



June Newsletter

Grace Community Church

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From Our Pastor

Father's Day is coming. Being a father is a very tricky thing. Please accept this excerpt from my book "Our Kathy" as a little Father's Day gift.

"When Kathy passed away, some well-meaning friends of hers tried to sort of analyze what had produced some of the really dark things in her life. In doing so, they brought up some choices she had made and behaviors which were a combination of some new things and things we had suspected, but had kept safely in our "denial" chamber.

For me these were things that were to stay between Kathy and Jesus. And as I thought this through, I realized with a real sense of peace that Kathy knew about God's grace. She knew it, in part, because she knew about me – she had the goods on me!

When I was a senior in high school, I received Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior. A wonderful Pastor, Dan Benedict Jr., shared with me the Gospel. I had been struggling with the feeling that I would never be good enough to be a part of God's family. My getting into heaven seemed really doubtful. Dan showed me in the Bible where it declares that no one is good enough, but that God offers us forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Whoever believes in Him, will not perish, but will have eternal life.

"To those who received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name." John 1:12 (NASB)

I invited Jesus into my heart and my life was changed forever. I knew I was a part of His family not because I was good enough but because of His grace and forgiveness.

Then, a number of years later, I really messed up. Well, let me use the real word – I sinned. I needed God's forgiveness in a way I had never felt it when I first accepted Christ as a teenager. I was a Pastor at the time. I had no excuses. I had fallen way short of what God wanted me to be.

Suddenly, the Grace of God was not just a nice theological concept. It was something I needed and realized I absolutely did not deserve! And I discovered that God meant it! It was true. He forgave me completely, and He gave me a wonderful second chance. In fact, He gave me a whole new life. 

I was amazed by His Grace, astounded by His mercy and when He opened the door for me to go back into ministry, I never lost my feeling of deep gratitude to Him for giving me a second chance.

Kathy knew all about this. She had the goods on me. She was my typist for the section of my book, “The Magic of God’s Love”, that tells this part of my story.

One afternoon, we sat at our kitchen table and she asked a few questions. It was not a grilling. She just wanted to know if she was correct in some of her assumptions. She knew I had really messed up.

But she also knew that God had not only forgiven me and given me a second chance but He had blessed me in wonderful ways. And then she began to share some of her stuff. I could sense that she was seeing that if God could forgive her dad for being such a mess, He would forgive her. God’s grace covers all the really bad things.

And so our wonderful God took my mess and used it to help Kathy know that He truly does forgive. I believe that she had that discussion with God. As you will see from her letter, she knew He was there just waiting for her – for any of us.

Do you need His grace, His forgiveness? I sure did. Kathy did. But let’s face it we all do. When you know in your heart you really need forgiveness and you do not deserve it, our God forgives. And thus they called it the Good News!



June 9th - Communion Sunday

June 16 - Pot Luck

July 10, 17, 24 and 31 (Ice Cream at the Tuffs 7:00 pm, bring your favorite flavor and your topping of choice).



Our own Patty Tuff is in this show and would very much appreciate your attendance. The show runs June 5th - June 23rd. Tickets are on sale through LemonBayPlayhouse.com or by going to the box office.



As we look forward to summer and all the activities in the area, keep in mind our 5-Day Club! This year it will be held from **June 24 -28** with the awards ceremony on Sunday, June 30th. We will invite those children entering K - 5th grade. We will need two or three people to handle crafts and two or three people to handle snacks. Lunches for the teachers will be provided by the church family. CEF will be providing curriculum and teachers. If you would like to be a helper or provide a meal, please contact Nada Decker ASAP.

*To help people develop a thriving relationship with Jesus Christ by serving God and serving others ...
This is the Mission of GCC.*

SETTING AT THE GATE
(THE ELDERS REPORT)
JUNE 2019

We are quickly rushing to the middle of year 2019, at the end of this month we will have celebrated 6 months of our 12 allotted by the Gregorian Calendar that our Great Country, The USA, utilizes for the base of keeping record of the Months of the year, as most Countries in the World does.

More on the historical side, it is also the most popular month for (or used to be) Weddings, Graduations and other student/Teacher dismissals of the School year, Fathers Day and new celebratory days such as Juneteenth Day! This is a true recently established Celebration day and if you haven't seen, enjoyed or been to one check it out!

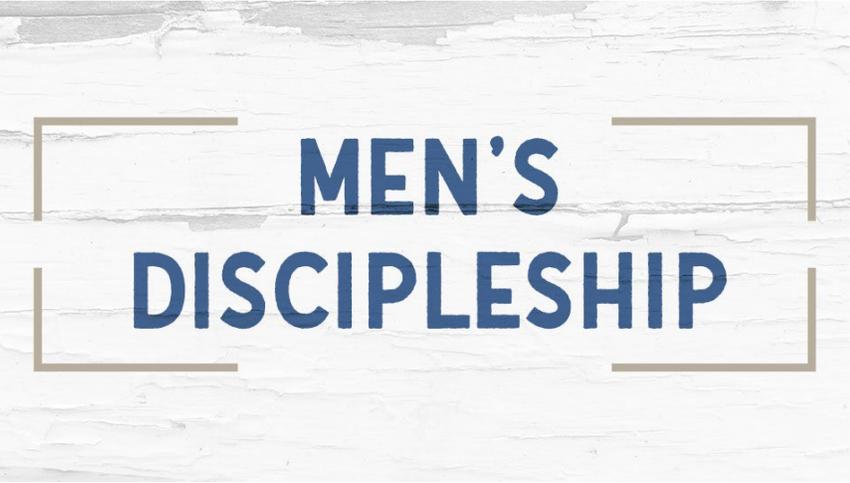
Since this is the Church Newsletter how about Vacation Bible School or The Five Day Club or some other name it is now being labeled with, as it usually happens during the Wonderful Month of June! Please note-Ours, Grace Community Church's, is being taught the week of June 24-28, 2019. See Nada Decker for any needed information, schedules, where to sign-up, etc.

Most if not all of our "Snow Angels" are gone for the summer so "things" are relatively slow! If you have any suggestions for activities please communicate them to one of the Elders or list it on a blue card and put it in the offering plate this Sunday. The Elders will discuss it and reply; IF you put your contact information on the card!

In the February issue we discussed the increase in the numbers of participants we have been Blessed with in our Sunday Morning Services! We have had several Sunday's that were very near full! We have had larger crowds consistently this year through most of May with a new Membership Class in May! GOD is truly working within our Church, the Elders have been in Prayer about this and request each of you to include Church growth in your Prayers. We want to go where GOD leads but surely not get in front of HIS leadings.

As you know a larger crowd translates into many conversations and "things" to put into motion once decisions are made. Depending upon the "mix" of people, "things" like more classrooms, materials for teachers and students, teachers, helpers for each class, Deacons, Elders and back up staff as necessary and a plan of action.

Until next time we will be setting at Gate awaiting HIS Return!!



**MEN'S
DISCIPLESHIP**

Just a reminder that the Men's Discipleship group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am.

The Men also meet for breakfast every Tuesday morning at Stefano's and every Saturday morning at Denny's (except the 4th Saturday which is at the church) at 8:00 am.