



# Grace Fellowship

The Lord's Day  
February 7, 2021

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*

Isaiah 52:7-10

*\*Hymn of Praise*

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Text: Martin Luther from Ps 46, tr. Frederick Hedge; Tune: EIN FESTE BURG irreg. (Luther)

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
From age to age the same;  
And he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo! his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.

4 That Word above all earthly powers  
No thanks to them abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever!

*\*Song of Praise Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Words and Music: John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

*(Chorus)*

*My chains are gone*

*I've been set free*

*My God, my Savior has ransomed me*

*And like a flood His mercy rains*

*Unending love, amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

*(Repeat Chorus x2)*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

*Congregational Prayer*

Elder Peter Rosentrater

*Message*

Rev. Doug Stelzig

**Acts: From Jerusalem to Rome**

**Series 2: The Spread of the Gospel through Palestine (6:8-9:31)**

**God's Concern for the Nations**

Acts 8:26-40

**26** Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. **27** And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." **30** So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

**33** In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

**34** And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good

news about Jesus. **36** And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **38** And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*\*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 Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

Words: John Newton; Music: Laura Taylor

**1** Let us love and sing and wonder,  
Let us praise the Savior's Name!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has brought us nigh to God.

**2** Let us love the Lord Who bought us,  
Pitied us when enemies,  
Called us by His grace, and taught us,  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
He has washed us with His blood, (x3)  
He presents our souls to God.

3 Let us sing, though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down!  
For the Lord, our strong Salvation,  
Holds in view the conqueror's crown:  
He Who washed us with His blood (x3)  
Soon will bring us home to God.

4 Let us wonder; grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store;  
When through grace in Christ our trust is,  
Justice smiles and asks no more:  
He Who washed us with His blood (x3)  
Has secured our way to God.

5 Let us praise, and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high;  
Here they trusted Him before us,  
Now their praises fill the sky:  
"Thou hast washed us with Your blood; (x3)  
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God!"

*\*Benediction*

Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*

Notes

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).

2 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.—2 *Thessalonians* 1:3

#### Our Church Family

For Grace Fellowship, that we might be Christ's witnesses 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 after the holiday season, and for all affected by it.

For health-care workers;

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.

Carmacs, for Zoe who has moved back to NCSU, and Noel as she attends Asheboro High School online; for both girls to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ;

Zoe Carmac, for her friend, Lindsey, who was in a serious car accident, is now in a coma with an uncertain prognosis;

Crosses: who have arrived in Arizona, that the time they have with children and grandchildren will glorify Christ;

Jan Greer: Jan had successful surgery to remove a very small cancerous mass; her lymph nodes were free of cancer; She will start a course of radiation treatment later this month as a precaution against recurrence;

Hensleys: for Gracie as she continues nursing school, especially for the difficulty of learning online; and Beth's college roommate, Kathy, who continues to battle cancer;;

Ashley Richardson: for continued healing; for grace as she finishes up her college degree, especially for her pharmacology course;

Doug Richardson, for the turmoil and uncertainty of the hospital's changeover to new management;

Rosentraters: for Michelle as she struggles with chronic health issues;

Zack and Janice Roberts, and their growing infant daughter, Blair;

William and Deborah Voncannon, as they and their extended family battle coronavirus;

Brenda Yelverton, for her Uncle Jerry and Aunt Shirley as they have COVID-19 and struggle with other health issues, and praise that her eye condition is actually improving.

### *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 who just arrived in Medellin, Colombia; please pray for their transition;

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.

Sunday Morning Activities Curtailed

For the time being, there will be no Sunday breakfast, no children's Sunday School, and no Adult Bible Study.

<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 12/31/2020	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Giving – Year-to-date	\$ 5,864.00	\$ 4,859.50	\$ 1,004.50
Expenses--Year-to-date	\$ 8,499.64	\$ 8,633.33	\$ (133.69)
Difference--Year-to-date	\$ (2,635.64)	\$ (3,773.83)	\$ 1,138.19
Assets/Reserves	\$ 45,524.69		

.....  
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)