



The Grace Vine

March 2022

Rector's Writ

March is accompanied by more daylight and a lot of unpredictable weather as our thoughts turn to spring. On Ash Wednesday, (March 2nd) we'll be thinking about those stern words regarding the "observance of a holy Lent." We become aware of the "self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, self-denial; and reading/meditating on God's holy Word" that are all part of keeping Lent holy. We can only face those Ash Wednesday reminders of our sin and wretchedness while we cleave to the promise of God's forgiveness and mercy. We again try to figure out what comforts to give up or what disciplines we might take on. Yet at some point, it becomes clear this "holy" part of Lent is *no casual matter*. It doesn't happen by our doing.

God graciously provides the nurturing we need to coax us out of the shadow of sin and into the light of Christ. Lent is a time to invite Jesus to stand beside us as we take a look at our lives. Only God in Christ and the Holy Spirit can give us the courage and will to do that difficult work of examining our lives, relationships, and what we treasure or value. This divine love of God cannot ever be earned or deserved; His is a love that has the power to give life and transform life. God meets our repentance with forgiveness. Christ's grace reveals to us the power of love, the constancy of hope. The Holy Spirit guides our prayers and deeds. God's love and mercy are vast as the sky and cover us all. No one stands beyond that holy and saving embrace, which leads us in keeping a holy Lent and living a holy life; to our Lord's glory and praise.

Prayer at the End of Day

May the sun go down on anger, stress, and worry.

May the sun go down on problem solving and planning.

May the sun go down on rush and on deadlines.

May the sun go down on this week's work—now done.

May the sacred circle of the sun frame the harsh outline of the Cross.

May it signal brighter days ahead, new energies and emerging hopes.

(from *A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book*;
by William J. Fitzgerald, p. 77; ACTA Publications)

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.

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

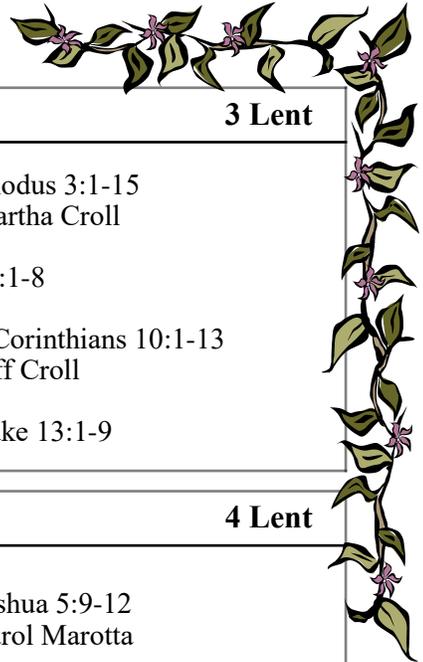
Sunday, March 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Nancy Lundgren	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius 10am Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading Romans 10:8b-13 Fred Lundgren	Gospel Luke 4:1-13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

Sunday, March 13		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Genesis 15:1-2,17-18 Tim Splinter	Psalm 27
Deacon	8am The Rev. William Snyder		
Wrshp Ldr	10am Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading Philippians 3:17-4:1 Carolyn Englert	Gospel Luke 13:31-35
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		

Ash Wednesday Services Noon & 7:00 pm, March 2nd



Be sure to give the Lord some time and prayer to begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26th. We'll have the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist at both the noon and 7 pm service that day. We hope you'll attend as one way to be faithful in our "observance of a holy Lent."



Sunday, March 20		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	3 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Exodus 3:1-15 Martha Croll
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius 10am Carolyn Englert	Psalm	63:1-8
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Jeff Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8am Midge Myers 10am Doris Whipple & Gail Richards		
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		

Sunday, March 27		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Joshua 5:9-12 Carol Marotta
Deacon	8 & 10am The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	32
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Jeff Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8am Kingsland Pretorius & Doug Holzschuh 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		

Sunday, April 3		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	5 Lent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 34:16-21 Nancy Lundgren
Worship Leader	8am Kingsland Pretorius 10am Carolyn Englert	Psalm	126
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	Philippians 3:4b-14 Fred Lundgren
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	John 12:1-8
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	TBA		



Lenten Study Program

The Lenten Study for 2022 is "Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind." We will meet in person in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays from 7-8 PM. The first meeting is March 8th. We will have the booklets for this study at the back of the church and you can follow along in the readings even if you are not able to attend in person.

We have chosen to do this as an in-person meeting (following safe practices). Zoom is more suitable for informational meetings and it does not lend itself to sharing personal and spiritual issues.





Did You Know?...



On January 30th we held the 157th Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church. Can you imagine what this little church has seen in its 157 years of history? The Civil War had just ended, the first airplane was flown by some boys from Ohio at Kitty Hawk; we've had two pandemics, two world wars, and many "little wars" including: the Spanish American War, and wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan. We do get into it don't we!? We've seen 31 presidents elected; President Abraham Lincoln was president in 1865 the year Grace Church was built. And let's not forget all the conveniences and technology since that time: electricity, indoor plumbing, heating, and air conditioning; automobiles; telephones, televisions, computers, cell phones; rockets, satellites, drones and so much more. There's been more technology in these last few years of our history than any time in the world. Wow!! And this little church and the people in it have seen it all. Just a little something to think about.

