

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

GRACE NEWS

Grace Family,

I have been reflecting this week on the importance of stories. It is so important for us to use our voices to share our stories, because our stories matter. Our stories matter because we are each a part of God's story. Our stories, filled with love, forgiveness, sadness, anger, and excitement can bring hope into our broken world.

Our stories are not always painless, but often pain filled. 20 years ago, our story as a country changed. I will never forget where I was when I heard that planes were crashing into the Twin Towers in New York City. I have a feeling that you will not either. Our lives paused as we watched the horrors of that day. The only thing that many of us could do was pray. This week I came across a prayer from the PC USA that I would like to share with you today:

Almighty God,

Even as the painful memories of 9/11 are seared into our hearts,

We yet hold fast to the hope that even now springs forth from the ashes.

We pray for those still suffering from loss or injury as a result of the tragedy events of that day. Let us never forget those who risked or lost their lives to save others.

Their sacrifices and love represent the best in humanity, and the path to which Christ still calls each of us. As we continue to mourn those who died, may we honor them by being loving neighbors to all toward building a lasting peace through Christ Jesus.

Amen.

May we always remember the good that came from that day. The love that was shared and may we strive to always be loving to all our neighbors.

This week our sermon will focus on God's Story as an introduction before we begin our church-wide study of "The Story" next week. Please join us for worship at 9:00am or 11:05am in the Youth Room.

Peace,

Pastor Cara Ellis

Get Involved at Grace!

The Aftermath of Hurricane Ida and Our Call to Help

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted are changing daily because of a lack of access to power, refrigeration, water, and housing. After these immediate needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care, along with Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

Grace PC along with Presbyterians everywhere are being called to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Thru reallocation of our existing budget, your Mission Committee intends to act quickly by providing \$5,000 toward PDA's response and hopes to double that amount with your support. You can give online by designating your donation as Disaster Relief or notating the same on your check or envelope.

ACT: Grace PC has a history of providing disaster relief through both our gifts of support and by working in the affected areas as part of the recovery efforts. Stay tuned for more information on how you can serve as a member of one of our Mission Teams.

PRAY: God of Compassion, with sighs too deep for human words, we come to you again in prayer, lifting up the sorrow, the trouble and the weariness of so many of your peoples. For those whose homes and communities are torn and flooded by the winds of Hurricane Ida, for those who abide in darkness and in oppressive heat, trying to begin the work of rebuilding, especially for those whose resources and access to help are tenuous, hear our prayer.

Oh, God of all things: There is so much. May your Spirit expand our vision, sustain our attention, and deepen our compassion and commitment: For neighbors in Haiti, grieving loss, working to mend bodies and lives, moving rubble, hoping for help, weary and weighed down. For neighbors fleeing fire in western states, violence and fear in Afghanistan, for people everywhere who suffer loss of home, community, livelihood, hope. Help us to be part of your healing, your Wholeness, your hope. In the name of the Christ our justice and our life. Amen.

Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study

The Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study will be starting a new study on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m. in MB 2. The guide that we will be using is The Purple Book. This book is given out to the community as workers build houses in Tijuana through that mission. The guide's sub title is "Biblical Foundations for Building Strong Disciples." Each class member is encouraged to purchase a copy which runs between \$11 and \$15 dependent on the shipping and tax charges.

Come be part of this amazing group of women who have a heart for Biblical study and a Christian walk! If you would like more information, please, contact me, Lynn McCoy, at jl.ect@verizon.net or 214-693-3184.

Blessings!

The Journey

Do you feel like you are just skimming the surface? Is this the season for you to do a deep dive? Consider **The Journey**, an adult faith development process already completed by 50 adults at GPC. With a small group, you will meet weekly for 7 months to explore three questions: Who is God? Who am I? What does God desire to do through me? Groups are planned for Sunday afternoons and a weekday lunch time; other days/times may also be offered. Signup on your Connection Card for more info or contact Michelle Rutherford 469-585-6990 mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net

Grief Group

The Grief Group at Grace has now been helping people for 10 years and we will be starting our next group on September 14. We meet in person from 7PM to 9PM. We have expanded it to 8 weeks and we utilize curriculum from a local organization, Faith & Grief Ministries. This is an extension of Stephen Ministry at Grace. There is a link in the newsletter email, you may check your Connection card, or you may contact Mike Shaw at brncorsbest@verizon.net (469-223-6813) or Carol Hogan at carol.hogan17@gmail.com (214-551-6177) for more information. Module topics are shown on the webpage and by selecting the link.

