

GRACE NEWS



April 21 | 2024

Grace members and friends,

I turned on the television on Monday evening to listen to the news while I cooked, and the following commercial came on:

Are you going nowhere? Unable to move forward in life? Or in love? Talk to California Psychics. Our trusted psychics can give you the guidance you need to see things clearly. Our guarantee: if it's not life-changing, it's free! Experience the joy of certainty. California Psychics.

Is this what humans want or need? A path forward? Guidance with clarity? The joy of certainty? Yes, it is. But are California Psychics the ones to deliver? I don't think so. They do not know enough to help us find the right path. They have no desire to be present with us during our darkest days. And even if they can offer us a level of certainty about the future, is that what really leads to joy?

Here's a better choice: Follow the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18). He knows everything we need. He will stay with us in good times and in more difficult ones, guarding and guiding us all the way. He loves us enough to lay down his life for us. It is his goodness and mercy that fill our lives with joy.

Join us this Sunday at 9 and 11:05am as we celebrate that we have a Good Shepherd!

Your pastor and friend,

Tracey



He is not here; He has risen

MATTHEW 28:6

Presbyterianism 101 Short-Term Study - April 29

Beginning in April, Grace PC will host a short-term study focused on what we believe as Presbyterians. The study will begin on **Monday, April 29th** and will continue over the course of the following three Monday nights (**5/6, 5/13, 5/20**) at **7 p.m. in Wheelus Hall**. In the study we will cover some of the basics of Reformed theology, worship, and Presbyterian polity. The study is sponsored by our GPC Christian Formation Committee for Adults/Young Adults. All are invited to attend, so we hope you will join us as we learn, study, and gather together. For any questions about the study, you may contact Pastor Wilson at wilson@gracepc.org.

Pilgrimage - May 3-5

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!

NTPP #51, held at Camp Gilmont is right around the corner, and many Grace friends will be staffing the weekend, including Pastor Tracey! The weekend has been shortened, and begins at noon on Friday, May 3, and concludes around 3PM on Sunday, May 5.

If you would like more information click on the ntpp.org website link in your newsletter email.

Property Workday at Grace Place - May 4

Your property committee has planned a property workday for Grace Place. We will remove dead or dying plants from beds, trim the shrubs, cut back the azaleas, and plant new native Texas shrubs and plants. If you are able to help, please check your connection card on Sunday.

Beaty Early Childhood School Opportunities - May 6-10

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th – 10th. We would love to shower the Beaty Early Childhood School teachers with love and are planning different appreciation events each day. If you would like to donate an item for teacher appreciation week or donate your time to help at these events, please check your Connection Card on Sunday morning or e-mail Kelly Raaum at kraaum@tx.rr.com, using the email link in your newsletter email.

Graduating Senior Information!

Graduation is coming up and we could love to celebrate all the graduating seniors (HS, College, and graduate school) on **Senior Recognition Sunday on June 2nd**. To help us honor your senior, please fill out the graduating senior information form online, found in the links section of your newsletter email, and send a photo of your graduate to Kris Turner at kris@gracepc.org by May 20th. If your student would like to participate in the leadership of worship please contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org.

GPC awards several 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, click on the Tobermann scholarship link in your newsletter email. The deadline is May 10th.

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Men's Breakfast - April 27

Men of Grace, we have an exciting opportunity for you coming up in April. Our men are gathering in Wheelus Hall for fellowship and breakfast on Saturday morning, April 27 at 8:30-10am. The keynote speaker for the event is Robert Borelli and his message is "From Mafia to Ministry".

Robert Borelli was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, in the middle of the Gambino Crime Family neighborhood. As a young boy he quickly built a reputation as a little tough guy. Surrounded by real tough guys he began working for The Gambino's by fourteen. By twenty he had two murder wraps and numerous arrests under his belt. He was being paraded around the neighborhood as the up and coming star of the feared Gambino Family, the same family which John Gotti would eventually bring into the main stream media and make a household name.

Over the next twenty-two years Robert fell hard into the mafioso lifestyle which involved money, crime, and drug addiction. In 1997, as a forty-four-year-old man, he found himself in jail, looking to serve ten to twenty years. With over 130 criminal charges against his name it was obvious he had become a career criminal. With no help from the Mob, or his friends life seemed hopeless.

