



# Parish News

To Glorify God  
To Grow in Faith  
To Give In Service  
*Together in Christ*

## Summer 2020

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Pastor's Letter cont.;	2
SEPA goes Green; Online Book Group	3
Prayers	4
Minister of Music;	5
Graduates; VBS; Stepping Stones Update	6
Summer Calendar	7
Summer Serving Schedule	8
PB&J Update	9
Bagged Meal; Stepping Stones Collection	10
Food Cupboard Collection	11

### A Letter from the Pastor

Late June, 2020

Dear Friends at Grace,

When John the Baptist begins telling others about Jesus, as we hear the story in John's gospel, the people around him aren't so sure about what he's saying. Lamb of God? What do you mean? *Come and see*, John invites them.

Come and see. Where we are going will become clearer as we go.

I'd rather have a more fixed sense of our plans. We did have more fixed plans, and would be well on our way in the call process by now, but Covid has interrupted those plans.

We pause to give thanks to God for how well we have been able to bring worship online, to stay connected through a Zoom Sunday School and Council meetings, to secure a Payroll Protection Program loan and restart Stepping Stones day care, and begin a new (hugely successful) PB & J sandwich ministry, in addition to stepping up support for the community food cupboard at EEC. We are grateful for each of you who has given life and breath to any of these parts of Grace's ministry over the last three months. Thank you.

Now we take a small next step toward returning to gathering in person as a community – but in ways that we can consciously care for and protect each other until a vaccine arrives, or until there is clearer direction about safety. While in the Green phase, which begins June 26<sup>th</sup>, we will still be allowed only 50 people at any one time, with

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masks and social/physical distancing between family groupings. We understand that the Green phase could last for quite some time! (You can see the full letter sent to the congregation with details for both outdoor and indoor worship on the Worship and Music page of the Grace Website: <https://gracelutheranhatfield.org/worship-and-music/>)

Since we have not been here before, know that as we re-evaluate how things are going, when we can move forward with the call process, even if our plan for gathering for worship outdoors in July needs to be changed... we will let you know.

Please keep your leaders in prayer, as we also pray for you. Let us know if you hear of someone who needs a connection, or prayer. Together, we shall move forward one step at a time. God's richest blessings on you and your loved ones.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Janet S. Peterman  
Interim Pastor



## SEPA Counties Set to Go Green

Our suburban counties are set to enter the "Green" phase of reopening on Friday, June 26. Philadelphia is expected to follow by early July.

The "Green" phase is not a return to pre-pandemic normals. Organizations must still follow practices for **wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, and disinfecting public spaces.**

"I remind our churches to follow a slow, cautious and deliberate process while moving toward reopening," says Bishop Patricia A. Davenport. "As the church our chief concern is for the health of our members, staff, and rostered ministers, and the people in our communities who would be affected by increased community spread - particularly those who are elderly or vulnerable to COVID-19."

Learn more about what this means in your county at <https://ministrylink.org/going-green/>

## Online Book Group: America's Original Sin

The SEPA Synod Anti-racism Team invites you to online conversations about race based on the book - "America's Original Sin" by Jim Wallis.

These interactive discussions will continue to take place on Tuesday evenings, from 7pm-8:15pm on June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be led by members of the SEPA Synod Anti-racism Team. You may participate in one or all of the conversations.

The Team encourages you to read the book. An excerpt from "America's Original Sin" can be found here: <https://americasoriginalsin.com/read-an-excerpt-of-americas-original-sin/>.

To join in the next session **please register by noon the Friday before.** Send an e-mail to: [Antiracism@sepa.org](mailto:Antiracism@sepa.org) with your name and contact information. **Space is limited -- "first come, first served."** The Team looks forward to your participation in this new venture.

***In Our Prayers:***

*John Fischer, Bob Kaler, Wendy Amparano, Suzanne Colville, Pam Matolicz, Paige Haldeman, Nancy Sellers, Laura Cooper, Liz Bauer, Beth Brown, Xavier Jackson, Gerry Maso, Joe Hopkins, Doug Boldon, Carol Buffone, Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Annette Beyer, Dorene Bobb, Keira Drissel, Cindy Kunkel, Mandie and Emmett, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Andy Armstrong (Friend of the MacDonald's), Cindy Mancuso, Anne Lewis, Joyce Salter, Jim Pluda, John and Bonnie Stangl, Ken Seiler, Sr (Ken's dad), Terry Stringfellow, friend of Dale and Mary Jane Moyer, Hazel Mascaro, Bob Yoder, RJ Bernheiser, Ruthann Rex (Kathy Stawasz' mom), Rita Hamilton (Roney's friend), Jeanine Marie Cabrera (Jean Shaffer's daughter); Edward Felix McTeigue (Reilly's friend)*

***For all who grieve, including:***

***The family and friends of Bob Darde; Fred Matolicz; Lillian Buschman (Kerry Stone's grandmother); Shannon Ryan; Ralph Buffone; Gail Constanzer (Shirley Yoder's sister-in-law); Frank "Chick" Mascaro (Jerry's brother); Millie Anderson; Arline Kratz; Marilyn Homan; Barbara Masser (Ray's wife); Joan Lattanze; Samuel Barndt, cousin of Andrea Roney; Joan Miller; TreMar; Karen Weirbach, Diane Graham Miller; George Townsend (Roney's friend)***

