

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events have been canceled through April 1.

Numana is Coming 🙏... Save the Date, April 26

We will be helping to feed the hungry again this year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 26, and be looking for signups on your Connection Cards.



Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”
Genesis 9:16



Grace Presbyterian Church
www.gracepc.org

GRACE NEWS

MARCH 22, 2020

I've mentioned to you before that while Sally looks at the glass as "half full," I tend to perceive it as "half empty." We have been inundated with absolutely essential, "half empty" information intended to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and protect us from potential contagion. This information leaves us feeling helpless, vulnerable, and frightened. For my final cover page, I'm going to transcend my characteristic pessimism to remind you of what should be some reassuring news. The biblical narrative recounts numerous stories of people confronted by seemingly hopeless circumstances, casting dark clouds of dread and uncertainty over them. In virtually every instance, the worst that could possibly happen wasn't the story's final chapter. There is, lodged deep in our human psyche, a sense of tenacious hope that cannot be thwarted no matter how desperate life becomes. Humanity's conviction that the worst will not ultimately prevail generated spirituals sung by slaves, projecting rays of hope that, one day, their dignity and freedom would be restored. In Scripture, this impregnable assurance led the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, speaking on God's behalf, to describe the inevitable emergence of a peaceable kingdom, and led the author of Revelation to reveal God's vision of a new heaven and a new earth. Anticipating a brighter day doesn't totally counterbalance the harsh reality of the situation in which we find ourselves, but it does give us both the courage and the conviction to persevere, knowing, deep down inside, that clinging to hope is by no means an exercise in futility. As we pray for relief from a world-wide pandemic and do our part to stem the spread of contagion, the socially distancing that will undoubtedly intensify may require us to shelter in place and stay at least six feet apart but cannot obstruct our resolve to remain connected. While awaiting and contributing to the fulfillment of our hope, I encourage you to take to heart and put into practice what Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky recommends ... *"Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we make. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another must become a thought as to how we might be of help to each other as the need arises. Let's stay safe, and let's draw one another closer in ways that we've never done before."* Grace and peace to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

-Pastor Jim

Worship Updates

Join us at 11AM for live-streamed worship the next two Sundays, March 22 and 29 on the Grace website, gracepc.org. We will praise God with music, prayer, and the Word. Children's resources are recorded and available for your use at this time and throughout the week. If you are unable to join us for live streaming, you can watch a recorded version at your convenience.

Giving During Closure

Your generosity enables Grace Presbyterian Church to transform lives through excellence in programming in our congregation, community and beyond. Every gift counts. Our goal is to offer as many giving options as possible to fit your needs.

Online Giving - Schedule a one-time or recurring gift from a checking account or credit/debit card. Click this link from the church website: <https://www.gracepc.org/give/>

Check – Tithes and Offerings should be mailed to the church, 4300 W Park Blvd, Plano, TX 75093, "Attention: Finance Department". Church mail will be picked up at the Post Office.

Bank Pay - Submit your gifts through your bank's online bill pay service. Send to "Attention: Finance Department". Most banks provide this service at no additional charge. Tithes and Offerings can be set up as automatic or one-time.

Thank you for your faithful financial support to meet the needs of Grace.

Deacon's Covid19 Care Program

The Deacon's are managing a care program for any member that is in the at risk category, or is unable to get out to run errands. If you would like to be partnered with a church member that will run errands for you, and check up on you every few days, then go to our website, gracepc.org, and click on the link in the blue box. If you are willing to be paired with a member to be their helper, and follow up with our members in need you need to click on the link in the yellow box. If you are unable to sign up on the website, please call Bill Harrison (214-264-3777) and he will reach out to get you signed up.

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*

Youth Page Updates

Beginning next week, we encourage all parents to refer to the Youth Ministry page of our GracePC website for updates and ideas to engage your student while we are home together. We want to support you, as the primary faith teachers of your children, with resources and suggestions for faith conversations. These will be quick and simple ideas that anyone can employ regardless of the age of your teenager.

If you need any form of support from us, as youth leaders, please contact us directly. Together, we can "be still and know" that He is God and He is in control.

Loving your students through it all,
Kelly Raaum & Valerie Mowell

Children's Ministry Updates

Hello Families - What a strange new world we find ourselves navigating in! In light of all the changes in the last week I would like to make you aware of some special online ministry resources for your family to use.

On Thursday's at 10AM I will be doing an online story time from Grace Presbyterian Church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Gracechurchplano/>. I will read 2 books and have several activities that you can do with your children or grandchildren that accompany the themes of the books. I hope that you will participate in to these special book readings!

Each Sunday while we are not able to physically be together, there will be online resources that you can take advantage of to nurture your children's spiritual growth. These resources will be available on Sunday on Grace PC's Children's Ministry webpage: <https://www.gracepc.org/childrens-ministries/>

One resource will be a Preschool and K-2nd Godly Play Worship Experience for your child. They contain the same songs and stories with a similar flow to what your child would experience on Sunday morning. Feel free to have your child watch the Godly Play videos while you are watching the live stream worship service.

Also, there will be bible story videos uploaded from our current Sunday School curriculum that we use on Sunday mornings. There will be a Preschool, Elementary, and Preteen video to choose from. There will also be activities that you can do with materials around your house to accompany the video.

In addition to these resources I will be adding devotionals and webpages that I come across that you may want to utilize during this time of uncertainty. Be checking your e-mail for updates on new resources that are available to you.

If there is anything that could be helpful from me during this time please do not hesitate to reach out. Please know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Pastor Cara

Parents and Students!

Join us this Sunday, March 22, for a Zoom video chat with our new Youth Leader, Valerie Mowell! We won't let the current virus situation keep us from welcoming her to our Grace family!

You'll be receiving communication from Valerie and me via both email and text with details about this call. We ask that you reply with your RSVP and your preferred email. You'll then receive a formal invitation to the call with a link. We will host two separate calls: Middle School students at 4:30, High School students at 5:30. We expect each call to last about 20-30 minutes. Parents are welcome to sit in with their student.

We will host a separate Zoom video call just for parents on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00pm. You'll get an invitation to that with a unique link at the beginning of next week.

We hope you and your student will take advantage of this opportunity to meet, greet and speak with Valerie!