



GPC NEWS

May 16, 2021

Grace Members and Friends,


As you know, the CDC surprised everyone yesterday with their announcement that masks are not necessary for those fully vaccinated, indoors or outdoors, with a few exceptions being public transportation and hospitals. I have had numerous inquiries about masks in worship. For this Sunday, I am asking everyone to mask because Exultation is singing in both services and many of them are not of the age where vaccination was possible until last week. We are so blessed by their gifts and I don't want to lose any of them because of a mask-less gathering.

The Session is meeting to decide how we will amend our current requirements. I ask for your patience, graciousness, and help as we navigate this situation, knowing that we have such a wide range of beliefs regarding Covid-19, masks, and vaccinations. Our goal is to include as many people as possible.

The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid pace. In Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christian when asked about their religion. That's down 12 percentage points over the past decade.

The earliest church was a tentative movement, just an offshoot of Judaism. They had no buildings, no budget, no programs, no documents, and God added to their number day by day. The church in America is rich; we are much more stable; we are free to gather and worship; we have technology like they never dreamed. We have copies of Scripture available to everyone. We have organizational structure. We have trained pastors. We have awesome music. Why isn't the church growing in the United States?

I think it makes sense to look back to the earliest church. Join us this Sunday in Wheelus Hall at 9:30am, **in the Youth Room at 11AM** (we are moving indoors for the summer), or online at both times to see what the earliest church did and what we can learn from them (Acts 2:41-47).





Here is my blessing for you this week:

May you realize you are part of something greater than yourself.

May you believe that you belong in the Church – the body of Christ.

May you own that you are a part of what God is doing in the world.

Your pastor and friend,

Tracey

Get Involved at Grace!

Property Workday

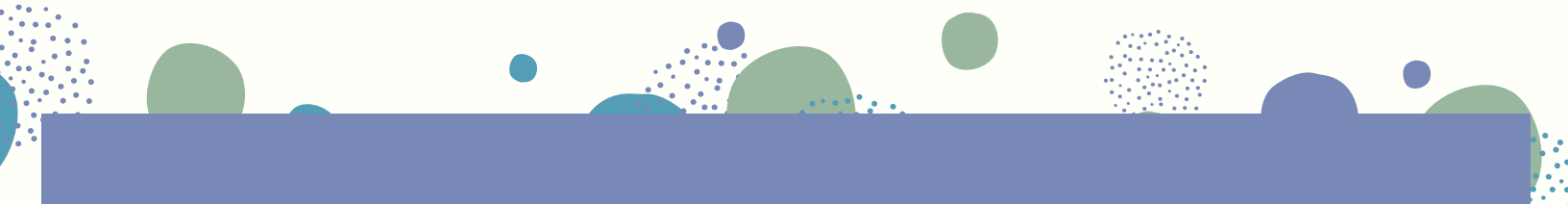
We are having a property work day on Saturday, May 22nd, beginning at 9AM. We will be working on the prayer labyrinth garden and the children's butterfly garden. The majority of the work will require weeding and pruning. We will also spray Nicci's homemade organic weed killer throughout the area. We will provide drinks and snacks. If you think you might be able to come out and help, let us know by filling out the form linked in the newsletter email.

VBS Supplies Needed!

In lieu of a traditional supply drive where we asked volunteers to purchase specific items, we are having a cash drive this year, and the items will be purchased by our supply team. If you are able to donate to VBS, please go to our website, gracepc.org, click on GIVE at the top, and choose VBS as your designated fund. The link will be posted on the email. Thanks in advance for your support!

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to order Sanctuary flowers in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event, go to our website, gracepc.org, and click on the Sanctuary flower box.



Pentecost Sunday - May 23, wear red

On the day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. The Pentecost tradition at Grace is to wear red to worship. In addition, we will collect the Pentecost offering. This is one of the four annual PCUSA offerings. 60% of our offering will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency in support of at risk children and youth, and in support of young adults. 40% of the offering is retained locally and our mission committee will determine which agency will receive our offering. Please consider a gift to these worthy causes.

