



# GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

**September 2020**

## A WALL OF SUNFLOWERS

Lynn Johnson was planning to do a “Love Your Block” initiative at the end of August. Louisa Barton-Duguay lives in the same building that Lynn does and the two of them had lots of ideas about ways to appreciate and bless the work that had been done on pollinator gardens among a number of Asylum Hill Churches. Each of the churches held a blessing ceremony, each in their own manner. We did ours using my car as the delivery system for a song selected by Sue Carey... *This Is My Father's World*... a song I remembered to be one of Guenther's favorites. With his years of tending gardens at home and probably at Grace, it felt like Sue knew what would be just right.

When Lynn and I had discussed her desire to have a “blessing” of the garden, I suggested that maybe we could wait a bit and do a blessing of the “hydroponic gardens”, the pollinator gardens and the Solar Panel Installation... all meant to make positive impact on creation, a responsibility God gave to us, but we have in recent years done an awful job at this and it was time for a change.



I offered to invite everyone to come to Grace and suggested that we might get John Boiano, the guru that has led to a very successful solar installation at Grace, including a Zyrec grant to help in covering the cost over fifteen years. As she warmed up to the idea of using Grace as a base for the event that she was working on, she thought that we could use Grace as the place to start with a “Love Your Block” activity where teams of people would get equipment, gloves and bags from the “Love Your Block” truck and we would be assigned different directions to go in with the intention of covering Niles Street to Sigourney,

Sigourney to Farmington, Farmington to Woodland and back to Grace. The teams would be organized and given two hours to pick up as much trash as they could find. (Take a look at the side story to hear about the Grace Team.)

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## **Pastor's Message – STOKING THE FLAMES OF DISTRACTION:**

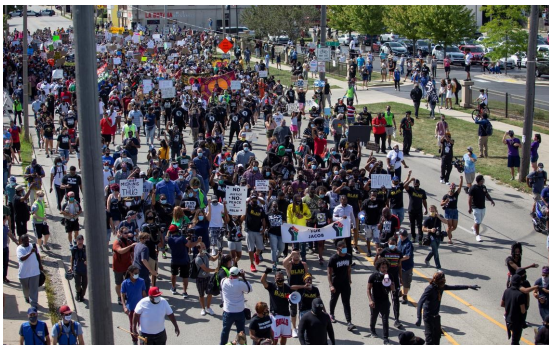
We have a right to be concerned about what is happening in our country these days and we have amply displayed our concerns in recent issues of Grace Notes. It is our choice this month to hold up the people of Grace and their efforts to support our communities and our hopeful decisions to put scarce money and effort into our kitchen and property, our creation care initiatives and maintaining our relationship with the people who are suffering most in the City. Due to the pandemic, deaths in Hartford are now rising. Feeding, clothing, and connecting with people in these circumstances will be the focus of this issue.

But I must say that I am growing wary that our national leader is in the process of doing it again. But this time, he is blatantly using “death” (this is real) by stoking urban flames of protest into a great opportunity for law and order, where the law part doesn't truly exist. Let me elaborate.

First he took it upon himself to establish a paramilitary force, trained them, drew them from a variety of different locations and roles, armed them to the teeth and sent them into communities within this country where a natural sorting out is going on to determine better ways of policing, ways that don't lead to deaths or maiming of innocent people who happen to be Black, while the police happen to be White. Racism is in focus once again, and this time with a growing awareness of the public that it is time to address the institutional elements of racism, and it is time to have people understand that Black Lives Matter.



Protests through the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-War Movement, and countless other issues have arisen as the means to try and change our country. To make the wrong, right. To replace evil with good. Now, in addition to the unmarked unidentified brown shirts appearing in our cities, instead of settling things down, they have stoked the flames further and their toll can be found laying beaten or dead in the streets. But, that is not all.



Encouraged by the flag waving and with Fox News and the RNC ignoring the deaths growing from the pandemic (headed towards 200,000), the growing of those infected to more than 6 million are brushed to the side. The other piece of this strategy is to try and bury the growing and expanding revelations of how the Mueller investigation was made sterile, how the “royal” family is making money on the government, using government facilities for partisan purposes, and

continues to collectively lie as the numbers of republican stalwarts step away aghast at what is happening in this Country.