<https://www.faithandgrief.org/griefworkshop/>

Clean Water Mission Ministry

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of a community? If so, our clean water mission ministry might be for you. The mission committee is looking for people interested in joining the clean water team, or attending Clean Water University. For more information, check your Connection Card, or click on the clean water link in your newsletter email.

Calling All Youth!

All youth are invited to a time of fellowship, games, and lesson on Sunday afternoons from 5:15-6:30pm. No need to RSVP just show up in the youth room (CE 200) and join the fun!

Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for the mountain of cards I am reading from you all for my one year anniversary. Along with the vibrant orchid, the gorgeous quilt, and the balloons with confetti filling my office, they made me feel so special and fill my heart with joy! I am so thankful to be blessed to serve the Lord with you all!

Pastor Tracey



Music Ministry at Grace

The GPC Music Ministry is so excited to resume all ensemble rehearsals this week. Please consider joining us!

CHOIRS

Sanctuary Choir/Festival Singers

Adult choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15pm, Wheelus Hall

Michael King, Director

Voices in Praise (VIPs)

Children's choir for grades 2 – 5

Sundays, 4:30 – 5:15pm, Room CE210

Hannah Allen, Director

Exultation Choir

Youth choir for grades 6 – 12

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm, Youth Room

Michael King, Director

Cherub Choir

Children's choir for PK through 1st grade

Sundays, 4:00 – 4:30pm, Room CE210

Hannah Allen, Director

HANDBELLS

Grace Notes

Advanced adult handbells

Sundays, 6:00 – 7:15pm, Wheelus Hall

Michael King, Director

Agape

Beginner adult handbells

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm, Room CE204-205

Director tba

Credo

High school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm, Wheelus Hall

Katie Schnittker, Director

Tintinnabulators

Middle school handbells

Sundays, 3:00 – 4:00pm, Room CE204-205

Hannah Allen, Director

Feel free to contact any of the ensemble directors for more info – we would love to have you!

Hannah Allen – Children's Choirs, Tintinnabulators

hannah@gracepc.org

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir

michael@gracepc.org

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director

katie.schnittker@gmail.com

Want to Learn?

Children's Fall Sunday School & Godly Play Schedule

All Sunday School classes meet at 10AM. Godly Play will be dismissed from worship during the 11:05AM service.

Nursery	CE102
Preschool SS	CE105
Kindergarten - 2nd grade SS	CE210
3rd - 5th grade SS	CE214
Godly Play	
Godly Play Worship Center, CE215	

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

M/W mixed, 2-3:30PM. meeting id: 858 0155 4559, password: 775494	Zoom
Mon. PM Men's, 7-9PM	MB4
Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM	MB2
Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM-12PM	MB4
Thurs. PM Women's, 7-9PM	MB2
1st & 3rd Sat. Men's, 8-10AM	MB4

Youth Fall Sunday School Schedule

Middle School SS	Grace Place
High School SS	Grace Place

Confirmation will begin in Jan.

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

Adult Sunday School

Grace currently has 5 adult Sunday classes meeting onsite: classes will meet at 10AM. Until we re-open the Sanctuary, adult classes can be found in the following rooms:

Trinity	MB2
Word of Life	MB4
Visions of Faith	CE213
Bible Boomers	Wheelus Hall
Beginning on Sept. 19, all of the above classes will be studying "The Story" curriculum in conjunction with Pastor Tracey's 31 week series on "The Story" Bible.	

Koinonia	CE204/205
A new class starting on Sept. 12. Koinonia is beginning a 4 week study of the Book of Judges.	

All the classes are multi-generational, and all are welcome.

The Bible Boomer's Sunday School class returns to their permanent location, Wheelus Hall, this Sunday.

