

Reflections of Grace

JUNE / JULY 2025

Grace Community Christian Reformed Church



"I'm praying for you."

At one time or another, someone has probably said this to you. I likely made you feel loved and cared for.

At Grace Church, one of the special ways we can show our love and concern to others is through our *Tables of Grace*. On the first Sunday of every month, we gather around tables in the fellowship hall to share our concerns and joys, and to pray for each other. We are given the opportunity to express answers to prayer as well as requests for prayer. Then we bow our heads and open our hearts to God as we pray for each other.

As we remember those around the table in prayer, it's also important to remember Grace's shut-ins and others who may be attending church, but don't come to coffee time. The shut-in lists of those assigned to each table have been updated with their names and addresses. We'll also place appropriate cards on your table.

continued on page 4



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*Have you thanked
GOD today?*



Juneteenth commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States, specifically the day (June 19, 1865) when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce that all enslaved people in the state were free. This announcement, part of General Orders No. 3, brought the Emancipation Proclamation into effect in Texas, which had been the last bastion of slavery.

In 1968, shortly after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, his Poor People's Campaign held a Juneteenth Solidarity Day, giving the holiday a new prominence in the civil rights movement. From the late nineteenth century through today, typical Juneteenth celebrations across the country include parades, speeches by African –American community leaders, singing of traditional songs such as "Lift Every Voice and Sing", and dancing.

Exodus 3:7,9 says,

*"Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt;
I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters.*

Indeed, I know their sufferings.

*The cry of the Israelites has now come to me;
I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them."*

A Prayer for Juneteenth:

Liberating God, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for your hearing the cries of the oppressed. Bless your name for giving us the victory and freedom over slavery. We in gratitude unite all of our hearts to reflect on where you have brought us from. As we observe the Juneteenth holiday let us remember all of our ancestors who longed to see this day come. God thank you for the freedoms we experience, let us not take for granted at what cost we experience them. Give us strength, motivation, fortitude, and courage to continue to fight for social justice and equity. Amen.

Constant and Unchanging

Summer's arrival feels positive to many people but may not be smooth for all. Families who rely on regular school meals for their children must stretch grocery dollars further. Heat poses risks for elderly people who lack air conditioning. Work can be difficult to find in the summer months, and uncertainty looms for recent graduates. Meanwhile, concerns such as wars, natural disasters and health problems don't take a summer break.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) prayed, "May you be blessed forever, Lord, for being constant and unchanging, amidst all the changes of the world." Her prayer is as appropriate today as nearly 500 years ago. When all around us is unstable and unreliable, God's love and faithfulness are constant and trustworthy.

COUNCIL REFLECTIONS

Grace Church Council completed a devotional study on Luke 24:13-35 at their meeting in May. This study was based on materials that Pedro and Diane used at the CRCNA Gather: Orlando in January. During the past 4 meetings, they have led a Bible study on this passage, and asked the following questions:

1. What expectations have you had for your church that have been met?
2. What expectations have you had for your church that have not been met?
3. How have we been slow to believe that God is guiding and directing our church?
4. How have you seen Jesus present and at work in our church?

This process has deepened our faith in Jesus, and helped us to see that often God is working in our church, but we are blinded by our own expectations so we don't see it.

Below is the Council's list of ways we currently see Jesus working in and through us.

- ♦ The participation of children on praise team and tech team.
- ♦ Children who grew up and were formed by their experiences in our church now using their gifts and talents to serve in our church and other churches.
- ♦ New people walking through our doors—some because of the new website.
- ♦ The ministries of Coffee Break, REACH, Ignite, Deacons' Pantry, Craft Connect, Free Little Library, Gardens of Grace—are all thriving and opening up opportunities to minister to our own congregation and to our community.
- ♦ Many in the community use our benches outside to rest a while.
- ♦ The congregation gives generously as needs are made known—for the Deacons' Pantry, food drives, school supply drives, appeals for fleece for making blankets, etc.
- ♦ Those who attend are inviting others to join them.
- ♦ The response to the prayer cards and how that has expanded and energized our prayer ministry.
- ♦ There is increased engagement in worship with a sense that the Holy Spirit is present.
- ♦ There is joy in our fellowship times experienced before, during and after worship.
- ♦ There is an atmosphere of welcome, love and care.

Pedro summed up this list beautifully when he noted that these all point to Grace Community Church living out our values: Grace Cares, Grace Compounds, Grace Connects, and Grace Cultivates. These values have become who we are.

