

Grace Reformed Church Newsletter

May 26, 2020

“Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”
Romans 12:11-13

It’s been some time now since we have been able to worship together in person but that is about to change this coming Sunday. I am so looking forward to worship with all of you this Sunday for a couple of reasons. This Sunday marks **Pentecost Sunday** in the church calendar of the year, a Sunday on par with Christmas and Easter. But this Sunday we will also be attempting something that to my knowledge has never been done before in the history of Grace Reformed Church. We will be hosting a Drive-In Worship Service at 10:00 AM! There are several details you should know about this service before you come on Sunday morning. They are given below.

In view of this occasion, I would like to share with you today 10 facts about Pentecost you may or may not know.

1. Pentecost marks the day the Spirit of the Living God descended upon the first Christians.
2. Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter.
3. The Bible records the events of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2:1-13
4. Pentecost also comes 10 days after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven in full view of his first disciples.
5. Pentecost is commonly considered to be the birthday of the church.
6. Pentecost fulfills the promise of Jesus to his first disciples to send them a **“Counselor”** and the **“Spirit of Truth”** after He would leave them.
7. Pentecost launches the beginning of the church’s mission to make disciples of all the nations of the world.
8. The Jews also celebrate Pentecost but for a different reason than do Christians. For Jews, Pentecost is the observance of when God gave the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai exactly 50 days after the people of Israel left Egypt, the house of bondage. Also, Pentecost for the Jews takes place 50 days after the celebration of the Passover Feast.
9. The Pentecostal movement with their emphasis on speaking in tongues trace their beginnings to the events that took place on what we know today as Pentecost Sunday.
10. Pentecost is commonly celebrated in Christian churches with the color “red” which symbolizes the flaming tongues of the Holy Spirit that rested on the heads of those first Christians.

Speaking of the **color of red**, here’s an **invitation and a challenge** for everyone who comes to our Drive-In Worship Service this Sunday. The car/truck/van that shows up with the **most red inside and outside** will receive a special prize for everyone in the car/truck/van. See you Sunday morning! Let’s get ready to celebrate!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jack

This Sunday, May 31, 10:00 am

PENTECOST SUNDAY DRIVE IN WORSHIP SERVICE!

We are excited to have an actual gathering here at church! A **FEW DETAILS** you should know about this service:

- We ask that if you are considered vulnerable, sick or have been sick to remain home.
- At the service you will be able to listen to us through your radio. Details of music and message will be available online this week. But don't worry if you can't get online, songs will be well known so you can sing along!
- We will have a special offering for Family Network of Wyoming. Bring a canned good (monetary offerings are welcome too). They will be collected as you exit the parking lot. Also, your regular tithes and offerings continue to be appreciated either by secure on-line giving, the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or the offering receptacle that will also be available as you exit the parking lot.
- Buildings (including bathrooms) will not be open. Please plan accordingly.
- Our on-line service will still be available on Facebook, our website, and Youtube.

PRAYERS & PRAISE

Please continue to keep Bernice Palma, Harvey Steensma, and Betty Holmes in your prayers.

Please keep Stella Oliver in your prayers as June 2nd she will be having her tonsils and adenoids removed.

We pray for all those re-entering the workplace, many for the first time in weeks. We pray for protection. We continue to give thanks for all those "essential workers" who continue to provide services for us.

We pray for this church as we begin working towards resuming worship services on site. We pray for all those who are working to accomplish this goal. We pray for protection and safety.

We lift up the Wigent family in our prayers as they have completed their move. We especially pray for Brielle as she completed her HS education at Hudsonville High School this month. Below are the new addresses for the family:

Eric, Erika, and Sadie Wigent
117 East Main St. Apt B
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Reece and Brielle Wigent
6474 Stoney Creek Ct
Hudsonville, MI 49426

We remember all the 2020 graduates as they complete their high school years and celebrate in new and creative ways. May God bless them as they make plans for the future. We will celebrate with our Grace graduates at a later date.

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

OTHER NEWS

SPECIAL CONSISTORY MEETING – June 1 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to review the drive in service and discuss future plans for worship services at Grace.

SUNDAY SERVICES will continue to be on Facebook and Youtube 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.

OFFERINGS – Enclosed in this mailing is an envelope pre-addressed to Grace. This week our special offering is designated for Family Network of Wyoming. Please use your boxed offering envelopes or you may designate on your check where you would like your offering to go. Please be sure to make that designation if you would like to donate to FNOW. All loose change at the Drive In Service will go to FNOW. As stated above, canned goods are also welcome! As always you can safely give online at our website: www.gracewyoming.org.