(continues on page 3)

## **Pastor's Message – STOKING THE FLAMES OF DISTRACTION:** (continued from page 2)

Take a good look at the pictures of the vigilantes driving on a highway on the way to join the paramilitary units to save our country with their version of law and order. With guns in those trucks and flying flags they speed along to insert themselves into an already impossible situation. It gives this crude and insolent leader the cover he needs.

The media dutifully cover every incident, with focus on flames, and destruction, allowing for the transformation of a peaceful protest into a riot, with guns blazing, and drawing in right-wingers with guns who simply shoot indiscriminately at the protestors who, for the most part, do not carry guns.

And the Russians are deep in it. The books are being published, but their contents do not get the attention they need to make the point. The House is hog-tied. The courts are being used and the darkness is spreading, just as it did in 2016.

In the meantime, he raises huge sums of money from his like-minded cronies, as quickly as his pardons remove them from the jails they belong in.

We must vote. But, by mail, the post office has been disabled. A careful strategy of closing polling locations and requiring very long lines during a time of pandemic plays right into the overall plan, because people's lives have never mattered in this administration. All of this is called voter suppression.

We must see all of what is happening and do everything we can possibly do to end it. Justice and righteousness are central to our faith. They are both being trampled on, and we must speak up and stop it. And certainly find a way to VOTE!



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**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

***“We are all worried about the social consequences of the pandemic. All of us. Many people want to return to normality and resume economic activities. Certainly, but this “normality” should not include social injustices and the degradation of the environment. The pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse. We must come out of it better, to counter social injustice and environmental damage. Today we have an opportunity to build something different... It would be sad if, for the vaccine for Covid-19, priority were to be given to the richest! It would be sad if this vaccine were to become the property of this nation or another, rather than universal and for all.”***

*Pope Francis*

## A WALL OF SUNFLOWERS

(continued from page 1)

After taking the risk of going with the rain date, a choice made in heaven, we gathered at 3:30 pm and the teams were organized, waivers were signed and we were off. At 6:00 pm we returned to Grace where chairs had been organized and tables in the parking lot, cars were parked on the street and on the property of our neighbors and 75 vegetarian meals were made available to all who came.

Lynn was the MC. I talked too much and had difficulty realizing that the mic that was put on my clothes was only for the video and I needed to use the mic on the stand, too.

I told the group a bit about Grace's people, and how for years our church had been welcoming, caring, and wanting to do more about the environment. We were looking seriously at solar energy twenty years ago, and we were talking with each other (Asylum Hill Churches) more recently about what we might do on the environmental front.

Being exhausted by the clean-up task I think someone took a cow bell and rang it near me to give me the hint that I should announce our main speaker, John Boiano, to talk about our solar installation. Few know of the amount of work that John put in on this wondrous project, and it has been delivered in the midst of a pandemic, just as presented, and in highly professional fashion. I thanked John and suggested that anyone looking to consider solar, should call him at 860-798-5692.

Then Bill Heiden spoke about how his son had come up with a project, the hydroponic garden, that was too complicated for the Boy Scouts, but not too complicated for the Heiden family. What a proud Dad and wonderful man of humility and hope. I talked to him afterwards about connecting with Fresh Start...



Bernie Michel got the sound system and installed it and followed the clean-up folks with his camera. The pictures in this issue are mostly taken by him. Bernie is a wonderful example of the selflessness of the leadership of Asylum Hill. There is no better team player anywhere in the world...



"Caterers Who Care" fed us and for dessert, the "Ice Cream for a Dream" truck showed up, too. Louisa, with the help of many other volunteers put out chairs and tables, arranged for a place for people to clean their sweaty hands and relax to listen to the program. It was a beautiful evening and a wonderful thing for all of us to do together. Thanks to everyone who had a part in this and thanks, particularly to the instigator, Lynn Johnson.