What might you add to this list?
How do you see Jesus working out His mission for our church?



TABLES OF GRACE continued from page 1

If possible, we ask that you send a card to “your” shut-ins so they will know that they are being remembered in prayer. And then, ask someone from your table to drop them in the mail. That way we are distributing the cost of postage.

We want to continue to be known as a praying and caring church. We don’t want anyone to feel left out. If you don’t ordinarily stay for coffee time, feel free to reach out on your own to anyone in your Tables of Grace group, and they will bring your prayers and praises to the group for you.

*Thank you for your help in promoting this ministry of love
and concern for everyone!*



Thoughts for Father's Day

A careful man I
ought to be;
a little fellow
follows me;
I do not dare
to go astray,
for fear he'll go the
self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,
whate'er he sees me do, he tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see,
the little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, through
summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
for a little fellow follows me.

—Author unknown

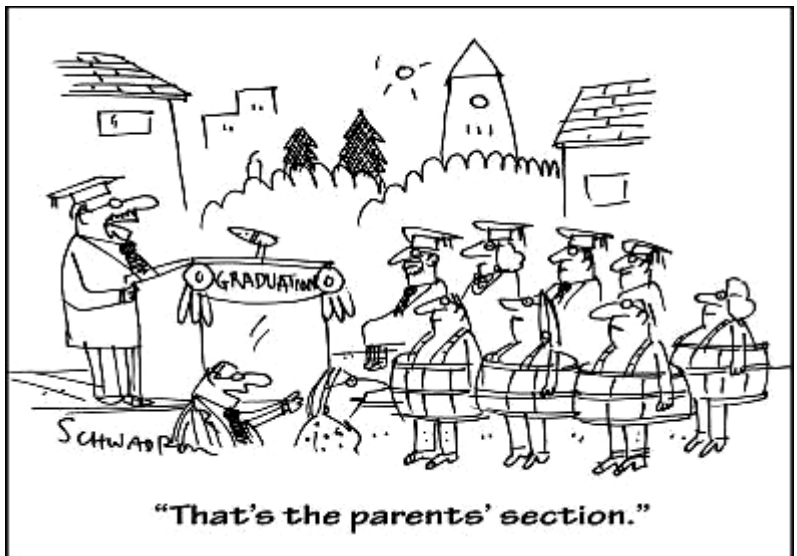
Bible Quiz

What musical instrument is
mentioned in the final poem
of Psalms as a means to
praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



(Answer on page 9)



Celebrating
OUR GRADUATES



Ryan Soucek

Son of Rob & Laura Soucek
Grandson of Ken & Carol Schutt

8th Grade Graduate of
Southwest Christian School

Attending Chicago
Christian High School in the fall.

Rowan Nason

Grandson of Ken & Carol Schutt
Advancing from 8th Grade
to High School

Robert Thimons

Son-in-Law of
Ed & Diane Ritzema

MBA Graduate of
Olivet Nazarene University



Karissa Lamsma

Granddaughter of
Eleanor Lamsma

Graduate of
Denver Christian High School

Attending Colorado Mesa
University in the fall, pursuing a
degree in Exercise Science.

*May God's blessings
guide you to accomplish your goals
throughout the coming years.*



The Power of Warmth

In one of Aesop's fables, the North Wind and the Sun debated who was stronger. When they saw a traveler approaching, the Sun sensed an opportunity. He said whoever could make the man remove his coat would win — and even let the Wind go first.

So the Sun ducked behind a cloud as the Wind began blowing mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the man pulled his coat around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

Then the Sun emerged and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his coat on. He felt so warm he removed one garment after another and bathed in a nearby stream. The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.

Don't fail to try

A woman once criticized evangelist Dwight L. Moody for his methods in attempting to win people to the Lord. "I agree with you," Moody said. "I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?"

"I don't do it," the woman answered. To which Moody replied, "I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."



Prepared for a Purpose

Timothy Dalrymple, president and CEO of *Christianity Today*, was a successful Stanford gymnast with Olympic dreams. But he broke his neck before the 1996 Olympic Trials and never reached his sport's "promised land." Although the injury led to chronic pain, Dalrymple doesn't regret his pursuit or even the fall.

Even while hospitalized, he experienced "a profound assurance" of God's loving presence. "If I could know the peace of God even when my health and hopes were stripped away from me, then what did I have to fear?" he writes. "It was a liberating revelation. Since God is with us even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for no evil can take God away."

