October 21, 2020

During the past seven months, our faith, hope, and love have remained steady guideposts for us. As we approach the month of November, it’s the perfect time to reflect deeply as a parish about communal gratitude that carries us through all of life’s ups and downs. Many thanks to all of you who’ve journeyed with us and our church as we’ve sought to stay connected and navigate the uncharted waters of this challenging year.

Enclosed you’ll find highlights of just some of the programs offered at GSL for the remainder of the year. Please join in as you are able, and stay tuned for exciting news about other events - including indoor eucharist – coming soon!

If you’ve not already done so, please also consider the ways you might invest in life at Grace-St. Luke’s and make a pledge for 2021 either online at www.gracestlukes.org/pledge or by returning the enclosed Pledge Form to the church office by November 1. We’re so grateful for the gift of yourselves and your generous support of GSL.

With great hope for times to come,

Allison King
Stewardship Chair

Steven King
Stewardship Chair
**Formation at Grace-St. Luke’s:** Christian formation (education) is about growing in discipleship and discovering how faith is relevant to all aspects of our lives. At GSL, we strive to offer a menu of learning choices in large and small group settings led both by clergy and lay ministers.

**Sunday**
- 9:15–9:45 a.m. Virtual Adult Formation Speakers & Programs
- Youth & Children Formation Resources Emailed
- 10:30–11 a.m. Worship Livestream and In Person
- 4–5 p.m. Middle School EYC via ZOOM or In Person
- 5–6 p.m. High School EYC via ZOOM or In Person
- 5:30–6 p.m. Contemplative Prerecorded Worship & Music Events

**Tuesday**
- 8–8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via Facebook Live

**Wednesday**
- 5 p.m. Youth Compline via Insta Live

**Thursday**
- 7 a.m. Youth Morning Prayer via Insta Live
- 8–8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via Facebook Live

**ACCESSING GSL FALL 2020 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, Grace-St. Luke’s Church is adhering to safety guidelines and restrictions according to the policy of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. For Fall 2020, we will operate primarily in virtual ways for worship, formation, service, and fellowship with occasional options for small groups to gather in physically-distanced ways. Unless otherwise noted, most of the following speakers, programs and classes will be available via ZOOM video-audio platform using access details provided and posted on the website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

**ADULT FORMATION**
[www.gracestlukes.org/adult-formation](http://www.gracestlukes.org/adult-formation)

**November 1, All Saints’ Day & Pledge Consecration Sunday, 9:15–9:45 a.m.**
*Exploring The Saints Through Poetry with The Rev. Katherine M. Bush*

From generation to generation, poetry is one of the greatest art expressions to which people of faith turn for delight, wisdom, comfort, inspiration and remembrance. Join GSL member and St. Mary’s School Chaplain & Director of Religion, the Rev. Katherine Bush, on an exploration of poetry to commemorate All Saints’ Day. This day also marks Pledge Consecration Sunday when pledges are requested to confirm commitments of time, talent and treasure to sustain GSL. The Rev. Bush will offer the homily at the 10:30 a.m. service.

**Sunday, November 8, Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, 9:15–9:45 a.m.**
*Building Compassion and Resilience in Beloved Community: A Conversation with Dr. Susan Campbell on the Methodologies of Dr. Brené Brown hosted by The Rev. Laura F. Gettys*

Susan K. Campbell, PhD, is a psychologist, certified Daring Way™ and Dare to Lead™ facilitator, and fellow Episcopalian from North Carolina. The interactive conversation will focus on the call to love our neighbors as ourselves and on the links between self-awareness, self-compassion, resilience, and vulnerability. The focus is on us as adults, and how important it is to show up as the people God created us to be, and to be generous with others as they do the same. If you have enjoyed or heard of Brené Brown, Dr. Campbell is certified according to Brown’s experiential methodologies and gifted in offering inspiration.

**Sunday, November 15, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:15–9:45 a.m.**
*Racial Healing: A Lifelong Journey, Part 1 with Grace-St. Luke’s Social Justice Committee Leaders and the Clergy*

How well do we know our own history? Philosopher George Santayana famously wrote, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Mark Twain disagreed, offering the opinion that “history doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.” Regardless of whether history repeats itself or merely rhymes, we must first know it to recognize it. Join GSL’s Social Justice Committee for a look at the history of civil rights and justice in the Bluff City—you just may see some familiar faces and learn something new!
Racial Healing: A Lifelong Journey, Part 2 with Dr. Tim Huebner
Reflecting on the importance of storytelling, reconciliation, and justice, Episcopalian and Rhodes College history professor Tim Huebner will reflect on individual and community journeys with more deeply engaging matters of racial healing. Area initiatives such as the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis remind us of Memphis’ history with race relations and endless opportunities for people of faith to work toward creating “beloved community.”

