

## North Hamilton Church of Christ

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**May 10, 2020**

*Happy Mother's Day!*

### **This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### *Birthdays:*

10 – Hayley Yates  
Jenna Bellomy  
Maribeth Tripp

13 – Brooke Ward  
15 – Art Greer

#### *Anniversaries:*

11 – Phil & Melba Phillips  
David & Diane Walker

### **Reminders:**

Our online worship service is posted to Facebook and YouTube on Sunday at 10 AM

To make your contribution digitally, you can use Venmo:  
@NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist

### **“A Little Grace Goes a Long Way” David B. Smith**

As states begin reopening for business, we don't expect that things will look like they once did—at least, not for a while. People are talking now about the “new normal.” Perhaps that will be temporary. Whether or not it is, change invariably brings differences of opinions. Even in the church, there is bound to be variance over the way we move forward. This is where a little grace will be important.

Grace is the unmerited, undeserved favor God shows toward us (Tit. 2:11; Rom. 3:24). This is why we often say that grace is God being better to us than we deserve. That same expression from God toward us is also required in our treatment of each other. We ought to treat each other better than we deserve to be treated. Paul wrote, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; bearing one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you must also do. But above all these things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” (Col. 3:12-14). We can make it, no matter what future challenges we are bound to face, if we do these things. Show a little grace.

So what are our challenges moving forward? There are too many to list (and I'd probably miss some if I tried), but here are some examples:

1. At some point, the elders will decide to resume our assemblies (Acts 20:7). Regardless of when that happens, some will believe we are coming back too soon. Others will believe we have waited too long. The elders are aware of this, but it is their decision to make (Heb. 13:17). These are tough answers to tough questions. Only God knows the right answers, and we humans can only do the best we can. No matter when we come back, let's show a little grace.
2. Even then, services may look different for a time. Will we come back on a full schedule, like before? Will we have Bible classes or only meetings in the auditorium (so we can spread out)? Will we meet only for a service a week? Will we have multiple assemblies with limited numbers of people in each of those? Whatever the decision, let's show a little grace.
3. Some people need physical contact. There are going to be some that want a handshake or a hug (Rom. 16:16). Others are not going to do that. Some will wear a mask over their face and some won't. Some might be wearing gloves. Some people will sit closer to others and some won't. Things are going to look different. People aren't all going to approach our return the same way. Let's show a little grace.

None of us know yet the full extent of our limitations. Will there be a VBS this year? What about our fall Block Party outreach program? We've already cancelled this year's Summer Series. Will we be ready for other programs like this going forward? None of us know with certainty. We will just have to take things one day at a time. As we do, let's remember that a little grace goes a long way.