Little did he know his story had just begun. In jail Robert found redemption and a second chance. He discovered truth, faith and purpose like nothing he had ever experienced before. With a new outlook, on life, for the first time he decided to do right instead of wrong, to love instead of hate, to serve instead of take.

From there, Robert spent time studying the Word of God at both Criswell College and Christ for the Nations Institute. He gained some intense formal education in his newfound faith.

His story baffles the mind and intrigues the hearts of all who hear it.

His passion and calling is to share his story as a preventive to those who are in similar situations, and encourage each of us to find the Truth about who we really are.

Today, as he tours around the world, he candidly, emotionally and passionately shares his life story with all who will listen.

There is no cost for this event, but a love offering will be taken. Please check your connection card or reply with the email link if you are planning to attend.

ESL Celebration - May 8

Come and join us for the “end of class” ESL celebration on Wed. May 8th, 5:30-6:30pm in Wheelus Hall.

During our Vision 2030 presentation, we discussed welcoming everyone. This is our opportunity to show our love to these wonderful ESL students.

If you’ve ever participated in a “multi cultural” night, that’s what this end of class celebration is.

If you feel called to host a country table, please use the link in your newsletter email to register for a country. What’s required for hosting a table you may ask?

- Decorate a table appropriate to your country
- Perhaps have a poster board of some fun facts about your country
- A food dish or 2 from your country - could be desert, candy, cookies, a well known dish, etc.

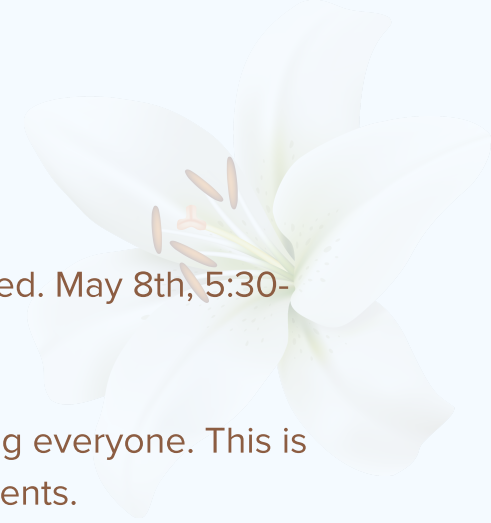
Who doesn’t love sampling food from around the world?

You DO NOT need to host a table - if you want to come and enjoy the celebration...come on down for delightful food and conversation from around the world! The main point- that we shower our love on these students.

Please contact Eunice Pribadi (eunicesantoso@gmail.com) or David Hurwich (dahurwich@gmail.com) for questions or for more information.

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Mission Updates

Blood Drive: The Carter Blood Mobile will be at Grace Sunday morning this Sunday, April 21st. Walk-ins are accepted, and encouraged.

Minnie's Food Pantry: Our next Minnie's workday is Saturday May 4th. See your connection card if you can join us for the event. As a lead up to the workday we're preparing Toiletry Bags - you don't have to sign up for the event to bring the bags. The bags (see image) should contain:

- Travel Shampoo
- Travel Conditioner
- Travel Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Travel Body Wash
- Travel Deodorant



Prepared bags can be left on the table designated in the Narthex. Minnie's is also out of peanut butter - which can be left on the same table.

Prayers are being Answered!

Your Prayer Team meets every Sunday in MB2 to pray over the prayers that have been shared with us. We meet at 4 PM, if you would like to have personal hands-on prayer, or wish to join us. If you would like to receive a list of the prayers weekly, send a message to Mike Shaw at broncosrbest@verizon.net to be added to our efforts to connect to the Lord and the community. Every week, God responds and answers. Here is a God answered this past week:

- Stephen Glover's knee surgery was a success.
- Peter and Emilie Klingman are well on their way to welcoming a baby girl to their family.
- Laurie Shaw continues to exceed expectations on her healing from hip surgery.

Children's Ministry Update

VBS & SMACK Registration Is Open!

