

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

May 2020

GRACE THROUGH CRISIS

Dear Friends and Members,

Have you noticed? It seems everyone is extending grace these days in light of Covid-19. Banks and mortgage companies are extending grace periods in which to pay your bills; some credit cards are not charging interest on outstanding balances and even the IRS has given taxpayers a three month hiatus to pay last year's taxes. It appears our world has been turned upside down, inside out, all within a few weeks.

So . . . what's a local church body to do in such a crisis? For us, Sunday worship and gathering together is a sacred time and we miss each other. It feels particularly distressing to not be gathering for fellowship, bible study, and encouraging each other and praying together during these uncertain and challenging weeks.

However, by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ, reading and studying the Bible, and realizing the promise of God "and it came to pass" will encourage us as we wait for this crisis to pass.

In an effort to find new ways to stay connected both near and

far, we thought a simple newsletter would be a means of bringing us all together at this time to bring a bit of hope, encouragement and news about Avalon Grace Church. Everyone is invited to participate in what I hope to be a great way to stay connected and share what's happening at Avalon Grace Church.

Lastly, know that the God of all grace, all strength, and all life is with us during this unprecedented time. Never before have we experienced such a challenge to stay safe, stay healthy, and stay apart for the good of all. The psalmist reminds us that God is an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Janet and I hold you in our prayers and we are so grateful knowing you hold us and one another in your prayers, asking God's protection, healing, and His sheltering arms to sustain us until we are together again.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Phil



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All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**
- Ephesians 3:9



Memorial Day, the federal U.S. holiday that takes place every year on the last Monday of May, began after the Civil War, and at that time was known as "Decoration Day." While it was originally founded to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War, today, Memorial Day is a day to honor all Americans who have died in military service. Most Americans celebrate the Memorial holiday beginning with a three-day weekend and leisure time at family gatherings or barbecues; however, it is a day to solemnly reflect and honor those who have given their lives for our freedom – American heroes and Biblical values that have made our country worth fighting for – one Nation, under God – indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." - John 15:13 (KJV)

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."
— General George S. Patton

Peace is more important than all justice; and peace was not made for the sake of justice, but justice for the sake of peace. – Martin Luther

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.
– President John F. Kennedy, 1961 – Inaugural Address

Mother's Day

God in His wisdom and goodness created our families to experience His joy and His tender love and care for us through our mothers. We thank God for our mothers and we honor them! After all, The LORD chose our moms just for us! We would not be here without them. They taught us how to brush our teeth, tie our shoe laces, read our Bibles, clean our room, make our bed, and do our homework! Our moms are something to always celebrate! Where would we be without them?

For many people, however, Mother's Day can be accompanied with a measure of sadness or sense of loss for several reasons: the loss of one's child, or the recent loss of one's own mother, a special aunt, just to name a few. There are other types of loss that can make a person feel sad or make the day difficult too: the aging mom who can no longer recognize her children who visit her, failed adoptions, the sudden loss of a foster child, miscarriages, infertility, and the disappointment and heartache of strained parent-child relationships. Mother's Day is an American celebration and time for joy and thanksgiving, but the day can be a challenge for the step-parent who sometimes treads a complex path, for children who live out of state, or for those who simply are not able to be with mom on her special day. Mothers everywhere are to be blessed and honored not just one day in May, but every day! Wishing you a wonderful Mother's Day!





For Every Mother

by Emily Long

Today is indeed, a day of beauty and honoring those amazing women. . .

The ones who loved us and taught us
And gave us what we needed. . .
Each in their very own special way.

And to stop there would be a disservice
for there are so many mothers
who, on this day and many others,
go unrecognized and unacknowledged.

The mother who holds her children
lovingly in her arms,
The mother who held a child in her womb
but never in her arms,
The mother who gave her child life,
then gave her child to be loved by another,

The mother who gently nurtures
and cares for her foster child,
The mother whose child has left home
or is suddenly taken to heaven too soon.

For whatever reason and through no fault of
her own, the mother who has no children
of her own but mothers all the
children she has known.

The mother who shares her amazing love
to her 4-legged children,
The mothers who birth and nurture
Through art and plants and endless love,
And all those I may have neglected to
mention.

For it is you, on this day called
Mother's Day, we honor.

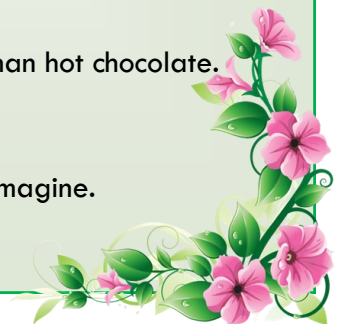
Each one of you who celebrates,
each of you who cries;
those who are acknowledged
and especially those who are
often . . . unseen . . . unnoticed.

For it is you . . .
those seen and unseen,
those forgotten and remembered,
whose love makes the world
all that it can be and
enriches the lives
of us all . . . Happy Mother's Day

A Mother is . . . by Unknown

A halo that reflects a life of
wisdom, kindness, and caring.
Eyes that sparkle with pride
and show how much she believes in you.
Shoulders that have been slept on
and wept on and
carried a world or two.
Arms that never run out of hugs.
Hands that know
just when to hold on
and when to let go.
A mind filled with amazing things,
from family to fairy tales
and long-ago Bible stories

of Jesus and God's love.
A smile that can jump right
into your heart
and warm you faster than hot chocolate.
A heart of gold
that holds more love
than you can possibly imagine.





“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)

God promises us in His Word that He hears every word that we pray to Him. Like a loving Father and parent, He is waiting, ready, and willing to listen to our worries, concerns, and needs. Whether we are seeking forgiveness, strength, or healing or are praying for our family, friends and neighbors, a lost co-worker or family member, prayer provides the channel to communicate with God and receive supernatural strength and power!

Possible Topics and Events with pictures to include in the Newsletter going forward could include:

