



The Grace Vine

July 2021

Rector's Writ

There's no doubt we're weary of the COVID crisis and all the restrictions and concerns that go with it. It seems things are beginning to loosen up a bit. Bishop Hollingsworth issued a June message letting parishes know that decisions around safe practices and protocols—and the easing of such—is up to the clergy and lay leadership of the individual parishes.

We had a lengthy discussion at our June 15th vestry meeting and agreed to approach the current phase with the following practices, beginning July 4, 2021:

- 1) Masks are encouraged, not required
- 2) Continue social distancing in church, including passing the Peace from our pews
- 3) Continue Communion with Bread only for now; begin gathering at the Communion rail with no more than 6 at a time
- 4) Continue use of tracking sheets at each service

We've recently returned to singing and coffee hour, and we're all enjoying that. Coffee time may have to be scaled back or changes made. Some people still worship from home, and summer is vacation time. As a result, we've not had coffee hosts each Sunday in June. So help with that is appreciated and builds kitchen fellowship.

It's also been suggested we need to make sure we use hand sanitizer (before coffee and snacks). When/if people opt to remove masks in the parish hall, please be sure to put them away—in your pocket or purse—and **NOT ON THE TABLES.**

Adjustments will likely need to be made. We also may explore safe ways of pouring and distributing wine in the small plastic 'shot glasses,' but that could take a while.

The important thing is for us to gather (in-person or electronically) to worship and praise God; to share and build fellowship; then to 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' May God's blessings be upon our worship; our time together; and the service we do in Jesus' name and to the glory of God.

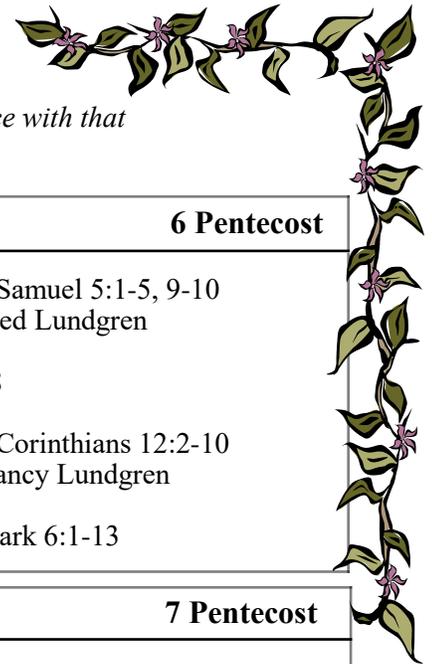
Have a safe and happy Independence Day and a restful, calm summer.

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.



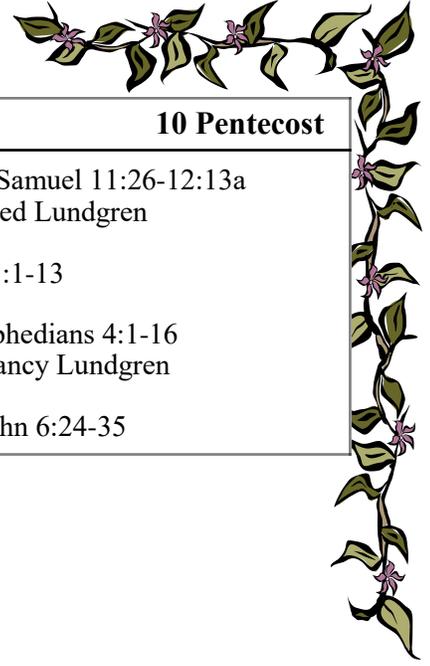
Sunday, July 4		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		6 Pentecost	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Fred Lundgren	Psalm 48	2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Nancy Lundgren	Gospel Mark 6:1-13
Homilist	The Rev. William Snyder				
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks				
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert				
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren				
Video	Doug Holzschuh				
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 Bill & Marsha Snyder				
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
Counters	Barb Popiel & Michelle McLaughlin				

Sunday, July 11		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		7 Pentecost	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Tim Splinter	Psalm 24	2nd Reading Ephesians 1:3-14 Karen Krofta	Gospel Mark 6:14-29
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder				
Worship	8:00 Sally Dier				
Leader	10:00 Nancy Lundgren				
Greeters	Marsha Snyder				
Video	Doug Holzschuh				
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson 10:00 TBA				
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
Counters	Barb Popiel & Michelle McLaughlin				