## HYDROPONIC GARDENS AT GRACE

We heard about this by way of Rabbi Donna Berman, Executive Director of the Charter Oak Culture Center. Donna is a remarkable human being doing a multitude of really, power-filled things that support the homeless, children, and the communities of Hartford at large. She told Louisa about a program that she was hoping to have funded. We could possibly get five “hydroponic” gardens to be displayed at Grace if her grant request was accepted. Louisa presented it to me, and I talked with Council about it, and sought feedback. Louisa at one point said, I think we need to say “yes” or “no” by tomorrow or someone else will get the gardens. She assured us that we would not need to do much of anything to care for them as the people who make them would. Wow! When I was about to give Louisa the go-ahead, she discovered that they had been given to other organizations. I was so disappointed and let Donna know how excited we were to have them. She said, she would do her best to get some more funding so that we could have them. A week later they were delivered to Grace and we’ve loved them ever since.

But, until Sunday evening, I did not know the story of a wondrous company started by a boy scout as an eagle scout project... I was astounded. Just like Fresh Start, this idea came out of a heart that was concerned with people who suffered. He is a young man who had a bold idea... I went to their web site and offer their story for your reading. Judy asked me about how one got one of these and the father of the founder, now the Executive Director of a new international company, told us about Levo at Grace during the wonderful event we had on Sunday. Here is their website: <https://levointernational.org/founding-story> ... Donate or get yourself one of your own or buy one for someone who needs fresh produce and would love to have one of these devices in their yard.



This was one of the highlights of the “Love Your Block” event.

See the next page for the story of LEVO’s founding.



## Founding Story of LEVO

Levo International Inc., is a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 and incorporated in Connecticut in 2017. Our mission is committed to enabling individuals to improve the conditions of their lives. Levo does that by identifying food security solutions and using them to build stronger communities. This work takes us to developing countries and our own backyards in the United States. We not only provide families with food security, but are building and empowering community leaders all around the world.

### Christian in 2017

Levo began with a determination to take action. It began when the Boy Scouts thought that the founder Christian Heiden's Eagle Scout proposal was too ambitious. Christian had proposed the construction of a hydroponic greenhouse for an agency operating in Haiti, but the costs and risks associated with the project were outside what the Boy Scouts thought were realistic. Undeterred, Christian completed his Eagle Scout project building a greenhouse for his high school and then set out to do what he had always wanted to do. With the help of his parents and brothers, a plan was put together and executed to begin to bring a sustainable food supply to the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Thanks to the willing participation and support of "Many Hands for Haiti" ([hyperlink](#)), Christian, Bill and Nate Heiden built a demonstration greenhouse in July of 2016 on the Many Hands compound in Pignon, Haiti. A new team of young people joined the effort and in 2017 marked the first installation of Levo's hydroponic farming units, called the Babylon. To this date, Levo has installed close to 30 units in Haiti. In January 2018, Nate Heiden, Levo Science lead, went to Pignon for an extended stay to train up the "Many Hands" staff on the ground and to refine Levo's processes.

Nate's new protocols, combined with dedication and hard work from Levo's Haitian and U.S. teams has led to an increasing success of Levo's systems in both Haiti and the United States. Based off the success of Levo's systems in both Haiti and the United States, Levo has launched its Victory Campaign for the United States.



**Biden meets Blake's family in Wisconsin** 9/4/2020 Hartford Courant

Presidential hopeful also talks to business, civic leaders in visit  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENOSHA, Wis. — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden began a visit to the battleground state of Wisconsin on Thursday by meeting with the family of Jacob Blake, the Black man whose shooting by a white police officer sparked days of sometimes violent protests.



Biden spent more than an hour in private with Blake's father, Jacob Blake Sr., his siblings, and one of his attorneys, B'Ivory LaMarr.

Blake's mother, Julia Jackson, and another attorney, Ben Crump, joined by phone.

Crump said the younger Blake participated in the meeting by telephone "from his hospital bed." Blake, 29, shared the pain he is enduring and Biden commiserated.