In the long run, so-called failure can matter more than victory, Dalrymple learned. "The purpose of my gymnastics career was never to purchase a few shining moments of gold-medal glory but to prepare me for the rest of my life. It was never about making me a champion. It was about [shaping me into the image of Christ and] making me an instrument [for the glory of Christ and for the good of the world]."

COFFEE BREAK SEASON WRAP-UP

God has blessed us with another wonderful Coffee Break season! We had 26 women registered, and an average of 18-20 who met with us every week to fellowship and study God's Word.

The goals of Coffee Break are to study the Bible together, pray together, serve together, and create friendships and relationships. All of these goals were met again this year! Our groups studied: Discover Shalom, Discover James, and Discover John 11-21.

Some of the women shared with the leaders these comments:

"I have learned so much this year!"

"I have never really studied the Bible, even though I've been a church member for a long time. I want to come back next year to learn more!"

"I'm thankful for the leaders who are a great example of dedication to ministry!"

"I feel the power of prayer. When I was so sick for a year, I knew my Coffee Break friends were praying for me. Now I'm able to return to the group and am re-energized to pray!"

"I asked you to pray for _____ (fill in the blank!), and they made it through their _____ (procedure, illness, travel, etc.). Thank you for making prayer a priority!"

Not only did we pray together and study together, but we served together. We made numerous blankets to be given away to individuals we know and love, and to the Edwards' Syndrome Association. (See related article on next page.) We also provided Christmas gifts for three families in the Oak Lawn area through our partnership with Lawn Manor School. These families were all experiencing hardships of some kind, and our gifts may have been all they received for Christmas.

We will continue making Blankets of Grace throughout this summer on June 10, July 8, August 12, and September 9. All are invited to help us make blankets on those mornings. And this is a great time to bring a friend! We are thankful that God provided the monetary donations to buy material at greatly discounted prices since JoAnn Fabrics is going out of business. We trust Him to provide for us in the future!

Plans are already underway for next year. Scheduled start date will be September 16.

Look for more
information later this summer!

We hope to see you then!



What is a Father?

Being a male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero; disciplinarian; a friend; someone to look up to; someone to model ... someone with a touch of the "mother" in him; someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him!"

—Alton Kaul

Bible Quiz

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?



- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king

(Answer on page 10)

COFFEE BREAK 'BLANKETS OF GRACE' UPDATE

BY THERESA DYBALA

The comfort blankets that were made back in March were finally delivered to Mia's mom, Jeanna, on May 7. We are so honored to support Edwards' Syndrome Association with our blankets of Grace in their mission to provide support for families with children diagnosed with Trisomy 18.

Thank you, once again, to everyone who contributed their time, fleece, or made a monetary donation to our blanket ministry in support of the Edwards's Syndrome Association. Because of your support, approximately 50+ blankets were made. We are so very grateful.



Theresa, Jeanna and Mia

A Prayer for Families



Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family.

Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.

Are you listening?

A father asked his 7-year-old son to say the mealtime prayer. "All right," the boy said. "Let's pray." The boy prayed, "Lord, we thank you for the pancakes we're going to eat tonight. Amen."

"Jimmy," his mother said. "I think you should know we're having chicken, not pancakes, tonight."

"I know," Jimmy answered. "I just wanted to see if God was paying attention."

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY



Lessons from Hiking

Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being *too* prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps.

—Janna Firestone

Page 4 Bible Quiz Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL—RIVER

In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly to heavenly life, from worldly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.

"And God called
the light daytime,
and the darkness
he called primetime."



FROM THE EDITOR:

Do you have a story you've read or seen that has affected your life in a positive way?

Or maybe you've had a "God" moment in your life that impacted you and your spiritual journey? When something happened that can only be explained as having come from God?

How about a great recipe that others may like?

We'd love to be able to share these stories and recipes in our newsletter.

Submit your half or one page story for the newsletter by placing it in the newsletter box on the wall outside the office.

Or email it to the church at: gracechurch@gccrc.org.
Articles/stories may be edited.

All articles/recipes must include your name. If the article was published in a magazine or any other way, you must include your name, the copy of the article, and the permission from the source to publish, to be considered for the newsletter!

We reserve the right to edit your submission or reject a submitted article.

