

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

May 2021 Chimes



FROM THE PASTOR

This is the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it! NRSV Psalm 118:24

Ecclesiastes 3:1 is a well known and beloved verse: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Transitions between seasons can be a “mixed blessing.” We must often let go of something in order to have open hands and heart to hold the next “thing” God has planned for us.

Here are just a few of the RECENT events happening in and around GCCP!

- We just elected elders to serve on Session – and elected a “designated deacon.” It also means we must say “thank you” to those whose terms have ended.
- We elected members for our congregational Nominating Committee, as others rotate off, again with our gratitude for a job well done.
- We also elected members for our Pastor Nominating Committee. You've gone through this process before and know that it might take a longer “season” than some would like.
- Many of us have now received COVID vaccines, so hopefully an end to the restrictions will follow soon. (By the time the Chimes is published, the Worship Committee will have suggested a time frame to Session for returning to worship in person.)
- With “in person” worship, we will look forward to welcoming back our musical scholars. Some of them have graduated and we wish them well as we welcome new scholars.
- CdV will be moving on to a new place sometime between now and August 15, 2021. We continue to pray for their ministry as they start fresh somewhere else.
- CFE is gearing up for a conference this summer. Although it is something they do every year, this time it will be here at CFE!
- Winter is behind us, we're in the midst of Spring, and looking forward to summer. Those are definitely “weather” seasons that happen every year.
- Yes, the times they are a-changing! In fact, the old adage is true: the only constant in life is change.

Have you felt the Holy Spirit blowing freely through GCCP lately? Have you caught the renewed energy? The excitement that is growing? Praise be to God – there's a new day dawning!

Technically, our interim time together started back in March of 2020. We've accomplished much during since then – in spite of (and maybe because of!) the COVID restrictions. Who would have thought so many of us would be “zoom-savvy” by now? Who would have thought we could be so creative in keeping out special rituals – such as the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, renewal of baptism, Christmas eve candle lighting, and Easter celebration?

And yet, there is so much more to be explored and discovered and imagined! Dust off those COVID cobwebs and come join the joyful parade towards the future God has planned for GCCP!

Shalom, Pastor Chris

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Find us on Facebook

Pastor
Chris White
Music Director
Brad Caldwell

REFORMED WORSHIP



"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Those words from the traditional Doxology reminds us to worship God - and one of the main reasons why we are to worship God. As Rev. Cynthia Campbell (retired President of McCormick Seminary) writes: "...Worship in the Reformed tradition is about: giving praise and thanks to God, who is the Lord and giver of life, the author of all goodness, the One whom we and all creation depend on for each day of our living." As we say in the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Lord's Supper, "It is right to give God thanks and praise."

Different denominations have different ways of worshipping God. Even within the PC(USA) circle, a wide variety of styles are used. Presbyterians tend to take the "middle way" of worship - not so "uniform" as the Roman Catholics or Episcopalians and not so "loose" as a Baptist worship service. For us, Christian worship is, first, corporate. The word "liturgy," often used in reference to the order of the service, literally means "work of the people."

The heart of worship for us is the Word and Sacrament. We listen for what God has to say to us through the reading of Scripture, the reflection / sermon on that text, and singing. We then respond gratefully in various ways (affirming our faith, praying, and offering of ourselves). This is especially evident in the celebration of the two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. John Calvin called the Word being rightly preached and the sacraments rightly administered as the "marks" of the true Church.

Typically, a Reformed tradition worship service will start with a Call to worship or prayer that reminds us to lift our voices in praise to God for all God has done for us and then to acknowledge that we and our world are "broken beyond repair, save the mercy and grace of God." After being assured of God's promise of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, we move to hearing God's Word read and reflected upon through a sermon.

After God has spoken to us the message for the day, we respond to God through several ways: reciting a creed, praying for others and offering our gifts for God's use through the church. This is also the time when we would also celebrate the sacraments.

Our worship service ends with a charge and a benediction (and a postlude!) as a way for us to acknowledge that worship has empowered and equipped us for service and to be a witness to the good news of the gospel. We are challenged to look for signs of God's presence and activity in the world around us, and invited to join in God's work.

Last but not least, worship "is not a weekly performance by the pastor and musicians; it is not an entertainment opportunity for the congregation. Worship is what we who have been called to new life in Christ Jesus do together as we give God thanks and praise!"

Communal Discernment: we talk a lot about discernment for our individual faith lives. How is that similar or different to discernment within the congregation?

There's a joke that says: "If you have three Presbyterians together, you will have five different opinions." No two people have the same faith story, nor the exact same theology - so why do we think we would all be able to agree 100% about plans for the future of GCCP? No one person is going to have perfect discernment on their own - whether it is discernment on the process of *how* to get where we want to be - or discernment of *what* that "want to be" looks like. Hopefully we can agree on some very basic underlining truths: we want God's love and joy to guide us and we know that our communal discernment will take deep commitment of our time, our talents and our other available resources.