The family has said Blake is paralyzed from the waist down after being shot seven times in the back by police as they tried to arrest him Aug. 23.

Crump said Blake's mother led everyone in prayer for his recovery.

Biden followed his meeting with Blake's family and representatives with a community discussion at Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha.

The gathering included business and civic leaders and at least two representatives of law enforcement.

At the church, Biden said of President Donald Trump: "No president's ever going to say 'they're very fine people on both sides.' No president has ever said anything like that it legitimizes the dark side of human nature." Biden was referring to Trump's comments after a 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, turned deadly.

The Rev. Jonathan Barker, pastor of the church, opened the meeting with a prayer asking for "justice for Jacob Blake" and for God to "anoint" a national leader in November who will "seek justice, love mercy and love their neighbor."

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## Thank You, Team!

When I woke up exhausted Monday morning, I was thinking about all that we did yesterday, and I was full of gratitude. I am not sure about the other teams, but I know our group worked very hard and did so well in cleaning the blocks of our neighborhood. Between Emma climbing up to the top of the hills leading to the buildings, David H. bending over and picking up stuff wherever he found it, Emmannuella lugging the heavy bags, and David K. and my hardworking Judy sweeping and cleaning off the curbs, picking up all the stuff of lives on the edge, of people without homes and of poverty and addictions.

I just wanted you all to know how proud and thankful I was to have been with you. I hope each one of you had a good sleep and may rest some on this day. We did God's work yesterday; it wasn't pretty but I was struck by how many thought well of us for what we were doing.

In his reflection on this day, Pope Francis said:



MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2020

***“Faith, hope and love necessarily push us towards this preference for those most in need, which goes beyond necessary assistance. Indeed it implies walking together, letting ourselves be evangelized by them, who know the suffering Christ well, letting ourselves be “infected” by their experience of salvation, by their wisdom and by their creativity. Sharing with the poor means mutual enrichment. And, if there are unhealthy social structures that prevent them from dreaming of the future, we must work together to heal them, to change them. And we are led to this by the love of Christ, Who loved us to the extreme (see John 13:1), and reaches the boundaries, the margins, the existential frontiers.”***

*Pope Francis*

(continues on page 15)





**Biden meets Blake's family in Wisconsin** 9/4/2020 Hartford Courant (continued from page 7)

Biden, a practicing Catholic, ended the prayer making the sign of the cross. He then heard from Kenosha residents discussing the need to address systemic racism so that society — including commerce — will function peacefully.

"I look at the buildings in our community that are gone," said Barb DeBerge, owner of DeBerge Framing & Gallery, which still stands.

"I just I don't think I really grieved as much as I should because being a business owner, I have to keep going, I have to keep working."

The trip, Biden's first to Wisconsin of the general election campaign, is intended to draw sharp contrasts with President Trump. Biden is emphasizing an argument that he's a unifying figure, able to lead the nation through a reckoning with systemic racism along with the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout.

Trump didn't meet with the Blake family when he visited Kenosha this week.

Sixty days before Election Day, the trip presents Biden both opportunity and risks. He has promised throughout his 2020 campaign that he can "unify the country" and find consensus even where it's not readily apparent. That theme started as an intentional contrast with Trump, who appears to thrive on conflict. The distinction has sharpened over a summer of nationwide protests.

Most have been peaceful, but some of them, as in Kenosha, turned violent and destructive.

Kenosha was calm ahead of Biden's visit.

By midday, a small group of Biden supporters, some Black Lives Matter activists and a Trump supporter had gathered at a city center park that had been a focal point of demonstrations for days. When the president visited Kenosha on Tuesday, a few hundred pro- and anti-Trump protesters convened at the spot.

"No one's perfect," said Michelle Stauder, a 60-yearold retired Kenosha school teacher sitting on a barricade erected earlier and clutching a Biden-Harris campaign sign. "But I'm excited about Biden. And I like that he's here spreading the word of peace and rebuilding."

Kenneth Turner stood nearby with a Trump-Pence yard sign under his arm.

