

GRACE CHURCH

OF WEST FELICIANA PARISH

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

Happy Thanksgiving! As we begin this season of Advent, I am once again asking that you focus and examine your prayer life. All will likely agree that we as individuals, as a country and world should focus on prayer. COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to slow down and not be as “busy” as we had likely found ourselves at the beginning of this year. This opens a window of opportunity!

In his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul admonishes the church to, “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” **(NRSV, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)** The church was under tremendous pressure and persecution to return to the cultural norms of the day, to move away from the new life in Christ. Paul’s accurate observation to rejoice and pray in the midst of challenge is appropriate in our day and time as well.

I have written a series of articles on Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina with very few responses and that’s OK. To coin a phrase from an unknown source, **“It’s not significant how you pray but that you DO pray and do it regularly.”** In other words, it is important that you take time every day for devotion, albeit for five minutes, during a commute, or at a consistent time each day for as long as it takes. Prayer is not for your own self-glorification as much as it is to bring God to, and to see God at work in, the world. If you don’t want to take my word for it, then please listen to Paul.

The Book of Common Prayer provides Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayers, Evening Prayer and Compline (pages 36 through 147) from which you can utilize all or a portion for your devotional time. You can also access the Daily Office Lectionary for Bible readings beginning on page 934. We also provide names of people who desire our prayers, whom we ask that you include in your prayers of intercession. Prayer is a vital matter in the life of the church and is the focus of hundreds of pages in our Book of Common Prayer.

The greatest challenge to any church is the danger of becoming a one or two hour per week affair on Sunday. The life of the church is about unity in prayer, worship and service balanced by contemplating the scriptures and devotion, seeking the Lord’s guidance in all that we think, do and say. Jesus warns against hollow self-righteousness on too many occasions to number. I would argue that a passive attitude toward prayer is a guarantee to find one’s self on that path.

I do not mean to offend anyone here. I know the tone of this writing seems indicting and judgmental; but I intend to challenge each of us, myself included, to begin our new church year with the renewed sense of hope and expectation that a consistent prayer life cultivates. As my spiritual director once shared – “the things we pray about, more often than not, come to pass.” We cannot leave the praying up to someone else, it is up top all of us! I wish you a blessed Season of Advent and beyond. Take Care, God Bless. Reid

From your Search Committee

With all the survey results collected, the search committee has a meeting with the Bishop and Cannon Manning the first week of December. This will be a meeting to discuss the congregations thoughts and ideas to help guide us correctly. These results have been collected by mail, survey monkey and paper surveys filled out by those that have limited access to a computer. More to come in the near future and I do continue to ask for everyone's prayers as we continue this process.

Prayer for Calling our Next Rector

Our Heavenly Father who has blessed this church family since 1827, and knows our needs before we ask. We pray that you guide and bless us with wisdom, patience, and open minds as we begin this search, that our next rector will lead our congregation to serve you in peace and healing in our troubled world. All this we ask in the name of Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

194th Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24, 2021

Each year at our Annual Meeting held in late January, qualified members of the congregation elect three vestry members for a three year term. Leslie Daniel, Dr. Pat Schneider-Martin and Drew Nordgren will complete their term of vestry service. Additionally, Trish Toburen has entered into the process for ordination to the Priesthood and has vacated her vestry term. Trish had two years remaining. As a result, qualified members of the congregation will elect four members at the Annual Meeting. Per Canon 19, Section 2 of the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, "those entitled to vote at an Annual Parish Meeting shall be Communicants in good standing of the Parish who are at least sixteen years of age and who have been contributors of record toward the support of the Parish during the six months next preceding the meeting."

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members:

Suzanne Beckley, Pat Butler, Kyle & Marcy Dunaway, David Floyd, David Floyd, Tom Flynn, Patsy Hardouin, Carlile Higgins, Melissa Higgins, Bishop Charles Jenkins, Molly McGraw, Ruth Reed, Betty Sessions, Cozette Stevens, Julie Stewart, Eleanor & Glenn Thomas, Wendell Wade, Jake Wray.