An Advent Like No Other with The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector
Advent marks the annual occasion for the church catholic (universal) to “begin again” on the journey with Christ beginning in great expectation of his birth. This new season also is perfect for members of the body of Christ to reflect on the past, present and future. It is more and more obvious every day that life, especially for the Church, will never be the same again. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will highlight societal and spiritual matters that may resonate with those who tune in for the presentation.

Annual Meeting of the Parish
All members and newcomers are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish via Zoom. This one-hour occasion will undertake key business matters, including the election of the Vestry Class of 2023, parish life highlights since the last annual meeting, review of a 2021 operating budget draft, and a state-of-the-parish address from the Rector.

Unpacking the Gospels in Advent with The Rev. Dr. Mitzi Minor
Memphis Theological Seminary Professor, Dr. Mitzi Minor returns to GSL for a two-part series focused on the Gospel lessons appointed for the third and fourth Sundays of Advent (John 1:6-8,19-28; Luke 1:26-38). Spread the word and tune in to this Advent teaching series by one of the finest biblical scholars and a longtime friend of GSL.

GSL Reading Together & Discussions
GSL Reading Together is one of many ways to connect with others at GSL around a common subject. Order your book through a local book-seller or online, let the reading begin, and consider signing up for Zoom discussions according to the schedules associated with each book.

Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor
In Learning to Walk in the Dark, Barbara Brown Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.” With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, she is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life’s challenging moments. To foster both community and build on discussions, class participants are encouraged to commit to all sessions if possible.

Zoom Discussions, Signup Link: https://tinyurl.com/GSLLearningtoWalk
Wednesdays, November 4, 11, 18; 6–6:45 p.m.
Facilitators: Anne Ayres, The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
DECEMBER

_The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder_ by Richard Rohr

Father Richard Rohr suggests a wisdom pattern can give us hope in difficult times and the courage to push through messiness and even great chaos to find a new way of being in the world. “Knowing the full pattern allows us to let go of our first order, trust the disorder, and, sometimes even hardest of all—to trust the new reorder. Three big leaps of faith for all of us, and each of a different character.” To foster both community and build on discussions, class participants are encouraged to commit to all sessions if possible.

**Zoom Discussions, Signup Link:** [https://tinyurl.com/GSLWisdomPattern](https://tinyurl.com/GSLWisdomPattern)

_Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16; 6–6:45 p.m._


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**Connection-Making Events and More**

The Congregational Development Committee is working to identify ways that the church can gather in person and feel safe.

**Thursday Men’s Fellowship.** All men are invited to this 45-minute virtual fellowship facilitated by GSL member Doug Duncan and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher. In-person safe gatherings will be scheduled occasionally. This weekly connection time begins and ends with a brief prayer and are informal conversations about spiritual growth, faith and doubt, current events and concerns, intellectual stimulation, and thoughtful living in a fast world. Contact Doug or Ollie+ ([orencher@gracelstlukes.org](mailto:orencher@gracelstlukes.org)) for more information and Zoom access.

**Worship and Music—Fall 2020 beginning September 13**

[www.gracelstlukes.org/worship](http://www.gracelstlukes.org/worship) | [www.gracelstlukes.org/music](http://www.gracelstlukes.org/music)

Worship provides opportunities to thank and praise God for blessings known and unknown, be still in spirit, and revive the soul to face whatever lies ahead. Readings from and meditations on scripture, music, silence, candles, and sharing in the Holy Eucharist, when possible, provide food for the journey. Throughout history, the gift of music has existed as one of many ways to bless souls and connect people. All are welcome to engage any and all that we offer at GSL.

**SUNDAY AND WEEKDAYS**

**Sunday 10:30–11 a.m. Worship Livestream and In-person (sign-up required)**

Service includes scripture, homily, music and intercessions, adapted from the Liturgy of the Word from the Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer of the Daily Office and other resources.

**Sunday 5:30–6 p.m. Contemplative Prerecorded Worship & Music Events**

Virtual meditative services are offered by the clergy for those watching in a more contemplative setting, enhanced by candles, icons, intentional moments for silence, and instrumental music. Offerings scheduled at this time also include occasional recitals, concerts and choral services.