"Everyone is blaming Trump for everything," the 50-year-old Kenosha man said. "But problems here have been around a long time before Trump."

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**Biden meets Blake's family in Wisconsin** 9/4/2020 Hartford Courant (continued from page 10)

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, said Thursday that he'd asked both Biden and Trump not to visit. "I would prefer that no one be here, be it candidate Trump or candidate Biden,"

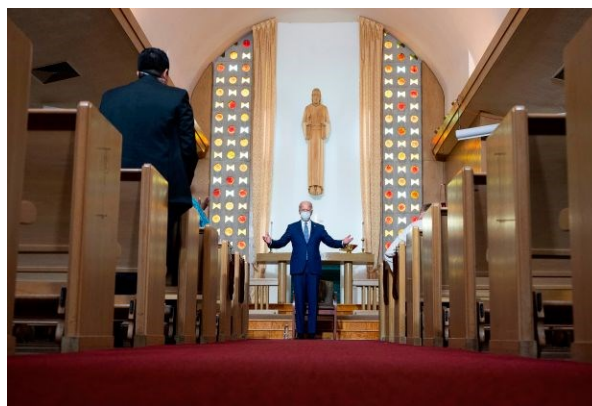
Evers said in a news conference.

During his Kenosha trip Tuesday, Trump toured damaged buildings and discussed ways to quell unrest with law enforcement officials.

Trump was greeted by supporters who occasionally mixed with and yelled at Black Lives Matter organizers.

Trump held a campaign rally Thursday night in Pennsylvania, another key Rust Belt battleground state. His campaign manager, Bill Stepien, said Biden's visit to Kenosha was inappropriate, arguing Trump went because he is president and that Biden is only "injecting politics into a really serious situation that president helped solve."

Biden has repeatedly denounced violence, from a June 2 speech after the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis up to a Monday address that his campaign quickly turned into a one-minute digital and television ad. The spot is part of a \$45 million ad buy.





September 4, 2020

*Our calling from God begins in the waters of Baptism and is lived out in a wide array of settings and relationships. Freed through the Gospel, we are to serve others through arenas of responsibility such as family, work, and community life. Although we continue to be ensnared in the ambiguities and sin of this world, our vocation is to seek what is good for people and the rest of creation in ways that glorify God and anticipate God's promised future.*

—ELCA social statement *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, page 7.

The origins of Labor Day, established as a federal holiday in 1894, lie in the labor movement's persistent organizing for the rights and recognition of American workers. This year's impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the heroics and faithfulness of the many we now know to be essential workers.

While all workers are essential, especially during this pandemic, we give special thanks on this Labor Day for those workers who, despite challenges and dangers to their health, plant and harvest and deliver our food, keep store shelves stocked with essentials, nurture and teach our children, and care for the sick. In honor of their contributions to our country's well-being, they deserve our support and accompaniment so they can do their jobs safely with dignity and respect.

Our church's social teaching reminds us that work is a way we serve God and our neighbor. The ELCA social statement *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All* states: "In Genesis, work is to be a means through which basic needs might be met, as human beings 'till and keep' the garden in which God has placed them (Genesis 2:15). Work is seen not as an end in itself, but as a means for sustaining humans and the rest of creation"

Labor Day, like many holidays, marks the passage of time, the change of weather, the return to school, the end of the growing season. It also marks our eighth month of collectively facing the challenges of this time together. Dear church, we need to also acknowledge the extra labors these last months have required in what is turning out to be a marathon with a long way to go. The multiple hardships of this year have touched every one of us.

We know this crisis has been disruptive and destructive — as it has been elsewhere in the world — with so many suffering and facing uncertainty through a staggering loss of millions of jobs and no end in sight. The coronavirus also has exposed the inadequacy of an economic system for workers who live paycheck to paycheck, many of whom are disproportionately people of color. It has pulled back the veil of long-held racial disparities in income and opportunity and within the health care system. Communities of color have borne the brunt of death and illness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Racial and economic injustices deprive people of the fruits of their work (Proverbs 13:23), which benefits our economy more than the workers' sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, gender discrimination has placed women of color in low wage, front-line positions at heightened risk. Many vulnerable women of color work as personal care aides, nursing assistants, cashiers and retail salespeople. In addition to their vulnerability, these front-line workers are disproportionately underpaid for their work. The average woman earns 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. Black women, Native American women and Latinas earn 62 cents, 57 cents and 54 cents, respectively, for every dollar earned by white men, according to the [National Women's Law Center](#).

