



The Lord's Day  
November 22, 2020

Presbyterian Church in America

## *Welcome to Grace Fellowship!*

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us on this Lord's Day to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As you worship with us, we trust that you will be inspired to sing praises with your whole heart, to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, to be challenged and uplifted by the preaching and teaching of the gospel from God's word. It is our prayer that we all leave this place changed people, and that we would all be confident that we have been in the presence of the Lord.

During this difficult time of phased regathering, we are only offering worship at 10:30 with no child care provided. We also have a Wednesday evening Bible study via ZOOM. Contact us through the website or email address on the back of the bulletin to participate.

Our worship service will be abbreviated. No food will be served because of the danger of spreading COVID-19. Social distancing will be observed.

We ask that you wear masks for the sake of the most vulnerable among us. If you choose not to wear a mask, we will have a special seating area designated. We ask that you do not get up and move about the sanctuary. We will have masks and hand sanitizer available. Due to social distancing requirements you will notice that the chairs in the sanctuary are arranged in such a fashion as to keep families at least 6 feet apart. We ask that you observe this social distancing and not sit any closer than 6 feet other than when sitting with members of your own immediate family.

For those who wear masks and are concerned, please be aware that there will be some present who are not wearing masks

For those who are uncomfortable attending, I will still provide a sermon video each week on the website until the danger is past and all quarantine restrictions have been lifted.

You will find a prayer request slip in the bulletin. If you have a prayer request, please fill it out and drop it in the offering plate at the table in back. If it is confidential, please write that and give it to the pastor or one of the elders directly. We will keep it in strictest confidence. You may also communicate your prayer requests by e-mail to [info@graceasheboro.org](mailto:info@graceasheboro.org).

If you are visiting with us, please fill out a blue visitor's card available at the back or from one of the greeters. We would love to stay in touch with you.

*As there continues to be concern about the spread of COVID-19, we recommend that everyone wear a mask or face shield, use hand sanitizer (available at the back), and maintain rigorous social distancing.*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but *in humility count others more significant than yourselves*. **4** *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus—*Philippians 2:1-5*

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Opening Prayer*

*\*Call to Worship*

Psalm 146:1-2

*\*Hymn of Praise    Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Text: Joachim Neander, trans. Catherine Winkworth; Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14. 14. 4. 7. 8.

**1** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
The King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him,  
For he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

**2** Praise to the Lord,  
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Hallelujah! (x4)

**3** Praise to the Lord,  
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely His goodness and mercy  
Here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee!

**4** Praise to the Lord,  
O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Hallelujah! (x8)

*\*Song of Praise*

Words and Music: Mary MacLean

*Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
Lord most holy, worthy of glory  
Power and majesty are Yours

Blessing and honor to You forever  
Unto the Lamb upon the throne  
Strength and salvation  
Belong to the Savior  
Holy, holy is the Lord

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
Lord most holy, worthy of glory  
Power and majesty are Yours

Blessing and honor to You forever  
Unto the Lamb upon the throne  
Strength and salvation  
Belong to the Savior  
Holy, holy is the Lord  
(x2)

*Pastoral Prayer*

Pastor

*Message*

Rev. Doug Stelzig

**Series: Psalms: Cries of the Heart**  
**A Cry of Grateful Praise**  
Psalm 146

**146** Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

- 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 3 Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- 4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.
- 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
- 6 who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;
- 7 who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

- 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.
- 9 The Lord watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- 10 The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

*\*Our Response and Offering*

1 Corinthians 8:7

To maintain social distance, we will not pass an offering plate. It will be on a table at the back. Please deposit your gifts and offerings there.

*\*Closing Hymn*

*Come and Welcome*

Words: Thomas Haweis. Music: Matthew Perryman Jones

**1** From the cross uplifted high,  
Where the Savior deigns to die,  
What melodious sounds I hear,  
Bursting on my ravished ear:  
"Love's redeeming work is done;  
Come and welcome, sinner, come."

**2** Sprinkled now with blood the throne;  
Why beneath thy burdens groan?  
On My pierced body laid,  
Justice owns the ransom paid:  
Bow the knee, and kiss the Son;  
Come and welcome, sinner, come.

**3** "Spread for thee the festal board,  
See, with richest dainties stored;  
To thy Father's bosom pressed,  
Yet again a child confessed,  
Never from His house to roam;  
Come and welcome, sinner, come."

**4** "Soon the days of life shall end;  
Lo, I come, your Savior, Friend,  
Safe your spirit to convey  
To the realms of endless day:  
Up to my eternal home.  
Come and welcome, sinner, come;  
Come and welcome, sinner, come."

*\*Benediction*

Pastor

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*Notes*

## *Notes*

### *Prayer Concerns*

If you have prayer concerns, you may fill out the slip in the bulletin and put it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor. You may also communicate your prayer requests by e-mail: [info@graceasheboro.org](mailto:info@graceasheboro.org).

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

—1 Corinthians 1:11

#### *Our Church Family*

For Grace Fellowship, that we might reach the unchurched in Asheboro, that we might grow in unity and in grace, and for our sister churches in the area and throughout the country;

For our community, Asheboro and Randolph County as we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19, and for all who are affected by it.

For our children and our Children's Ministry,

Paul & Emily Adams-health concerns; Julie Hardy-health concerns;

Donna Biesecker as she continues to grieve the loss of her son, Chuck, and for Chuck's wife, Cass, and their family; for Donna's brother- and sister-in-law, Gene and Susie Biesecker: both have health problems, and Susie has broken her hip.