Youth Ministry Updates

- Sept. 12th – Youth Music and Youth Live Begins!
 - 5:15-5:30 Snacks
 - 5:30-6:30PM Youth Live
- October 8th * - MS Adventure Landing
5:15-5:30 Snacks
- *Note date change!
- November 13th - HS Altitude Trampoline Park
7:30-9:30PM
- December 19th - Youth Christmas Party, 6-8PM
At the Alves' home

Text for Youth Information

If you would like to receive our weekly youth communications, text @gpcym to the number 81010 and get connected and informed about upcoming youth events.

Youth Food

Parents, we know your students like to eat, so we are planning on having food at many of our youth events. This year we would like to have breakfast items (bagels, kolaches, donuts, etc) at Sunday School, youth dinners, and snacks at Youth Live. We are asking that you help us cover the cost of these special foods by paying \$25 per student per semester. To pay for your child/children, click on the Youth Food link in the newsletter email, or access the form on the Signup section of the website.

Medical/Liability/Photo Release Form

It is that time of year again. If you have a child or youth that wants to participate in any Grace activity, including choirs, Sunday school, fellowship events..., you must have a signed medical/liability and publicity release form on file with Grace. To print off a form, click on the Liability form link in the newsletter email, fill out the form (one for each child), and either email it to stefanie@gracepc.org or drop it in Stefanie's mailbox in the staff hallway. A link to the form can also be found on the website at [gracepc.org>about>forms](http://gracepc.org/about/forms). Thanks for your help.



Grace Presbyterian Church
www.gracepc.org



Everything Else

The Story Bible & study guides

If you signed up last Sunday for a set of "The Story" bible and study guide, the books will be on the table at the back of the youth room with your name on them. If you would still like a set of books, please sign up and we hope to have more ordered for you next weekend.

Have you checked out the Parenting Resource Library?

Parents, are you feeling big emotions at your house with school starting? If you are, check out the parent resource library at the back of the worship space for resources. For the next few weeks there will be books that you can read with your child to help them process a wide variety of emotions. If there is a topic that you would like resources for, please let Pastor Cara know at cara@gracepc.org.

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.

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.

Name Tags

Pastor Tracey would like us to wear our nametags to worship. She, as well as any new members we receive will be able to put names with faces much faster and easier if we are all wearing our name tags. If you need a new name tag, the cost is \$9. You can either check your Connection Card, or email Kris Turner at kris@gracepc.org.

Upper Room Devotionals

The Sept./Oct. Upper Room Devotionals are available. They will be put in the hallway outside of the youth room so you can pick yours up on Sundays before or after worship.

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Minnie's Food Pantry Workday, 7:45AM-12PM
- 11 Quilt Ministry Meeting, 9AM (CE204/205)
- 12 Contemporary Worship, 9AM (Youth Room)
- 12 Children/Youth/Adult Christian Education, 10AM
- 12 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM (Youth Room)
- 12 Godly Play, dismissal during worship, (Godly Play Worship Center)
- 12 Credo Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 12 Tintinnabulators Rehearsal, 3PM (CE204/205)
- 12 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (CE210)
- 12 Agape Bell Rehearsal, 4PM (CE204/205)
- 12 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM
- 12 Prayer Team, 4PM (Parlor)
- 12 Voices in Praise Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE210)
- 12 Youth Live, 5:15PM
- 12 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 6PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 14 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 14 Grief Group, 7PM (MB4)
- 15 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM (MB2)
- 15 Women of Wonder bible study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 15 ESL Class, 5PM (CE204/205)
- 16 Sit and Stitch, 10AM (MB2)
- 16 Stephen Ministry Peer Support Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 16 Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study, 7PM (MB2)
- 18 Men's Saturday Bible Study, 8AM (MB4)
- 18 Game Night, 6:30PM (CE200)
- 19 Contemporary Worship, 9AM (Youth Room)
- 19 Children/Youth/Adult Christian Education, 10AM
- 19 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM (Youth Room)
- 19 Godly Play, dismissal during worship, (Godly Play Worship Center)
- 19 Session Meeting, 12:15PM
- 19 Credo Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 19 Tintinnabulators Rehearsal, 3PM (CE204/205)
- 19 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (CE210)
- 19 Agape Bell Rehearsal, 4PM (CE204/205)
- 19 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM
- 19 Prayer Team, 4PM (Parlor)
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