

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Asheville, North Carolina

www.gcpcusa.org

July 19, 2015 – 10:30 am



“Community cannot feed for long on itself; it can only flourish where always the boundaries are giving way to the coming of others from beyond them — unknown and undiscovered brothers [and sisters].”

- Howard Thurman

Prelude

Cantad al Señor

J. Wayne Kerr

*** Call to Worship**

Praise be to God who hears every prayer and calls us each by name.

Praise be to God whose love and grace is boundless and renewing.

May we strive to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, worshipping with full hearts and sharing God's compassion with the world.

May we seek to follow and sing songs of hallelujah for our God now and always.

*** Hymn 637**

O Sing to the Lord

CANTAI AO SENHOR

*** Call to Reconciliation**

*** Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, you alone know how often we have veered from the path that you have paved for us through your grace. When you have taught us to be compassionate neighbors, we have been intolerant strangers. When you have told us to abandon our possessions, we have held fast to material idols. When you have called us to take a stand for justice, we have remained silent with indifferent hearts. When you have shown us how to create and build, our hands have remained empty and still. Light our way, and refocus our hearts, so that we might fully hear your good news, and journey with you once more. Amen.

*** Assurance of Forgiveness**

Although at times we might lose our direction, the Creator of us all will continue reaching out to us, guiding us along the way.

What good news it is! We are forgiven and loved as we are. We are invited to journey with God who claims us as Christ's own forevermore. Amen.

*** Response**

Hymn 35, Stanza 3

***Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.***

*** Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Summer Choir

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Little Big Disruptions"

Samantha Gonzalez-Block

Silent Meditation

* **Affirmation of Faith** (from a Brief Statement of Faith, PC USA)

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

Our Life Together (Please sign the Friendship Pad located in your pew)

Offering (Please place prayer cards in the offering plate for the Prayers of the People)

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

David Wayne Miller

* **Doxology**

D G A7 D
 God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.
 Bm Em/G A Dsus D
 God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.
 D G A7 D
 Take what we bring, of - fered to you.
 Bm Em/G A Dsus D
 Teach us to show your a - bun - dant bless - ings.
 D G A7 D
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Bm Em/G A Dsus D
 al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

Prayers of the People

*Each section of the prayer will conclude: "God, in your grace"
Please respond: "Hear our prayer"*

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
And the glory, forever. Amen**

* Hymn 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis Nicolas Clerambault

(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Please be mindful of these different needs as you depart. Thank you!)

** Please Stand in Body or Spirit.*

*We gather to worship God who is larger than all our imagination!
We encourage all persons to sing the gender nouns and pronouns
they prefer in referring to God.*



Our Life Together...

Thank You!

Head Usher: Bill Gettys | Liturgists: Paige Kemper, Lindsay Hamel, Owen Gast, Alex Gast

Thank you to Sue and Bob Hassall for the flowers that decorate our sanctuary, given in the glory of God, in honor of their grandchildren with summer birthdays and especially for Robby and Tyler, whose birthdays are on July 18.

Faith Sharing With Children is on hiatus for the summer months, but will resume in the fall when we return to two services. Please be reminded that Sundays through July 26th, we will have a parable Godly Play lesson in the sanctuary for children and adults of all ages at 10am prior to worship.

Meeting of the Congregation | Sunday, July 26 | 10:15am | Sanctuary

The Session calls a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, July 26, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary for the purpose of acting on a report from the Nominating Committee to fill a vacancy on Session. Joel Hathaway and his family are moving to Colorado. The Nominating Committee proposes Tiffany Kinnard to fill his place in the Class of 2017.

GCPC Building Committee Update | July 13, 2015

The Capacity Campaign is off to a great start, with contributions topping \$237,000.00 ten days into July. We will start seeing building improvements soon. The building committee has received and is currently processing next step proposals from the architect and roofing engineers. After the final design elements for the roof are complete, the roofing will begin. Target for starting the sanctuary roof is four to six weeks. Bathrooms and kitchen updates will begin soon after.

Serve

Pritchard Park Breakfast | Feedback Meeting After Worship TODAY

At a recent meeting between community leaders and a group of GCPC members, we learned more about the bigger picture of homelessness in Asheville, in particular where partnerships with faith communities are most needed. We learned at this meeting the ways in which Pritchard Park is a duplicated resource as there are at least 3 other places where our homeless community can be fed downtown on any given Sunday morning.

To try and be responsive, we're reexamining our Sunday morning commitments, including Pritchard Park breakfasts, and we'd like to hear from those of you who've been active in this ministry to help inform these decisions. How do we best serve our neighbors? How do we make an impact? How do we involved our church members while doing so? *Please stay after worship today to offer feedback or ask questions about the conversation.*

Pew Care Help Needed | Second and Fifth Sunday's of the Month

Volunteers are needed to prepare and replenish the church pews. Your task would be once a month and you can complete it at your convenience on your assigned week. Email Nancy at nquick@gcpcusa.org.

Care

Prayer List

[We are happy to pray for anyone who is in need. Concerns will stay on this list for a month unless we hear otherwise. Please keep us updated.]

Jerusalem Church elders | deacons | congregation; Frank Wilson (Martha Kisiah's nephew); Linda Albin (Les & Susan Stradley's friend); Matt Lyles (Fred & Heather Hudson's friend); JoDell Hawthorne (Donna Robertson's cousin); Frances Buchanan (Brian Buchanan's mother); Dorothy LaRue Sloane (Donna Robertson's cousin); Natalie DeVito (Karen Rohls' daughter); Natalie Taggart (Kay Cole's friend); Terry Churchfield (Susie Churchfield's brother); Tricia & Steve Minnick (Mary Lou Nash's friends); Pam Morrell (Penny Ponder's daughter); Kimo Hyatt (Keaton Hill's father);

Susie Moore (Ray Kisiah's sister); Lindsae Becker (Tyler Ander's friend); Brenda Taylor (Florence Riedesel's cousin); Flavia Proenza (Karen Rohl's friend); Carson and Riley Davis (son and daughter of Callie and Jon Davis); Heath & Peggy Rada (Moderator of the PCUSA General Assembly); Barrett & Ali Payne (Commissioned to Columbia Seminary); Mark & Heather Merritt (Commissioned to Columbia Seminary); Richard Simons; Al Williams; Janet Bondurant; Jack & Betty Smith; Lorraine Formato; Dana Little; Mimi Aldridge; Bettie Pritchard; Sarah Harwell; Mary Ellen Horne; Susan Stradley; Debbie Lee; Diane Chambers; Robin Gaiser; Ray Dean; Mary Moncada; Virginia Bradley; Jane Lee Vondette

The roses in the chancel are in honor of the births of Carson Dylan and Riley Elise Davis on July 14. Congratulations to Callie and Jon Davis (and grandmother Susie Wheelis)

Grace Covenant's Annual Congregational Retreat | Saturday, September 12

Montreat, NC | Rev Dr. Willie Jennings-Retreat Leader (Associate Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School) | Camping/Lodging available all weekend. Please see our web site under GROW or the Thursday Weekly News email to download a registration form, or pick a hardcopy from the Information Station.

Meet and Greet with Samantha

Come have a blast under the sun and get to know the new Associate Pastor, Samantha Gonzalez-Block!

High School Youth

Pool Party | Parker Family Home | Wednesday, July 22 | 5:30-8pm
108 Stonecrust Drive, Asheville | RSVP to Bonnie (bonniepar@earthlink.net)
Bring a bathing suite and towel if you want to swim!

Middle School Youth

Soccer and Snacks | Gast Family Home | Monday, August 17 | 6:30-8pm
23 Whitetail Drive, Weaverville | RSVP to Heather (hgast@gcpcusa.org)
Bring a dish to share (no peanuts please)

Whole Church

Wetlands Water Park Day | Jonesborough, TN | Monday, August 10 | 6-8pm
\$10/person | \$40/family max | Children 3 and under are FREE
Scholarships available | RSVP by August 1 to Nancy Quick (nquick@gcpcusa.org)

Wetlands Water Park REGISTRATION REMINDER

(If we don't have enough people, the event will have to be cancelled)

Jonesborough, TN | Monday, August 10 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

\$10/person; \$40 family max | children 3 and under are FREE

Scholarships available | RSVP by August 1 to Nancy, nquick@gcpcusa.org

Grace Covenant is renting out Wetlands Water Park and you are invited! Toddlers, children, youth, adults - come and play with us! Wetlands is about an hour from GCPC and has a great zero entry pool, lazy river, toddler water slides and a few bigger slides as well. Invite your friends, because Grace Covenant will have the

whole place to ourselves! You can go early and enjoy Jonesborough or meet at the church to carpool/caravan. Please see our web site under CARE to learn more!