A Restful Faith

A seminary professor was discussing ways — besides reading — to encounter Scripture. "The idea was to 'experience' it as though we were there," recalls Stan Purdum, then a student. The professor asked students to relax in lounge chairs, close their eyes and imagine they were along the Sea of Galilee as Jesus fed the 5,000. In a soothing voice, he invited participants to smell the lake, feel the breeze on their faces, taste the bread the disciples were distributing and hear Jesus' voice."

Somewhere in that, I got too comfortable," says Purdum. "Suddenly the exercise was over, and the professor was asking for feedback. The classmate next to me raised his hand and said, 'I was really getting into it until Simon Peter here [pointing at me], started snoring in my ear.'"

The class had a good chuckle, and Purdum gained a new perspective. "Spirituality isn't just something to understand but also something to experience. If nothing else, that day I experienced my faith as very restful!"



SPECIAL DATES IN JUNE & JULY

- June 8 - Pentecost
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 15 - Trinity Sunday
- Father's Day
- June 19 - Juneteenth
- June 20 - First Day of Summer
- July 4 - Independence Day

Page 8 Bible Quiz
Answer: E
(See Psalm 150:3-5.)





OUR PRESENT HOPE

Christian hope involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith.

Christian hope is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person's existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God's eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy.

And in the great contest between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. ... Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now.

—Oswald Bronson

Our free Little Library in front of the church is getting used A LOT!

Donations of books are always welcome and right now we especially need children's books.

If you are able to donate any books, please leave them in the marked container in the church library.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!



Redeeming 'Wasted' Time

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! *Where* are my keys?"

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. "Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts."

When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

God beyond time ... teach us to
pause in this moment, to tuck
ourselves into the curve of your
slow arm, that we may know the
miracle of now, the gift of this
moment: you beside and beyond
us, welcoming us outside of all
we measure, and standing with us
in it. May we see the goodness of
our still hours and days, sunrises,
sunsets, and the darkness where
our rest is found.

—Micha Boyett
in *A Rhythm of Prayer*
(edited by Sarah Bessey)

Gravity

GRAVITY IS ONE of the most amazing forces we experience every day. But how does it work?

We all know what happens when you drop something. On Earth, gravity pulls objects down at an acceleration of 9.8 m/s^2 . This means that every second something is falling, it gets faster by 9.8 meters (about 32 feet) per second.

Things can fall really fast, but the air around us slows them down. The air pushes back on falling objects, creating resistance. Eventually, this resistance balances out gravity, and the object reaches a speed called *terminal velocity*—the fastest it can fall. From that point, it keeps falling at the same steady speed.

When people jump out of an airplane, for example, they speed up until the air pushing against them equals the pull of gravity. Once they reach terminal velocity, they fall at a constant speed. When they open a parachute, the parachute catches more air, increasing resistance and slowing them down.

What's really amazing about gravity is that it's easy to observe and to measure, but we still don't fully understand why it works the way it does.

Newton's Theory

In 1687, the scientist Isaac Newton figured out that gravity is simply a force that pulls two objects toward each other, and he created equations that let us calculate this force for situations we deal with every day.

Einstein's Theory

Albert Einstein came up with a new idea about gravity in 1915. He said gravity isn't really a force. Instead, objects with mass bend space and time around them. The more mass an object has, the bigger the "bend" it makes.

Think of four people holding a sheet tightly by its corners. If you put a bowling ball on the sheet, it will make a big dip. A smaller object, like a marble, will roll toward the bowling ball when placed on the sheet. Einstein said this is how gravity works. Massive objects such as planets bend space, and smaller objects move toward them.

Even though these theories explain a lot about gravity, scientists know they aren't the whole story. They're working on quantum theories of gravity to figure out how gravity works at the tiniest levels, where Newton's and Einstein's ideas don't fit.

Does all this sound a little confusing? You're not alone!

Even though we don't fully understand *why* gravity works, we can always count on it to be there. Gravity is predictable, measurable, and reliable.

This reminds me of faith. I don't always understand why things happen in my life, and I often wonder what the bigger plan is. But I trust that God has a plan and that, like gravity, God is always present, even when I don't have all the answers.

So trust gravity—it never lets you down. And more importantly, trust God, who keeps everything in balance. **B**



Clayton Lubbers teaches science at Byron Center Christian School and has been teaching for over 25 years. He loves the outdoors and commonly meets and sees God while hunting, fishing, and exploring creation.

