

CARRILEA'S CORNER

Dear Grace Family,

I'm so grateful for the support you've extended to me over the past week! I've received a lot of "thank you's" and "you're so brave," and I've been reflecting on that—because, honestly, I'm not sure it felt all that brave.

What I did in D.C.—praying in the street and risking arrest as part of the Moral Monday action—was a calculated risk. It wasn't reckless or spontaneous. We were briefed by a legal team and knew the likely outcomes of a peaceful arrest. It felt, in some ways, like preparing for surgery—where the doctor walks you through the risks before putting you under. You know what could happen, but most of the time, everything goes as planned.

And that's what happened.

In the end, it didn't feel like I put much on the line. In fact, when the only real reason I could think of to not go was I really didn't want to ride overnight on the bus, I knew I had to say yes.

But here's what I've been sitting with ever since: What if next time the risk is greater?

What if standing for justice, for the marginalized, for democracy, and for truth becomes more dangerous? It's entirely possible the days of low-risk resistance may not last—especially depending on who is targeted and how power is used. Encounters with ICE, for instance, carry very real and terrifying risks.

And yet, we know this: fascism and authoritarianism thrive on fear. AND we know love casts out fear. So our work is remaining grounded in love. Because when people come together, there is power. Real power.

That is what this experience reinforced for me, that community organizing matters. Strategic, faith-rooted resistance—grounded in relationship, preparation, and shared vision—isn't just effective. It's transformational. The way it felt to be apart of a larger movement of people traveling to DC, clergy, elders, young adults, people of many faiths and no faith stand up together for the morality of our nation. Not just a moment, but a movement. Not just reacting, but organizing for what comes next.

I believe, more than ever, that people of faith must be the face of resistance. We cannot surrender our sacred tradition to white Christian nationalism. We cannot allow our faith to be distorted into a tool of oppression. If anything, this moment calls us to reclaim it—to say clearly and without compromise that the gospel is good news for the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast—not the powerful and privileged.

But here's the other question I've been holding—and maybe you have too:

How do we sustain ourselves in all of this?

How do we care for our mental health, our spiritual life, our bodies and relationships, while staying grounded, organized, and ready to act in what may be one of the most important historical moments of our time?

These are the questions I'll be carrying with me in the weeks and months ahead.

Questions about how we build resilience, stay connected, and hold fast to hope—even when the road is hard.

I hope Grace can be a place where we ask those questions together. Where we keep showing up—for one another, and for the world.

Gratefully,
Carrilea



July 6-12, 2025

July Birthdays

3 - Renae Keesbury
4 - Paul Leonard
7 - Betty Isereau
10 - Emma Barnard Chesnut
10 - Chad Coarsey
11 - Elizabeth Brown Thomas
12 - Nancy Davis
13 - Aiden Jaxson Bowie Comer
13 - Xan Comer
14 - Janice Berryhill
15 - Saige Hall
16 - David Comer
24 - LeElaine Comer
24 - Marco Corcoran
26 - Phyllis Rogers
27 - Nichole Tilley

Anniversaries

14 - Brandon and Nichole Tilley
15 - John and LeAnda Barnard
27 - John and Andora Nicholson
30 - John and Linda Marshall
18 - Bob and Susan Rawls

**WE ARE IN OUR SEASON OF GRACE.
WORSHIP WILL BE AT 10AM, AND WILL
CONTINUE AT THAT HOUR THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER MONTHS.
THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

**DURING THE SEASON OF GRACE, ARTWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERMON WILL BE
DISPLAYED IN WORSHIP FOR THE
CONGREGATION TO INTERACT WITH THROUGH
MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

**** THE MOWING LIST IS POSTED AT THE BACK
OF THE SANCTUARY. PLEASE SEE NEAL
GROSE OR HOLLACE SCANLON IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO MOW.**

**"THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE NEEDS TO
REPLACE ONE MEMBER TO SERVE THROUGH
THE REST OF 2025. WE TYPICALLY MEET
ONCE MONTHLY AT NIGHT DURING THE
WEEK. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE TALK
TO ANDORA."**

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$53,784.00

Received year to date: \$49,062.12

UNDER budget: \$4,721.88

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$2353.98



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donations.