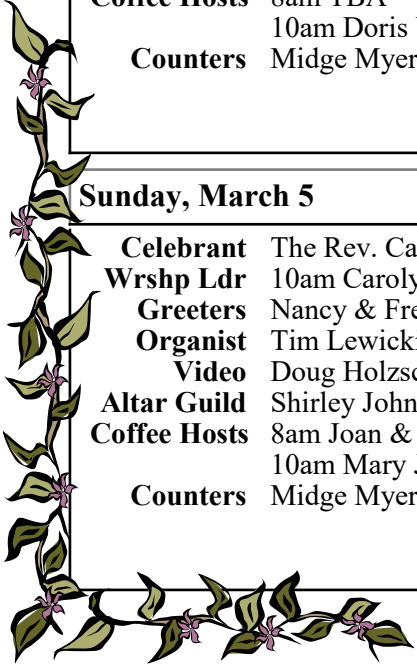
Celebrant	The Rev. William Snyder	1st Reading	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Jeff Croll
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	Psalm	32
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading
Video	Doug Holzschuh	Tim Splinter	
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	Matthew 4:1-11
Coffee Hosts	8am TBA 10am Doris Whipple & Gail Richards		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		

Sunday, March 5

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

2 Lent

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Genesis 12:1-4a
Wrshp Ldr	10am Carolyn Englert		Nancy Lundgren
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	Psalm	121
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading
Video	Doug Holzschuh	Fred Lundgen	
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	Gospel	John 3:1-17
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney		



Ash Wednesday Services

February 22, 2023

Noon and 7:00 PM

Grace Church will be holding two services on Ash Wednesday, each including the Ash Wednesday liturgy, imposition of ashes, and the Holy Eucharist. We'll have the choir and music at the 7pm service. Please plan to join us.



Breakfast Club

February 16th
8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

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





Did You Know?...



So far 2023 has been very interesting; **Nancy & Fred Lundgren's son Bill** had to be rushed to the hospital to have his appendix removed on Christmas day. His two daughters were obviously worried about Dad and got him to the E.R...

Janet Hughes fell and broke her ankle on Christmas day. She had surgery at the hospital in Akron and came down with a few infections. She just recently went to a rehab facility in Tallmadge. Her husband **Bud** and their daughters have been there for comfort and support throughout the ordeal. And of course, her sisters—**Nancy Ervin and Cindy Ward**—are giving her lots of encouragement and support, too...

The Snyder's granddaughter Ellie was in an accident and totaled her car and their daughter **Jill** had a water pipe that broke in the frigid weather and flooded the foyer in her home. It was a good thing she was home at the time. **The Snyder's grandson Noah** broke his hand again: that makes six times...

Nancy & Jim Ervin's son Mike had a detached retina following cataract surgery and is on the mend. Their nineteen-year granddaughter **Emily** discovered she had blood clots in her heart as a result of COVID. After some rest and care at home, Emily's back in college and her cardiologist is keeping a close watch on her...

Cathy Potisuk was sick for seven days after Christmas...not a good time to be sick...

Martha Croll will go to U.H. Ahuja for back surgery on February 13th. Her doctor has scheduled the entire day for her...

Cindy Ward's grandson Jameson Patrick had surgery on his back to remove damaged nerves. It was really good to see him walk into church with only a walker...AND a big smile. He worked hard in P.T. and was so glad to be home for Christmas – that was his goal, and he made it! Please keep all these members of our Grace family in your prayers...

Thanks to everyone who helped take all the Christmas decorations down in the church: **Laurie Barney & Marsha Snyder** removed the poinsettias from around the altar along with the creche and Advent wreath. **Bette Brooks** removed all the candles and candle holders from the pews. **Carol Marotta, Barb Popiel, and Laurie Barney** took all the wreaths to the undercroft. Thanks to everyone

who pitched in to make this big job a little easier.