Monday Evening Men's Bible Study

Our Monday evening men's bible study will begin meeting in MB4 on Monday, June 7, from 7-9PM. The Monday evening Men will be using a DVD series by Pastor Matt Rawle titled "The Faith of a Mockingbird". It uses the characters of the similar titled movie to demonstrate Jesus' presence in everyday life. All men are welcome. Questions, contact Gary Hivnor at ghivnor@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

If you are looking for a weekly morning bible study, our Tuesday AM ladies group has resumed. They meet each Tuesday morning from 10-11:30AM in MB2. They are currently finishing up a book study, "A Shepherd Looks at the Lamb of God" by Phillip Keller, and anticipate starting a new study in June. All are welcome!

Plano Clothes Closet

The Plano Clothes Closet has reopened. If you have donations of new or gently used men's, women's, or children's clothing, please drop them off at the closet between the west narthex doors. Once a month, Jeanne Peck will deliver all donations to the Clothes Closet, located at First Presbyterian Church Plano. The closet does not accept games, toys, or small appliances.

ESL End of Term Cultural Night

This month, our ESL Ministry will complete their first term on May 19th. Classes will resume again in the Fall. To acknowledge and embrace diversity in our church, we would like to invite the congregation to participate in our cultural night celebration by representing a country - either of origin or of your choice. The event will be held in the youth room from from 5:30-7PM. During the event, we will provide tables, where each cultural group can showcase their ethnic displays (boards, pictures, etc). In addition, if you like, you are allowed to bring Covid friendly cultural foods. It will be a fun night. If you are interested, please complete the google form. The link can be found in the newsletter email.

Senior Sunday - June 6

We will celebrate our graduating seniors on Sunday, June 6th. If you have a graduating senior from high school, college, or graduate school, please take a few minutes and fill out our graduating senior information form. The link to the form can be found on your newsletter email, or in signups on CCB.

Graduating Senior Awards

Our church awards up to four scholarships to graduating seniors (either high school or college). The qualifications vary and selection of candidates is done by committee with one exception: **The Bob Tobermann Family Award**. This is to recognize a graduating senior (HS or college) who demonstrates an ongoing commitment to serving others in the model of the Tobermann family legacy of selfless service. To be considered, you must submit responses to a series of questions. If interested, the link to the form will be found in the newsletter email. ***The deadline to submit is May 15.***

The Harry Chase Memorial Fund Award

This award is given to a GPC member who is or will be a part-time or full-time seminary student. If you know of someone who might be eligible for this award, please submit their name directly to Rev. Cara Ellis at cara@gracepc.org. ***Deadline is May 15th.***

All awards will be given out on June 6th, Senior Recognition Sunday.

Want to Learn?

Youth Sunday Schedule

All youth, 6th-12 grades are invited to our Canes and Games end of the school year bash, this Sunday from 5:15-7PM. We have 2 events scheduled during the summer, so far and hope to add more:

June 11: HS/MS Movie Night
@The Nichol's, 7-10PM

July 11: MS Pool Party
@The Miller's, 4-6PM

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

M/W Bible Study

If you are looking for a dedicated time to spend with God's word each week, we have a group for you. A Bible study group meets Monday and Wednesday at 2PM via zoom. All are welcome. Here is the zoom meeting id and password: 858 0155 4559, password: 775494

Children's SS Schedule

Beginning this Sunday, May 16, at 11AM, we will have Godly Play for children in preschool through 2nd grade. Godly Play will be held in the choir room. The children will begin in worship with their families and will be dismissed to Godly Play. You may pick up your child, following worship, on the playground. For the security of our children and volunteers, all doors to the main building will be locked from 11:15AM to 12PM.

