

GRACE NEWS

April/May

2018

**A Publication of
Grace Presbyterian
Church**



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In the lead-up to Easter, all pastors and church workers find themselves unreasonably tense. Holy Week creates an attitude of frustration, busyness, and sometimes bitter hopelessness. We work ourselves raw and tell ourselves that if we just try hard enough, it will all work.

And it never truly does. Something always goes wrong. In my vulnerability and frustration, I snidely said multiple times, “Just one year I want Holy Week to go right!”

We try to carry so much on our shoulders and by the end, we drop the stuff God actually called us to carry – like self-care, joyful worship, and caring for one-another – while we juggle and bear the burden of things we have so very little actual control over, like musicians being unavailable and not being less forgetful than other times of year.

But we have hope! Nadia Bolz-Webber is an ELCA pastor and author and also a fowl-mouthed rock star in the church planting world. I invite you to check out her methods and wrestle with how discomfort can bring true fellowship and welcome, but I bring her up because she tweeted the best reminder at the beginning of Holy Week:

“[C]lergy & church workers, here’s our yearly reminder: Jesus will rise from the dead even if you forgot to print out the right hymns, even if the lilies arrive already wilted, even if the whole choir gets food poisoning. Nothing will keep the stone from rolling away. You are loved.”

And, wouldn’t you know, she was right? We worshipped, we celebrated our resurrected Lord, Jesus gave us forgiveness, even if I forgot some things and some things went contrary to plan. Despite ourselves, Jesus still saves us.

Nothing can improve upon this one reality: Jesus loves you and saves you despite your best efforts to prove otherwise.

Live in that love and peace.

Peace,
- Pastor Rob



Thank You to everyone who provided breakfast, snacks and lunch desserts for the Presbytery Meeting. They were greatly appreciated.

Tammy Menkes

Thank You to all for supporting the PW Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale.

Tammy Menkes

Thank You to everyone who had anything to do with Youth Sunday, You were Great!

Tammy Menkes

I want to send a huge thank-you note to my Grace Family. As always you have been so faithful these past several weeks with prayers, cards, meals and phone calls. You have been a true blessing to Al and me. I have a ways to go before I can arm wrestle anyone, but I am 1000% better than what I was. Just like I can't arm wrestle yet, my playing isn't back to what it should be. I praise the Lord though that I have come as far as I have because at the beginning of this past week I couldn't even play a familiar hymn. But God is good all the time, and I know he slowed me down for some reason. Thanks again to everyone.

Sue Creager

Presbyterian Women

All women are invited to participate in any and all of these activities.

PW Women Plant sale will be held on Mother's Day Sunday, May 13, 2018.

Sarah Circle

Meets 2nd Thursday of month

April 12 & May 10 at 1:00 in the Church Fellowship

Lunch is at Noon – Arby's

Meeting & Study 1:00 at church

Cancer Pad Sewing

Come and help with this great Mission.

April 18 & May 16

We meet the third Wednesday of every month 9:00am-12:00pm. No special sewing skills are needed. Just a simple basting stitch.

Lunch Bunch

12 noon at Glenbrook Mall Food Court near JC Penny's. All women are invited.

April 26 & May 31

Wills and Legacy Emphasis Workshop will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 12:30pm.

When it comes to our money and possessions, faithful living involves at least four things: When we are faithful stewards,

- 1) we *acquire* our money in God-pleasing ways;
- 2) we *regard* our money in God-pleasing ways;
- 3) we *manage* our money in God-pleasing ways; and,
- 4) we *spend* our money in God-pleasing ways.

Beyond the obvious concerns for earning a living with honesty and integrity, the Bible reveals a deeper concern for *acquisition* of finances: it is never to become an end in itself. Also, we are encouraged to view our employment positively as a vocation from God, as something that we do in order to make a worthy contribution to life in this world.

We should not allow money to become the prime source of joy and meaning in our lives nor should we allow money to exercise a controlling influence over us. We are encouraged to *regard* our material possessions as gifts of God and to be thankful for them. Also, we are encouraged to trust God that we have

enough resources to be the people God wants us to be and to have the lives God wants us to have.

The Bible indicates money is to be used, not hoarded; neither is it to be squandered. To get this right, to avoid both hoarding and squandering, we need to have a plan to *manage* what we have. We need to think through our intentions and prayerfully submit them to God.

God blessed Abraham so that he could be a blessing to others and in keeping with that thought, the New Testament teaches that we should use what God gives us not just for our own needs, but in ways that serve others. If we begin consciously *spending* our money in ways that we believe are pleasing to God, we will not miss out on the pleasures of life.

Adapted from
Giving to God (2006) by Mark Allen Powell



**Just Neighbors Meals
April 8-10**

We are coming together to prepare and serve meals for homeless families. Just Neighbors is a unique program in our community that allows families to stay together during their struggles. Each night we will cook and serve food to local families. If you are interested contact Betsy Kachmar or call the office for more information.



North Highland's Neighborhood Association is hosting their Annual Garage Sale Saturday **June 9, 2018**. The Presbyterian women will be collecting any items you would like to get rid of. Keep this in mind when you are doing your Spring Cleaning.



Presbyterian Women will hold their annual **Plant sale** on **Mother's Day May 13**.



Wednesday May 2, 2018

Grace is hosting Presbytery Meeting on this day and is in need of Volunteers to help make this event run smoothly. Please contact Todd German if you are able to help.

Church Potluck

Bring your favorite salad or dessert and join us for Fellowship April 29, 2018.



Miles for Meals

Saturday May 19, 2018 at 9:00am
Foster Park

This is a family and pet friendly event
See Todd German for more details.



Sunday May 6, 2018



April 01 Joyce Campbell
 April 04 Dr. Steve Schneider
 April 08 Don Foland
 April 12 Micah Tsamwa
 April 17 Cayden Lyons
 April 19 Wil Searer
 April 22 Mildred Anderson
 April 28 Rev. Loran Lewis
 April 28 Carl Jacobs
 April 30 Audrey Seitz
 April 30 Dave Gilbert

May 01 Alex Bowers
 May 03 Tamara Searer-Jenkins
 May 08 Stella Jacobs
 May 09 Josiyah Tsamwa
 May 09 Phyllis Wilkie
 May 10 Dave Zimmerman
 May 20 Janice Weber
 May 26 Dee Stoiche
 May 26 Meghan Mahoney
 May 28 Ervin Bellis
 May 29 Angie Barchak



April 5, 1970 Ken & Peggy Mahoney
 April 25, 1964 Ken & Maureen Rogers

May 17, 1986 Ervin & Gail Bellis
 May 23, 1965 Doug & Linda Haller
 May 25, 1986 Todd & Cathy German
 May 30, 1970 Dave & Nancy Gilbert

- April 8-10-** Just Neighbors Meals
- April 15-** Wellspring Quarterly Dinner 2:00pm
- April 19-** Presby-Day
- April 29-** Church Potluck
- April 29-** Legacy/Wills Emphasis Workshop 12:30
- May 2-** Presbyterian Meeting
- May 3-** National Day of Prayer
- May 6-** Youth Sunday
- May 13-** Mother's Day/PW Plant Sale
- May 17-** Presby-Day
- May 20-** Pentecost
- May 20-** Christian Education Recognition
- May 28-** Memorial Day

Church Attendance

- Feb 4-** 58
- Feb 11-** 56
- Feb 14-** 24
- Feb 18-** 75
- Feb 25-** 57
- Mar 4-** 64
- Mar 11-** 67
- Mar 18-** 62
- Mar 25-** 66