

GRACE NEWS

MARCH 19 | 2023

Dear Grace Family,

We are now in the heart of the Lenten season. This Sunday we will look at the fifth lesson from *Meeting Jesus at the Table* titled "Empty Chairs at the Table." The lesson is based on Luke 14:15-24 when Jesus tells the parable of the great banquet. In the parable Jesus shares the story of a man who is preparing a great banquet and invites many guests. However, the invited guests make all sorts of excuses and turn his invitation down. The man, angered by all of the excuses made by the invitees to share in this exquisite meal, reacts by sending his servant into the streets and alleys to invite those cast out by the rest of society instead so that his house is full.

It makes me wonder; how often do we turn down opportunities to share in Christ's invitational love? Do we ever make excuses? Or what do we do about those who reject our invitations into this beloved community? What holds them back? Is it us? And even more complicated, what do we do about the chairs left empty at the table because of loss and separation? Join us this Sunday at 9 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. as we examine this multifaceted text and explore the ways it helps us understand our faith as Christians today.

Grace and peace,
Wilson

Get Involved at Grace!

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday Services	9 & 11:05 am
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday Dinner Service	6:30 pm
Friday, April 7	Good Friday Service	7:30 pm
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday Services	9 & 11:05 am

Maundy Thursday Dinner Worship – April 6 – 6:30pm

On the night before he died, Jesus shared dinner with his friends. The purpose was to remember God's mighty act of leading Israel out of slavery and into freedom. At that meal, Jesus announced the new covenant given in his body and sealed by his blood. Our Christian identity is formed around this covenant table.

As we gather to enact this sacred meal on the night before he died, we will gather for a seated dinner as part of our worship. Maundy Thursday dinner will be **by RSVP only**. **This Sunday is the last chance to RSVP** for the dinner service, so check the box on your connection card or RSVP with the link in this email and join us as we **Meet Jesus at the Table**.

Calling all Gardeners!

Mark your calendars on Saturday, March 25, for an outdoor property workday to clean up and prepare our property for Easter! We will be raking, pruning, and planting our beds, and we will have a crew picking up trash around our building and helping carry items to the dumpster. Snacks and water will be provided. Check your connection card and let us know you plan to participate.

All are Invited!

Hannah Allen, our Children's Music Director, will be giving her conducting recital on Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 pm in Caruth Auditorium at SMU. Everyone is invited to come support Hannah and enjoy some great music!

Grace Live Silent Auction Donations

The Grace Live Committee is currently soliciting donations of NEW items, or services for the silent auction. Last call!!! If you have something to donate, please check your connection card, and someone will reach out to you.

Grief Group

The Grief Group at Grace has now been helping people for over 10 years and we will be starting our next group on April 11. 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 bruncorsbest@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/>

VBS Donations

VBS IS COMING! This year for VBS, Grace PC is asking for gift card donations from Hobby Lobby, Walmart, Michaels, or Amazon. If you would like to donate a gift card to help purchase materials for VBS please stop by the VBS donation board on the east brick wall in the Narthex. For questions, contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org.

Easter Egg Hunt - Sat., April 1

Grace is hosting our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1st, from 10-11am**. Bring your children, grandchildren, and friends for storytelling, cookie decorating, crafts, a petting zoo, and the egg hunt!

If you would like to help with the egg hunt, or provide unfrosted sugar cookies for the decorating, please check your connection card on Sunday and drop it in the offering plate.

Grace Live

Grace Live: A New York State of Mind will take place on Saturday, March 25th here at GPC. The night begins with the silent auction opening at 5:30pm.



The show starts promptly at 7:00pm with the silent auction continuing during intermission. We will also have our always popular live auction as well. Complimentary refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

We have some wonderful items and services in our auction. There are restaurant gift cards, hotel packages, and certificates for all kinds of services. From home décor items to scarves and socks there is something for everyone.

Our live auction items include the ever-popular GPC Reserved Parking Space, four tickets any Monday – Thursday Dallas Mavericks game in November (2023), dinner for 20 people hosted by the Davenports, Michael King, and the Boles, and weeklong stay in a beautiful condo in Gulf Shores, Alabama donated by Cathy and Warren McLaughlin.

Tickets will be on sale this Sunday in the narthex before and after our worship services as well as in the church office during the week. Prices are as follows:

Advance purchase: \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students (Kindergarten through 12th grade)

Purchase the night of the event: \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students

Reserved seating: \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students

There will childcare available by reservation.

This year's Exultation's mission tour will be going to Philadelphia and New York City. They will be ministering to others at a variety of venues and serving through different mission opportunities along the way. All proceeds from the evening help to offset the cost of their tour.

If you would like to donate a NEW item or service to our auction, please contact Teri Waite (teriwaite85@gmail.com or 214-435-9487). She will be happy to help you!

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 25th at Grace Live: A New York State of Mind.

Mission Updates

Our next Afghani refugee family, the Alami family, arrived from Qatar last Monday night. The Alami's have 8 children, so the mission committee is grateful for any help they can get. If you are willing to volunteer, please email Bill Burnett at bill.burnett@outlook.com, and he can let you know of the opportunities for service. You may also check your connection card during worship and drop it in the offering plate.

Pilgrimage #49, May 4-7, Camp Gilmont

A Pilgrimage weekend is three days long, but lasts a lifetime!

The three-day weekend is a purposefully-designed method for renewing the faith of individuals. Activities throughout the weekend provide opportunities for participants to discover a new and exciting relationship with Christ.

Enjoy discipleship, fellowship, music, small group discussions and joyful experiences shared with Christian brothers and sisters.