***Lost to Covid-19:***

*Elizabeth Coyle, Crystal Tula's great aunt; Charlotte Hutchinson, Jess Moran's grandmother*

***In Thanksgiving:***

*With Elijah Krout and his family at the result of his recent EEG, after 3 months without seizure meds – no seizure activity! Thanks be to God!*

***For those in active duty military service:***

*Robert McNulty, Marines, basic training*

*Jessica Murphy, Air Force*

*Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard*

***For active duty military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force***



My grandmother used to say to me "patience is a virtue". I was maybe 13 or 14 years old at that time. I had no clue about patience and I didn't show much interest in finding out. It takes time to learn about life but one thing for certain, we remember words like a song can stick in our heads! Am I right? I believe NOW I understand what my loving grandmother expressed to me and thankfully I agree and try to convey patience to my kids.

For the moment, I want to say to all of us "kids", whether you're a teenager or my grandmother's age, this time of staying home and away from public places and people is definitely challenging but would you understand if I say I think I see light at the end of the tunnel? It is a long tunnel. It is a book with many chapters, the sequel to a movie, another day but the same day like in the movie Groundhog Day! Good heavens, I could keep going but the point I'm asking you to engage in with me is that as we return to worship, the excitement to return won't feel like the world is normal right away because... patience is a virtue. There is still risk, there are still hard times ahead, but please know this, there are good things happening, and... I'M VERY EXCITED TO SEE YOU FOLKS! Behind my mask, I'll be smiling.

Do you remember what it was like going on a road trip and the kids say "are we almost there"? I sense folks are excited, worried, uncertain, impatient, flustered, and even giddy. All at the same time for the same reasons. So, the best thing I want to convey, I'm remembering my grandmother and her wisdom.

May you be blessed and safe in your stay at home and in your future travels. When in doubt, sing a song or think of something fun, someone special, or a catchy tune that makes you smile or feel good.

See you all sooner than later!

My very best to you,  
Kevin

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
BE  
HAPPY**





**Congratulations 2020 Graduates!**

A special congratulations to Brooke Moyer who graduated from Kutztown University with a dual Major in Special Education and Elementary Education. Best wishes for a bright future.



**VBS News**

\*\*\*\* COVID 19 Update – The Hatfield Community VBS Planning Team has agreed with input from community leaders and pastors that we should not try to do any type of in person gathering this summer related to Vacation Bible School. We are really going to miss you, but we'll see you next year! \*\*\*\*

**Stepping Stones Update**

We are getting back into the swing at Stepping Stones and are so happy to tell you that our center re-opened on Monday, June 8th! As we continue to work towards building a great school year for 2020-2021 as well as welcoming back our students, don't forget to let your friends, families, and neighbors know that we are open and accepting enrollments from ages 6 wks to 12 years! We're excited to get back into a routine and learn with you!

Jessica Moran  
Director

**Stepping Stones turns 50  
this fall:  
Watch for Celebration plans**



*Summer Calendar*

Fri, Jul 3, 2020 Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday  
 Sat, Jul 4, 2020 **Happy Independence Day**

**Sun, Jul 5, 2020 9:15am Grace returns to in person worship**  
 (outside, weather permitting—otherwise inside; bring a chair with you, if you are able -  
 some folding chairs will be available for those who find it too difficult to bring their own)  
 Mon, Jul 6, 2020 4:00pm Stepping Stones Team meets via Zoom

**Sun, Jul 12, 2020 9:15am Worship**  
 Tue, Jul 14, 2020 7:00pm Worship and Music via Zoom

**Sun, Jul 19, 2020 9:15am Worship**  
 Tue, Jun 21, 2020 7:00pm Church Council in person (Zoom, if needed)

**Sun, Jul 26, 2020 9:15am Worship**  
**Jul 27—Aug 16, 2020 Pastor Peterman away**

**Sun, Aug 2, 2020 9:15am Worship**  
 Tue Aug 4, 2020 7:00pm Stitchers?

**Sun, Aug 9, 2020 9:15am Worship**  
 Tue, Aug 11, 2020 7:00pm Property Team Meeting

**Sun, Aug 16, 2020 9:15am Worship**

**Sun, Aug 23, 2020 9:15am Worship**

**Sun, Aug 30, 2020 9:15am Worship**

**Sun, Sep 7, 2020 9:15am Worship**

**Above are the events we are aware of at the time of the Parish News printing. Other events may be added or updated depending on the COVID-19 situation. Sadly, we will not be having Summer Picnics this year or the Bible Story and Craft Time during worship time.**

The Korean Church will begin worship in the Wagner House on Sunday, June 28 at 12:30 pm following CDC best practices.

