

GRACE NEWS

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

In light of **increasing Covid-19 numbers**, especially the number of hospital beds occupied in Collin County, your Session has voted prayerfully and unanimously to **pause our in-person worship for 2 weeks** to get over this spike and help slow the spread. I know this is not what anyone wanted. Patience and perseverance are required. Thank you for your prayers as we navigate this together! **Please join us online for joyful and meaningful worship.** Pray the prayers, sing the songs, listen for God to speak through the words and music, even if you are by yourself in your living room. We are together in the Spirit! **We will continue to hold our small group gatherings** in large spaces or outdoors with masks and distancing.

For who/what are you thankful? Here are some of the responses over the last several weeks: My grandchildren who give me joy; My husband who takes care of me when I need help; My sewing machine so I can create; My church friends; Laughter; GPC; dogs; bananas; Prayer; Grocery stores that fill orders for those who need help at this time; Friends who reach out to check on others; Technology that allows us to worship with our church; Clean water; People who serve on the Personnel Committee with me; Church staff; Zoom, in an effort to stay connected; For my pastor who doesn't want to call me a goat, but is committed to preaching the gospel; Another wedding anniversary to toast with the love of my life; Twice weekly phone calls with my dad; A spontaneous picnic lunch date with my daughter; Really good coffee from my new coffeemaker; Family, journals, my job, bike riding, Christmas decorations, people willing to climb high ladders to put up the wonderful Christmas tree in our sanctuary, friends, new and old; God sightings; music.

This 1st Sunday of Advent, we are taking a fresh look at the Christmas Story with a series called Making Room. The sermon text is Luke 2:1-20. The sermon title is "Won't you be my neighbor?" What does being a neighbor have to do with Christmas? Tune in and find out.

Here is my charge for you this 1st week of Advent from poet Ann Weems in her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. May we know that: *Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angels' song, in a newborn child. Our God is One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary. Our God will be where God will be, with no constraints, no predictability. Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living. Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us. When God is ready, God will come even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem. Watch . . . for you know not when God comes. Watch, that you might be found whenever wherever God comes.*

Your pastor and friend,

Tracey

Thank you to our Sanctuary decorating team that met this week and did the "heavy lifting" getting our Sanctuary ready for Advent. The Christmas tree, the paintings, the creche, and the garland were all assembled and hung, and the worship team will finish everything else this weekend. We are blessed with so many selfless volunteers!

Poinsettia Sales

Help us decorate our Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Poinsettia sales continue this Sunday, and will run through Sunday, Dec. 6. The plants are purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$10/plant. You have two different methods to order. You can fill out the form in the bulletin, and attach cash or a check and put it in one of the brown collection boxes. Or you can fill out an online form and pay with a credit card. The form can be found at gracepc.org and click at the signup tab at the top of the page.

Session Minutes

If you would like an electronic copy of the monthly session minutes, you will find them on the files tab in the Weekly Email Recipients Group. When you login to CCB, you will find your groups on the right side of the screen. Click on the group, and click on Files at the top.

Mission Updates

Family Gateway Christmas Mission Project

Thank you for adopting all of our Family Gateway Families this year! If you were unable to adopt a family but still want to participate, you may purchase Walmart gift cards in \$25 denominations to be given to the families. If you have any questions, contact Ann Boles at ann.boles@yahoo.com.

Grace Day School Food Drive

Thank you to all of our wonderful Grace families for the food donations for Minnie's Food Pantry! Thanks also to Mandi and Katie for bagging them up and delivering them! Many families will benefit from your generosity! Thank you!



Are You Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- Isolation and loneliness;
- Anxiety over health;
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses;
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling;
- Financial strain or job loss;
- Uncertainty about the future;
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call Mike Shaw 469-223-6813 or Carol Hogan 214-551-6177.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Family Ministry News

New Youth Schedule

YOUTH LIVE

When: Sundays from 4:00-4:45pm

Where: Grace PC (Outside by volleyball courts)

Who can come: ANY Preteen/Youth (5th-12th grade)
– So Bring Friends

Format: Large Group/Small Group with current small group leaders,
Games, Food, and Fun!

Masks are required to attend.

For questions contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org.

There will be NO Youth Live on Sunday, Dec. 20, and Dec. 27.

The youth will be having their annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4PM. Who has the ugliest Christmas sweater this year?

College Reception

All college students are invited to a fire-pit night on Sunday, December 20, at 5:30PM outside of Grace Place. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your Grace friends and family, and have some delicious hot chocolate!

