



# GRACE NEWS

## NOVEMBER 20 | 2022

Grace Members and Friends,

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. It is celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. The Apostle Paul reminds us that one day, “at the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:10-11).

And yet, in our gospel reading for this Sunday, we find Jesus not on a throne, but on a cross. Not ruling and reigning but suffering and dying. Not judging and condemning but loving and accepting. Not imposing his will on his people but allowing them to kill him. Why in the world would this awful passage in the middle of Jesus’ humiliation, suffering and death (Luke 23:33-43) be the lectionary passage for this special day we celebrate his kingship? What does this teach us about Jesus, “The King of the Jews”?

**Join us this Sunday for one worship service at 10am** or online at [www.gracepc.org](http://www.gracepc.org) as we worship God enthusiastically.

Your pastor and friend,  
*Tracey*





# Get Involved at Grace!

## Young Adults

Our next gathering will be a Friendsgiving on Sunday, November 20, at 12pm at the Moreland's home: 1805 Belgium Drive Plano, TX 75025. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We really hope you will join us for this wonderful fellowship event.

Interested in learning more about the Young Adult Ministry at Grace? Please contact Pastor Wilson at 469-429-6809 [wilson@gracepc.org](mailto:wilson@gracepc.org) or text or call Bonnie Moreland at 972-523-1266.

## Sounds of Christmas - Dec. 4

Mark your calendar for the 2022 Sounds of Christmas Concert at Grace on Sunday, December 4 at 6:00pm! Come experience joyous music celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, featuring the Gloria by Vivaldi, presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Festival Singers. There will also be old and new favorites with many areas of the GPC Music Ministry represented, including children's choir, the Exultation Youth Choir, Credo Handbell Choir, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir, and Festival Singers.

## Women of Grace Christmas Party

The annual Women of Grace Christmas party will be held at the home of Melinda Shiff on Monday, Dec. 5, at 7PM! All of the women at Grace are invited to this evening of food, fun, and fellowship. To help in the planning, please RSVP on your Connection Card and let us know you are coming. Carpooling is recommended due to limited parking. Melinda's address is: 4620 Southwick Drive, Plano, TX 75093 (If you forget to RSVP, or plans change, please know that you are always welcome.)





## Mission Updates

### Family Gateway

Please sign up below to adopt a family from Family Gateway this Christmas. We have families of all sizes. The large families may be adopted by a group of people, but please arrange to bag it all up in advance of delivery. After you sign up, Ann or Brad Boles will email you a family information sheet with a family's wish list, the directions page, and a sheet of labels. You are asked to purchase three or more gifts for each child on the list that is under 12. For children over 12, please purchase two or more gifts and a \$25 Walmart gift card. For the adults, please purchase a \$25 Walmart gift card. The gifts can be dropped off at Grace Presbyterian Church during business hours starting December 5th. There will be a truck ready to collect gifts in the east parking lot of GPC on Saturday, December 17th from 9:00-11:00am. All gifts must be dropped off by 11:00am on December 17th! If you have special requests, such as age of child(ren), you may indicate that in the comments and we will do our best to accommodate them. If you have further questions, please contact Ann Boles at 972-898-3405 or [ann.boles@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.boles@yahoo.com). For more information about Family Gateway, please visit their website at <http://www.familygateway.org>. Adoption Directions: <https://tinyurl.com/2p95xd2p>

### Family Promise

The next Family Promise hosting week for GPC is 12/18-12/24! We are looking for volunteers to provide and/or deliver meals for 3 families on M/W/F (Dec 19th, 21st, and 23rd). **Note: We have drivers willing to deliver food to Allen/Lucas if needed.** Check your connection card if you are willing to provide a meal for one of the above three dates. Contact Diana Sparacin at [dmsparacin@gmail.com](mailto:dmsparacin@gmail.com) for additional details or questions.

### Blood Drive

Give the gift of life this Christmas! Grace is hosting a Blood Drive on December 11 in the CE building. If you are interested in donating, check your connection card. Sign-ups will be possible at the Mission table in the narthex starting Sunday 11/27. If you have been deferred for a donation in the past try to sign-up again. Many deferrals are due to past travel and may no longer be a barrier. Contact Susan Hopper on CCB for details.





## **Christian Formation Committees**

Christian Formation is restructuring! If you have a passion for growing faith children, youth, young adults, or adults consider serving on either the Children/Youth Committee or the Young Adult/Adult Committee. Or maybe you like to feed people and plan parties, then consider joining the newly formed Fellowship Committee. Check your connection card on Sunday to be a part of one of these new serving opportunities.