Sunday, July 18		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		8 Pentecost	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Martha Croll	Psalm 89:20-37	2nd Reading Ephesians 2:11-22 Jeff Croll	Gospel Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks				
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert				
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin				
Video	Doug Holzschuh				
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 TBA				
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
Counters	Barb Popiel & Michelle McLaughlin				

Sunday, July 25		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		9 Pentecost	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Carol Marotta	Psalm 14	2nd Reading Ephesians 3:14-21 Carolyn Englert	Gospel John 6:1-21
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder				
Worship	8:00 Sally Dier				
Leader	10:00 Nancy Lundgren				
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald				
Video	Doug Holzschuh				
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 TBA				
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
Counters	Barb Popiel & Michelle McLaughlin				





Sunday, August 1		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		10 Pentecost	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a		
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks		Fred Lundgren		
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert	Psalm	51:1-13		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	Ephedians 4:1-16		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		Nancy Lundgren		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA	Gospel	John 6:24-35		
	10:00 TBA				
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Marsha Snyder				
Counters	Laurie Barney & Phillip Crouse				

Thank You to Kay Canan & Sally Dier

The vestry and rector would like to thank Sally Dier and Kay Canan, who have served as Co-Chairs of the Visibility Project, for their work and creativity to get Grace Church's name out into the community. Their efforts and talents have earned just over \$3,140 which will be placed in the General Fund. They've put a lot of energy into a variety of projects: award winning cheese-cakes at the Relay for Life (and holidays); candy and fudge making; pancake dinners; and yard sales to name only a few. We appreciate the hard work they've done over the years to increase the visibility of Grace Church.

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Anniversaries

- 11th Kenneth & Carolyn Englert
- 13th Jeff & Martha Croll
- 16th Ralph & Kay Wise
- 21st Phil & Courtney Rich
- 24th Dan & Lynn Francois



Baptisms

- 7th Julie Canan
- 19th Eric Splinter
- 29th Midge Myers

Birthdays

- 1st Lisa Paxton
- 7th Kara Simonson
- 10th Phillip George
- 11th Michelle Lambert
- 12th Amy Seman
- 14th Bev Lewis-Mercury
- 15th Kirsten Seman
- 20th Bill Snyder
Daniel Kearsey
- 22nd Vayla Marie Crouse
- 23rd Michael Canan
Debbie Shorts
- 24th Jeff Marsh
- 26th Dennis Dier
- 27th Frank Seman
- 29th Dani Dier
- 31st Samuel Rich



Did You Know?...



Well, the governor has lifted many of the COVID restrictions in Ohio. **Bishop Hollingsworth** recently sent an update about parishes and COVID safety practices. The decision our bishop made is that's it's now up to the clergy and parish leadership of individual churches to decide what restrictions to follow. Our Rector and Vestry had a lengthy discussion at the June meeting and decided that as of July 4th: wearing a mask is encouraged; we can sing; we'll continue social distancing in the pews and at the Peace. For Holy Communion we'll return to standing or kneeling at the altar rail and with help from the ushers only six people at a time. The priest will distribute the Bread (wafer) only, and we'll return to the pew by the side aisles. Also, we will continue tracking everyone who attends for safety and follow up needs. We can have coffee hour again (if we can get enough volunteers), and no more sanitizing pews after services. Maybe things are looking up for us. We're all hoping life will eventually get back to "normal." Won't we have stories to tell our children and grandchildren?!...

Tim Splinter installed a new computer in the church office (and spent a fair amount of time at home installing new software). Now **Marsha** must be retrained as to how the new system works, and that can frustrate even the best secretary. Marsha can rely on Tim for help, and he patiently fields a new question almost daily...

This year we had one high school senior among our members, **Gerry Rich** who graduated from Revere High School on June 13th. The ceremony was held at Blossom Music Center with the Rich family in attendance and cheering him on. Gerry & his sister **Maggie** are still involved in the Chaparrals Marching Band. They'll be participating in several parades this summer, and they'll both be very busy fitting that into their work schedules. Gerry is the first of **Courtney and Phil's** children to graduate, and daughter Maggie will be graduating next year...

