

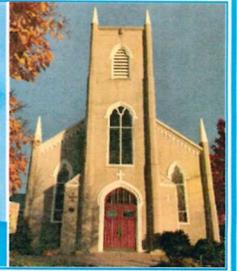


Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church



June 2022



THE COLLEGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Episcopal Diocese of Michigan has partnered with the College for Congregational Development to offer training for clergy and laity that will take place from June 5-11 at our Cathedral downtown. I will be taking this training that will include 39 other people from various parishes in our diocese. The goal is to train people from all our congregations over the next few years. We will be looking for people from Grace to also take this training, so please consider volunteering for this and if you have any questions, please contact me.

The College for Congregational Development is a comprehensive training program that originated in the Diocese of Olympia in Western Washington. It seeks to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within existing parish lay and clergy leadership. The College is a two-year program that includes readings, homework, presentation, working in teams, the completion of a content exam and the completion of two back-home projects.

The College's aims are to create:

Healthy, faithful, sustainable congregations fulfilling their calling to be the Body of Christ in a particular place and time and among a particular people.

Congregations that are grounded in a robust identity rooted in an Anglican ethos and spirituality.

Leaders that are both self-defined and connected to their communities of faith. Leaders who are both aware of and responsive to the particular challenges and opportunities before them. Leaders who can help their faith communities engage and respond to their challenges and opportunities.

A common language and community of practice around congregational development in the Diocese. Stronger connections among congregational leaders for the purposes of learning, community, mutual encouragement, and inspiration.

Useful training programs that can be shared freely and used by others in the broader Church.

Congregational Development is something that all parishes should be continually addressing and we at Grace are striving to do this as we seek to identify and strengthen our:

Faith and love in Christ

Unique reason for being, i.e., our mission

Episcopal tradition, ethos, and character within our context

Response to the various opportunities and challenges in our community

Vision for ministry, leadership, culture, property, finances, worship

Growth both spiritually and numerically

Sustainability so that we will be around for another 150 years

This type of development is not an event, it is an ongoing process. Please join with me and our vestry as we begin this journey together.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 am
TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY PHONE VIA ZOOM

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: Livestreaming

on our Facebook page

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30am in the Guild Room

Visit our website and follow the link.

Or call: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015

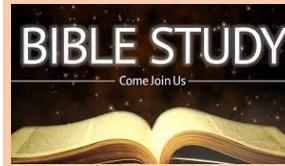
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Worship resources are available on our website anytime.



June Birthdays

Dean Hindman	6/03
Anita Ketterer	6/11
David Lau	6/17
Kent Schwandt	6/25
Stefanie Lozon	6/26



Sundays at 9:30 am at Grace

Bible Study will take place in the Guild Room

Who is Dominique?

Every Sunday, we pray for a young girl named Dominique in the Prayers of the People. Each month, the Prayer Group sends her a card, letting her know they are thinking of her, and praying for her daily. But, who is she?

Dominique is a delightful 3-year-old little girl, who has a seizure disorder. They are mild, as she will suddenly stare, lose focus, and stop what she is doing. Then, suddenly, she is back to normal. It is a form of an absence seizure. Her doctor has indicated that she most likely will grow out of them. But in the meantime, she just stops for a short period of time, and stares.

Although she is too young to read, her mother reads the cards to her, and they mean a lot to her, and the rest of the family. So, we will continue to pray, that soon her seizure disorder is a thing of the past. May it be so.

Book Club:

Our next book club meeting is Thursday, June 30, in the parish hall. We will be discussing the book “The Silent Patient”, by Alex Michaelides. This book is a psychological thriller and one you cannot put down! We will meet at 6pm on June 30, please join us! If you have any questions, please call Ann Strevel.

Ann Strevel

Ukraine Collection:

Our Collection for the Ukraine will go until June 5th.

From the Music Ministry



I want to talk about music and justice. Both are interconnected. Recently I’ve been asked to contribute to the newsletter not just reflections on music and the music ministry, but also reflections on other areas of ministry, like social justice. That was before the horrible mass shooting in Buffalo, however; that very day, I realized that social justice has to permeate every area of my musical work, given the diverse body of students and singers I work with. And so it’s impossible for me to write about music without writing about justice.

There is a reason why social justice movements have a musical soundtrack to them—the freedom songs, the protest songs—and I want to explore that here. It’s the same reason we sing hymns in church. Injustice impacts the body. We see it every day: the shootings, the crush of poverty, the racism and sexism and everything else—these are all signs of what Sonya Renee Taylor, author of *The Body Is Not An Apology*, calls “body terrorism.” We live in a culture that terrorizes bodies that are not white, male, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied, and thin. This is injustice impacting the body.

If Christians truly embrace what the Bible says in this passage from Micah, justice is first on the list of things to do:

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

And where does music come in? Music also impacts the body. That’s why religions the world over involve music in their rituals, and it’s why Christians do too. Music has a healing impact on the body. Music accompanies social justice movements not just to communicate the intentions of the movement but to heal the impact of injustice on the body.

That’s why our music ministry must be a healing ministry focused on social justice. That’s why it’s been my intention to include spirituals and other music by nonwhite artists in our Sunday services. The spirituals, for one thing, are like another testament to the Bible itself, telling a story of struggle and freedom for an oppressed people.

If our music ministry is not focused on social justice, then it can be easily dismissed as mere entertainment, and thus useless in church. But I have seen for years the impact of spirituals and other social justice music on the bodies of Grace’s Episcopalians—you can’t get enough of it! And now, it’s needed more than ever. White supremacy is claiming lives and terrorizing bodies. If I’m going to choose to be a musician, then I had better make my career about standing for justice in the face of that.

So sorry, Grace, you only get one newsletter article from me at a time, because I can’t write about music anymore without considering justice—it’s all interconnected, just as we humans are all interconnected. If we stand for justice, then we must dismantle the hierarchies that divide us against each other. Music is also a uniting force, uniting bodies in vibration together; another reason why the music ministry does its job, and we’re committed to keep doing it. The Epistle reading that falls on Juneteenth, I think, best sums up the vision:

Galatians 3:23-29

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.