

Grace Notes, 1-1-2021

Happy New Year! It is no longer 2020. For that we can all rejoice and look forward to a better 2021.

This week, the Search Team sent a letter to Grace United members. That letter described the events of January 8, 9 and 10. Small, (no more than 10 people) in-person meetings with Rev. Dr. Karen Borchert will be held at church that Friday and Saturday so that everyone gets a chance to meet her and her husband, Mark. There will also be a Zoom meeting on Friday for those who don't feel comfortable meeting in person. On Sunday there will be an in-person worship service led by Dr. Borchert. Attendance will be limited at this service, to comply with NY State Covid guidelines. Masks will be required. The service will also be Zoomed for those who have internet access. A congregational vote, in person and electronically, will be taken after the service.

A member of the Search Team will be calling all active members to sign them up for a meeting, the in-person service, or the Zoom. They will answer any questions you may have. It's tricky trying to do all this during a pandemic, but I think the General Board and the Search Team have come up with a workable plan.

This Sunday, worship is still online, with Claudia Little preaching. Her sermon is titled "The Greatest GIFT." The scriptures are 1 Peter 4: 8-11 and 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10. Jim Knapp will be providing special music. The service will be on Zoom, streamed live to our Facebook page, and posted to YouTube Sunday afternoon. I have included the Zoom invitation below.

This is my last time writing Grace Notes as Chair of the General Board. My term expires today. George Johnson will be stepping into the job, with Jan Riley as co-chair. Dale Johnson assumes the Treasurer position and Carol Flurschutz will be Clerk. Many thanks to Bob Shook, the outgoing treasurer and Marcia Pratt, the outgoing Clerk. They both have done great work.

And thanks to all of you who are Grace United. You have continued to be the church even when we are physically apart. I am excited about what's to come. As the new year is upon us, a new era starts at Grace United. I am looking forward to not going back to the way things were, but moving forward to something even better, trying new things, worshipping in new ways, having a renewed sense of mission, and reaching out to old friends and new people. I look forward to having a new pastor, having new officers, and living our commitment to "Be the Church."

Grace and Peace,
Kim