Sue and Bruce Ahrens traveled to Massachusetts for their grandson **John's** graduation. John is already flying and he plans to continue training for becoming a pilot as well as attending college...

Nancy & Fred Lundgren were very excited to see their son **Bill** and granddaughter **Jean**, visiting from Texas. Jean is really into music and even composes her own. Her dad Bill has a friend in Cleveland who's interested in hearing and reviewing her music. They spent a lot of time recording some of her work. Who knows, we may have a future star on our hands! Good luck, Jean!...

The Bell family, **Nancy & Jim Ervin, Janet & Bud Hughes, and Cindy Ward** were saddened by the death of their sister-in-law **Cindy Bell** who died this month. **Rev.**

Carol and the Bell family had a beautiful service here at Grace Church with remembrances and readings done by Cindy's grandchildren which really added a lot to the service...

Mary & Hank Cabot were excited to meet their new great granddaughter **Amelia Sophia**, who is now 8 months old. The family lives in Michigan and because of distance and COVID it took this long to get together...

Martha Croll has officially retired from teaching with the end of this school year. She's been teaching Physics at Cleveland Central Catholic High School for several years. She said she'll miss her students, (and they'll no doubt miss Martha) but it's time to go...

We're happy to see **Lynn & Dan Francois** back in town after their winter in Florida. It was a nice surprise when Lynn stopped by the office to say "Hello."...

Bette Brooks enjoyed having her daughter **Laurel** spend some time with her last month. Laurel spent some time this spring "Storm Chasing." Yes, you read it right storm chasing. Apparently Laurel likes this pursuit, being a weather buff, and was even asked to help monitor the gauges/equipment (what do you call that stuff?) on one of the chases! ...

Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier are making plans to reopen Gracie's Back Door. It won't be any time soon---so much needs to be done, but if anyone would like to help with the process see Sally or Nancy...

Father's Day for the Dier family went so much better than their Mother's Day. **Sally** made reservations for the family so **Dennis, Sally, and daughters Dani & Beth** had dinner out to celebrate the day. They had a wonderful waitress, the food was great, they got home without incident, and had a nice time just being together...

Bill Snyder spent his Father's Day with daughter **Jill** who came up to celebrate with her dad, but Bill said the biggest treat was Jill going to church with him...

It was so good to see **Roberta O'Keefe & Rick Taylor** both in church with us a few weeks ago. It looks like people are coming back a little at a time...

Marcia and Tim Splinter are enjoying their new electric car. They purchased a new Chevy Bolt and are having a lot of fun with it on their daily commute... and loving not stopping at gas stations...

The Bulletin Board

Sit & Stitch

July 6th & 27th 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Sit and Stitch group will meet in the multi-purpose room (next to the church office) on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there. Please bring your sewing project (or just come and enjoy the fellowship, like some of us do) and wear a mask and keep social distancing.



Thank You! Thank You!

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

- **Doug Holzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access.
- **Deacon Bill Snyder** and our Worship Leaders—**Bette Brooks, Sally Dier, Carolyn Englert, & Nancy Lundgren** for their help with services each Sunday; and **Deacon Bill** for preaching July 4th
- **Tim Splinter** for installing the new, quieter computer (and software, etc.) in the church office.
- The volunteers who've hosted our recent gatherings for coffee hour.
- **John McDonald** for weeding the garden area at the rectory
- **Cathy Potisuk** for bringing her dehumidifier for use in the office.
- **Marcia Splinter** for being a great treasurer, keeping the bills paid, and for prepping for & overseeing our online audit.
- Our faithful members who continue to support the church with your pledges.
- All those who pray for our Grace Church family and for Grace Church.

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.*

Chiune Sugihara

July 17

The phrase “Righteous Gentiles” has come to mean any non-Jew who risked their life to save Jews during the Holocaust. However, within the lectionary of the Episcopal Church, it refers to 5 individuals specifically: Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden; Hiram Bingham IV of the USA; Karl Lutz of Switzerland; C. Sugihara of Japan; and Andrew Trocme of France. This entry will be about Sugihara.

Chiune Sugihara was born on January 1, 1900, in Mino, Japan, to a middle-class father and an upper-middle class mother, the second son among five boys and one girl. (Class was quite important in Japan.) When he was born, his father worked at a tax office and his family lived in a borrowed temple. In 1912, he graduated with top honors from Furuwatari Elementary School and entered Aichi prefectural 5th secondary school, a combined junior and senior high school. His father wanted him to become a physician, but Chiune deliberately failed the entrance exam by writing only his name on the exam papers. Instead, he entered Waseda University in 1918 and majored in English language.