Let's consider what elements need to be present for us to foster communal discernment:

Let's consider what elements need to be present for us to foster communal discernment:

1) The presence and practice of personal discernment. Charles Olsen says that if we, as a community, want to seek God's will together, we must bring to the task our practice of, and passion from attending to God's leading in our personal lives.

2) An abiding, shared trust in the leadership of the risen Christ. Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

3) A growing trust in each other. We must learn to see one another as followers of the same risen Lord, even while we may differ on certain matters dear to our hearts. The Holy Spirit is at work in each of us - and in all of us.

4) A clear identity as part of the body of Christ in the world. We Christians are called to be a part of the body of Christ *in the world*. Our focus is not just inward but also outward; our unity is to be a precious sign to a fractured world.

5) Willingness. Like Abram and Sarai, we are not to cling to what we have, but be willing to be led by God. We aren't to project what we would like to do next, but like the disciples at Pentecost, wait upon the Spirit and be open to the Spirit's leading.

All of this needs to be present for us to grow in the process of communal discernment. Like all other activities within the church, God must be at the center of all our deliberations. Opening meetings with prayer is not just an empty gesture of Christian piety - but a deliberate practice to remind us of who is in charge of all our decisions - the Triune God.

While all of us at GCCP continue in our communal discerning, please ponder Romans 12:2 (and the verses following) "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.*"

Resource: The Way of Discernment, Stephen V. Doughty with Marjorie J. Thompson; Upper Room Ministries.



GCCP SESSION MEMBERS

Ministry Chairpersons - Ruling Elders currently on Session

Administration - Lee Sanders, Bobbe Kugele

Congregational Care - MaryAnne Kizuka, Valerie Dauwe

Facilities & Finance - Cliff Kizuka, Phil Haisley

Teaching & Worship – Mary Newcomer, Bob Sanders

Witness & Service - Donna Hadley, Billy (Godfrey) Ngong

Clerk of Session – Betty Hamilton

GCCP OFFICERS AND CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR 2021-22

(Blue indicates people to be elected at 4/24/21 Congregational meeting)

DEACON

Class of 2024

MaryAnne Kizuka

SESSION

CLASS OF 2022

Godfrey Ngong

Mary Newcomer

Rudy Visnich

CLASS OF 2023

Bob Sanders

Valerie Dauwe

CLASS of 2024

Betty Hamilton

Lee Sanders

Phil Haisley

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SESSION MEMBERS;

Mary Newcomer

Phil Haisley

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Al Hamilton

Bobbe Kugele

Chris Visnich

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Carol McCardle

Chris Newcomer

Cliff Kizuka

What's Up

From the Church Ministries

Clerk of Session— see session notes

Ministry of Administration— Please see the above chart (pg. 4) of Newly elected members

Ministry of Congregational Care— We ask for prayers for all of our GCCP family members having surgeries this month. Prayers for those who perished in the Bagdad hospital fire. For those who are living with flooding and bad weather.

Ministry of Facilities & Finance- All of the building's thermostats were checked and found to have wrong settings that would make the furnaces and boilers work overtime. The thermostats were reset as needed. Al Hamilton, Carol McCardle and Bobbe Kugele performed an audit of the church financial books as presented by treasurer, Lee Sanders.

Ministry of Teaching/Christian Education: April has been a busy month. Starting with the Maundy Thursday service on 4/1/21. We combined fun and education on April 8th with All Things Easter. Pastor Chris led a discussion on Life Cycle of a Congregation. April will finish out with Caring for God's Creation on April 22nd, Earth Day. Jon and Jackie Seymour will be talking/sharing their knowledge on gardening. Continuing the theme of Caring for God's Creation, a guest speaker from Maple Knoll will be talking about the Maple Knoll Arboretum on April 29th. May 6th is The National Day of Prayer led by Pastor Chris. On May 13th Karen Cartier will be talking about contemporary sacred music. May 20th is TBD and Al Hamilton will finish the month with a "history" of our elevator on May 27th. GNT will be ending our current schedule the end of May. A summer schedule has not been set. Please contact Mary Newcomer, Valerie Dauwe or Pastor Chris with any ideas or suggestions.

Worship -Session approved the Worship Committee's request to hold an out-door, in-person worship service on the patio on May 9 (see report to session). We ask that you bring masks (although we will have some available), dress appropriately for the weather forecast, and pray for good weather and no cicadas! For those who cannot attend, we will be zooming from the patio as a test of new wifi booster and new USB microphone as part of an effort to provide hybrid (in-person/zoom) services when we begin moving back into our sanctuary. Everyone will be wearing masks and social distancing as during the October 4 service on the patio. Brad Caldwell has tentative plans to provide some post-worship entertainment with singing by the music scholars, so you may also want to bring a bag lunch. We will keep you posted.