Adult Sunday School

Grace currently has 3 adult Sunday classes meeting onsite or virtually:

Trinity - Wed. evenings at 7PM on Zoom

Word of Life - Sat. mornings at 10:15AM
on Zoom

Visions of Faith - Sunday mornings at
9:30AM in Grace Place

All the classes are multi-generational, and anyone is welcome.



Everything Else

Sunday AM Nursery is Re-opening!

We are reopening our church nursery for the 11AM worship service on Sunday mornings. The nursery will be in CE102. It is available for all children 3 and under.

Marketing Internship at Grace Presbyterian Church

We are looking for a college student majoring in or interested in marketing to help us assess our social media and communication strategy, provide content for social media, assist with publicity, and work on promotional ideas and marketing materials.

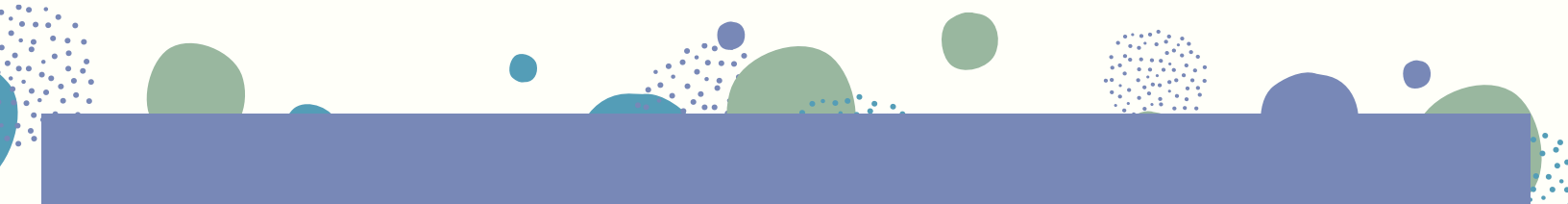
Hours: 9-4 M-Th, June through Mid-August, by mutual agreement.

The internship is unpaid. The intern will be given a love offering at the end of service and given permission to use any marketing developed for us as part of their own portfolio. If you are interested contact Pastor Tracey at tracey@gracepc.org.

Grace Presbytery Eco Camp

Eco Camp is a summer camp experience where campers will learn about the environment and how to be a friend to God's creation. The camp will include 'green' themed activities, nature/environmental programming, and traditional camp activities.

The camp will be held at Ferncliff, the first Green Camp Certified camp in our denomination from July 18th-July 23rd. The cost is only \$150/camper. You are required to provide transportation. Ferncliff is located just west of Little Rock on 1,200 beautiful acres that include forests, mountains, lakes, creeks, fields, gardens, and more. It's the perfect space to experience creation, try some fun activities, learn about God, and make new friends! To register, click on the link in the newsletter email.



Building Updates

ATI is completing the cleaning, sanitizing, sealing, and re-insulating of our underground ductwork this week. The next step is having all of the new ductwork installed between the air conditioners and our building. Stephen Glover has been working with two different companies to design a new system that keeps the duct work above the water level and ensures our system is completely waterproof. We are excited to be moving on to the next phase of renovation.

In addition, Vanguard Electric has been in-house mapping out all of our electrical systems. We have to know what we have before we know what needs to be replaced/brought up to code. Thankfully, we are completely covered by insurance for any building code upgrades we may have to implement.

We ask that you continue to lift up our design team and our A/V task force in prayer as they continue to meet and make decisions regarding our beautiful Sanctuary and narthex.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Last week our Day School Committee hosted a teacher appreciation lunch for our Day School teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. We are blessed to have one of the best pre-schools in Plano, and it is our directors and teachers that make it so.