In 1919, he passed the Foreign Ministry Scholarship exam. From 1920 to 1922 Sugihara served in the Japanese Imperial Army as a second lieutenant. He resigned his commission in November 1922 and took the Foreign Ministry's language qualifying exams the following year, passing the Russian exam with distinction. The Japanese Foreign Ministry recruited him and assigned him to Harbin, China, where he also studied the Russian and German languages and later became an expert on Russian affairs.



In 1939, Sugihara became a vice-consul of the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania. His duties included reporting on Soviet and German troop movements, and to find out if Germany planned an attack on the Soviets and, if so, to report the details of this attack to his superiors in Berlin and Tokyo. When the Soviet Union marched into Lithuania, many Polish and Lithuanian Jews tried to acquire exit visas. Without the visas, it was dangerous to travel, yet it was impossible to find countries willing to issue them. Hundreds of refugees came to the Japanese consulate in Kaunas, trying to get a visa to Japan. At the time, on the brink of the war, Lithuanian Jews made up one third of Lithuania's urban population and half of the residents of every town.

In June 1940, Italy entered into the war and the Mediterranean escape route was closed. Forced to seek new outlets, the refugee committee in Germany arranged for the transportation of Jews

from Germany across Europe and Asia (via the Trans-Siberian Railway) to Vladivostok, and then on to Japan. From Japan the refugees were to embark for destinations in the Western Hemisphere.

At the time, the Japanese government required that visas be issued only to those who had gone through appropriate immigration procedures and had enough funds. Most of the refugees did not fulfill these criteria. Sugihara dutifully contacted the Japanese Foreign Ministry three times for instructions. Each time, the Ministry responded that anybody granted a visa should have a visa to a third destination to exit Japan, with no exceptions.

For nearly 2 months, aware that applicants were in danger if they stayed behind, Sugihara ignored his orders and issued ten-day visas to Jews for transit through Japan. Given his inferior post and the culture of the Japanese Foreign Service bureaucracy, this was an unusual act of disobedience. He spoke to Soviet officials who agreed to let the Jews travel through the country via the Trans-Siberian Railroad at five times the standard ticket price.

Sugihara continued to hand-write visas, reportedly spending 18 to 20 hours a day on them, producing a normal month's worth of visas each day, until 4 September, when he had to leave his post before the consulate was closed. By that time, he had granted thousands of visas to Jews, many of whom were heads of households and thus were permitted to take their families with them. According to witnesses, he was still writing visas while in transit from his hotel and after boarding the train at the railway station, throwing visas into the crowd of desperate refugees out of the train's window even as the train pulled out.

Sugihara was reassigned to Königsberg, East Prussia, before serving as a Consul General in Prague and in the legation in Bucharest. He was promoted to the rank of third secretary in 1943. When Soviet troops entered Romania, they imprisoned Sugihara and his family in a POW camp for eighteen months. They were released in 1946 and returned to Japan. In 1947, the Japanese foreign office asked him to resign, nominally due to downsizing. Some sources have said that the Foreign Ministry told Sugihara he was dismissed because of "that incident" in Lithuania. How many Jews did he save? We are unsure but the number has been placed as high as 6,000.

Sugihara died July 31, 1986. Despite the publicity given him in Israel and other nations, he had remained virtually unknown in his home country. Only when a large Jewish delegation from around the world, including the Israeli ambassador to Japan, attended his funeral, did his neighbors find out what he had done. His subsequent considerable posthumous acclaim contrasts with the obscurity in which he lived following the loss of his diplomatic career nearly forty years earlier. When asked why he risked it, his only reason was that "they needed help."

Prayer: God of the Covenant and Lord of the Exodus, by the hand of Moses you delivered your chosen people from cruel enslavement: We give you thanks for Chiune Sugihara and all those Righteous Gentiles who with compassion, courage and resourcefulness rescued thousands of your children from certain death. Grant that, in the power of your Spirit, we may protect the innocent of every race and creed in the Name of Jesus Christ, strong Deliverer of us all; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The Grace Vine

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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

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