VBS and SMACK registrations opened last Tuesday, April 2nd to all GPC family and friends! Make sure to sign up early because spots fill up quickly! VBS is June 24th-28th from 9am-12pm with an option to have your child stay until 2pm. SMACK is July 8th – 12th from 9am-2pm. Sign-up online at gracepc.org! If you would like to volunteer for either event please check your connection card or reach out to Pastor Cara (cara@gracepc.org) for VBS or Hannah Allen (hannah@gracepc.org) for SMACK!

Young Adults

The Young Adults will meet this Sunday, April 21, for brunch at 12:15 p.m. at CAVA, 1901 Preston Road, Plano, TX. Please join us. Friends and visitors are always welcome.

If you are interested in learning more about the Young Adult Ministry, please contact Bonnie Moreland at 972-523-1266 or Wilson Nicholson at wilson@gpc.org.

Youth Updates

- **April 21st** - Faith Questions: Relationships Small Group Study: "What kind of people does God want me to be around?", 5:15pm - 6:00pm in Youth Room. Snacks Provided.
- **April 28th** - Confirmation Sunday!
- **May 5th** - Cinco De Mayo Party, 5:15-6:30pm. Youth Room.
- **May 12th** - Happy Mother's Day! We will have Sunday School at 10am!
- **May 19th** - Field Trip to Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. 10am - 3pm. Cost \$8. RSVP Deadline April 20th. Sign up at Your paragraph text

Thank You's

Our children had a great time in the piney woods of Camp Gilmont at Kidquake last weekend. Thank you to Pastor Cara and Caroline Werner for taking our kids on this retreat to grow closer to God and each other.



VBS Supplies Needed

VBS is coming and we need your help! One of the ways that VBS runs so smoothly is because of the generous donations of both time and money that we receive from the congregation. If you would like to donate your time, please contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org or check your connection card. If you would like to donate financially to VBS, we are asking for donations of gift cards in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100 from Walmart, Michael's, Amazon, or Home Depot. Please grab a slip of paper from the VBS donation board in the Narthex for the gift card you would like to donate. You may drop off the gift cards in any of the brown donation boxes in the Sanctuary or outside of Kris Turner's office, or you may leave them in Pastor Cara's mailbox. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Want to Sing or Ring?

The GPC Music Ministry's school year rehearsal schedule is below.

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, 4:15 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

Handbell Choirs

Grace Notes

Advanced adult handbells

Sundays, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

Credo

High school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

Tintinnabulators

Middle school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 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

Want to Learn?

Children's School Year Sunday School 10AM

Preschool SS	CE211
K-1st SS	CE214
2nd-3rd SS	CE212
4th-5th SS	CE216

Youth School Year Sunday School Schedule 10AM

Middle School SS	CE201-203
High School SS	CE201-203
Confirmation	CE200

Godly Play Schedule

11:15AM

Godly Play	CE213
(Godly Play Worship Center)	

Adult Sunday School - 10AM

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

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM	MB4
Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM	Wheelus Hall
Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM	MB4
Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM	MB4
Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 7-9AM	MB2
Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM	MB2

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MATTHEW 28:6

Calendar

APRIL

- 20 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 20 Troop 999 Carwash, 10AM-2PM
- 20 Women of Grace Spring Luncheon, 12PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 20 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Youth Room)
- 21 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 21 Sunday School for All, 10AM
- 21 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 21 Godly Play, 11:05AM (CE213, Godly Play Worship Center)
- 21 Credo Bell Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 21 Tintinnabulators Bell Rehearsal, 2:45PM (CE204/205)
- 21 Exultation Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
- 21 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 21 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4:15PM (CE215)
- 21 Carillon Ringers Bell Rehearsal, 4:30PM (CE204/205)
- 21 Voices in Praise Choir Rehearsal, 5:15PM (CE215)
- 21 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 6PM (Sanctuary)
- 22 Blue Angels Bible Study, 12PM (MB2)
- 22 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 23 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (Wheelus Hall)
- 23 Grief Group, 7PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 23 Finance Committee Meeting, 7PM (MB2)
- 24 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 24 ESL & Citizenship Class, 5:30PM
- 24 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 25 Children & Youth Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 25 Generations of Grace Women's Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 26 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 26 Jigsaw Puzzle Group Meeting, (CE204/205)
- 27 Men's Breakfast, 8AM (Wheelus Hall)
- 27 UTD Concert, 7:30PM

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