

GRACE NOTES

May Birthdays:

4th - Don Wallace
6th - Neil McDowell
9th - Joyce Christ
16th - Karin Cook
23rd - Betty Clough

Ladies Birthday Luncheon: We will be celebrating the April & May birthdays this month. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for date, time and place. Hope to see you there!

Important Dates



April 29th - 10:00 am - Session Meets
May 5th - 10:00 am - Special Sunday Worship here with McCloud Presbyterian Church to observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together as well as the Sacrament of Baptism for Solomon Glen Welch. Please bring finger foods to share
May 12th - 9:00 am - Sunday Worship - Mother's Day
May 19th - 9:00 am - Sunday Worship
May 26th - 9:00 am - Sunday Worship

	LAY READER	GREETERS & USHERS
5	Mike Krause	Jim & Sharon Ray
12	Sharon Grace	John & Joyce Christ
19	Jim Ray	Charlie and Nancy Buck
26	John Pitzer	Gerry and June Watson

COMMUNION -MAY: BETTY CLOUGH JUNE: JAN MAUCK

Message From Pastor Nick

Brothers and Sisters,

We recently finished a 7-week sermon series on the topic of Biblical Lament. (*FYI, you can listen to any of these sermons again at gracepc.org/sermons*) As we went through this series I spoke with many of you who experienced great joy and even liberation in your spiritual life through the truth that we are to take our cries, our pain, our disappointment, and our suffering directly to the Lord. And for this, I am very grateful. Additionally, I am grateful for the pattern of redemption and fellowship with the Lord that we encountered as we went through the Scripture. The Bible clearly shows us that God desires to be in fellowship and union with His people and because of this we are invited to come to Him in any and all seasons of our emotional, physical, and spiritual lives. Repeatedly during the previous sermon series, I made the point that the Scripture provides for us the truth we need in order to properly lament and rejoice in such a way as to glorify God and experience hope in our lives. And these themes of redemption, obedience, and holding God's Word as our only guide for faith and practice will carry us through our next study in the book of Judges.

In Judges 17:6 and 21:25 we read these words, *"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* A variation of this theme is used 2 additional times in Judges. This description painfully but honestly shows us the spiritual attitude of the rebellious covenant people of God during this period in redemptive history. They did not feel bound by God's law or inclined to live according to His revealed truth but instead did what was right in their own eyes. And as a result, they suffered judgment by God through the actions of their own people and through the attacks of their enemies. To be sure, there are some terrible and vile events described in the book of Judges. But these events are merely the result of the more terrible problem of God's people not desiring, loving, or obeying His word. The lesson from the book of Judges is clear; doing what is right according to our own personal ideas stands at odds with doing what is actually right according to God and places us in a position of being disciplined and judged.

In the first chapter of the Westminster Confession of Faith, it says, *"The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture..."* (WCF 1.6) In this simple sentence, we are reminded that everything necessary for the Christian life is found in the Word of God. This is also made plain to us in the Word itself.

Psalm 19:7–11, The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

2 Timothy 3:14–17, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

My prayer for the next few months is that through our study on the Lord's Day in the book of Judges we might...

1. Gain a thoroughly Biblical understanding of God
2. Deepen our appreciation for His ways
3. Be guarded against sin through greater awareness of His holiness
4. Grow in our love and hunger for His perfect Word
5. And Rejoice in God's love for us as His children individually as well as His covenant people communally.

Please join me in praying for these goals according to God's will. And please take some time on your own to read through the book of Judges in anticipation of this study.

Helpful hint: There are 21 chapters. So, if you read three chapters a day it will take you one week.

Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick.

gracecpc.org

If you haven't already, check out our new and improved church website. Look up past bulletins and newsletters, listen to Pastor Nick Welch's sermons and other information. Tell your friends! Thanks, Pastor Nick, for setting this up!

Christian Education

Children: Easter Sunday we were happy to have five children visit our Sunday School: Juliet Herrin, Jeanette Preston's granddaughter Olivia, And Kathy Gaustad's grandchildren Evelyn, Adele and Elijah. We had an interesting discussion of the events of Holy Week. We also opened "Resurrection Eggs," each egg holding a symbol of Easter. The children enjoyed retelling the Easter story, using the 12 symbols. The children also had fun hunting for lots of hidden Easter eggs!

Adult Bible Study: We are working on getting this group back in action soon. We usually meet Tuesday evenings, and since DST we'll probably meet from 6:00-7:30 or 6:30-8:00. We can meet at church, in homes, or both, depending on the desires of the group. Please let Gerry or myself know soon if you would like to join us. All Grace members and friends are welcome!

Betty Clough