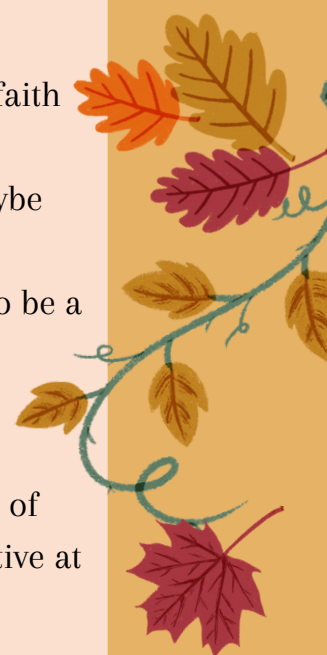
## **Testimony HQ**

We have good news! Our church is one of eight within a 350-mile radius of Dallas to be selected for Testimony HQ, a Lilly Endowment-funded initiative at SMU Perkins School of Theology. The purpose of this initiative is to help congregations thrive through the practice of testimony as community engagement. Our congregation will commit 2023 to learning effective ways to give our testimony and thus engage with our community. We will receive up to \$5000 in grant funding to support our efforts, and we will be visited early in 2023 by a Perkins team member who will introduce the aims and purpose of testimony as community engagement.

The first thing we have been asked to do is for everyone 13 years or older to complete a survey about our church. This survey will provide important information about who we are as a congregation before we begin the grant work. The deadline for completing this survey is December 2. THQ is an exciting project for us, and I hope you will join me in completing this survey! The link is in your newsletter email.

## **Concert Bells of Ft. Worth Christmas Concert**

The Concert Bells of Fort Worth will present their Christmas concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 17, at 2pm. The group is directed by Stephanie Rhoades. The concert is free – a love offering will be collected. Please make plans to attend!



## Care at Grace

Each one of us faces moments when we need the strength and support of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Whether you are undergoing a difficult surgical procedure or dealing with a complex medical diagnosis, if you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care, our pastoral staff and care ministries at Grace PC would like to know. We'd love the opportunity to visit you, talk with you, and pray with you during times of difficulty. One of the easiest ways to let pastors and those involved in care ministries know that you or a loved one needs pastoral care is to fill out a Prayer Request online at <https://www.gracepc.org/sign-ups/>. Click Prayer Request and a form should pop-up in a new window. If you would like to keep your situation private, be sure to select Yes under Confidential? in the form. Additionally, if the church office is closed you may call 469-626-8606. This is our new Grace PC phone number designated specifically for pastoral care. If you forget the new number, just dial our main number for Grace Presbyterian Church (972-596-6233) and listen to the main greeting for the pastoral care line. We pray for the very best for each of you, but should you end up needing the help of our community, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## ESL Celebration

On Wednesday, November 16, the ESL program celebrated the completion of the fall semester. It was a privilege to serve over 25 students from 12+ countries. The spring semester will begin February 1. Many thanks to Grace members who graciously gave their time and talent to this meaningful ministry.





We all want our Christmas to be a lot of things. Full of joy. Memories. Happiness. Above all, we want it to be about Jesus. What we don't want is stress. Or debt. Or feeling like we "missed the moment". Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to help us all slow down and experience a Christmas worth remembering. But doing this means doing things a little differently. A little creatively. **It means turning Christmas upside down with** Advent Conspiracy.

A conspiracy is "a collaboration in bringing about a given result." **Advent Conspiracy** is the conspiracy three churches began a decade ago and has since grown to an international movement to love others in life-changing ways, because of the One born in Bethlehem.



#### **WORSHIP FULLY November 27**

Christmas marks the moment where God's promise was fulfilled and love took form, tiny fingers and all. It is a moment that deserves our full attention and praise. Worship Fully is the first tenet in this conspiracy because we believe the level of our involvement at Christmas is based entirely on how much we are celebrating Christ's birth. He deserves celebration; one that is creative and directs every heart His way.



#### **SPEND LESS December 4**

What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Truth is many of us don't because it wasn't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending Less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.





### **GIVE MORE December 11**

I know what you're thinking. "Wait, didn't she just say I should spend less, and yet here she is telling me to give more? What gives?" The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus. So what does this look like for you? Tickets to a ball game or the theater? A movie night? The main point is simple: time with someone is often the best gift of all.



### **LOVE ALL December 18**

It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help.

Join us for **Advent Conspiracy** beginning Sunday November 27th. Books are available in the Narthex. The suggested donation is \$10 cash, by check made out to GPC with Adult Ed in the memo line, or online under the GIVE tab, designated to Adult Education.

## **Everything Else**

### **Building Use**

As a reminder, if you would like to use our building, we request that you contact Kris Turner at [kris@gracepc.org](mailto:kris@gracepc.org) or at 469-429-6804 to verify availability, and to have the event added to the church calendar.