JUN 2025

Grace Community Church Prayer Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Pray for our worship together and for our Tables of Grace.	Pray without ceasing for God's will for our church.	Thank God for our church staff. Pray they will serve with humility.	Pray that our church volunteers will serve with joy.	Pray for graduates. Pray for God's direction in their lives.	Pray a prayer of quiet trust in God's will for our church.	Pray for Jei and his family. Pray for health and safety.
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Pray for our Pentecost celebration. Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.	Pray for our Council. Pray for wisdom, insight and discernment.	Praise God for those who make Blankets of Grace and for those who receive them.	Pray for those who are in need of healing.	Pray for those who mourn.	Pray for those who celebrate.	Pray for the praise and tech teams as they prepare to lead worship.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pray for Jei as he preaches. Pray our worship will be filled with the Spirit.	Pray for those who need direction in making decisions.	Pray for God's will to be done in our church—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.	Pray for the church garden. Pray for an abundance of produce to bless others.	Pray for our church neighbors, that they will feel the love of our church.	Pray for an opportunity to invite a friend to church.	Pray for our worship tomorrow. Pray for those working with our children.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Pray for Jei to speak God's Word faithfully.	Pray for restored relationships with family and friends.	Pray for the children, youth and teens in our church.	Pray for those enjoying vacations. Pray for safety of travel.	Pray for those who live with anxiety and depression.	Pray for those who question God's will for their lives.	Ask for forgiveness for times you have sinned this week.
29	30					
Pray that we may be transformed by God's Word.	Pray for those who are seeking employment.					

JUNE SCHEDULES

GREETERS

Jun 1 George Voss / Evelyn Luchtenburg
 Jun 8 Theresa Dybala / Eleanor Lamsma
 Jun 15 Tom & Darlene Huisenga
 Jun 22 Mary Lewan / Patricia Schroader
 Jun 29 Pat Schuurman / Karen Buikema

CHILDCARE

Jun 1 Barb Wassenaar
 Jun 8 Kaitlyn Van Kuiken
 Jun 15 Laura Soucek
 Jun 22 Joyce Phillips
 Jun 29 Maria Kialanda

TECH SCHEDULE

Projection

Sound

Jun 1	Ed Ritzema	Chris Van Kuiken
Jun 8	Dave Phillips	Ed Ritzema
Jun 15	Aiden Soucek	Pedro Kialanda
Jun 22	Dave Phillips	Ed Ritzema
Jun 29	Ed Ritzema	Chris Van Kuiken

ACCOMPANISTS

Jun 1 Diane / Pedro
 Jun 8 Diane
 Jun 15 Diane
 Jun 22 Diane
 Jun 29 Diane / Pedro

Prayers of the People

Jun 1 Eleanor Lamsma
 Jun 8 Brian Kamper
 Jun 15 Ed Ritzema
 Jun 22 Jistine Ivy
 Jun 29 Tom Huisenga



VOLUNTEERS PLEASE NOTE:

**ALWAYS USE THE LATEST SCHEDULE YOU HAVE RECEIVED.
 CHANGES MAY HAVE BEEN MADE FROM WHAT IS LISTED HERE.**

HOME COOKING

BOW TIE PASTA CHICKEN SALAD

Submitted by Barb Wassenaar

16 oz. Bow Tie Noodles
3 chicken breasts (cooked and cubed)
2 cups red grapes (halved)
Cole Slaw dressing (store bought or recipe below)

1 cup sliced almonds
1-2 green onions (chopped)
2 apples (chopped)

1. Cook the pasta until al dente. Then rinse the noodles in cold water and allow to cool for at least 1/2 an hour.
2. While noodles cool, chop the chicken, grapes, apples, green onion and almonds. Then mix together.
3. When noodles are cooled, add the chicken mix and stir together.
4. Add Cole Slaw dressing, amount to your liking, and mix.
5. Serve chilled, store leftovers in refrigerator.

NOTE: Leftover salad may need additional dressing after a day or two.

NUTRITION:

290 calories; 39g carbohydrates; 19g protein; 7g fat; 1g saturated fat;
36mg cholesterol; 69mg sodium; 437mg potassium; 3g fiber; 8g sugar;
60iu vitamin A; 3mg vitamin C

Cole Slaw Dressing

Mix together until smooth and creamy:

1 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup sugar
2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice (fresh or bottled)
1 tsp. salt (or to taste)
1/8 tsp. pepper (or to taste)



Puzzle!

