

# GRACE NOTES—July 2020




## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

As of June 16, 2020, the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York is in Step 2 – Early regathering and our parish may now submit a Covenant for Gathering Anew to the bishop's office for approval. Once approved by the bishop, limited in-person gatherings, following all diocesan Step 2 guidelines, may resume on or after July 5, 2020. At the June 24 meeting, the vestry discussed how gathering anew might look here at Grace. A covenant plan is being prepared and will be submitted for approval as soon as it is ready. Physical preparations of the space are being made, as are plans for office and cleaning procedures.

Our Zoom services and virtual coffee hour will continue on Sunday mornings, and short in-person services of Holy Eucharist will be held on Tuesdays at 12 noon and Saturdays at 5:00 pm. Fifteen individuals may attend each service, including the celebrant. Everyone present will be required to:

- maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
- wear a mask over the nose and mouth at all times.
- use hand sanitizer upon arrival, and before and after receiving communion.
- refrain from physical contact with other people or unnecessarily touching surfaces.
- remain in their seats except as directed.
- Please bring your own Book of Common Prayer. For those without a copy, the church will lend one to you to take home and bring to future services. This allows us to reduce our use of paper.
- Hymnals are not necessary as there will be no singing.

Note that the windows will be kept open, and fans deployed to exhaust air from the building, so it may be cooler or warmer than usual. There will be no coffee hour or gathering before or after services. Communion will be in one kind – only the Bread is permitted.

Due to the limited numbers permitted at each service, advance sign-up will be necessary through email, phone call or voice mail message to the parish office. Available spaces will be filled in the order calls, messages and emails are timestamped or received and will only be accepted from 7AM Sunday for the upcoming Tuesday or Saturday services. You will receive a confirmation email or call if your sign-up is successful. If you later find yourself unable to attend, please 

## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER— CONT.

let us know as soon as possible so that someone else can have your place. We will be maintaining a log of all people present and their contact information in case of need for contact tracing.

If you are not feeling well, or have a fever or cold-like symptoms, please do not attend public worship or church meetings. If you become ill within two weeks after you have attended services, **please notify us as soon as possible.**

A notification will be sent out when our covenant plan has been accepted by the bishop's office containing any additional information you may need and news about when we can begin accept sign-ups.

**I urge you to take care of yourself and remain at home if that is best for you based on your individual circumstances and those of your household. Taking appropriate precautions is not a failure of faith or nerve, but the way in which we love our neighbors as ourselves.**



**In the early days of the Church**, people marveled at the care Christians showed for one another, regardless of ethnicity, wealth or social position. During epidemic plague in the third century (before Christianity was made legal), the love Christians displayed towards others won many converts. In our longing to “get back to normal” we must remember that as followers of Jesus, we are responsible for and to our neighbors, including their physical, mental and spiritual health. To this end it is our policy to exercise great care to endure all are safe, and all are included. For these reasons we will continue Zoom church services for the foreseeable future for the sake of those for whom in-person gatherings pose risk, and regular phone calls to all who would like to receive them. Thanks to all of our parish callers who exercise baptismal ministry in the way!

**Summer Office Hours** through Labor Day: 10:00am-1:00pm Mon-Thurs.

**Thank you** to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, “Give.” It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.

## JUNE VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Jonathan has finished his duties as parish administrator. He is continuing to sing for Sunday services, and Cate Griffo has taken over the duties as parish administrator.

- Finances are in goof shape, thank you to everyone for keeping pledges up to date
- The vestry began formulating plans for the next step in our Gathering Anew plan.
- Outreach will be collecting food for the Baldwinsville Food Pantry this summer

## ROSE MERCER

Rose Mercer, Class of 2020's valedictorian, who graduated on Sunday, June 21, has sent a thank you card to Parish Life for the graduation card. She plans to further her education at the University of Southern California in the fall.

Thank you so much for the thoughtful graduation card! I will be continuing my education this fall at the University of Southern CA. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Rose Mercer

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

During the months of July and August, the Baldwinsville Food Pantry located at the Methodist Church at 17 West Genesee Street, is looking for non-perishable food items and paper products. They are open Monday through Friday, 10:00am-1:00pm, but call ahead to make sure they are open, (315)635-6442.

We are looking for some volunteers to collect the items here at Grace, by doing a safe "no-contact" drop off. There will be notifications during the months of July and August in *Grace Community This Week* for times and dates to drop your items off at. If you are interested in volunteering please either click the link in *Grace Community This Week* or [here](#).

Thank you!

## MEMORIAL BRICKS



Our annual service dedicating memorial bricks is planned for September 13. If you would like to have an engraved brick placed at the base of the flag in memory of, in thanksgiving, or in honor of someone, call the church office, complete a form online under Parish Forms or [here](#). Return for with \$50.00 in an envelope clearly marked "Bricks."



Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org

315 635 3214

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

**ZOOM WORSHIP**

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesdays - 12:00 Noon

\*\*\*\*\*

Sundays - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street**  
**Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006**