



GRACE CHURCH

OF WEST FELICIANA PARISH

A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ

A Word from our Interim Rector, Fr. Reid McCormick

Greetings Beloved Members of Grace!

Jackie and I arrived safely and are now in the process of settling in as we make the Golsan House our home for the next year or so. My guess is that you are as anxious as I am to regather and begin worship again, especially on Sundays; hopefully, that time is nearing. Bishop Thompson sent his clergy a letter this week that explains his thoughts and clarifies our current status. **Please read it carefully.** Bishop Thompson is coordinating and leading a collaborative Diocesan Virtual Sunday for Sunday May 24. Austin Clark has been asked to provide a segment of music for the service. We will update you with the link to the service as the time draws closer. We are developing a virtual Sunday worship service beginning May 31, that we intend to continue for the near future.

Please know that you remain in my daily prayers as we begin to navigate what "church" will feel and look like moving forward. This is new for all of us and requires deliberation and intention. The most important thing you can do today and tomorrow is to observe safe practices in order to remain healthy and more important, pray for the Lord's guidance as we begin this new chapter of ministry at Grace. I look forward to knowing and serving along side you.

TCGB, Reid



The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana
Office of the Bishop

Dear Clergy,

It was good seeing your faces on our Zoom meeting Tuesday morning. I believe we are getting the hang of things when it comes to online meetings. My hope is that soon we will be able to gather together in one room without fear. I look forward to that day.

In the meantime, I want to address some of the issues raised in our meeting. The number one goal is to be safe when we do gather. This means following the guidelines issued by the Governor and the medical community. However, even though the Governor has allowed churches to gather indoors at 25% occupancy, the Diocese of Louisiana will not. My reasoning is based squarely in the safety of our clergy and congregations. Please continue using electronic meetings and worship services. Mayor Cantrell refers to this as, "Safest at Home" during the Phase 1 of re-entry. You may also consider planning outside services (beginning May 24) following the guidelines set by the State Fire Marshall, the office of the governor and your local parish officials. I will revisit this decision after the governor issues his next set of guidelines the first week of June. We will communicate this clearly in our weekly meetings.

I realize there are some denominations that will begin worshipping indoors very soon and that some of you may be encouraged by your parishioners to follow suit. We will not. We are still in conversation with qualified health professionals about how to do this safely. In addition, I do not want to put any of you in the position of having to "police" your neighbors to control those who wish to attend.

My friends, let us continue to be diligent in following guidelines and to remember our safety is dependent upon our awareness of one another. You have conducted yourself extremely well in learning new ways to communicate and worship the Lord. Hold fast to that which is good. I am grateful for your leadership.

As always, please call if you have any questions.

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

A Note regarding Bishop Jenkins

Many of you have called to check on Bishop Jenkins. He and Louise, have requested that we pass on the following information. He had a successful surgery on April 6th. He will be continuing to quarantine at home for the next six months, while receiving radiation and chemotherapy. We are coordinating a continuous prayer effort and will communicate those details soon. Please keep Bishop Jenkins, Louise, and the family in your prayers. May the peace of the Lord be with them and comfort them.

Announcing the Rector Search Committee

We are pleased to announce members of our Rector Search Committee. Thankfully a number of noteworthy nominations were received, making the selection both challenging and difficult. We used a number of criteria to bring together a committee that we pray our congregation finds to be mature and prayerful Christians, who are trustworthy and can see that which is best for Grace Church as a whole. It is important that our congregation feels each of us is approachable; we invite you to share your ideas, comments, and concerns. We expect this process will be deliberate in discerning Gods will for us, so it may take some time. The Search Committee members are:

Bobby Wilson, Peggy Gammill, Carly Whatley, Kathy Kane, David Beauchamp, Betsy Daniel, Shannon Pollet, Sara Klein, and Zed Howell.

A loud THANK YOU! to all who volunteered to serve on this committee. We pray you continue the good work of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Zed Howell
Search Committee Chairman

Thank you!

Thank you to all who have been able to continue to contribute to Grace Church. This has been a blessing as we continue to have operating costs while we are unable to worship in the church. We know the pandemic is affecting many, but if you are in a position to continue giving your contribution or pledge to Grace, we pray that you do so.