- **October 4** Musical Concert for the Feast of St. Francis
- **October 11** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **October 18** Evensong for the Feast of St. Luke
- **October 25** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **November 1** Choral Music for the Feast of All Saints’
- **November 8** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **November 15** Musical Concert
- **November 22** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **November 29** Music for Advent
- **December 6** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **December 13** Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
- **December 20** Choral Music for Advent & Christmas
- **December 24** Christmas Eve
- **December 25** Christmas Day

**Tuesday 8–8:15 p.m. Compline via Facebook Live**

**Thursday 8–8:15 p.m. Compline via Facebook Live**

Compline (Night Prayers): The last of the four services in the Daily Office (The Book of Common Prayer), the brief service of Compline descends from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. It is a simple “office” including a confession of sins, one or more psalms, a short reading from scripture, versicles and responses, the Lord’s Prayer, collects which ask for God’s protection during the night to come, and the canticle Nunc dimittis (“Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised.”).
Sundays: All ages Sunday Formation 9:15 a.m. Every Sunday, an at-home Sunday school packet will be sent straight to you! Take your time throughout the week to grow, play, and learn with actives and scripture made just for our community. Emails containing Sunday Formation packets, Zoom links, and EYC plans will be delivered at 9:15 a.m. weekly.

EYC: An opportunity for fellowship, relaxing, and fun! EYC offers a more laidback atmosphere for youth to build meaningful and lasting friendships. This time is less focused on structured learning and more devoted to community building, self-expression, impactful service, and seeking to understand the ever-changing and messy world around us. Please note that locations and times may change depending on the nature of our activities, look out for monthly emails from awilliams@gracestlukes.org to keep updated on all things EYC. In addition, the what and where of EYC is subject to change concerning conditions of COVID 19, but know we always plan to have something offered at this time for you and your family!

Wednesdays: Insta Live Compline at 5 p.m. @gsl.youth

Thursdays: Insta Live Morning Prayer at 7 a.m. @gsl.youth

Youth Formation at GSL may look at little different this coming fall, but make no mistake, we are working hard to make it one for the books. Above is a general outline for the times you can expect to gather for all things youth and EYC. While we always will stick to these times, watch for emails containing where we will be meeting, whether that be Zoom or a socially distanced outdoor activity! To stay connected on where and what the EYCs will be, contact awilliams@gracestlukes.org.

Local teacher and GSL parishioner, Jess Steenbergen, will be serving as our primary Youth Formation associate this fall. Jess has had a very active role with Youth Formation the past two years, and we are thrilled to have her with us once again.

CHILDREN’S FORMATION (Nursery - 5th Grade)

Nursery and in-person classes for children will resume at a date TBD.

Fall 2020 At-Home and Virtual Offerings for Children

For more information about programs for children, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation (scampbell@gracestlukes.org). Sharon will be assisted by Julie O’Bryan, Teresa Betts and other catechists with fall program offerings.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to the faith formation of children that takes place in a specially prepared classroom called an Atrium. Some elements of the Atrium experience lend themselves quite well to at-home use. Our starting points for the fall are outlined here:

Traveling Model Altar: At this child-sized altar, children learn the nomenclature for articles of the mass by preparing the altar themselves. The Model Altar is one of the more beloved work choices in the Atrium, so during this time of physical distance, your child can enjoy this experience at home! Instructions and all materials will be provided. Sign up online or contact Sharon Campbell for more information.

Prayer Table Kit: Above all else, the Atrium is a place of prayer, contemplation, and community for children. To help you and your child create a similar space in your home, Prayer Table kits will be available for pick up on Celebration Sunday, September 13. Child/ren are encouraged to use their Prayer Table any time they feel drawn to it. If desired, children may also join our virtual Sunday Prayer Table (see below) each week to help stay connected to their Atrium community.

Sunday Prayer Table (via Zoom): A focal point of the Atrium is the Prayer Table, where children and catechists gather together to sing, pray, and share what’s on our hearts. Each Sunday, following the 10:30 service, all children are invited to join a 15-minute (approx. 11:45-12) virtual Prayer Table led by Sharon Campbell via Zoom (link sent to all families on Saturdays).

Children's Activity Bags: Each month, families are invited to pick up a Children's Activity Bag. These bags will offer Bible stories, Scripture readings, moments for reflection, coloring pages, supplies for crafts, and seasonal activities. Children's Activity Bags will be available on October 4, November 1, and November 30.

Outdoor, In-Person Gatherings for Families: To meet the needs of families and children to be together in a safe way, we hope to offer some outdoor, in-person, socially distanced gatherings for families. (Subject to CDC guidelines and local health directives, dates TBD.)