



Grace Presbyterian Church

"To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ."

Update from Pastor Mark Middlekauff

We have just wrapped up our second summer of the COVID-19 pandemic. In some ways this summer impacted us like last summer – social distancing, masks (when needed), uncertainty about what's ahead. But also, this summer was so refreshing! We wrapped up our first year of intensive and fruitful discipleship in our GraceGroups! We gathered on the beach three different nights to feast with friends. GuysNightOut! and LadiesNightOut! resumed! We hosted GraceCamp for the first time since 2019, and it was a huge success. We welcomed back dozens of people we had not seen in a while. And we worshipped inside and out with great joy and delight. As your pastor, I am so grateful for how we have walked together this summer and the past year and a half. It reminds me of Paul's words to the church in Corinth:

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. (2 Corinthians 4:6-10)

We enter this fall with significant challenges. Our attendance is still well below pre-pandemic levels, and we have lost some of our regular volunteers. Our hope for this fall is that those who have called Grace Presbyterian Church their home will return, as we joyfully welcome them and rejoice with them.

And yet, we also enter this fall with great optimism. This last year we welcomed many new faces and received fourteen new members and baptized five! So the body of Christ is healthy and thriving. We look forward to our GraceGroups starting up again. And if we have enough helpers, we will relaunch our SecondSaturdaysOUT! free kids' night out this fall. Andrew Barber will continue to guest preach through his sermon series on Acts titled "Family History." And I will launch a new sermon series on Jesus's dearly loved church titled "The Church: Metaphors of the Beloved."

So let us all praise God for his steadfast love for Grace Presbyterian Church. And let us pray for Christ to grow us, numerically, but more importantly, spiritually.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Mark Middlekauff



First Annual Clambake at Long Beach



New Members and Baptisms



GraceYouth Group at Country Fair



Guys Night Out!



Ladies Night Out!



Grace Camp 2021

Adriana Pariz

Embracing Our Neighbors

I did not grow up in a Christian home and knew very little about what it meant to be a Christian. I began investigating Christianity because I met a Christian my freshman year in college, and I started hanging out with her and her friends. My perception of Christians at the time is that they were kind of lame and didn't know how to enjoy life, so I was really surprised when I would leave their house thinking "this was the most fun night I've ever experienced!"

Here at Grace Presbyterian Church we call those experiences "Embracing" others. To "embrace" is to purposely bring a person with whom we have fostered a friendship into meaningful relationships with others in the church. This allows the person to experience God's grace through Christian community and be "embraced" by multiple members of the church. Our desire is that, as they build relationships with others, they would hear the gospel and come to faith in Christ.

This summer we were thrilled to have multiple Embrace events and they were a blast! We had a picnic at the beach, guys and ladies night at the golf range, a beach party, guys night fishing, ladies night paddle and our first ever Clambake at the Bay! Last year, due to the pandemic, we did not have a chance to gather as much so it has been a wonderful blessing to bring family, friends and neighbors to be embraced by others at Grace Church. We pray that many who have been embraced by our church will hear the good news of the gospel and come to faith in Christ.



Jason Kohler

Meet Jason

I've been a member at Grace for two years now. You may have seen me running around with the youth group, handling the livestream broadcast above the sanctuary, or stuffing my face with cookies and coffee after the worship services!

One of my favorite moments with Grace Church thus far was attending a prayer and worship night at Tom and Lisa's house. I had just recently become a member at Grace, and was excited to meet more of the church family. I witnessed our love for one another and for God as we shared a meal, prayed for each other's needs, and worshipped God with glad hearts. I left that night so thankful for this community and for the Lord's hand in bringing me here.



Having lived in Maryland my whole life, my move to the Hamptons after college was a big transition. As a student, time with a campus ministry and local church taught me that finding a church home was vital to my own spiritual health and well-being. Thankfully, the professional office I'd be working in happened to be directly across the street from Grace Church, and I wasted no time to attend a worship service. So many people welcomed me that first visit and after 'church shopping' for a couple months, it was a joy to return to Grace and pursue membership.

I've seen so much of God's word shape our congregation through our Grace Groups discipleship program and sound preaching. In our Grace groups especially, I've seen the fruit of our fellowship in the relationships built and lives shared. I'm excited to build upon what was started in year 1 of Grace Groups and continue to serve with you all!

Lesley Middlekauff

GraceCamp Summer Olympics



At the end of July, we enjoyed hosting the GraceCamp Summer Olympics! Campers and lots of volunteers gathered each evening for an awesome week of silly Olympic competitions, workshops directed by local professionals, and gospel centered discussions. With the Olympic theme in mind, we focused on 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ", to help us consider the true victory we have in Christ and thank God for this amazing gift.

Our workshops this year gave each camper an opportunity to experience gymnastics, choreography, mural painting, and track and field and the instructors were amazing! For COVID safety reasons we moved our camp outdoors and found it to be a fun and easy option. From the lighting of the Olympic cauldron at the beginning of each night to the ending slideshow, the atmosphere buzzed with energy, team spirit, cheers, smiles, and laughter. On the final night of camp, we hosted a BBQ and Closing Ceremony for all the campers and their families complete with a choreographed dance to the Olympic Anthem in front of beautiful murals created by the campers. Then we finished off the evening with a slideshow of highlights from the week. It was wonderful to celebrate a week of fun and accomplishments by the campers, as well as the ability to safely gather so many people together again for one of our favorite Grace Church events!