Grow

2015 Summer Women's Memoir Series | Wednesdays | 7:00 PM | Library

Join us for a series of book talks focusing on memoirs written by people of faith. Hosted by Kristy Farber, Heather Gast, and Rebecca Gurney, and open to all women of the church. One copy of each book can be found in the newly revamped library annex upstairs in the Memorial Garden Overlook. Please pre-read the books to ensure lively discussion but come either way!

August 12 | *Jesus Land* | Julia Scheeres

Parable Godly Play Lessons

Sundays, June 21 through July 26 | 10 AM | Sanctuary

In conjunction with our summer parable sermon series, we will be doing Godly Play lessons that go along with the week's parable before worship June 21-July 26. This is the wonder-filled curriculum we will be doing for our preschool through elementary school next year. Preschool through adults are welcome!

Godly Play Curriculum | Preschoolers-5th Grades

Information Session | August 29

We are moving to the Godly Play curriculum next year with our preschoolers through fifth graders. This wonder-filled program has many opportunities for participation including storytellers, snack helpers and door keepers. We would love for you to consider where you may fit in! On August 29, we will be hosting a Godly Play trainer at GPC where you can learn all about the curriculum. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Heather at hgast@gpcusa.org.

Dr. King's Unfinished Agenda | Montreat | August 21-23, 2015

A Teach-In for Rededicating Ourselves to The Dream

Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's address to the Christian Action Conference in Montreat, the goal is to engage an intergenerational community in embracing and lifting up Dr. King's unfulfilled dream as our very own. Gather to hear leaders from the church and public life, including Rep. John Lewis, and Charles M. Blow, among others. For a complete list of speakers and registration, visit the Information Station or <http://www.montreat.org/MLK/>.

Next Sunday, July 26, 2015

Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Summer Courtyard Fellowship at 11:30 AM

Sermon: "Making Sense of it" by Kristy Farber

Scriptures: Mark 4:1-20

CALENDAR

Sunday	19	10:30 AM	Worship
		11:30 AM	Deacons
		11:30 AM	Summer Courtyard Fellowship
		11:30 AM	Pritchard Park Meeting
		4:00 PM	Worship at Westminster Pres. (15 Overbrook Pl.)
Tuesday	21	9:00 AM	Prayer Group
		6:15 PM	Session
Wednesday	22	5:30 PM	High School Youth Pool Party (Parker Home)
Sunday	26	10:15 AM	Congregational meeting
		10:30 AM	Worship
		11:30 AM	Summer Courtyard Fellowship
		4:00 PM	Worship at Westminster Pres. (15 Overbrook Pl.)

SESSION

Pastors: Kristy Farber,
Samantha Gonzalez-
Block, Cam Murchison
Clerk: Mary Lou Nash

CLASS OF 2015

Heather Brown
Nat Burkhardt
Amber Cook
Tim Hamel
Margaret Tierney

CLASS OF 2016

David Bailey
Sandra Dykes
Emily Hennessee
Anna Jarvis
Serge Kavalhuna

CLASS OF 2017

Mark Clevenger
Joel Hathaway
Keaton Hill
Susan Meade
Jordan Stokes

BOARD OF DEACONS

Joan Bass
Jerry Bleckley
Jan Brunk
Nan Clarke
John Curry
Gordon Gaiser
Judy McDonough
Aaron Schnurbusch
Linda Stirk

WELCOME STATEMENT

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, Grace Covenant intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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STAFF

Head of Staff/Associate Pastor: Kristy Farber—kfarber@gcpcusa.org
Associate Pastor: Samantha Gonzalez-Block—sgblock@gcpcusa.org
Children's Ministries: Heather Gast—hgast@gcpcusa.org
Music Ministries: Jeff Jones—jjones@gcpcusa.org
Transitional Pastoral Associate: Cam Murchison - cmurc@bellsouth.net
Pastoral Support: Rebecca Gurney—rgurney@gcpcusa.org
Youth Ministries: Emily Bentley—ebentley@gcpcusa.org
Operations Administrator: Nancy Quick—nquick@gcpcusa.org
Communication Coordinator: Gihani Isaacs—gisaacs@gcpcusa.org
Church Treasurer: Bill Gettys—bgettys@gcpcusa.org
Sexton: Chris Hartbarger—sexton@gcpcusa.org

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