Children's SS Schedule

Children's Sunday School will be meeting at Grace in November.

- Nov. 29th – Advent Wreath making in SS at GracePC at 11AM
- Dec. 6th - SS at GracePC at 11AM
- Dec. 13th - SS at GracePC at 11AM

No Sunday School on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.

Watch your text or email for exact locations at Grace.

Adult Education Updates

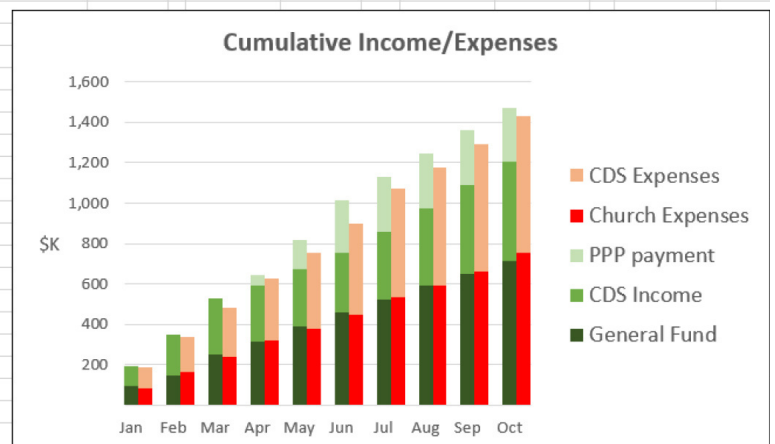
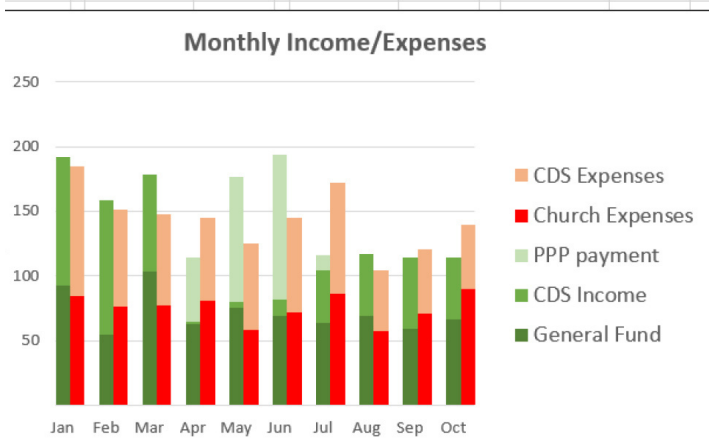
- **Visions of Faith**, meeting remotely at 9-10AM Sundays, will begin an Advent study this Sunday using “Light of the World” by Amy-Jill Levine.
- **Monday Men’s Group**, meeting remotely at 7PM on Mondays, will continue its study of “John - The Gospel of Light and Life” by Adam Hamilton
- **Friday Men’s Group**, meeting remotely at 7AM on Fridays, is still early in its 12 week study of “Joshua” by Trent Hunter.

We encourage anyone interested to join these studies.

Grace Presbyterian Church
Treasurer's Report, October 2020
Bill Miranda, Treasurer

2020 Month	General Fund Income (Gifts + Misc Inc)	Total Income (all sources)	Total Expenses	Net	End of Month Unrestricted Cash Balance
January	\$ 95,680	\$ 194,618	\$ 184,328	\$ 10,290	\$ 12,737
February	\$ 54,178	\$ 158,104	\$ 151,181	\$ 6,923	\$ 26,678
March	\$ 103,364	\$ 177,984	\$ 147,400	\$ 30,584	\$ 50,460
April	\$ 112,319	\$ 114,382	\$ 130,092	\$ (15,710)	\$ 37,997
May	\$ 172,663	\$ 176,408	\$ 124,633	\$ 51,775	\$ 88,506
June	\$ 180,394	\$ 193,395	\$ 144,904	\$ 48,491	\$ 140,016
July	\$ 75,959	\$ 116,155	\$ 172,446	\$ (56,291)	\$ 79,888
August	\$ 69,011	\$ 117,278	\$ 104,293	\$ 12,985	\$ 92,135
September	\$ 58,879	\$ 113,909	\$ 120,154	\$ (6,245)	\$ 77,621
October	\$ 66,007	\$ 114,547	\$ 139,718	\$ (25,171)	\$ 60,989
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 988,454	\$ 1,476,780	\$ 1,419,149	\$ 57,631	