Barb Popiel spent two weeks with **Michelle, Dave, and Hannah**. Michelle did very well with her surgery, so hopefully at her next angiogram the aneurysm will be gone for good. Barb celebrated Hannah's 5th birthday and was able to see Hannah open her gifts on Christmas morning. Hannah & Michelle were happy Barb was there for Christmas because she usually plans to be home to celebrate Christmas day with daughter **Jamie and grandson Tyson**; but due to Southwest Airlines that wasn't the case this year. Jamie and others happened to be in Myrtle Beach and were able to pick Barb up on their way home, otherwise who knows when or how she would have made it back. Michelle was thankful for all your prayers...

Rick Taylor spent his Christmas in Georgia with his brother and friends. They enjoyed their old family tradition of peaches and champaign for Christmas breakfast...

Mike and Shirley Johnson went to California for the holiday to be with their daughter **Susan** and her family. However, Susan and her daughter **Elizabeth** came down with COVID two days after Mike & Shirley arrived, so they didn't get to see much of those two for a few days. Shirley & Mike got groceries; made chicken soup and lots of good home made food; so daughter & granddaughter both got better! It's a trip the Johnsons make every year, and they all enjoy watching the Tournament of Roses Parade in person. Still, being with the family is the most important and enjoyable part of their journey...

Joan Seman went to Florida with her veterinarian daughter, **Susan** (who had to take some classes for her accreditation). I'm sure Joan enjoyed the shopping and the good weather, as well as time with her daughter...

Kevin Splinter and his grandma Barbara Splinter came from Wisconsin to be with **Marcia, Tim, & Eric** for Christmas., though the winter storm delayed them a day and it was still dicey the next day. Tim and Eric Splinter are members of the Curtains Up Theatre group in Garrettsville, and this January they presented *The Shawshank Redemption*. They were both in the cast as well as setting up the sound, lights, and set design (and set dismantling, too).

Lent Program & Fellowship

Tuesdays in Lent

Feb. 28th–March 28th

We're finalizing plans to offer a Tuesday evening study & fellowship. We'll have a sign-up for 2 volunteers to bring a simple supper of soup, bread, cookies/dessert if you opt to (or alternative if you're giving up sweets for Lent).

We'll have the meal and fellowship from 6pm—6:30pm. The study and discussion begin at 6:30, then we'll end the gathering with Compline, planning to finish at 7:30pm.

As of this writing, we'll be using "Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." It's part of the "Living Well Through Lent" study series from Living Compass. We've used their resources before and had some good discussions. Some commented that it was practical as well as spiritual.

We look forward to your presence and participation.



Thank you! Thank you!

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

- Everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations including candelabras, wreaths, and flowers.
- **Doug Holzschuh & Kingsland Pretorius** for hosting Christmas Day coffee hour (with lots of donuts.)
- **John McDonald** for getting the heat on in the church office on a cold Monday morning, and for moving items back to the shed after Grace had a fire inspection visit.
- **Eric Splinter** for volunteering to serve as acolyte for the 10am service AND singing in the choir.
- **Tim Lewicki** for taking on choir director duties while **Martha Croll** will be recovering from back surgery. He and the choir will keep the team going while awaiting Martha's return.
- Thanks to all the committee chairpersons who got their reports in to the office in a timely manner.
- **Marcia Splinter** for all the work and extra efforts she gives as treasurer each year AND for getting us through software problems for the Annual Meeting.
- **Tim Splinter** for graphic design & layout of the Grace Vine each month AND for keeping the two office computers updated and fixing them when we run into technical problems.

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

The Bulletin Board

Outreach Projects

Ravenna High School - They are VERY LOW on Deodorant and Body Wash for both sexes, and Toothpaste. Other Hygiene Products are also needed Unscented Wipes Laundry Detergent which is sent home with the students

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.

APL - List of needs is on the container in the parish hall

Thank you for any donations- they are greatly appreciated!
Grace's Vestry

Notice from the Grace Church Altar Guild

Due to the significant increase in the cost of flowers, we find it necessary to increase the amount for altar flowers to \$35.00.