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## Grace Fellowship

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Carmacs, for Zoe as she takes finals this week, and Noel as she attends Asheboro High School online; for both girls to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ; Crosses: for wisdom and grace for their friends Scott and Debbie, who are believers, as Debbie battles stage 4 cancer that has metastasized; Hensleys: for Gracie as she attends her first semester of nursing school during a health crisis; and for Beth's college roommate, Kathy, who knows the Lord and is experiencing a recurrence of cancer; Vanessa Olson who has been diagnosed with cancer and needs a liver transplant. Ashley Richardson: for continued healing; for grace as she finishes up her college degree online; and for her intense counselor training course during November. Peter Rosentrater: for his boss, the Randolph County District Attorney, Andy Gregson, who was hospitalized last Saturday following a major heart attack; Zack and Janice Roberts, and their infant daughter, Blair ; Stelzigs, for their neighbors, Dallas and Ann Jester, who are elderly and have health concerns; and for the Stelzig's niece, Catherine, and new husband Alex as they start their life together; William and Deborah Vonnannon- for Deborah's elderly mother's health concerns from a fall and recuperation from her successful surgery, adverse effects from pain medication, as well as for Deborah and her siblings to have wisdom and unity as they try to discern the best way to care for her. Brenda Yelverton, who is taking care of her granddaughter Sammie as she attends kindergarten online, and for her elderly friend, Margaret, who has been particularly affected by her isolation.

### *Our Missionary Families*

Jonah & Shadeeya Hooper, Neraiah, Jonah, with Reformed University Fellowship at Winston-Salem State University, especially during this season when Jonah is not able to be on campus because of COVID-19 restrictions; John and Lorena McCall, Annaliese, Caleb, Benjamin with Mission to the World in Medellin, Colombia. They have finished language school in Costa Rica and are back in the US transitioning to their field, Colombia; Jeremy & Gina Sink, Garrett, Josiah, Joshua, with Serge in Nagoya, Japan (newsletter available online [www.grace4japan.com](http://www.grace4japan.com)); Darin & Melanie Stone, Sarah, Luke, Ryan, and Caroline, with Mission to North America/Ministry to the State in Raleigh, NC; continue to pray for their family, especially for their infant daughter, Caroline, for Melanie as she teaches school virtually while the kids attend school virtually at home, as well as for Darin as he, too. Works from home and helps with the kids' schooling.

## Announcements

### Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study

Small Group/Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 pm via ZOOM. We will continue our study of Philippians. Please join us as we seek to understand God's story, our place in it, and how that undergirds all of our beliefs. Email us for details on how to join the meeting.

### Prayer Time after the Service

" . . . we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). During November, after the service, we would like to have a *time of prayer for the church* led by Jim Cross. We are planning on 15-20 mins, but if anyone is under time constraints, you may come and go as you need to. Because of that, we may not necessarily stop after 20 mins. Please take part, and let's see how the Holy Spirit moves and how God will answer.

### Sunday Morning Activities Curtailed

For the time being, there will be no Sunday breakfast, no children's Sunday School, and no Adult Bible Study. We look forward to resuming these activities in January.

### Baby Bottle Campaign

We will be holding a Baby Bottle campaign to support *Your Choices Randolph* beginning next Sunday, November 22 through the end of the year. YCR is our local crisis pregnancy center. Their ministry is to give women with unplanned pregnancies, who may be desperate, an alternative to abortion. Please place donations in the baby bottle on the back table.

### Passing the Torch

Jim and Madge Cross will be leaving in January to go and visit their children and grandchildren in Arizona. They plan to be there for several months. For this reason, Jim has asked to step down from serving on the session. He has served faithfully on our session for a number of years now, and before that he has given decades of faithful service as an elder in other churches.

At the same time, Peter Rosentrater, having been ordained in the midst of the quarantine with everyone wearing masks, had asked to reaffirm his vows publicly.

# Grace Fellowship

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So on Sunday, December 20, we want to celebrate "Passing the Torch" as one generation steps down from leadership and God raises up a new generation to lead the church. Jim will ask Peter the Ordination questions, and Peter will reaffirm his vows. We hope that by then we will be able to have a reception celebrating Jim's many years of service to Christ's church and the beginning of Peter's many years of faithful leadership.

Therefore, the Session is calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, 20 December at 10:30 am for the purpose of electing Jim Cross as elder *emeritus*.

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Doug Stelzig
<i>Elders</i>	Chris Carmac Jim Cross Mark Hensley Peter Rosentrater
<i>Treasurer</i>	Doug Richardson
<i>Children's Coordinator</i>	Deborah Voncannon

## Financial Updates

As of 10/31/2020	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Giving – Year-to-date	\$ 62,127.50	\$ 55,833.33	\$ 6,294.17
Expenses--Year-to-date	\$ 84,630.85	\$ 88,146.43	\$ (3,515.58)
Difference--Year-to-date	\$ (22,503.35)	\$ (32,313.10)	\$ 9,809.75
Assets/Reserves	\$ 54,975.16		

Meeting Sundays at 239A White Oak St. at 10:30am  
P.O. Box 2106 Asheboro, NC 27204-2106  
Contact Us: (336) 736-8234, [info@graceasheboro.org](mailto:info@graceasheboro.org)