



Grace Note: An Awesome Weekend Ahead



June 18, 2021

Dear First Church Evanston,

What an awesome weekend ahead packed with In-Person Confirmation with renewal of baptismal vows and communion at 9:00 a.m. in our Worship in the Park service! Virtual Worship at 10:30 a.m.! Special Church Conference at 11:30 a.m.! Silent Auction to support Mission Trips continues and closes on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Do not miss any of it!

Hats off to the Confirmation Class of 2021 and their teachers, mentors, parents, and Rev. Jane Cheema. A special shout out to Jim Hagedorn, the world's best confirmation teacher. We met to rehearse for Sunday and celebrated their faithful gathering online every Sunday morning through the pandemic, their support for each other through some serious health scares in some of their families, and their anchoring each other as quarantined 8th graders. But perhaps most of all, their surviving a year without Confirmation Doughnuts! While in Nairobi, I went shopping for them and brought back some dirt from Africa!



This Sunday, Communion will be served at the Worship in the Park with stations that attend to our different levels of comfort after a harrowing year. As your pastor, I am aware that there are those whose spirits are willing, but whose bodies are still cautious to participate in a

common meal. Wherever you are in that post-pandemic spectrum, know that you are not alone, and you are beloved and embraced exactly as you are. Presence is enough.

The special Church Conference immediately following Virtual Worship will receive the updated report of the Nominations and Leadership Committee which can be found [here](#). If you are not able to Zoom, please send your vote/affirmation by Saturday, June 19th at noon using [this poll](#). The link to the Zoom meeting can be found [here](#).

Here's to hoping you have been participating in the Silent Auction to fund the youth mission/vision trips this summer. Register [here](#). The youth themselves are offering wonderful bargains with their time and talents towards their \$15,000 goal. I am hopeful that the gourd I carried by hand from Meru for this auction will be a hot item. Bid for it! And remember, no donation is too small.

Finally, here are two church updates prompted by the Illinois Phase 5 opening: Worship in the Park will never be cancelled. In inclement weather, we will move to the Sanctuary where there is plenty of room for the hundred or so worshippers to spread out comfortably. To care for each other, whether fully vaccinated or not, face masks will be required in the building.

Secondly, the Church Office will open on Tuesday, June 22 with summer hours of Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Again, when in the building, face masks will be required.

I love being back! It feels like a new appointment, and I can't wait to visit with you face to face.

Pastor Grace



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