Members of our Day School Committee





Suicide Prevention

Violina's beautiful testimony a few weeks ago brought the issue of suicide prevention to the forefront for us. Is someone you know struggling emotionally or having a hard time? You can be the difference in getting them the help they need. Here are some of the warning signs that may help you determine if a loved one is at risk for suicide:

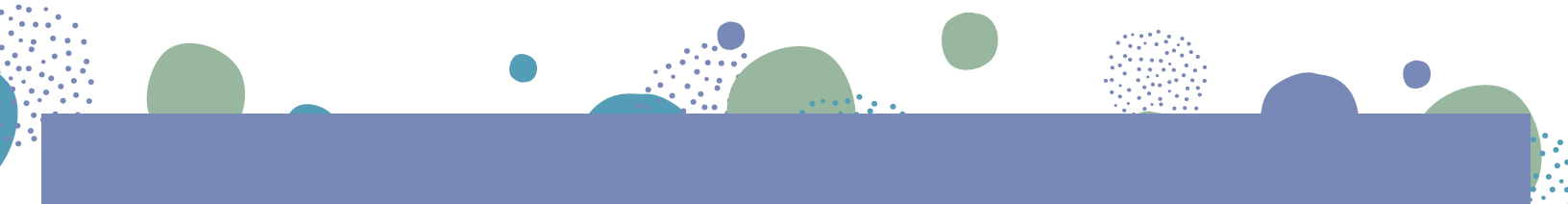
- Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves
- Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Extreme mood swings

If you believe your loved one is at risk, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK).

If you have any of the above signs or feel hopeless and worthless, God cares about you. We care about you. You can always call Pastor Tracey at 443-926-2319 or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK).

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.



Calendar of Events

MAY

- 14 Grief Workshop, 6:30-9PM (CE200-202)
- 15 Grief Workshop, 9AM-5:30PM (CE200-202)
- 15 Men's Bible Study, 8AM (MB4)
- 15 Word of Life SS, 10:15AM (Zoom)
- 15 Mom's Bible Study Get Together, 10:30AM
- 15 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Grace Place)
- 16 Confirmation Sunday
- 16 Visions of Faith Sunday School, 9:30AM (Grace Place)
- 16 In-person indoor Worship, 9:30AM (Wheelus, max. 70)
- 16 In-person outdoor Worship, 11AM (Youth Room)
- 16 Godly Play, 11AM (preschool - 2nd grade)
- 16 Credo Rehearsal, 3PM
- 16 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM
- 16 Youth Live End of Year Party, 5:15-7PM
- 17 Cancer Support Group, 3PM (MB4 & Zoom)
- 18 Tuesday Women's Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB2)
- 18 Committee Meeting Night, 7PM
- 18 Grief Group, 7PM (MB4)
- 19 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM (MB2)
- 19 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 19 ESL Cultural Night, 5:30-7PM
- 19 Trinity Sunday School, 7PM (Zoom)
- 22 Word of Life Sunday School, 7PM (Zoom)
- 23 Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!
- 23 Visions of Faith Sunday School, 9:30AM (Grace Place)
- 23 In-person indoor Worship, 9:30AM (Wheelus, max. 70)
- 23 In-person outdoor Worship, 11AM (Youth Room)
- 23 Godly Play, 11AM (preschool - 2nd grade)
- 23 Credo Rehearsal, 3PM
- 23 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM



Grace Presbyterian Church
www.gracepc.org



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:

Monday Men's Group, 7:15-9PM, (Webex) Contact Gary Hivnor or Mike Venter to join. They will be back on-site in MB4 beginning on June 7.

Trinity SS, Wednesdays, 7PM (Zoom) meeting id 833 1086 7480 password: 068929.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study, 7-8AM (Zoom),

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/7367348174> or

Zoom meeting id: 832 051 1362; no password

M/W Bible Study, 2PM (Zoom) **meeting id: 858 0155 4559, password: 775494**

Cancer Support Group, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 3PM (Zoom)

meeting id: 811 3242 9314, password: 574820

Sanctuary Choir Gatherings, Wednesdays, 7PM, (Zoom & in person) 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