

Greenhills Community Church, Presbyterian
Where every one of God's Children is Welcome!
July 2021 Chimes



FROM THE PASTOR

We recently had the privilege of having Lisa Allgood, the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, join our Session meeting. She asked us two important questions that I will now ask you (slightly paraphrased since I don't remember them word for word!)

- 1) What is one memorable experience of GCCP that has impacted your life?
- 2) What is your one hope / vision / dream for GCCP's future?

The answers given were, as you might imagine, varied - and yet had an underlining theme: GCCP has been a positive force in the lives of everyone - and the hope is that GCCP will continue to contribute to the vitality of our faith lives - and the lives of others.

There used to be a theory in church growth and development that said to identify your weakest attribute and spend a lot of time, money, and energy on improving that situation. Now, church organization development folks suggest just the opposite. Identify what you do well and then find ways to apply those strengths to the ministry efforts God has placed in your hearts. It ends up being a win-win situation!

The important "next step" is to clearly identify and articulate what it is we do well, individually and as a congregation. What skills and abilities and interests has God given us to use to accomplish our mission? Where are we most likely to get excited about expending our passion and energy?

For now, let's start by asking what has God put in our lives, in our hearts and minds, that bring joy to ourselves and to others? Do you like to organize activities? Do you enjoy reading and telling stories? Do you like to work with your hands? Do you enjoy 'tinkering' with electronic equipment? Do you like to sing? Do you like helping other people? While none of these things might sound like activities specific to church life, they are ways to add to the vibrancy of GCCP - while putting to good use the skills and abilities and interest God has given you. They are ways to be used within the kingdom of God. They are ways to share the gospel with others. They are ways to continue the ministry and mission of GCCP in new and exciting ways that meet the needs of the community around us. They are ways for us to give God all the glory and honor!

Shalom, Pastor Chris

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Pastor
Chris White
Music Director
Brad Caldwell

The Lord's Supper (to be celebrated on July 4, 2021)



As many of you know, the PC(USA) recognizes two Sacraments (sacred moments) – Holy Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Although Baptism is necessary only once in a person's life, The Lord's Supper may be observed often within our faith journey. This meal of bread and cup is often referred to as "communion" to remind us of our fellowship with Christ and one another. Likewise, it can also be called "Eucharist" (thanksgiving) because it is a joyous celebration of thanksgiving for what God has done, is doing, and will do. We Presbyterians mostly refer to the ritual as "the Lord's Supper" which helps "anchor our practice in the table fellowship that Jesus shared with his followers. Of those occasions, the most important was our Lord's institution of its perpetual celebration at the last meal he served with the Twelve."

The Lord's Supper is included within the "Great Prayer of Thanksgiving," which is based on Christian prayers from the earliest days of the Church. The prayer recaps our salvation history, praises and thanks God the Creator for the work of Jesus the Savior, and asks the Holy Spirit to use us within God's kingdom.

The reason I mention this review now is to go on to explain that there are many different ways for us to "partake of the elements" of bread and cup. (As an aside, our Presbyterian tradition requires us to offer unfermented juice while wine could also be *added* as an option.) In the past, GCCP has often used the practice of "intinction" whereby you would come forward, tear off a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup, and then eat.

Another common practice is to pass around a plate of bread and a plate of small cups with juice, which is what the Worship Liturgy Team has decided we will be doing on July 4, 2021. You will be invited to eat the bread as soon as you are served, to represent your personal relationship with the Triune God. After you are offered the cup, you will be asked to wait so that we all can commune together. This will remind us that we are all a part of the one body of Jesus the Christ. (You may want to place the cup in the holder that is on the back of the pew seat in front of you, especially if it is difficult to hold small items in your hands. Please return the cup to that holder after we have all participated.)

As to who is to be included in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, our Book of Order states: *The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended.*

Resource includes: [Theology for the Community of God](#), by Stanley J. Grenz and the Presbyterian 2019-2021 Book of Order

The Book of Confessions: Part 1 of the Constitution of the PC(USA)

The earliest confession of the New Testament Church is "Jesus Is Lord." Very early on, the church discovered that to keep this simple confession from misunderstanding and misuse, we needed to develop a more in-depth and faithful explanation on various theological and ethical issues. Some of the creeds and confessions are a summary of everything Christians believe; some deal with one or more specific topics at a specific time in history. Over the next couple of months, the Chimes will include a brief explanation of our current confessions, creeds, and catechisms.

The Nicene Creed was the first and in fact is the only creed used ecumenically by the vast majority of Christians throughout the world. It is the product of two councils – Nicaea in 325 CE and Constantinople in 381 CE. Some of the issues addressed were:

- How could Christians consider themselves monotheists (believers of one God) and yet believe that both the God of Israel and Jesus are divine?
- How could Christians use the Hebrew Scriptures as their holy book and yet disagree with the Jews on how it is to be interpreted?
- The decision that Jesus is "one substance with the Father" so is therefore "begotten not made."
- The Church's split into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox sections over the disagreement of whether the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (Latin / Roman Catholic) or only from the Father (Greek / Eastern Orthodox).