Walking Group

Come walk with us.
Carol Marotta & Laurie
Barney will lead the
walk at 12:00. Meet at
Chestnut Hills Park,
Ravenna, and walk to
the first parking lot.





A Note from Rev. Tom and Maryjane Furrer

Dear Grace Church folks,

Since we moved back to Ravenna in September of 2022, we have attended Grace Church almost every Sunday. In a short time, we really learned to love and appreciate all of the members (at least all of the members we met) of the congregation.

Just two weeks after we moved here, our family was struck with a tragedy. My sister's husband died of a heart attack suddenly and unexpectedly. We asked Rev. Carol if we might be able to use the church for his funeral. She immediately said "yes" and offered all the help we needed to plan the service. When we planned the reception (on very short notice) many of the parish members offered their services to help with the hospitality at the reception. Our whole family deeply appreciated all of the cheerful hospitality offered by so many of your people. A little later, we asked if we could join the choir for the Advent and Christmas season. We were welcomed with open arms. And, despite the fact that I (Tom) can't read music or carry a tune very well, the members were very kind and helpful to us.

For all of this and more, we wish to say "thank you" to you all.

Now, we are saying farewell for a while. I have been asked by the Diocese to serve as the Interim rector at Christ Church Warren, while that parish searches for a new Rector. We will be there for about 18 to 24 months for the interim process. However, we still consider Grace Church our "home church" and we will be returning here when our time in Warren is over. We love this congregation and eagerly look forward to returning as soon as we can.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Tom and Maryjane Furrer

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.*

Matthias the Apostle

February 24

After the Ascension of Our Lord, His followers at Jerusalem chose a replacement for Judas Iscariot. The man chosen was Matthias, "and he was numbered with the Eleven." Apart from the information given in the first chapter of Acts, nothing is known of him. It would be a mistake to conclude from this that he was a failure and a bad choice as an apostle. We know as much as we do about St. Peter and St. Paul because Luke (a travelling companion of Paul) wrote extensively about them. About most of the other apostles (those belonging to the original twelve and later ones like Matthias) we know little after Pentecost about them individually.

Let's start with what we do know. His calling as an apostle is unique, in that his appointment was not made personally by Jesus. He had already ascended but the Holy Spirit had not yet descended upon the apostles. There is no mention of Matthias among the lists of disciples or followers of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels; however, according to Acts, he had been with Jesus from His Baptism until His Ascension. In the days following, Peter proposed that the assembled disciples, who numbered about 120, nominate 2 men to replace Judas. They chose Barsabbas (Justus) and Matthias, then they prayed for the discernment of the Holy Spirit. Matthias was chosen by lots, so he was numbered with the eleven.

Now, legend takes over. The tradition of the Greeks says that Matthias planted the faith around Cappadocia and along the coasts of the Caspian Sea. According to others, he first preached in Judaea then in a region of modern-day former-soviet state of Georgia and was crucified. In fact, a marker placed in the ruins of a Roman fortress in the Georgian region of Adjara claims that Matthias is buried at that site. The Greeks support this claim. Still others claim that his remains were brought to Italy by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. Part of the relics were interred in Padua and the remaining in the Abbey of St. Matthias in Trier, Germany. And yet another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned in Jerusalem by the local populace and then beheaded.

Regardless of his actions after being chosen a disciple, he must have faithfully followed his Lord, just as he did before his selection. He reminds us of the countless faithful, unknown to us, who follow Christ.

PRAYER:

O Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful Servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
250 W. Cedar St.
Ravenna OH 44266

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
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)
Kingsland Pretorius (2023)
Midge Myers (2024)
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2025)
Kay Wise (2025)

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If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at:

grwebmaster@graceravenna.org.

Please consider carefully, however. We would rather make the paper copy and have it read than save the paper and postage and have it go unread.