

*A Sanctuary of Hope and  
Jesus' Love for Everyone*



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**Grace-St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

## **GRACE NOTES**

**March, 2021**

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Greetings,

I hope you have thus far survived what turned out to be an actual winter, complete with snowfall and plenty of it! If March is anything like February has been, it seems likely it will come in much more like a lion than a lamb. Hopefully that means the folk wisdom will hold true and it will indeed go out like a lamb. And since we are not Julius Caesar, I don't think we need to worry about the Ides of March. So, what do we need to worry about? Well in a word, nothing. We are to truly worry about nothing. This is not naive sentimentality or cheap religion. This past year has proven to us all that there are things in our lives and in the world that are the cause of legitimate concern which often leads to worry. This is a natural situation, and indeed beneficial because without this form of worry we may not take appropriate action to correct serious situations we face. When the Bible says not to worry it means that we should not exist in a *perpetual state of anxiety* over situations. When we do this, we are relying on our own strength to solve and deal with the problem rather than relying on God and his provision. You have probably heard it said that "...God will not give you any more than you can handle." It sounds good at first, but it is not true. If it were true, if we could handle everything that comes our way, we would not need God. In this season of Lent, I encourage you to practice not over-worrying. Be smart, attend to things that need attention, take one step at a time and let God handle the rest. I give myself the same advice constantly. Jesus, as recorded in Luke has some advice for all of us:

*(continued on page 2)*

22 "Then Jesus said to his disciples: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?...'" 29 "And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.'" - (Luke 12: 22-26, 29-31).

May it be so for all of us.

God Bless,

Pastor Tim

## Sunday Worship

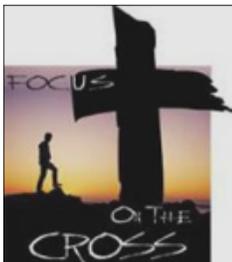
**10:00 am**- Please wear a mask- Social Distancing will be in place.

Online livestreaming also available for this service. Please visit [www.gracestpauls.church](http://www.gracestpauls.church) for the link.

## Lenten Study

We will be continuing our Wednesday evening study "Character Matters" through Lent. This is a study that was put out by our own North District and explores some themes about how our own personal character matters to God, to ourselves, and to the world around us.

This study occurs **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM exclusively on Zoom**. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Stephanie or Pastor Tim and they will send you the link. All you need is a way to access Zoom and a willingness to learn.



## Bible Study

### Thursdays at 10 am

You may join live in the sanctuary or on Zoom, whatever your comfort level.

We are roughly halfway through the Book of Acts.

Please join us if you are interested. No level of expertise is required. We have a lot of fun.

If you would like to join via Zoom, please contact Pastor Tim for Zoom link.



## Kidz Zone is back!

Starting March 7th, on our Grace-St. Paul's webpage, you can be part of Kidz Zone. The first story to be shared will be the Last Supper.

Each week there will be a new story with a special guest reading. There will be worksheets attached for all ages.

Come join us.

Christ Servants,  
Kidz Zone teachers

## GSP Prayer Ministry

If you are in need of prayer or you would like to receive prayer updates, contact [gspumcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gspumcprayer@gmail.com).

When submitting prayer requests, please keep the confidentiality of the person in mind. God knows the situation and all details are not always necessary.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."  
Acts 2:42*



***Are you interested in becoming a member at GSP?***

**If anyone is interested in becoming a member of Grace-St. Paul's please let one of the pastors know, we will have a class and new members will be accepted into membership on Easter morning.**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**For greeters for in-person worship.**

**Please contact the church office by calling 570-325-9151 or emailing [gspumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:gspumcoffice@gmail.com) to volunteer!!**

**Thank you!!**



**We are looking for interested people to join small groups that are called Class Meetings. It is an old Methodist tradition that we are trying to revive. It is simply a small group where members connect to support and look out for one another. It is a vital way of growing our individual and corporate relationship with God.**

## Care Net Baby Bottles

**If you have a Care Net baby bottle at home, please bring it to the church (even if empty) so it can be sent to Care Net.**

**Thank you!!**



## GSP Food Pantry

The GSP Food Pantry is well stocked.  
If you have a need for some extra food help, please contact the church or Eva.

If you know of anyone in need of food this winter, please let them know we are here to help.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides homemade shawls, cards, and prayer for those who are hurting or celebrating. These homemade shawls are made by ladies in our congregation.

If you would like a shawl sent to someone, please contact Irene Pyne.

## Celebrations!

**Happy Birthday to:** Cindy Kenna 1  
David Pieri 1 Judy Sibbach 4  
Jim Connell 10 Peggy Mann 16  
Annie Frehulfer 19 Beth Brennan 22  
Meg Mando 24 Debbie Stone 24  
Heather Bacsick 27 Alan Donaldson 28  
John Drury 29 Brent Birth 31

*\*If your special day is not listed, please contact Heather Bacsick (sweet88@ptd.net or 570-786-7120).*

***Did you know that the GSP Women's Ministry receives donations from the Jim Thorpe Market and Redner's when you save your register receipts?***

These donations go towards the missions supported by the GSP Women's Ministry, such as: Prayer Shawl Ministry, Local Food Pantries, and Care Net of Carbon County.

If you would like to donate your receipts: please save your receipts from the Jim Thorpe Market (you do not need the Gold Card) and Redner's (you would need to use your Rewards Card). Use a pen or marker to cover any personal payment information. You may send the receipts to the church or place them in the can located in the church lobby.

Thank you!