- Day School had a deficit of (\$1,417) for October. YTD loss of \$192,914 was funded by PPP.
- General offering is up 10% from last month, down about 8% from last October.
- Overall deficit of (\$25,171) for October due mostly to additional property expenses.
- Overall surplus of \$57,631 YTD October thanks to PPP loan proceeds.
- Without PPP loan and excluding day school, church has YTD deficit of (\$20,322).
- Major capital repairs fund balance is \$81,152.
- Capital campaign fund balance is \$35,203.
- Cash reserve balance is \$168,451.
- In August, we borrowed \$100,000 from a maximum loan of \$500,000 from PCUSA to fund a portion of the HVAC replacements.
- A forgivable PPP Loan in the amount of \$270,042.50 was received in April.



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 26 Church Office is Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 Church Office is Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28 Word of Life SS, 10:15AM (Zoom)
- 29 First Sunday of Advent
- 29 Visions of Faith Sunday school, 9AM (Zoom)
- 29 Worship Service, 9:30AM (live-streaming online)
- 29 Worship Service, 11AM (live-streaming online)
- 29 Children's Sunday School, 11AM, (Grace)
- 29 Weekly Prayer Meeting, 4PM, (Zoom)
- 29 Youth Live, 4PM, (Grace)

DECEMBER

- 2 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM, (Zoom)
- 2 Sanctuary Choir Virtual Rehearsal, 7PM, (Zoom)
- 5 Word of Life SS, 10:15AM (Zoom)
- 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- 6 Visions of Faith Sunday school, 9AM (Zoom)
- 6 Worship Service, 9:30AM (live-streaming online)
- 6 Worship Service, 11AM (live-streaming online)
- 6 Children's Sunday School, 11AM, (Grace)
- 6 Session Meeting, 1:30PM, (Zoom)
- 6 Weekly Prayer Meeting, 4PM, (Zoom)
- 6 Youth Live, 4PM
- 7 Cancer Support Group, 3PM, (Narthex & Zoom)
- 8 Property Committee Meeting, 7PM, (Zoom)
- 9 Trinity SS, 7PM, (Zoom)
- 9 Sanctuary Choir Virtual Rehearsal, 7PM, (Zoom)
- 12 Quilt Ministry Meeting, 9AM, CE 204/205
- 12 Word of Life SS, 10:15AM (Zoom)
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent
- 13 Visions of Faith Sunday school, 9AM (Zoom)
- 13 Worship Service, 9:30AM (live-streaming online).
- 13 Worship Service, 11AM (Sanctuary (TBD), online)
- 13 Children's Sunday School, 11AM, (Grace)
- 13 Youth Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, 4PM, Grace



For security purposes, our weekly newsletter will only share zoom codes for worship events. We will post zoom codes for all other events below.

Online Web Information/Codes:

Visions of Faith SS, 9-10AM ***NEW TIME**, is still early in its study of Jesus' Parables using a DVD series by renowned biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, who treats them as Jewish short stories. (Zoom) meeting id: 896 1970 3148; Password: 743463 ***NEW ID and PASSWORD**

Monday Men's Group, 7:15-9PM, (Webex) is continuing it's study of "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" by Matthew L Skinner. Contact Gary Hivnor or Mike Venter to join.

Trinity SS, Wednesdays, working through the Old Testament 7PM (Zoom) meeting id 833 1086 7480 password: 068929.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study, 7-8AM (Zoom), is finishing it's study of Peter Enns' How the Bible Actually Works and will begin a 12 week study of Joshua starting Oct. 22.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/7367348174> or
Zoom meeting id: 832 051 1362; no password

Daily Bible Devotional, 2PM (Zoom) meeting id: 344 149 061, password: 496077

Cancer Support Group, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 3PM Narthex and Zoom meeting id: 811 3242 9314, password: 574820

Sanctuary Choir Gatherings, Wednesdays, 7PM, (Zoom) meeting id: 840 2980 0350

Word of Life SS, Saturdays, focus on books, people and themes of the Bible, 10:15AM (Zoom) meeting id: 898 4610 3748, password: 952401

Career Transitions Support Group, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 9:00AM Meeting id: 883 7732 2718, password: 139584

Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study, 7PM Meeting id: 819 6817 4210, password: 213304

Prayer Team, Sunday, 4:00PM, Meeting id: 852 0303 1618, password 171528