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These systemic issues continuously challenge and obstruct the well-being of many and deny God's desire for us to execute justice for the oppressed (Psalm 146:7). As church together, God calls us to accompany our neighbors who have lost livelihoods or income, supporting our siblings through prayer, service and advocacy. Our nation's leaders must not forget that responding to the needs of those who have lost jobs or income is now critical. Our accompaniment also must take shape as we prayerfully heed God's call to build economies that enable life in all its fullness; dismantle disparities in health, income, racial equality and privilege that trouble human community; and act together toward a more just society where all can live out their vocations and sustain their families with dignity.

This Labor Day remember that God is at work in our economic life, which "is intended to be a means through which God's purposes for humankind and creation are to be served" (*Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, page 3). Throughout this pandemic, we have risen to many challenges. We have reimagined almost everything in our lives and churches, including worship, workplace, education, child care, vacations, communication, service, advocacy, faith formation and much more. God's sustaining love for all of us is even more abundant than our imaginations and is providing us with the creativity and grit to try, try again so that Christ is proclaimed and our communities are served. Together, we can solve what seems unsolvable. Together, we can strive for each person's dignity to be recognized and treasured, remove disparities in health care, achieve racial equity, defeat poverty and work together with all people to overcome this virus.

As you take time to observe this year's Labor Day, may you find time to rest and renew yourselves for the work ahead. As is stated in this church's economic life social statement: "Our vocation is to seek what is good for people and the rest of creation in ways that glorify God and anticipate God's promised future" (page 7). Below you will find information and resources to advocate for our neighbors and communities to build a just economy for all:

ELCA social statement [\*Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All\*](#)

[\*Hungering for Justice\*](#), a study guide on Martin Luther and the economy

[Action Alert](#) on COVID-19 response

[Interfaith Worker Justice](#), an ELCA partner organization

A prayer from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

God of justice, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our wealth and resources that all people may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Hungry and Homeless In Hartford

By Christine Stuart • Published September 1, 2020 • Updated on [September 1, 2020](#) at 6:40 pm. *NBCUniversal, Inc.*

You've seen them on the street corner with their signs begging for money. But have you wondered what happens when you drive away or what happened to Connecticut's homeless population since the pandemic hit?

"People think that this is easy. Being homeless stinks. And I have no place to sleep. I sleep under a bridge with a couple mattresses and a blanket. What kind of life is that for me at 70 years old? But I have no people. I have nothing," Michael Demers said.

Demers panhandles at the corner of New Park and Flatbush Avenue in West Hartford.

"People who don't know us think we're dirty and we're trashy but really we're not. We're good people," Demers said.

He said he's not an alcoholic or a drug addict. He makes about \$22 a day. He said he uses the money to buy food.

"I went from having a job, having an apartment, having a car, having a beautiful girl and then just one day everything just slowly started leaving me," Alfred Andel said.

Andel spoke with NBC Connecticut as he was standing near the statue of Lafayette on Capitol Avenue in Hartford.

"It's hard to go from having an atm card and having money to not having nothing and having to hold a sign every five minutes, just to get enough money, just to survive. I mean I don't like it," Andel said.

The homeless people who spoke with NBC Connecticut said since the pandemic hit, it's harder to get food, especially on the weekends when soup kitchens are closed.

House of Bread, a soup kitchen and shelter in Hartford serves breakfast and lunch. They said they are contemplating reopening on the weekend.

"What happened during the bigger part of the pandemic is we got less and less people," Johnson said. "I think what happened was Gov. Lamont put them up in hotels and things like that to get them off the street to shut down on COVID."

