

Pastoral Concerns:

Bernice Hamrick, Lisa Thomas, Becky Justus, Bobby Justus, Sylvia Mahaney, Pat Medley, Vickie Hughes, Deborah Harkins, Wendy Blake, Helen Haberneck, Carrol Marshall, David McKinney, Mike Duncan, Theo Weger and his parents Daniel and Christiana, Gus and Pat McKinney, Phillip and Caroline McKinney, Martha Pound, Leshia Justus, Eveline Horrell, Judy Weger, Conner Miller, Bobby Teague, the Wyatt family, Joe Davenport, Shirley Hise, the family of Lisa Jo McMahan, Sam Deyton, Heather English, Dr. Andrew Davis, Dennis Dale, Cathy Fullerton, Erin and Jaik Halpains, Betty Pendley.

Announcements:

We are making plans for our Fall Backpack and School Supplies Program. Here are some items that we will need. Backpacks for ages 5-17. Wide ruled paper, spiral notebooks, crayons, #2 pencils, pens, markers and basic school supplies. Also grooming items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, hair-ties, and socks. Financial donations happily accepted. Please leave your contributions on the tables in the fellowship hall. Thanks so much for your generous support! The date for the event is August 10th at 5:00.

Helen Haberneck's address is, Rose Hill Retirement Community-Room 201-PO Box 69- Marion, NC 28752. Her phone number is 828-652-9171

Next Sunday is 5th Sunday and we will be having lunch together. Please join us at 12:30 for a time of fellowship and food. Session will meet briefly afterward.

Church Staff

Pastor of Parish Care, Bobby Justus -828-467-3515 or 828-688-4413

bbj123107@yahoo.com

Pastor of Worship, Jim Taylor— 828-963-0349

singingpreacher53@gmail.com

Director of Music, Eveline Horrell--828-766-9184

Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church PCUSA

167 Greenlee Lane

Spruce Pine, NC 28777

<http://grassycreekpc.wncpresby.org/>



Grassy Creek Presbyterian

July 23, 2017

We Worship, We Share, We Serve

Announcements and Welcome

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prelude:

Preparation for the Word

Call to Worship

God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.

May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace in the world.

Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

Let us sing songs of joy to God.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Let us worship the Lord!

**Hymn of Praise—379 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

Unison Prayer of Confession

We know the seeds we have sown, Harvesting God: anger which springs from our flinty hearts; bitterness which flows like a rushing river into another's heart; hurtful words which wrap their thorny briars around a friend's kindness; passion which poisons an innocent relationship. Forgive us, Loving God, and have mercy. Your grace can turn our fallow hearts into rich fields of love. Your hope can smooth the rocks in our way, so we can be reconciled to one another. Your love for us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, can untangle the thorny mess we have made of our lives. Bless us with these gifts and forgive us, we pray. *(a moment of silent confession)* Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

No ifs, no ands, no buts. Now there is no condemnation - period! God answers all our hurts, our wrongs, our sins, with forgiveness and reconciliation. Believe this good news, my friends.

We are stunned by your grace, and embraced in your love, Forgiving God, and lift our thanks to you. Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

First Lesson

Isaiah 55: 10-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Second Lesson

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Sermon: The Sower and the Seed
 Pastor Jim Taylor

Response to the Word

**Hymn of Response—276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' Creed (Hymnal page 14)*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Insert)

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us with so much. As we bring our financial gifts this morning we do so with grateful hearts eager to serve you in this world. And while we are thankful for our worldly resources, let us never cease sowing the spiritual seeds of love, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy on all who we encounter in our lives. Give us ears to hear that we would listen and follow you, our faithful and loving Sower. We offer ourselves and these gifts in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn of Sending—538 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

***Charge and Benediction**

**Please stand if you are able.*

Prayers of the People:

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God.
For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers,
who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.
That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good
fruit.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of our nation and all nations, that they may lead with
strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits,
with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places,
those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear,
those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find
dignity in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—of mind, body, or
spirit.

Heal these, and all those we carry in our hearts—health as only you, O
God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.

Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn.

Console those who grieve.

May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads,
a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples to
pray saying, ***Our Father, who art in heaven...***

Prayers of the People:

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