The Apostle's Creed is based on ancient roots that were tied closely to the baptismal liturgy of the mid-second century which were in turn based on New Testament writings. It first appeared as we know it today in the eighth century. The structure has a section for each person of the Trinity, with an emphasis on the relationship of the members of the Trinity to each other.

The Scots Confession is the outcome of a group of six ministers, commissioned by Scottish Parliament in 1560, to write a statement of Protestant Christian faith. Among other actions, it abolished the jurisdiction of the Pope and began a distinction between the *invisible church* (those people God has chosen) and the *visible church* (those people belonging to publicly established churches.) The visible church is identified by three visible notes, signs, or marks:

- The true preaching of the Word of God,
- The right administration of the sacraments associated with the Word and promise of God,
- Ecclesiastical discipline where vice is repressed, and virtue nourished.

Still to be covered in upcoming editions of the Chimes are: The Heidelberg Catechism, **The Second Helvetic Confession, The Westminster Standards (Confession of Faith, The Shorter and Longer Confession), The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Confession of 1967, The Confession of Belhar, and A Brief Statement of Faith – so stay tuned for more information!**

What's Up

From the Church Ministries

Clerk of Session— see session notes

Ministry of Administration— We will be doing a personnel review for Pastor Chris for the last 6 months.

Ministry of Congregational Care & Fellowship - I am excited to let everyone know that Fellowship time will be starting again in the near future. Please mark July 18th on your calendar for a special event after worship. Looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Ministry of Facilities & Finance- 1. New router has been installed in the Sanctuary for better Zoom and live services. 2. Air conditioners filters have changed for the start of live services. 3. cleaning schedule is being finalized for the church.

Ministry of Teaching & Worship-The fully Zoom final service occurred on June 6, followed by the first in-person services in our sanctuary in almost 15 months. My understanding is that the in-person services went smoothly, but that the hybrid (Zoom part) had issues with Wi-Fi and sound quality, but we would appreciate any feedback you could provide if you attended via zoom on June 13 or June 20. We hope to have a permanent ethernet cable to the front of the sanctuary by the end of the summer. Placement of the Zoom microphone for better sound quality is also being explored. We appreciate the friendly cooperation with Facilities and Finance (Cliff Kizuka, Paul Odegard, Al Hamilton) and Worship (Jim Hadley, Gene Kennedy, Bob Sanders).

Ministry of Witness & Service— The S.O.U.L. basket in the church office is empty, please bring can goods or personal hygiene items. As school opening is right around the corner the basket could use school supplies. (notebooks, rulers, pencils, crayons etc.).

Deacon— Delores Barnes is doing very well, she was released from UC West Chester on June 21, her son Steven is taking extremely good care of his mom. Prayers for all who are ill, or injured. Prayers for peace in our country as we celebrate the 4th of July. Prayers for the missing of the collapsed building, their families and friends. The workers EMS, Fire, Police and expert teams.

Music Director— We are working very hard to prepare for this summer's CFE Voice Institute. It will open with our Gaslight Chamber Music Series on July 23rd and 24th at Calvary Episcopal Church in Clifton, 7:30pm each night. Most of our faculty will be performing. An orientation will happen Sunday afternoon the 25th, classes will begin on the 26th-30th. There will likely be a few evening concerts during the week at the Institute Facilities. The final student recital will be in the afternoon of July 31st. The registration deadline is mid-July. So far, we have students likely participating from Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania. Students tend to apply late. As we approach the deadline, we will firm up our schedule. We always wait to see who we will have and structure their classes around what we deem as their educational needs.

New Session Members

Clerk of Session

Betty Hamilton

Ministry of Administration

Lee Sanders, Betty Hamilton

Ministry of Congregational Care

Valerie Dauwe, Godfrey Ngnog,
MaryAnne Kizuka

Ministry of Facilities & Finance

Phil Haisley

Ministry of Teaching & Worship-

Bob Sanders, Lee Sanders, Mary Newcomer

Ministry of Witness & Service

Godfrey Ngong, Rudy Visnich, Bob Sanders,
Mary Newcomer

Deacon

MaryAnne Kizuka

Music Director

Brad Caldwell

PNC

Committee

Chair Person

Christine Visnich

Secretary

Al Hamilton

Member at Large

Bobbe Kugele

Session member

Mary Newcomer

Session member

Phil Haisley

We ask prayers for :

New Session members start their terms.

PNC is progressing we ask for prayers that they may be guided in by your hand Lord to make the decisions, suggestions, and selections that will help GCCP prosper.

Central De Vida: that they may find a new place for their continuing growing congregation.

Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble: that they may continue their growth, that the 2021 Voice Institute goes well.

Presbytery of Cincinnati: That they may continue to guide us in our growth.





Session Highlights - May 31, 2021

By Betty Hamilton Clerk of Session

[Note: This report focuses on the activities of the Session as a whole and the Committees and Partnerships that report to Session other than the five Ministries.]

1. **The Stated Meeting** on June 22 was finally held in person! No little boxes - no masks - real faces. How wonderful! The new Session consists of only 8 members, plus the Interim Pastor.
2. The **PNC** was represented by chairperson, Chris Visnich. She reported that the documents created by the committee are now under review by the Presbytery. The position opening will soon be posted on the PC(USA) website.
3. **Lisa Allgood**, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, attended as the liaison from the Committee on Ministry to the PNC. She also spoke with the Session about the role of an Elder and improving communications.
4. The **Deacon**, Maryanne Kizuka, attended for the first time in her new role as designated "care-giver" of the church and reported on her contacts with individual members of the congregation.
5. **CdV** is working diligently to rent or buy a place of their own. We wish them God's guidance and grace as they seek to continue their ministry in a new location.
6. **The CFE Summer Institute** is coming up in July. Plans are moving forward with a hybrid format (part in person, part virtual). Registrations are now coming in.

Percent of the Year Elapsed	42%
Budget Needed	\$55,526
Direct Income to Date*	\$33,896
Percent of Anticipated Income Received	26%
Percent of Anticipated Expenses to Date	28%



Jackie's Corner

BELL GARDEN

The process of spreading mulch in the garden areas has been slowed by the frequent rains our area has been experiencing. As the weather and time allow, the remaining bags of mulch will be spread. The Ismene lilies have been planted and the excess bulbs were made available to the church family.



At least one chipmunk is happily residing in the garden and at least one mole has been busy tunneling through various flower beds. Several weeks ago, a hummingbird put on a display in front of the glass by the office entry door. And now that the cicadas are moving on to the next phase in their life cycle, a greater variety of birds is being seen in the garden.

Anyone who has the time and interest is welcome to pull weeds, cut down spent stalks, remove leaves, or just enjoy being in the garden.

MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES



A group of six representing Greenhills Community Church, Presbyterian volunteered at Matthew 25: Ministries on May 27th. This was our first volunteer experience in 15 months! Our task was to remove the plastic covering from logo-themed clothing, remove the bar code or QR code from each garment, then place each garment in the proper category.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be on Thursday, July 1st for two hours in the afternoon. Six people have signed up for this date. Should anyone want to join the group representing GCCP on a future date, call me at 513-851-9835 or email me at jlsjks@hotmail.com so you can be put on my list of those to contact about volunteering at Matthew 25: Ministries.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet in Room 210 of the church on the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 1:30 PM. Our next meeting will be on July 6th, and all are invited to attend for an afternoon of working on projects and/or conversation.

A special joy is when we have items to bless or items to select for someone in need of the comfort a prayer shawl and lap robe can provide.





**Here are suggested
lectionary passages
for July.**

July 4, 6th Sunday after Pentecost

*Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 5: 1-5, 9-10 and
Ps. 48; Complementary: Ezch. 2: 1-5 and
Ps. 123; 2 Cor. 12: 2-10; Mark 6: 1-13*

Independence Day
Immigration Sunday

July 11, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

*Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 6: 1-5, 12b-19 and
Ps. 24; Complementary; Amos 7: 7-15 and
Ps. 85: 8-15; Eph. 1: 3-14; Mark 6: 14-29*

July 18, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

*Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 7: 1-14a, and Ps.
89: 20-37; Complementary; Jer. 23: 1-6 and
Ps. 23; Eph. 2: 11-22; Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56*

July 25, 9th Sunday after Pentecost

*Semicontinuous: 2 Sam. 11: 1-15 and
Ps. 14; Complementary; 2 Kgs. 4: 42-44 and
Ps. 145: 10-18; Eph. 3: 14-21; John 6: 1-21*

Happy Birthday

Caroline Cartier	8
David Hill	15
Jim Keith	26
Chris White	26

Happy Anniversary

Gene & Donna Kennedy 17

Population of the US on July 4, 1776?

Historians estimate that 2.5 million was the population of the United States on July 4, 1776. The first census was done in 1790. The population of the U.S. was found to be 3,929,214 people.

Lady of Liberty

Lady of liberty and mother of freedom and justice to all,.....

Who offers her welcome to whomever may call, be them rich, poor or oppressed,....

She stands watch in her robes, so dressed,.... a gift of friendship from France to the U.S.

Dedicated in 1886 and designated a national monument in 1924,..... a historic landmark to its very core.

She passed her torch from bedloe's to the renamed liberty island,.... never frowned,..... but, kept on smiling.

She raised her torch of eternal light and freedom upward toward the heavenly clouds,.....

Evoking cries and tears of emotion from the visiting crowds.

So, thanks to the great genius of Bartholdi and Eiffel our symbol of freedom still stands by the bay,..... To signal to all passing through, that liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness and opportunity in America is here to stay,..... in the good ole U.S.A.

JOSEPH P. MARTINO POET, WRITER, WORLD TRAVELER 222 MILLBURN AVE. MILLBURN, NJ 07041



Fun Facts for July:

July is likely when you will start seeing crop circles appearing!

July was when the first-ever telephone call was made!

July has two zodiac signs which claim July as their host month—if born in July you're either a Cancer (crab) or a Leo (lion).

Prayer of the Month:

Lord of justice and peace, may I not pause at the marked stones of the brave to learn of liberty, but may I look for the opportunities that I may measure up to because of them, and do my part to keep the peace and spread the blessings of our land. Amen.

