

GRACE NEWS

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Your Session is keeping a very close eye on **increasing Covid-19 numbers**, especially the number of hospital beds occupied in Collin County. We are doing everything we can to gather as safely as possible. So please help us by:

- Wearing an acceptable mask (no vents, no gaiters) completely over your nose and mouth.
- Keeping 6 feet away from others – this means no handshaking or hugging.
- Not gathering in the Narthex either before or after the service.
- Staying home if you are ill or may have been exposed.
- Washing hands frequently and/or using hand gel.

If the number of available hospital or ICU beds reaches a critical level, we will have to pause our in-person gatherings until numbers go down. We do this for the good of the community.

Advent is approaching. **Our Advent theme for 2020 is Making Room**, based on the book by Ed Robb.

Advent Sermons

November 29	Making Room: Be a Neighbor	Luke 2:1-20
December 6	Making Room: Welcome Strangers	Matthew 2:1-12
December 13	Making Room: Leave the Light On	Matthew 5:14-16
December 20	Making Room: Walk Each Other Home	Matthew 1:18-25

Sermons and Youth Live will explore this theme throughout Advent with a fresh look at the Christmas story. I invite you to as well. If you'd like to go deeper with the sermons, the book is available on Amazon through the link below, on Christianbook.com, as well as on Kindle.

We will also have some hard copies available for purchase in the Narthex.



link to Amazon

For what/who are you thankful? I like to take the whole month of November to express gratitude to God for the blessings in my life. For what am I thankful today?

- 31 years of marriage on the 18th
- A soon to be son-in-law and grand-dog
- Good physical health
- Warm fuzzy boots

Will you let me know what you are thankful for? You can email tracey@gracepc.org or text me 443-926-2319 your list each day. I will compile a master anonymous list.

Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. The sermon text is Luke 23:32-43. Jesus doesn't seem very kingly at this point. In fact, the sign over his head reading, "This is the King of the Jews" is a cruel joke. What kind of king is this?

Here is my blessing for you this week:

May we understand that, as one preschooler described, "Jesus is the King of Happiness."

May our faith grow to heights and depths we never imagined.

May all our knees bow and all our tongues confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Your pastor and friend,

Tracey

Thank You!

Thank you to all the members and directors of our bell ensembles. It has been a joy to listen to the music they have played during our services. We are blessed at Grace with the quantity and quality of our music ministry.

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.

Worship & Music News

Sunday Worship Services

We are grateful for being able to worship together in our beautiful Sanctuary. As a reminder, at this time we do have a limit of 100 persons, so you must register for each service you are planning to attend through Eventbrite. Thank you for wearing masks and social distancing. Please use only the narthex doors when coming to any services.

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.

What's the Sanctuary Choir been up to?

We can't sing in person right now, so we've been doing so much over Zoom that your Sanctuary Choir is going to emerge as choral scholars! Starting in March, we began meeting weekly or bi-weekly studying the sacred classics of the great composers.

Mozart, Beethoven, you name it, we studied it. We learned about their music, their lives, their spiritual lives, and what scriptures motivated them to write certain pieces of music. We've even met a living composer.... Dan Forrest was one of our guests on a "Meet the Composer" Night. Now, we are working on getting back to singing. After all of the "vocal rest" we've been on, we are now immersing ourselves in reviewing the basics so that when we CAN sing again, we will be ready. A virtual choir recording may be in our future as well. We always welcome guests, so please join us anytime you like. Just contact Michael King, and he would be glad to get you connected. The choir misses singing for you just as much as you miss hearing them. We all look forward to the day we can return. Just contact Michael (michael@gracepc.org) if you'd like to join us!

Mission Updates

Carter Community Blood Drive Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Veteran's Day blood drive. The results of the blood drive are:

We had 54 donors register, 36 donated whole blood, 6 donated double reds which is equal to 12 units of blood, and 12 were deferred. Once processed into the components (red cells, plasma & platelets) the 48 units collected have the potential to impact 144 patients in our community!

Family Gateway Christmas Mission Project

Thank you for adopting all of our Family Gateway Families this year! You will bring joy to many children who would not have had a Christmas if not for your generosity. You may return your gifts to the church parlor anytime or bring them to the truck on Saturday, Dec. 19, between 9-11AM.

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, Nov. 22, 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. 22nd – No Sunday school
- 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 Nov. 22, Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.

Watch your 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.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 21 Word of Life SS, 10:15AM (Zoom)
- 22 Visions of Faith Sunday school, 9AM (Zoom)
- 22 Worship Service, 9:30AM (live-streaming online)
- 22 Worship Service, 11AM (Sanctuary, online)
- 22 Weekly Prayer Meeting, 4PM, (Zoom)
- 22 **NO Children's Sunday School**
- 22 **NO Youth Live**
- 24 Deacon Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 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 (Sanctuary, 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)
- 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 (Sanctuary, 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)



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, Thursdays, 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