Well, back to our 2022 Annual Meeting. **Rev. Carol**, assisted by Worship Leader, **Nancy Lundgren** offered a 9 am service of Holy Eucharist. Afterward, we adjourned to the parish hall for the meeting and light refreshments and coffee. Vestry decided that light snacks would be a better option than our usual covered dish luncheon, given COVID concerns. We wore masks and kept distanced, as much as possible. We had an opening prayer, reviewed 2021 minutes, then heard reports from: treasurer **Marcia Splinter**, who presented the 2022 proposed budget which was approved; our rector, **Rev. Carol**; Sr. Warden **Barb Popiel** (who also presented the Beatty Committee Report); and Jr. Warden, **Michelle McLaughlin** by written report.

One of the main themes was that we give thanks to God for helping us through these trying times. We give thanks for the faithfulness and generosity of the people of our Grace Church family—those choosing to attend worship and fellowship in person and those choosing to worship by virtual means with our weekly live stream recordings, and our thanks to **Doug Holzschuh** for continuing to provide that for us. We're blessed by God's goodness, help, and provision. We're blessed by the ongoing prayers, participation, service, and support of our Grace Church family. We also recognized and thanked **Nancy Lundgren** who retired after serving with excellence as Altar Guild Directress at Grace for the past

twenty years. She said it's been a labor of love and she's willing to be available if questions come up for that variety of ministries and special worship occasions the Altar Guild Directress oversees.

Thanks to everyone who wrote reports for the Annual Meeting, even though some 2021 activities had to be postponed as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact. We especially want to thank **Nancy Ervin**, who organized the refreshments that were brought in for our enjoyment. Thanks to Hospitality group members **Barb Popiel & Nancy Ervin** who supplied cheese and crackers; **Nancy Lundgren** made muffins; **Marsha Snyder** brought in fresh fruit; and other members provided cookies, brownies, and goodies. Everything worked out well.

There was some discussion about a possible new boiler system for the church. But that decision will have to be made by Vestry and Building & Grounds, along with many other maintenance issues.

Speaking of vestry, we only had one member finishing a term in 2021, and that was **Phillip Crouse**. Midge **Myers** was elected to vestry for a three year term to begin in February 2022. (Thank you, Phillip and thank you, Midge!)

We appreciate the presence and prayers of all who attended and participated in the meeting...

Moving on to other news, **Barb Popiel** wants to thank everyone for praying for her daughter **Michelle's** successful surgery and recovery. She'll need another surgery (maybe May or June) to stent the second smaller aneurysm. Michelle is back to work, doing well, and we join in giving thanks to God for keeping her in his care...

We got some great news from the **Fritsch** family. **George** is now a "big brother," and he's very happy about that. On January 29th **Matthew John Fritsch** was born; he weighed 7lb. 6 oz. It's wonderful to have an addition to any family, especially to ours and of course the Fritsch's. Congratulations, **Caitlin and John!!** Grandma **Laurie Barney** is more than happy to have a second grandson. She spent time in the kitchen mentoring George in what it takes to make a coffee cake, something George found he really liked from the "snack bar" at Grace Church coffee hour...

Kay Canan had her 4 year old grandson **Bryson** in the kitchen & helped him make his first cake from scratch. It looked yummy on facebook!!...

The **Ahrens Family** tell us that **Sue** is working hard and making some progress in recovering after a stroke. Anyone who knows Sue knows she's keeping the faith, too. She's at ProMedica Skilled Nursing & Rehab; Susan Ahrens Room 117; 8551 Darrow Rd.; Twinsburg OH 44087. Sue's granddaughter **Emily** used her tablet to play the Grace Church Sunday Eucharist service for her, and Sue was listening. (Thank you, Emily!) **Bruce** tells us that seeing their great grandson always lifts her spirits and makes her smile...

Cherry Monegan reports that husband **John** is doing very well after back surgery. John continues his recovery and is glad to be back home. **Bill Snyder** is doing well after breaking a rib from a bad fall on the ice. He's now returned to work and is back at church, and we're glad to see him! We thank God for everyone's progress!...

On one very cold and snowy day **Kathy Summy** and daughter **Jenna**, along with fellow employees of the company they work for decided that taking a Polar Plunge in a nearby lake would be fun. The pictures look like they were having fun with everyone in sweats and even tutus. Afterward Kathy didn't seem to think it was that much fun. She went in deeper than some of the participants, and she said it took her breath away – I bet it did!...

Lisa & Jeff Marsh's daughter Rachel Audit is a senior at Stow High School and a member of the National Honor Society. She and other members of the society decided it would be a wonderful thing to distribute food for the needy during the holidays. What a good way to

help charities AND people in need by loading food for them to take home...