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

**Although babies don't come with instructions,
God tells parents how to raise their children.**

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

"... 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2

6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3

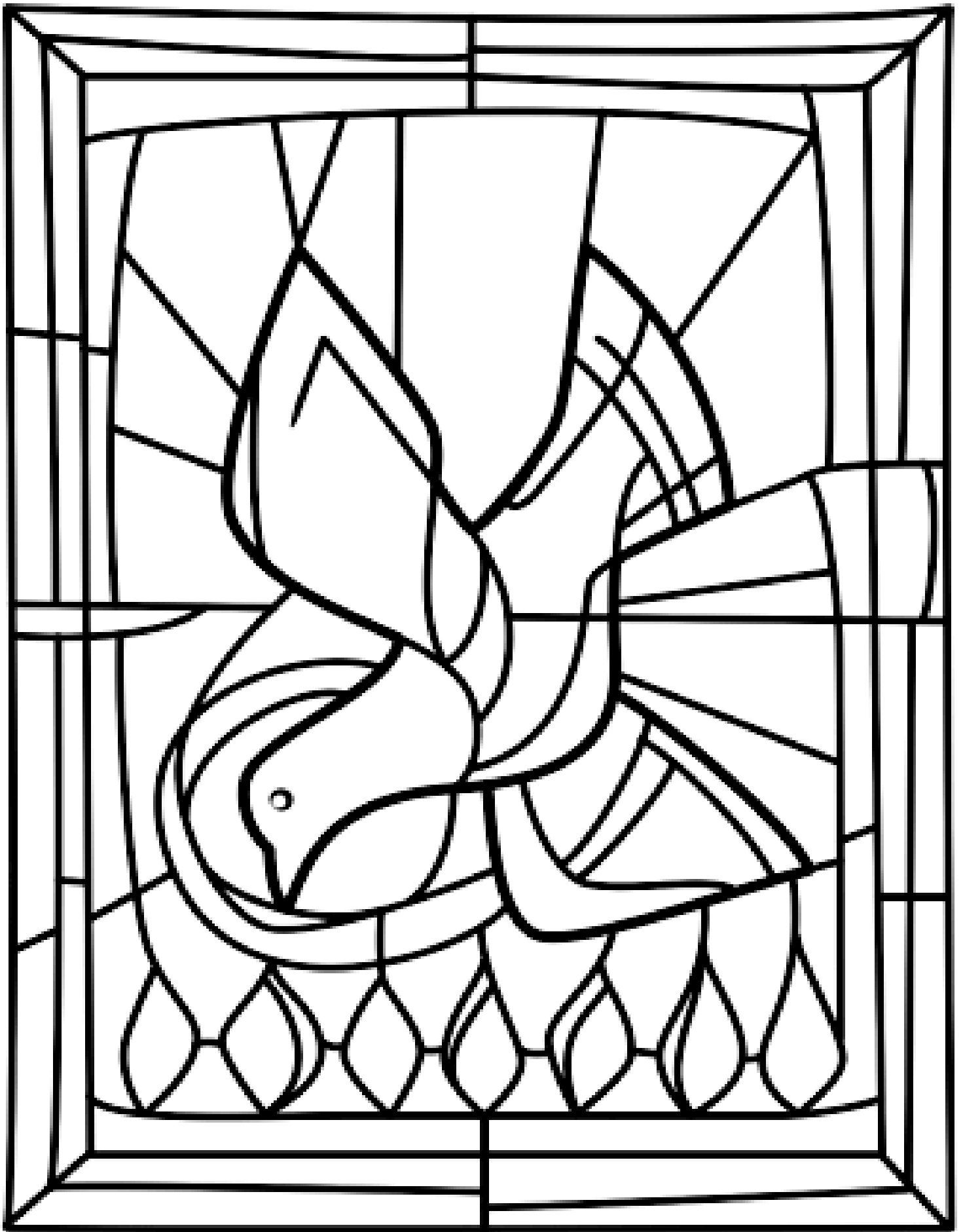
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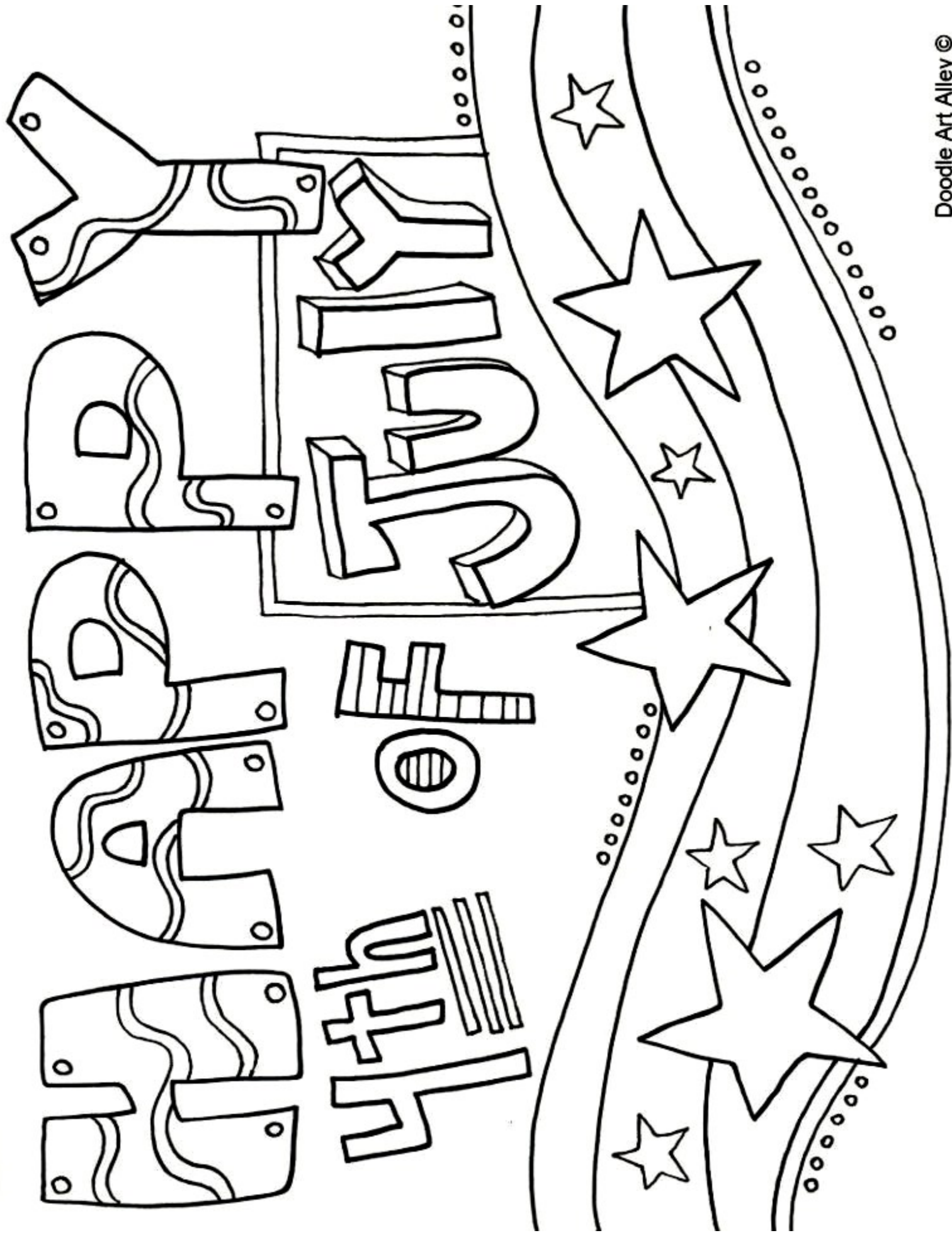
4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3