Prayers are also asked for:

Clint Bryant, William David, John and Linda Griffin, Andy Lewis, Tate Reid, Kaitlyn Templet, All those affected by COVID-19 and hurricane disasters.

Birthdays

Julia DeJean-Nov. 29; Helen Williams, Brianna Reinhardt-Dec. 1; Emily Jo Adams, Mary Jane Walker-Dec. 2; Dare Didier, Mary Weller Morse, Evelyn Davis Tregle-Dec. 4; Landon B. Anderson, Edward Daniel IV, Gloria Fontenot, Alyssa Louis-Dec. 6; Andrew David, Joseph Wilson-Dec. 7; Savanna Clevenger-Dec. 8; Caroline Sparks, Kell Farmer-Dec. 9; Louise Jenkins, Barbara Mitchell, Zane and Caleb Smith-Dec. 10; Joey Peno-Dec. 11; Frank Farmer-Dec. 12

Wedding Anniversaries

Carter and Yvonne Leak, Paul and Debbie Martin-Nov. 24; Jack and Kathy Anderson-Nov. 25 Neal and Olivia Elliott-Nov. 27

Angel Tree



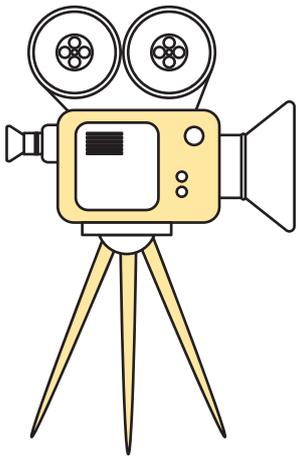
Bless a child this Christmas by choosing an Angel off of our Angel Tree beginning Sunday, November 22. If you would like an Angel but are not comfortable coming into church, please call the office and we will pick an Angel for you. Wrapped gifts with the Angel attached must be returned to the office by Monday, December 14th by 4 p.m.



*prepare ye the way
of the Lord!*

The Advent Season is fast approaching. We have brass Advent wreaths along with candle packages in the church office. The wreaths are \$10 and the candles packs are \$5. Funds from the sale benefit the Grace Church Youth Group.

Merry Christmas to you and you and you!



Help us wish each other a Merry Christmas this year by sending a video clip of you or your family saying "Merry Christmas!" and then watch the video on Christmas morning as we receive warm Christmas greetings from all of Grace Church.

Please send your clip by email or text to Austin Clark at music@gracechurchwfp.org or 904-422-2213 by Tuesday, December 22.

Thank you

Thank you to all who have been able to continue to financially support Grace Church. We know the pandemic is affecting all of us, but if you are able to continue 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** and the amount you would like to donate to **73256**. Follow the prompts once you've texted.



*love thy
neighbor*

**Masks
required on
Grace's
campus at all
times.**



Masks are required at all times and in all places of Grace's campus not only on Sundays but during the week as well. So, if you are stopping by the office or joining us for worship on Sunday, please do your part to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

Grace Church of West Feliciana

P.O. Box 28

St. Francisville, LA 70775

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit Paid No. 14

St. Francisville, LA 70775

Address Service Requested

Sunday, November 29

7:30 a.m. in Jackson Hall

8:15 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom

10:00 a.m. in Jackson Hall

Online Worship on Facebook & Youtube

Wednesday, December 2

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, December 3

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Friday, December 4

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Sunday, December 6

7:30 a.m. in Jackson Hall

8:15 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom

10:00 a.m. in Jackson Hall

Online Worship on Facebook & Youtube

Wednesday, December 9

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, December 10

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

Friday, December 11

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

Email administrator@gracechurchwfp.org for
Zoom call instructions

Sunday Readings

First Sunday in Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37
- Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Second Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8
- Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.