## Summer Serving Schedule

July	5	12	19	26
<b>Lector</b>	Kathy Stawasz Richard Badman	Richard Badman	Beth Krout	Karen Seiler
<b>Ushers</b>	Frank & Kay Stone	Bob Smyrl & TBA	Carol & Paul MacDonald	Ken Seiler & TBA
<b>July Altar Guild:</b>		Rich & Emily Woltmann		
<b>July Council Duties:</b>		Jean Shaffer		

August	2	9	16	23	30
<b>Lector</b>	TBA	Mickey Koffel	Kitty Heckler	Carol MacDonald	Bruce Schmidt
<b>Ushers</b>	TBA	Don Capanear & Dave Kunkel	Peggy & Bruce Schmidt	Kay Stone & TBA	Harold Schaefer & Bob Reilly

**August Altar Guild:** MaryJane & Dale Moyer  
**August Council Duties:** Joyce Salter





**PB & J Sandwich Update: Welcome Bread**

We are still making PB & J and Tuesday is still our day!

Here's an update from the Jelly Czar:

After two weeks, we are back on track. Let me tell you what has been happening. Initially, we were working only with Project HOME in Philadelphia, partnering with them as our distribution partner. Since the situation in the city has changed, they need fewer sandwiches. That led to some serious scrambling on my part to find new groups who can get our sandwiches and snack bags out to the street.

It took a bit of work, but I'm happy to say that we have added four different distributors who are able to get our sandwiches to hungry folks in Montgomery, Delaware and Philadelphia counties. We have leveled out at about 2000 sandwiches a week and could probably grow that. I do a good part of the driving for pickups and am happy that Barry is able to pick up the slack, getting food to Project HOME on Wednesday. The Welcome Bread Facebook page has the most current information.

We have good partners and you should feel confident that your work is getting to people who need it. Please check in if you have any questions and keep up the valuable work that you are doing.

With gratitude, Lou Farrell

**PB & J Sandwiches, Instructions**

- You make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on soft *white* bread and put them in ZIPLOC bags, 1 sandwich per bag. Use cheap white bread with gobs of PB and J. A loaf will get you nine sandwiches. Please consider buying two loaves.
- The cooler will be at the entrance to Grace all day each TUESDAY. Leave your donation in the labeled coolers between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
- Please email, text, or call Jelly Czar Lou to let him know how many sandwiches you made.

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church* (69 W Broad St, Souderton) has a daily meal program. Anyone may come for a bagged meal; limited social contact. No registration required. No residency requirements. Up to 4 bags a day possible if picking up for a family or for neighbors who can't get out.

Open: 6 days a week, Monday – Saturday  
10:30 am – 1:00 pm (rear entrance)



### **Stepping Stones Collection**

As we look towards the new school year we're excited about science, art, and the many projects we can create with things that may be junk to you! Stickers, scrap paper, toilet paper rolls and more! Please see the below list to see if you have any of the items we are collecting for this school year and, as always, if you have anything else you think we may find useful you can always reach me at 215-368-2052 or [steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net](mailto:steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net).

Thanks for your help making our school year great!

Jessica Moran  
Director

- cupcake cups
- powdered sugar
- salt
- bubble wrap
- egg cartons (cardboard)
- sand art supplies
- glass chalk
- fishing line
- shaving cream (not gel)



### **Photo Policy**

*We may be taking photos or video recordings during Grace events. You will be giving your consent that any pictures and/or video taken may be published and/or distributed by Grace Lutheran Church (i.e. Facebook, website, promotional materials) by attending these events. Please let the Pastor or a Church Council member know if you would prefer that you and/or your child's image not be used.*

## EEC Food Cupboard Collection continues...

Thank you so much for your generous contributions (dropped off in the plastic food bins under the portico at Grace)! Like the rest of the country, many Hatfield residents have really struggled to find enough money to put food on their table and pay for household items during this ongoing pandemic and your donations have been a huge blessing. They will continue to be essential during the summer months as the number of clients continue to grow at our local food cupboards. Any additional items you can pick up while you shop will make a difference, including grocery store gift cards. All non-perishables and household items are helpful.

The latest wish list from EEC is: Chunky soup (esp. "Heart healthy") and "other" soups such as clam chowder, split pea, lentil, black bean, vegetable. Also canned olives, spinach, asparagus, mushrooms, tuna in oil, salad dressing, 100% juice, and grocery gift cards. Updated wish lists for scarce items will be shared in Grace notes.

Distributions are held 4 times a month on the 1st Tuesday at 5:30 pm, 2nd Thursday at 1 pm, 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm, and 4th Thursday at 1 pm. All donated items at Grace are brought to the EEC Food Cupboard once a week (usually Tuesday or Wednesday). The food cupboard is available to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you or someone you know would benefit from receiving supplemental food pantry items.

Janet Hague has also informed us that your garden surplus is welcomed and greatly appreciated by their clients! If you have garden perishables that you would like to share, please call Carol and we can set up a time for pick up.





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Stepping Stones(215-369-2052)

Jessica Moran, Director

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## Summer Important Dates

**July 4**

**Happy Independence Day**

**July 5 9:15**

**Return to In Person Worship**



**See Important Details Inside**

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**40 N. Main St.**  
**Hatfield, PA 19440-2905**