Once again, the people of Grace Church showed their generosity when Brown Middle School asked for donations to send 6th and 7th graders to Camp Fitch in Pennsylvania. Letters went out to the community, and we responded by sending them a check for \$1,096. We received a thank you letter from the Center of Hope for the donations Grace Church made to them in November and December. They stated they provided 406 Thanksgiving baskets, 482 Christmas baskets and over 500 children received Christmas toys. Your donations made a huge difference for all those families at the holidays. Thank you to everyone for being so generous!

Breakfast Club

March 17th, 8:00 AM
Brimfield Steak House

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



Birthdays

- 1st Bette Brooks
- 4th Lisa Marsh
- 6th Cherry Monegan
- 11th Madison Ahrens
Doug Holzschuh
- 14th Amanda Brooks
Beverly Brooks
Carol Marotta
Shala Kearsley
Noah Crouse
- 22nd George Furrer



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 24th Bud & Janet Hughes
- 29th Dennis & Sally Dier



Baptisms

- 11th Beth Dier
- 18th Joan Seman
- 25th Mary Jean McDonald
- 31st Kay Canan

The Bulletin Board

Thank you! Thank you!

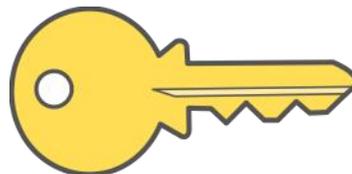
Our thanks & appreciation to those who serve & help at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **John McDonald** for the hours he's spent on solving heating problems, searching for a new snow blower & repairing the old one to keep it going; overseeing the paint job at the parish hall entry; and prioritizing maintenance issues.
- **All who wrote and/or presented reports** for the Annual Parish Meeting; all who attended/participated; **Nancy Ervin and all** who provided light snacks and goodies; and to **Marsha Snyder** for organizing & printing the booklets/reports.
- **Nancy Lundgren** for 20 years of service as Grace Altar Guild Directress.
- **Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks** for doing Altar Guild duties two months in a row.
- **Marcia Splinter** for being a great treasurer; keeping the bills paid; and for solving computer problems at the office.
- **Tim Splinter** for designing the Grace Vine each month; doing updates & solving computer problems at the office.
- **Our faithful members** who continue to support the church with your prayers, service, and giving.
- **All those who pray** for our Grace Church family and for Grace Church.

Asking for Your Help with a Grace Church Key Inventory

The Vestry is conducting an inventory of the number of keys held by parishioners. We are only interested in who has keys and if they are still being used. If you have a church key, would you please call the church office (330-296-3443) and let Marsha know. If you no longer have the need for a key, please consider giving it back to the office.

Thank you,
Grace Church 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.*

**Gregory the Illuminator (257-332)
Apostle to Armenia**

March 23

The ancient kingdom of Armenia was the first country in the world to become Christian, and it recognizes Saint Gregory as its apostle. In the 3rd century, Armenia was a buffer state between two powerful empires, the Roman Empire and Parthia (Persia). Both sought to control Armenia. The rivalry was great, and the stakes were high.

Gregory was born about 257 into a family of Parthia nobles. When he was still an infant, his father assassinated the King of Parthia, and the child narrowly escaped death when his caretakers carried him to Caesarea in Cappadocia. Gregory was given into the care of Christian Holy Father Phirmilianos (Euthalius) to be educated and, as a result, he was brought up as a devout Christian.

Upon coming of age, Gregory married a woman called Miriam, a devout Christian who was the daughter of a Christian Armenian prince in Cappadocia. From their union, Miriam bore Gregory two children. At some point, Miriam and Gregory separated in order that Gregory might take up a monastic life. Gregory left Cappadocia and went to Armenia in the hope of atoning for his father's crime by evangelizing his homeland. At that time the son of the man Gregory's father killed was the king. Influenced partly by the fact that Gregory was the son of his father's enemy, he ordered Gregory imprisoned for twelve years in a pit. Gregory was eventually called forth from his pit in c. 297 to restore sanity to the king, who had lost all reason after he was betrayed by the Roman emperor. By his preaching and example, Gregory brought both the king and a majority of the Armenian people to the Christian faith. Around 301 AD, Gregory was consecrated the first bishop of Armenia. After serving for nearly 30 years as bishop, he retreated to a mountain monastery where he died around 332 AD.

The Armenian Apostolic Church remembers him to this day with reverence and gratitude. When our family lived in Athens, GA, I worked at a mathematical research center on the University of Georgia campus. The director who was my boss was a proud Armenian American who, although not religious, had an icon of Gregory on the wall in his office and tiles in the colors of the Armenian flag in a small design in his hallway. He never stepped on those tiles and always revered the icon upon arriving in the morning and leaving in the afternoon.

PRAYER:

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, And who raised up your servant Gregory the Illuminator to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Armenia: Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we also in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





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
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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