There are several ways to give:

- Mail a check to P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775.
- Give online through our website: www.gracechurchwfp.org
- Give by Text by texting [gracechurchwfp](https://www.gracechurchwfp.org) and the amount you would like to donate to 73256. Follow the prompts once you've texted.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill:

Valerie Barnes, Kathy Beauchamp, Melissa Higgins, Bp. Charles Jenkins, Jason Kennedy, Charlotte Maxwell, Elizabeth Denton Mitchell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Shane Pollet, Carolyn Porche, Cozette Stevens, Kay Tengler, Glenn Timmons, Wendell Wade, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Mary Austin Willis-May 18; Betty Sessions, Heather Howle-May 19; Cecile Means, Sara Nelson, Dwight Singer-May 20; River Achord, Cindy Seeman-May 21; Karen Dwyer-May 22; Jonathan Weller, Suzette Daniel-May 23; Susan Roland-May 24; Joe Gerry, Suzanne Beckley, Rusty Kleinpeter, Collin Loyacono-May 27; Houston McVea, Cindy Robinson-May 28; Jeff Pruitt, Will Benton, Fiona Tully-May 29.

Wedding Anniversaries

David and Coco Treppendahl-May 18; James and Briana Boucher-May 19; Jordan and Liz Truitt-May 21; Hamp and Debbie Willis-May 22; Miles and Missy Higgins-May 23; Steve and Lynn Gaudet-May 24; Keith and Maddie Watts – May 26; Ricky and Chaille Lambert-May 28.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Kevin Beauchamp, Micaela Kell Bennett, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Mason Brudewick, Clint Bryant, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Darby Buras, Jenny Clark, Daryn Conrad, Rob Cox, Sandy Davenport, William David, Kathleen Davis, Jessica DeLee, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jerry Green, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Pat Laurent, Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Jimmy Mitchell, Hollis Milton, Ruth Morris, Randall Nachman, Walter Oliveaux, Myrtle Pettit, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, James and Sylvia Roach, Yvonne Rogers, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Rusty Snyder, Cade Stapleton, Kaitlyn Templet, Roland Touns, Millie and Howard Varner, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Jake Washington, Deacon Zekes, Lynn Zinn; All those affected by COVID-19.

A Note from Ms. Alyssa, coordinator of youth & family services

While we have not been able to be in church, we have still continued to hold virtual youth group meetings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and virtual Children's Church on Sundays. We are moving Children's Church to 10:30 a.m. so as not to interfere with the Sunday Bible Study. If you would like information on how to access these meetings, please e-mail me at youth@gracechurchwfp.org.

We have three graduating seniors for the West Feliciana High School Class of 2019-2020. Please join me in congratulating *Angus Armstrong, Deuce Daniel (James Daniel, Jr.), and Julia Katherine Dejean*. May you always rely on the strength and love of Jesus as you follow your paths to bright futures. May the peace of the Lord always be with you.



Grace Preschool Corner

Graduation Day for our sweet preschoolers was Friday, May 15th. While we couldn't hold an in person graduation, our teachers made sure each student got their special moment by visiting them for graduation. The teachers visited each student to give them their diploma, a small gift, and to let our preschoolers know how much they are loved by God and all Grace Staff. Please help us celebrate the 2019-2020 Grace Preschool Class.

Jackson Branscum, William Robert David, Henry Francis D'Aquila, Anna Kate Dudley, Frances Green, Evans Grimsley, Owen Hanna, Henry Howell, Halleigh LeBourgeois, Avery Parfait, Hayden Parfait, Brecken Quick, Kinsley Shedd, Bella Terrell, Wells Thompson, Elise Wax, Zora White, Abby Wilkinson, Beckham Zumbro.

May God continue to guide them throughout their life! We could not end the 2019-2020 school year without recognizing our preschool staff and teachers. They have worked diligently and with love for their students this year despite the unprecedented events of this year. We are lucky to call them our own!

Sunday Readings

The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Sunday, May 17th

- Acts 17: 22-31
- Psalm 66: 7-18
- 1 Peter 3: 13-22
- John 14: 15-21

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sunday, May 24th

- Acts 1: 6-14
- Psalm 68: 1-10, 33-36
- 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11
- John 17: 1-11

Grace Church of West Feliciana

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Address Service Requested

Wednesday, May 20

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

8:00 p.m. Youth Group via Zoom

Thursday, May 21

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Friday, May 22

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Sunday, May 24

10:30 a.m. Children's Church via Zoom

A virtual service will be conducted
we will send out information closer to the date.

Wednesday, May 27

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

8:00 p.m. Youth Group via Zoom

Thursday, May 28

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Friday, May 29

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Zoom information can be found on www.gracechurchwfp.org

The Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of Glory, who exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*