

Grace Happenings – July 2020

A community that helps people know and follow Jesus

Hello Grace Family,

This summer has been one of change and adjustment, but most of all it's been one of seeing God show up in new ways and encouraging our hearts as we strive to be a community that helps people know and follow Jesus. Read on for updates on all the wonderful things that have been going on and what's coming up next by the grace of God this summer.

Lawn Service

Every Sunday since June 28 we have been meeting as a socially distanced community on the lawn for a service of worship and teaching. Approximately 200 people have enjoyed worshipping as we've explored ways we can be "Walking Together" in faith. Sometimes "roasting for Jesus" in the sun, we continue to engage joyfully, being encouraged from God's word and respecting each other's safety. We have been thankful for this opportunity. If you are comfortable, we'd love to have you join us on a Sunday at 9am. Get more details at gracehudson.org.

Tent

We are excited to announce that by the generosity of the Grace community, we have purchased a 10,000 sq.ft. tent for the lawn to enhance our outdoor worship experiences together. It does not have sides so the outdoor safety benefits are maintained. We will be able to worship more comfortably in shade. It is large so we can maintain generous social distancing. We are excited considering the use of the tent for extending ministry opportunities for those who are comfortable with safe in-person connection this year. In future years the tent would support VBS, church events, student and children ministry and summer connection gatherings.

Online Services

For those not attending in person thank you for continuing to engage with our online services. The high-quality service streaming at 11am has continued to be well attended. Pastor Marc's summer series "Walking Together" has been enlightening and challenging for us as followers of Jesus. If you've missed any sermon's we'd encourage you to invest an hour to listen.

You can find past sermons on our website <https://gracehudson.org/sermons> or subscribe to our Grace Church YouTube channel [HERE](#)

Through July we experimented with streaming the 9am service from the field. Quality has been challenging, but many have enjoyed the 9am time. In August we will stream the primary high-quality service at both 9am and 11am which we hope supports your family's preferences.

Finally, Grace Kids has been streaming at 10am Sunday mornings. If you have children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces, this can be a great 30 minutes of time spent together and worshipping God and prompting discussion about following Jesus. Try it out. Recording of past episodes are also available on line.

Generosity

What a joy it is to worship and serve God together! Thank you for serving, giving and using your gifts to serve God and help others know and follow Jesus. We celebrate in our community's collective generosity, which we know is inspired by our gratitude to God and hope of the gospel for all people. Psalm 23 is a familiar picture of life's journey with the Lord as our Shepherd. The Lord guides, provides, comforts and protects. King David also celebrates his hope that "goodness and love will follow him all the days of His life, and he will dwell in the house of the Lord forever". This is our hope, and why we serve and sacrifice so that many experience the goodness and love of God and his eternal salvation.

Batism Sunday - August 23

God is building his kingdom and people are surrendering their lives to follow Jesus and we want to celebrate lives transformed by Christ. On August 23rd we will celebrate baptisms together at 9am outside at Grace. We know that faith isn't a solo project and coming along side these friends will be our awesome privilege together. That Sunday will be the climax of the Walking Together sermon series. The 9am lawn baptism service will be live streamed to our website and Facebook page for those joining us from home.

Youth & Children

As summer has progressed, families at Grace have had some wild rides together this summer. Families have met at ice cream stands, hiking, tubing, and sharing life and faith together. No one will forget Pastor Marc's tube pop and his body capsizing into the river. There are many great examples of parents, as well as students and children connecting through these times. If your family would like to join the youth and children for the next summer adventure, please contact Ben or Lisa by emailing us at info@gracehudson.org.

Unfortunately, we are not having VBS this August. Our current plan is to postpone to the February vacation break, but we will keep monitoring what is going on in our community to determine the best timing and ways for this outreach event.

We are very aware of the challenges to married parents, single parents, and their students and children through this Covid period. Uncertainty of work schedules, child-care, schooling, financial

challenges and lower levels of support from others add to stress and anxiety. While we keep looking for ways to help people in our church family, we are sure there are people still in need, and others with gifts and ideas to help others through this time. Please share your ideas with us so we can be as supportive as possible.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery has started meeting in small groups on Thursday nights from 7-8pm in the church parking lot. During this Covid period, more people have been asking about our CR program and wanting to know how they can be involved. Sometimes we say "that we are all currently in the same boat", but the reality is that we are in the same storm, and the boat looks different for each person. Many people in our Grace family and community have realized they need a safe harbor in this storm and opportunities to talk about what they are struggling with. At CR people talk about hurts, hang-ups and habits, but more broadly following Jesus while experiencing isolation, fear, loneliness and financial stresses.

Walking Together

Wednesday night walking groups have provided a great opportunity to connect and encourage each other in the middle of the week. In addition, many groups continue to meet on-zoom, some in back-yards, and others regularly checking in with each other. Faith is not a solo-project and it is awesome that we can both encourage each other to persevere, as well as spur each on to

love and good deeds. Please keep pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of you (Philippians 3:12), and keep meeting together as safely, and as much as possible to encourage each other in faith (Hebrews 10:19-25). Contact Chad or email info@gracehudson.org if you would like introductions to connect with others.

Prayer

Jesus disciples saw the incredible impact prayer had on his life and ministry, so they asked him "Lord, teach us to pray". (Luke 11:1). This is a great request to make of Jesus. Jesus guidance included turning our attention to "our Father" together and seeking His will and kingdom. If you would like someone to pray with you or to join others praying for our church, please contact Don or Liz or email info@gracehudson.org.

New Website

We recently launched a brand-new website and we are so excited to have it available to our Grace community and those looking to connect at a new church. Be sure to check it out and listen to Sermons, Grace Kids, Grace Coffee Break and more. <https://gracehudson.org>

Fall

We don't have a clear picture of what the fall will look like physically, but we are excited to start the fall with the tent to facilitate safe, outdoor, worship gathering. Beyond that, as you know, things can

change fast. As a staff team we are doing our best to plan, but realizing we need to stay flexible. What we are confident of, for this fall and beyond, is that God is on the move. We will keep growing deep roots in Christ so that our faith grows strong and we overflow with thankfulness. We will keep caring for and ministering to one another. We will keep sharing the gospel so that many find hope in Jesus. We are praying that all our local New England towns repent and turn to God. As a community who knows and follows Jesus, we keep making every effort to help others know and follow Jesus too.

Please connect with us if you have personal areas you need support, or things God is putting on your heart for Grace and our communities. Email info@gracehudson.org. We love proclaiming the gospel with you and are encouraged by God's work in your lives.

Love in Christ,
The Grace Staff Team



Grace Church - Hudson

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