Andrea Johnson is the head chef at the House of Bread.

"Now we're starting to see a surge. Yesterday we had a surge of 175 individuals backed up here at the House of Bread," Johnson said.

Johnson said they're seeing more children and families.

"We are in a little bit of a difficult situation right now where there are more people seeking homeless services, shelters aren't taking them," Cho said.

Richard Cho is the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. "Every region in our state is seeing a growing number of people on waitlists for shelters and those are folks who maybe have to sleep on the street."

It's unclear if there are more people out on the street since the pandemic started.

"Shelters aren't taking many new clients in. We don't know if that means many people are being forced to sleep outside and are unsheltered," Cho says.

## Thank You, Team!

The "Grace Team", of course, is made up of more people than the small team that worked cleaning Gillette, South Marshall streets and a bit of Niles and Farmington Avenue. Almost every day there is someone from Grace helping others at or around Grace. Our dinners continue with new innovations put in place almost weekly. We have about 17 volunteers that keep the great food coming, inviting and welcoming all who partake. We are constantly looking at ways to do more or to do what we are doing better. You can tell how our guests feel about us by seeing the smiles on their faces and the appreciation they offer for what we have done and are doing.

I have had dozens of people asking me about my health, offering to help as we put tape on the sidewalk for distancing, and genuinely and warmly greeting us and our efforts. We are in the process of getting ready to go forward with Janet's Closet on Saturdays as Claudia has a job that prevents her from being with us on Wednesday's. We'll try Saturdays... we have a plan, a way to keep things safe and plenty of clothing to share.

When Gladys, one of our chefs, had a car accident that totaled her car, everyone wanted to know how she was and what could be done to help her. By the help of our generous friends we have a car for Gladys and she should be back in business next week. We pray for our communities, our volunteers and our staff ... what a gift they are to this community and what models they offer of unselfish love.

These 8 months of pandemic have tested us in so many ways... but Grace is doing more, not less. Look at our beautiful gardens, see the improvements being made to our building, look at our solar installation at work and the mural that is going up by Louisa's hands. Thanks for the help that Alba was able to provide to remove a very large branch of a tree that fell in our parking lot.

I am tired, and so is everybody else, but no one complains... the work keeps going and the joy of service is forever embedded in our hearts. Maybe it's our name, Grace. I feel the sense of God's Grace in this place.... Yes, Grace IS the place.

### September 2020 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rudolph Lewis	09/03
Jane Egan	09/04
Danielle Mathura	09/07
Paul Boodhoo	09/09
Lloyd Smith	09/10
Patrick Reiher	09/12
Carl Williams	09/13
Luis Santana	09/13
Ursula Sieg	09/14
Fély-Adrienne Yigle-Kaljob	09/14
Robert Kirschner	09/16
Trevor Merrill	09/18
Timothy Reiher	09/20
Janice Potter	09/23

Herbert Reiher	09/26
Susan Larsen	09/26
Olivia McAdams	09/28
Elise Phelan	09/30



### Happy Anniversary

Roy & Beverly Nelson	9/14	63 yrs
Darrell & Nancy Urban	9/11	55 yrs
Carl & Gail Lindstrom	9/9	53 yrs

*May you all be blessed  
as you celebrate your  
special days!*

Did we miss your  
birthday or anniversary?  
Contact the office,  
860-527-7792 or email  
[officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net)  
to update our records.





Grace Lutheran Church  
46 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105



### **Our Staff and Council Leadership**

The Rev. Rick Kremer, Pastor

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Nilda Bolorin, Parish Administrator

officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net

Dorothea Glatte, Lay Minister

Lloyd Smith, Lay Minister

Louisa Barton-Duguay, Religious Worker

Artist in Residence for Outreach

Barbara Ruhe, President

Barbara Calogero, Secretary

Dale Eberhardt, Treasurer

Janice Potter, Financial Assistant

Dale Eberhardt, Organist

Walter Scott, Sexton

[www.graceistheplace.org](http://www.graceistheplace.org)

