

Grace Reformed Church Newsletter

April 13, 2020

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! And, His resurrection can and will make all the difference in our lives as we experience adverse and trying circumstances such as we have for the past several weeks. Like you, the past Holy Week was one of the most unusual and unprecedented Holy Weeks in my life time. And yet, it will also be remembered as being very meaningful and significant. We have had to adjust and adapt the way we worship, the way we connect with others in our church community, and the way we interact with our families on a holiday weekend, but we did it! You are to be commended.

Next Sunday, Lord willing, I will complete the message series we began last fall from the Book of James entitled "Skills for Maturing Disciples of Jesus." The theme will be on "Fervent Prayer." In this series we have discovered 11 different skills for those of us who are committed to becoming more mature as followers of Jesus. I would invite and encourage all of us to reflect and evaluate yourselves in each of these skills on a scale of 1 (need more growth) to 10 (doing well) as we make our way forward in 2020. In the areas where more growth is needed, seek out resources online or feel free to contact either Pastor Heather or myself. If we as a church community are going to live into the mission God has given to us ("make more disciples for Jesus"), we need to be on the path to becoming mature disciples of Jesus ourselves. Below are the 11 skills that James calls us to develop.

The Skill of Overcoming Troubles	James 1:1-12
The Skill of Resisting Temptations	James 1:13-18
The Skill of Less Talk, More Walk	James 1:19-27, 2:14-16
The Skill of Seeing Others as God Sees	James 2:1-13
The Skill of Living by Active Faith	James 2:14-26
The Skill of Taming Our Tongues	James 3:1-12
The Skill of Growing in Godly Wisdom	James 3:13-18
The Skill of Overcoming Grudges	James 4:1-10
The Skill of Living a Life of Humility	James 4:10-5:6
The Skill of Growing in Patient Perseverance	James 5:7-12
The Skill of Fervent Prayer	James 5:13-18

If you have missed any of messages that were given on these skills or would just like a written copy of any of them for future reference, just let Sue or myself know. We will do what we can to make them available to you.

I received a short article over the weekend entitled "How to Keep the Easter Spirit Alive." Among other suggestions that were given, 2 really stood out and I would like to pass them along to you. First, begin each and every day with prayer and reading from the Bible before turning on the news. And second, each and every day connect with at least 2-3 other people to show compassion, care, and concern. When you encourage others, you experience a lift yourself. Try it this week and see.

Pastor Jack

This week's verse to reflect on:

(Over)

**“May your unfailing love come to me, O Lord,
your salvation according to your promise.” Psalm 119:41**

PRAYERS & PRAISE

Bernice Palma underwent heart surgery on Friday, April 10. She is resting comfortably. She is expected to be hospitalized for 5-7 days.

Donna Moreno continues to improve. She is unable to begin therapy until after the “stay at home” orders are lifted. Please continue to pray for her.

Keep Marge Veldheer in your prayers as she waits for the results of the thyroid biopsy done on Monday, April 13.

Keep Alisyn VanderWal in your prayers as she is currently serving on the east side of the state in the ER. We pray for safety, health and endurance.

We lift up in prayer those who are struggling with loneliness, financial hardship, mental health issues and other effects of this coronavirus epidemic. We pray for safety for all the essential workers risking their own health and safety to serve the people. We pray for doctors and nurses, grocery store workers, police and firemen, those working in banks, and others doing necessary work for our good.

Please contact us if you have any prayer requests or if we can help you in any way!

OTHER NEWS

Sunday Services will continue to be live on Facebook at 10:00 am. Remember if you can't watch Facebook live, they will continue to be posted on FB and you can tune in anytime. In addition they are posted on our web page www.gracewyoming.org and youtube under gracewyoming.

Ministry Teams – The next meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 7:00 pm. Now that most of you are experts at Zoom, this is how this meeting will take place! You can also “Zoom” from your phone! All you have to do is call a number and you will be connected to the Zoom meeting. All that would be needed to call in is just your regular old phone! If you need help to set it up, call the office or Pastor Heather and we will walk you through the process.

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings online, please go to our web site at www.gracewyoming.org. You can give safely through this site. You are also welcome to send it in the mail directly to church (3330 Burlingame Ave SW., Wyoming 4509).

Family Groups are HERE!!! Okay maybe you are not as excited as Pastor Heather but included you will see information about what it means to be a part of a family group and who is in your family. What a great opportunity to get to know your families during this time. We encourage you if you have children at home to include them in your family group too.

New Directories are also included in this mailing!!