3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1"

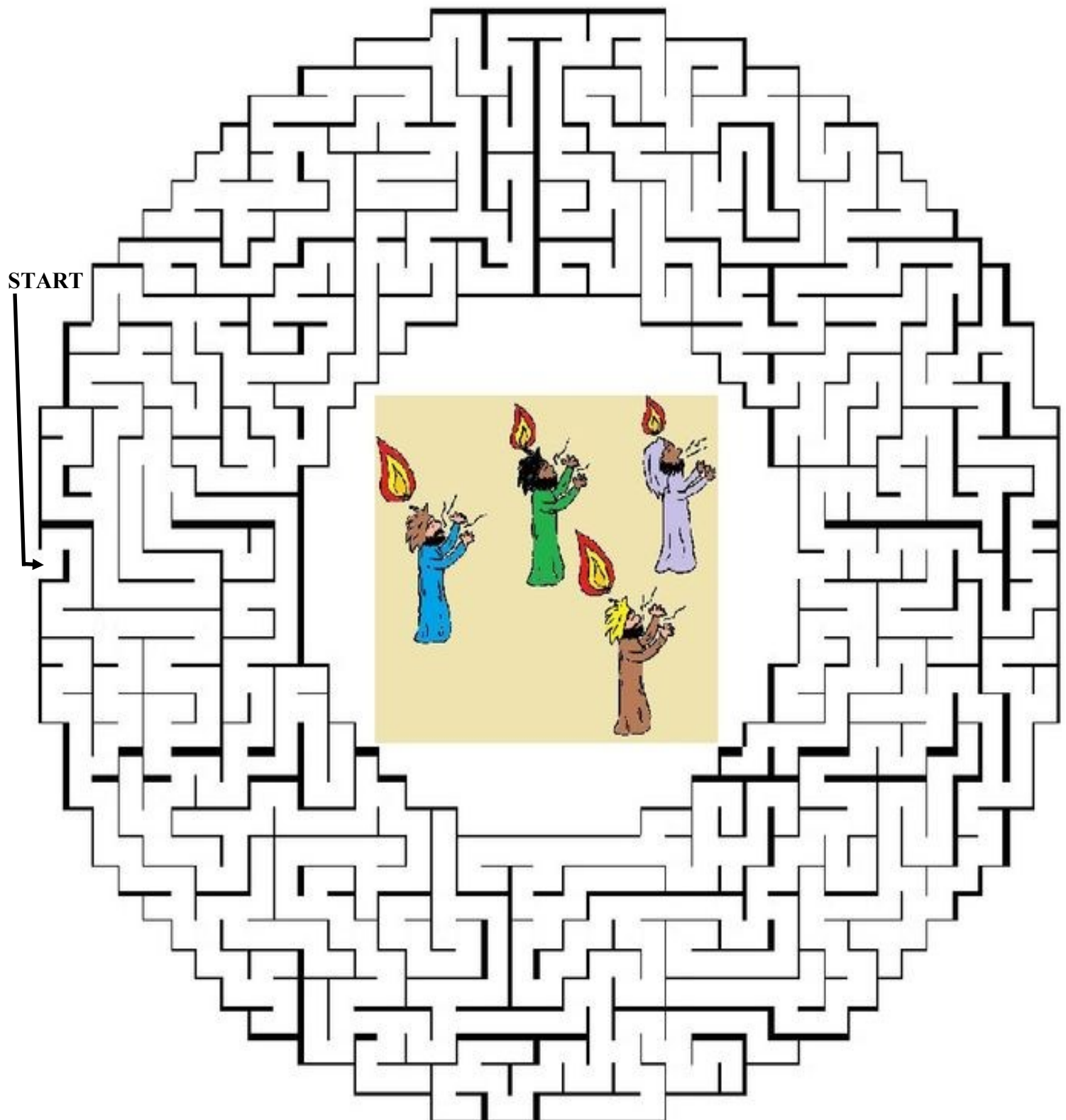
Ephesians 6:4, NIV







Pentecost Maze



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This newsletter is a publication of Grace Community Church. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and will be considered for publication provided they include your name and/or the name of the original author with copyright information, are one page, and are within the guidelines and tone of this newsletter.

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**Contributions for the Sept / Oct 2025 issue are due no later than August 16, 2025.
No newsletter published in January and August.**

Grace Community Church

Called to be a community of externally focused people who foster authentic, grace filled relationships.



Our Values

Care is expressed in being open and accepting, in being non-judgemental and respectful, and in welcoming people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We continue to learn to be authentic in our caring by being honest about the ways our brokenness takes shape. In humility, we treat others with respect and integrity, as we would want to be treated.

Compounding recognizes that God's grace is fruitful; it brings deep change and growth in our life. As we follow Jesus, God multiplies our efforts into something more than we can ask or imagine. God multiplies our efforts of acceptance and care for people outside our circles of relationships. We will be enriched by others because we can see God at work in them.

Cultivating is the act of building others up, encouraging each other to share God's gifts. Each person matters. We are not passive. We foster personal responsibility for spiritual growth. In our worship and life together, members are welcomed to participate freely. Filled with the Spirit, we all grow as participants share what God is doing in their life.

Connecting to God through Scripture and prayer. We want to see clearly what God is saying to us in the Bible, enabling us to live freely for God. In worship, we connect our story with God's story. We respond to God in ways that show how the truth of the Bible fits into our life. We pray together, believing that all growth is the result of God's work.

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