### **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](http://gracepc.org), and click on the Sanctuary flower box.





# Children's Ministry Updates



Families of preschool and elementary school aged children mark your Calendars for Sunday, November 27th. We will be making our family Advent wreaths during the Education hour at 10am. Even if your child does not normally attend Sunday School, please feel free to come and make an Advent wreath. For questions, contact Pastor Cara at [cara@gracepc.org](mailto:cara@gracepc.org)

## Text for Children's Information

If you would like to receive our weekly children's communications, text @gpc-kids to the number 81010 and get connected and informed about upcoming children's events.

# Youth Ministry Updates

## Youth Live

- 5:15-5:30 Snacks
- 5:30-6:30PM Youth group
- No Youth Live Nov. 20th
- Nov 27th- Youth Live Service Project, 5:15-6:30
- No Youth Live Dec 4th or 11th
- Youth Christmas Party Dec 18th, 5-7pm at GPC

## 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.



# Want to Learn?

## Children's 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 - Kindergarten SS.	CE210
1st - 3rd grade SS.	CE214
4th - 5th grade SS	CE216
Godly Play	CE213
<i>Godly Play Worship Center)</i>	

## Adult Sunday School

Grace currently has 5 adult Sunday classes meeting onsite. Classes begin at 10AM in the following rooms:

Trinity	MB2
Word of Life	MB4
Visions of Faith	MB3
Bible Boomers	Wheelus Hall
Koinonia	CE204/205

The first 4 classes above are multi-generational. Koinonia is a class for young adults and families.

## Youth Sunday School Schedule

Middle School SS	CE203
High School SS	CE200
For questions contact Pastor Cara at <a href="mailto:cara@gracepc.org">cara@gracepc.org</a> .	

## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

M/W mixed, 2-3:30PM	Zoom
meeting id: 858 0155 4559, password: 775494	
Mon. Blue Angels, 12PM	MB4
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 Generations of Grace 7-9PM	MB2
Fri. AM Men's, 7-8AM	MB4
Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study 8-10AM	MB4





# Want to Sing or Ring?

The GPC Music Ministry rehearsal schedule is below.

Please consider joining us!

## Choirs

### Sanctuary Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Exultation Choir

Youth choir for grades 6 – 12

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Voices in Praise (VIPs)

Children's choir for grades 2 – 5

Sundays, 5:15 – 6pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

### Cherub Choir

Children's choir for PK thru 1st gd.

Sundays, 4:30 – 5pm,

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

## Handbells

### Grace Notes

Advanced adult handbells

Sundays, 6:00 – 7:15pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Tintinnabulators

Middle school handbells

Sundays, 3:00 – 4:00pm

Room CE204-205

Hannah Allen, Director

### Credo

High school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

### Carillon Ringers

Children (Grades 3-5) handbells

Sundays, 4:30 – 5:15pm

Room CE 204/205

Michelle Rutherford, 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 (MS handbells)

[hannah@gracepc.org](mailto:hannah@gracepc.org)

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir

[michael@gracepc.org](mailto:michael@gracepc.org)

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director (HS handbells)

[katie.schnittker@gmail.com](mailto:katie.schnittker@gmail.com)

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director (Children handbells)

[mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net)





# Calendar



## NOVEMBER

- 19 Men's Sat. AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 19 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Youth Room)
- 20 Combined Worship, 10AM
- 20 Godly Play, 10:15AM, Godly Play Worship Center (CE213)
- 20 Prayer Team Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 21 Cancer Support Group, 12PM (Zoom)
- 21 The Journey Group, 6:30PM (MB3)
- 21 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 22 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 22 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM (Sanctuary)
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 27 1st Sunday of Advent
- 27 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 27 Children's & Youth SS, 10AM (2nd floor of CE bldg.)
- 27 Trinity SS, 10AM (MB2)
- 27 Visions of Faith SS, 10AM (MB3)
- 27 Bible Boomers SS, 10AM (Wheelus Hall)
- 27 Word of Life SS, 10AM (MB4)
- 27 Koinonia SS, 10AM (CE204/205)
- 27 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 27 Godly Play, 11:15AM (Godly Play Worship Center, (CE213))
- 27 Credo Rehearsal, 2:35PM (Sanctuary)
- 27 Tintinnabulators Rehearsal, 2:45PM (CE204/205)
- 27 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
- 27 Prayer Team Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 27 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE204/205)
- 27 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE210)
- 27 Voices in Praise Choir Rehearsal, 5:15PM (CE210)
- 27 Youth Live, 5:15PM (Youth Room)
- 27 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 6PM (Sanctuary)

