

A Grace Note from the Rector
September 22, 2022

Dear Ones,

It doesn't happen often, but **we are in DESPERATE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS for Gathering Grace NEXT Sunday (October 2)**. You can be of help **anytime between 12-4; between 2-4 is the most important**. If you can help, or if you have questions, please contact Connie Turner at jocoturner@gmail.com. Thank you in advance!

As Hallowe'en approaches, please consider donating **individually wrapped Hallowe'en candy** to distribute to Gathering Grace guests on October 30.

This Sunday there will be a **NEW MEMBER WELCOME** during the Eucharist to give thanks to God for, and welcome, some new, and some familiar, faces as members of Grace.

Next Sunday is the annual **Mertens Organ Series Concert**, established by Bea Mertens and her late husband Tom. **KOLA OWOLABI, ORGANIST** | Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m. | Sursa Performance Hall.

Join our ecumenical partners on the Feast of St. Francis for the **Annual Blessing of the Animals** at Lutheran Church of the Cross (4401 Wheeling Avenue, Muncie) on **Tuesday, October 4 at 6pm**.

Updated **directories of Members & Friends of Grace Church** are now available. There will be hard copies at the Greeter's table. If you want an electronic version, please let our Office Manager, Amy O'Neal know at gracechurchparish@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES NEEDS

Disinfectant spray, washcloths, and blankets. Look for the Christian Ministries cart in the cloister. God bless your generosity!

A BETTER WAY ~ SEPTEMBER NEEDS

New bed pillows, paper towels, cleaning supplies (liquid Lysol, cleansers, sponges), new or gently used flatware/silverware, and cereal bowls.

GRACE VILLAGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Grace Village's Wednesday morning Wild Card Café needs **individual trail mix packets, gluten-free breakfast bars, and bottled coffee drinks**. Look for the Grace Village donation box in the Cloister. Thank You!

Our friends in **Girl Scout Troop 3917** appreciate your continuing contributions of **CLEAN plastic tops/lids** for their special project. There is a container for your donations in the Parish Kitchen. The girls will be participating in an environmental program in September put on by an Indiana State Park to earn a badge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Heather Cowin (September 22)

Dave Ferrell (September 25)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I've had some interesting conversations this week about last Sunday's sermon on forgiving debt. A colleague told me about a wonderful non-profit that works to **forgive medical debt**. Because they buy medical debt in bundles, a \$100 donation relieves \$10,000 dollars of debt for someone. I know it sounds incredible, but I invite you to check it out at <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>

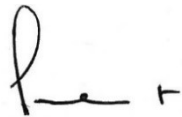
Lastly, a poem on forgiveness by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892). An American Quaker poet and advocate of the abolition of slavery in the United States, Whittier was influenced by the Scottish poet Robert Burns. Whittier is remembered particularly for his anti-slavery writings, as well as his poem, *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, which you can find in the Hymnal at #652 (and #653)!

Forgiveness

My heart was heavy, for its trust had been
Abused, its kindness answered with foul wrong;
So, turning gloomily from my fellow-men,
One summer Sabbath day I strolled among
The green mounds of the village burial-place;
Where, pondering how all human love and hate
Find one sad level; and how, soon or late,
Wronged and wrongdoer, each with meekened face,
And cold hands folded over a still heart,
Pass the green threshold of our common grave,
Whither all footsteps tend, whence none depart,
Awed for myself, and pitying my race,
Our common sorrow, like a mighty wave,
Swept all my pride away, and trembling I forgave!

~John Greenleaf Whittier

God bless you in these days,



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