

Entrance

Gathering

*Call to Worship

In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

What have we to fear?

In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

Of whom shall we be afraid?

Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us.

*Opening Prayer

O Lord, there are times when we succumb to the demons in our world. There are times when people we know and love succumb to the demons in their world. Whether these impure spirits come to us as negative thoughts, negative actions or even physical or spiritual ailments, help us. We cry out to Jesus for healing and peace. Remind us that Christ is always with us and with those around us in our times of trial. May he give us all peace. Amen.

*Hymn *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus – Hymn 277*

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us, so God's Spirit is ever present and around us. Come Creator into our lives. We live and move and have our very being in you. Open now the windows of our souls. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading – *Mark 5:1-20*

Sermon *Jesus Gave them Permission* Mark Gustafson

*Prayer of Confession

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*Gloria Patri

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*Passing the Peace

Offering / *Blessed Assurance*

UMCers

*Doxology

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Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations – Hymn 569*

Sending Forth

*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Dave Herring (6/28), and Rosemary Bengtson (6/29)!

Happy Anniversary to Steve & Debbie Dunham (6/26)!

The cover art is a photo of a boat found in the Sea of Galilee from time of Jesus.

You many sign up to give flowers by contacting Pastor Mark or by filling out our online sign-up Google Doc.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor
919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist
910-876-1075

Announcements

If you haven't already, please turn in your Congregational survey today!

June 25, 6 p.m. at Elizabethtown Presbyterian: Bladen Blessed meeting.

June 26, 6:30 p.m. at Bethlehem. You are invited to an ice cream social!

Bring your favorite home-made ice cream or just come to cool off from the heat!

June 30, 11 a.m. You are invited to join our AME Zion brothers and sisters in worship at St. Thomas AMEZ. Our regular worship will still be here at 8:30 a.m.

Senior Saints: July 3, 12 p.m. at Bethlehem.

Reminder to Teachers: We will be doing our Apple Tree again this year. Please give your "wish lists" to Pastor Mark by the end of June. Spread the word to colleagues. We would like to bless as many as possible!

From the Planning Meeting, the following ideas are developing:

T-Shirts! See the design and vote for your favorite on the insert.

Church Directory. Vote for your favorite method for making this happen!

Youth fun day! July 20 at Grace's new property. Details coming soon.

BCC's Back to School Blast is August 10, 8a-12p. FYI. We are planning to support this with a booth.

We welcome ideas for our new bus! Trips, ministries, fun. Driving the bus requires a CDL. If interested in driving, please let us know!

In-Home Friendship Gatherings. See insert.

The BLOG (Bethlehem /Live Oak/ Grace) Prayer List:

Mentioned 5/26/2024: Katrina Perry (friend of Pat Routh); Alice Pusey; Robert Mazur; the family and friends of Danny Williams.

Mentioned 6/2/2024: Janice Robbins; Sue Kallelis; Summer Lisenby (a neighbor of Cathy Butler); Tim Tatum; the family and friends of Annette Meares.

Mentioned 6/9/2024: Steve and Debbie Dunham; Patty Scotten; Adele Clark; Alb Inman; Steve Vincent; Bob and Alice Palmer; Betty Tatum's uncle Denny; all military, FD, Police, Rescue, and lineman who keep us safe; family and friends of Louis Brisson (Nanette Inman's family), those lost in the accident in Whiteville.

Mentioned 6/16/2024: an unnamed patient of Janice Robbins who may not survive; Taijée (a coworker of Cindy Coble); Mary Rachel Wohlford; Sharon Natale; all those preparing for the heat this summer; Jean and Angie Ciani; Mary Stuch; Jacob Chavis; Farrell McDuffie; Betty Jessup; Lisa McLean; the family and friends of Ben Cole.

Prayers this week: Alvin Dickerson; Matthew Krause; Joy Grady and family; Linda Schaeffer; Harold Sasser; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Beth Nance and Kristen Beard.

Grace United Methodist Church

June 23, 2024

***5th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Service 8:30 am***

Our Mission

***To become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.***

Our Vision

***We welcome everyone into the experience
of a different story!***