Ministry of Witness & Service— Please remember the S O U L basket is in the church office and donations are welcome.

Music Director— Looking forward to worshipping on the patio on May 9th. Hoping to have a "mini concert" after with our scholars. Continuing to plan for the institute that will happen at the end of July.



Session Highlights - April 2021

By Betty Hamilton, Clerk

[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 April 20 was again held by Zoom. We do like to be able to see each others faces. Yet we're really eager to get back to meeting in person even if we have to continue wearing a mask.
2. There were **several items of business** that required lengthy discussions and therefore necessitated a Called Meeting on April 6 and a decision by email on April 9. Your Session has been very busy!
3. **Membership Policy** - The second iteration of the new Membership Policy was approved to become part of the Manual of Operations. It deals with the definition of Active Members and the circumstances under which a person who becomes less active can be removed from the roll.
4. **Use of the building** - A special request was approved for a wedding to be held in our building on May 1, 2021. We agreed to the "barter system" type of contract whereby the church will be cleaned before and after the wedding in exchange for using the sanctuary. (The bride and groom belong to the family of the man who used to do such a great job of cleaning for us.)
5. **A 'job description'** for our newly-elected deacon will be written and become part of the Administrative Manual of Operations. As head of the Ministry of Administration, Lee offered to convene a group to write it.
6. **CdV** was asked to find another location by August 15th. This was a very difficult decision. When the liaison team delivered the message, Pastor Edgar's reaction was full of grace and faith. He thanked us for nurturing their church while they were still getting started as an independent congregation. Their congregation has tripled in size since they began meeting in our building. They acknowledged that they may have outgrown the available space in our building. He stated that he believes God will take care of them and help them find a location where they can continue to grow and serve the community.

Stewardship of Pledges & Offerings - as of March 31 , 2021



Percent of the Year Elapsed	25%
Budget Needed	\$33,051
Direct Income to Date*	\$27,435
Percent of Anticipated Income Received	21%
Percent of Anticipated Expenses to Date	14%
Based on Budget adopted from 2021	

Memorial Committee

There have been donations in memory of Shirley Philley, Charles Miller and Jeanne Davis received since our last meeting. A card of thanks will be sent to the donors.

Submitted by
Bobbe Kugele



JACKIE'S CORNER

May 2021



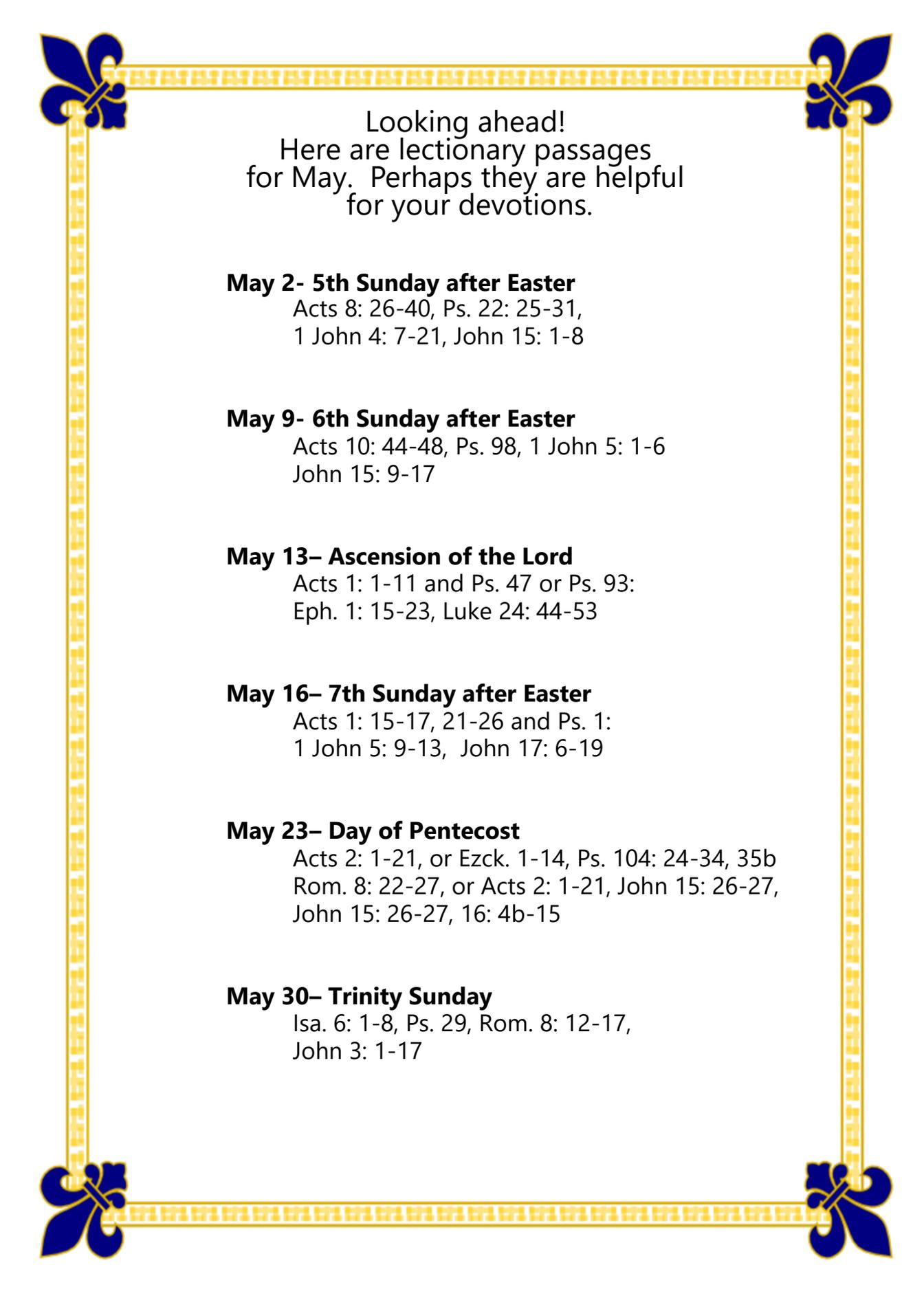
FLEXIBILITY – Flexibility is what is needed as the 2021 gardening season is underway. On the scheduled gardening day and time, there has frequently been cold, snow, rain, so flexibility has been needed to garden when the weather is favorable and that has meant on other days of the week.