The purpose of Pilgrimage is for the participants to discover a new and exciting relationship with Christ and to encourage them to take this new-found relationship back to their home. It challenges and equips each local church member for Christian action in their local church, in their home, in their place of work and in their community.

If you feel called to enrich your faith, or to take the next step in your relationship with Christ, sign up to attend a Pilgrimage weekend!

Our own David Hurwich is the moderator of NTPP #49, and many Grace friends will be staffing the weekend, including Pastor Tracey!

If you would like more information, check your connection card in your bulletin, or click on the ntpp.org website link in your newsletter email.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who signed up to host our Lenten dinners. The reports have been glowing with everyone reporting they have had a wonderful time getting to know new friends.



And, thank you for everyone who signed up and stepped out in faith and ate with friends, acquaintances, and possibly strangers. We hope everyone felt that they met Jesus at the table.

The Session wishes to thank Robert Hopper for his ministry at Grace PC. He is a fantastic head usher. He is a vital part of being a church of Radical Welcome and Enthusiastic Worship. May God bless you abundantly, Robert!

Everything Else

Building Use

As a reminder, if you would like to use our building, you are required to contact Kris Turner at 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, and click on the Sanctuary flower box.

New Member

Kelly Nichols is our newest Grace member! Kelly is married to Austin Nichols. If you see Kelly at Grace, please reach out with a friendly hello and welcome.

Young Adult Ministry Updates

Looking forward to an exciting Spring and fun activities with the GPC Young Adults. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us for fun, food and fellowship.

This Sunday, March 19 – Lunch & Bowling at Pinstack in Plano at 12:30.
6205 Dallas Pkwy, Plano, TX 75024 More details to come.

April 2 – Lunch and Pickle Ball at Chicken & Pickle in Grapevine at 1:30.
More details to come

If you plan on attending any or all of the scheduled events or are interested in more information about the Young Adult Ministry, please contact Bonnie Moreland at 972-523-1266.

Children's Ministry Updates

Tonight, March 17th – Movie Night @ GPC, 6:30-8:30pm - Wear your PJs and come watch the Disney movie Luca, with friends!

Saturday, April 1st, Easter Egg Hunt, 10am-11am

Save the Date – VBS/SMACK, June 26th-30th!

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

THIS SATURDAY, March 18th – 9:30am-12:30pm – Interfaith Field Trip and Fun! Students will meet at GPC at 9:30am. We will go visit a mosque and following the mosque visit we will go have fun at Freeplay Arcade (1730 E Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX 75081). Cost is \$11. If you would like to prepay using a credit card, click on the newsletter email link to the form, otherwise have your youth bring cash to the event.

There will be no guy's group or Youth Live on Sunday, March 19th.

March 26th - No Youth Live! - Sabbath time after Grace Live!

April 2nd – Normal Sunday Afternoon Schedule, Guys Group and Youth Live @ 5:15pm.

April 9th - No Youth Live! – Happy Easter!

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 - K SS	CE211
1st - 3rd grade SS	CE214
4th - 5th grade SS	CE216
Godly Play	CE213

(Godly Play Worship

Center)

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

MS/HS SS	CE203
Confirmation Class	CE200

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

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Mon. Blue Angels, 12PM	MB2
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

Voices in Praise (VIPs)
Children's choir for grades 2 – 5
Sundays, 5:15 – 6pm
Room CE215
Hannah Allen, Director

Exultation Choir
Youth choir for grades 6 – 12
Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm
Sanctuary
Michael King, 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

Credo
High school handbells
Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm
Room: Sanctuary
Katie Schnittker, Director

Tintinnabulators
Middle school handbells
Sundays, 3:00 – 4:00pm
Room CE204-205
Hannah Allen, 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

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir
michael@gracepc.org

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director (HS handbells)
katie.schnittker@gmail.com

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director (Children handbells)
mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net

Calendar

MARCH

- 17 Children's Movie Night, 6:30PM, (Youth Room)
- 18 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 18 Youth Interfaith Field Trip & Fun, 9:30AM
- 18 Game Night, 6:30PM (Youth Room)
- 19 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 19 Children's & Youth SS, 10AM
- 19 Trinity SS, 10AM (MB2)
- 19 Visions of Faith SS, 10AM (MB3)
- 19 Bible Boomers SS, 10AM (Wheelus Hall)
- 19 Word of Life SS, 10AM (MB4)
- 19 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 19 Godly Play, 11:15AM (Godly Play Worship Center)
- 19 Credo Rehearsal, 2:35PM (Sanctuary)
- 19 Tintinnabulators Rehearsal, 2:45PM (CE204/205)
- 19 Exultation Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
- 19 Prayer Team Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 19 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE204/205)
- 19 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE210)
- 19 Voices in Praise Choir Rehearsal, 5:15PM (CE210)
- 19 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 6PM (Sanctuary)
- 20 Blue Angels Bible Study, 11AM (MB2)
- 20 Cancer Support Group, 12PM (Zoom)
- 20 The Journey, 6:30PM (MB3)
- 20 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 21 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 21 Property Committee Meeting, 7PM (Workroom)
- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, 7PM ((MB2)
- 21 Worship & Music Committee Meeting, 7PM (MB4)
- 22 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB2)
- 22 ESL, 5:15PM
- 22 Citizenship Class, 6:30PM
- 22 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM (Sanctuary)
- 23 Generations of Grace Women's Bible Study, 7PM (MB3)
- 23 Stephen Ministry Peer Support Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 23 Men's Pilgrimage Renewal, 7PM
- 24 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 7AM (MB2)
- 25 Pilgrimage #49 Training
- 25 Grace Live, 5:30PM - auction, 7PM - Show