Most of the roses and small bushes have been trimmed while the removal of spent flower stalks and the winter accumulation of leaves and debris is continuing. Mulch has been delivered and will be spread as various areas are cleared of leaves and weeds.

Paul and Mary Ann Odegard set up the new smoker located by the office entrance and removed leaves from inside the fence line of the former playground as well as from the fence line above the west parking lot.

Currently there are many flowers in bloom in the garden areas. There are lots of flowers on the PawPaw tree so that may translate to lots of PawPaw fruit in the fall. Look for the beauty and enjoy the fragrance of the Tree Peonies that will soon be in bloom.

As flexibility has replaced scheduled times, as least temporarily, anyone who has the time to remove leaves, weeds, and spent stalks is invited to do so when time and weather permits.



Looking ahead!
Here are lectionary passages
for May. Perhaps they are helpful
for your devotions.

May 2- 5th Sunday after Easter

Acts 8: 26-40, Ps. 22: 25-31,
1 John 4: 7-21, John 15: 1-8

May 9- 6th Sunday after Easter

Acts 10: 44-48, Ps. 98, 1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17

May 13- Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1: 1-11 and Ps. 47 or Ps. 93:
Eph. 1: 15-23, Luke 24: 44-53

May 16- 7th Sunday after Easter

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 and Ps. 1:
1 John 5: 9-13, John 17: 6-19

May 23- Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21, or Ezck. 1-14, Ps. 104: 24-34, 35b
Rom. 8: 22-27, or Acts 2: 1-21, John 15: 26-27,
John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

May 30- Trinity Sunday

Isa. 6: 1-8, Ps. 29, Rom. 8: 12-17,
John 3: 1-17

POEM

If I Should Keep It There –
Written by Richard White (Pastor Chris's father)
On March 20, 1955

There's a song within my heart
As I go down life's street
But who would ever hear that tune
And learn its music sweet?
(If I should leave it there)

There's a smile down deep inside
That's sure to win a friend
But who would ever see that smile
Or with it, another blend?
(If I should leave it there)

There's a talent that I own
That would some other bless
But who's to benefit thereby?
That won't be hard to guess
(If I should leave it there)

I know an act of kindness
That is as yet undone
But you would never see that act
Or know the friends it's won
(If I should leave it there)

There's a Savior love within my heart
And I know it's there to stay
But who can share that boundless love
Or feel its warmth today
(If I should leave it there)

So let us do the best we can
For all who come our way
And the light that shines within our soul
Will shine without today
...and we will keep it there.

Birthdays

Mai Hill	1
Alice Crawford	4
Karen Cartier	24
Donna Kennedy	24
Martha Proffitt	24
Gene Kennedy	29



Anniversaries

Art & Carol McCardle	2
Steve & Sharon Bailey	24



