



GRACE NEWS

August 11 | 2024

Grace members and friends,

This week's *Let's Talk About It* subject is children. Are children really a controversial subject? Yes, they are. From parenting styles to behavior expectations, from diet and discipline to privileges and responsibilities, there is a divide among each generation of parents and between generations of parents on how to raise them.

In the church, there is a wide array of opinions about children, especially when it comes to their presence in the worship service. I have arrived at churches that said out loud, "Children should be seen and not heard, and rarely seen." I have witnessed members glare at the parents of a newborn when they made any sort of noise or were harsh with preschoolers who acted like preschoolers. I know of churches that keep children out of worship all together and instead, opt for their entertainment, like their faith is not important. These make me incredibly sad because I know what Jesus says about children and about how we adults compare in terms of faith (Mark 10:13-16).

Join us this Sunday at 10am as we worship God enthusiastically and think more about including these little ones who so very precious in Jesus' sight.

Your pastor and friend,

Tracey





Summer Preaching Schedule

August 18 Let's Talk About Judging Others
August 25 Let's Talk About Suffering
September 1 Let's Talk About Jesus the Only Way

Upcoming Worship Schedules

Our summer worship schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1.
Beginning on Sept. 8, we will return to a school year worship schedule of:

9AM contemporary worship
10AM Sunday school
11:05AM traditional worship

Our new organist Dr. Julia Lee begins with us this Sunday!

Julia has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from UNT, majoring in organ and minoring in music theory. She has studied all over the world in South Korea, London, France, Canada and the Netherlands. She has played for operas and symphonies and has been playing in church worship services since 1999. Please welcome her to our Grace PC family!

Festival Singers Now Forming!

Do you have any interest in singing for special events and concerts? Join Festival Singers! Rehearsals begin soon – click on the email link below to contact Michael King (michael@gracepc.org) for more info.





Get Involved at Grace

Minnie's Food Pantry Thanksgiving Collection - August

Our mission ministry is sponsoring a food collection for Minnie's Food Pantry during the month of August. We are asked to provide items for their Thanksgiving Giveaway bags. Please bring box stuffing and box potatoes and leave it on the table in the narthex by the Minnie's Donation sign.

Blue Angels Study Group - Aug. 12 at Noon

We begin our Fall semester with a study on The Theology of Humor. Get ready for lots of laughter! We will then tackle The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis. Bring a lunch and join us at noon beginning this Monday in room MB2.

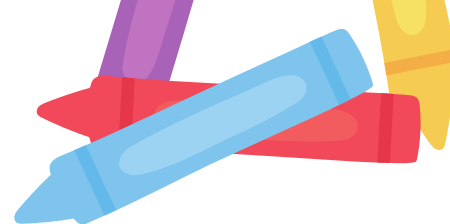
Spice of Life Lunch - Aug. 14 at Noon

Everyone (50+) are invited to the monthly Spice of Life luncheon. Held in Wheelus Hall, we gather each month for wonderful food and fellowship. The Spice of Life team provides the entree and at least one side, and friends are asked to bring a dish to share. This Wednesday, August 14, our team will provide Chinese Chicken and Noodle Salad with rolls. Please bring your favorite side dish or a dessert to share. A love offering is collected each month to help offset the costs for the leadership team.

Weeknight Women Fellowship Group Dinner - Aug. 22

Ladies, the weeknight women's fellowship group is returning in August. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend our next dinner on Thursday, August 22 at Rise in Plano. RSVP by either checking your connection card in worship, or using the email link in your newsletter email.





Fantasy Football is Back! - Aug. 17 **(Last Week to Sign Up - Deadline Aug. 11)**

Cowboys fans, ready for another year of early exit playoffs? What better way to take your mind off the Cowboys than to sign up for GPC Fantasy Football! It is indeed that time already. We're kicking off the 2nd annual Grace PC Fantasy Football league. Any age is welcome.

- Cost will be \$10 a team, and we will use the ESPN fantasy app (will be collected at signup)
- Draft will be Saturday 8/17 in Wheelus Hall at 1pm. It will last roughly 2 hours
- We will gather at 12pm for a potluck lunch in Wheelus- what better way to have a tailgate!
- A laptop, tablet, or phone will be needed to draft, and, to manage your team during the season

Who's gonna be the Grace PC super bowl champ? It could be you- but you gotta sign up! Worried that you have no experience, are a total novice, and have never done this before? Don't be- Mary Erwin was in that EXACT boat last year, and just went for it anyway...and ended up winning one of the 4 leagues! This is a very friendly environment to give a shot. If nothing else- you'll have fun. Use the sign-up link in the newsletter email to register, or check your connection card and a signup form will be sent to you . If you have questions, or want your fears allayed, see David Hurwich, or send him an email at fun@gracepc.org





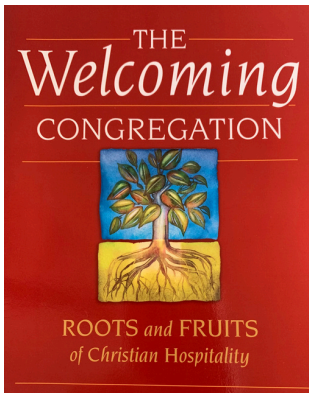
Grief Group - Sept. 24

The Grief Group at Grace has now been helping people for over 10 years and we will be starting our next group on Sept. 24. 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 or you may contact Mike Shaw at brncorsbest@verizon.net (469-223-6813) for more information. Module topics are shown on the webpage by selecting the link.

G3: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old - Sept. 6-8 at Mo-Ranch (near Kerrville, TX)

Aging brings challenges but also provides unique opportunities that must be seized and enjoyed! How can we make the years ahead something to look forward to? Parker Palmer's book *On the Brink of Everything* is the foundation for this conference led by Mahlon Hight, Director of Congregational Care and Senior Adult Ministry at Preston Hollow PC in Dallas. Click the G3 at Mo-Ranch link in this email to learn more.

Save the Date - New Book Study



Our Christian Formation committee is offering a new book study this fall. Beginning on Nov. 11 the group will begin a study on the book, *The Welcoming Congregation*. Stay tuned for sign up information.

Save the Date! - December 8 at 6PM

Mark your calendars now for the annual Sounds of Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8 at 6pm.





Stephen Ministry Training - Sept. 6

Stephen Ministry has been an integral part of the fabric of this congregation since 1985. When we became part of this new program, we were one of the first 100 in the world. There are now over 13,000 that have joined the effort to help others.

For those who wonder what Stephen Ministry is. One of the key phrases that best describe it what would be: "Christ caring for Christ's people through people." An individual is assigned to walk through a troubling time with you, in a confidential relationship weekly. This could be something temporary or more long term in nature.

It has been a while since we trained a group of new Stephen Ministers, and we want to open this up to anyone who might be interested in joining us. We will be training along side Corinth Presbyterian Church in Parker. Dena Dillard is a Stephen Leader with them.

Training will consist of Friday night, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th to begin. We will then meet for 10 consecutive Thursday nights at 7 PM. We would then conclude on Saturday, November 14th. We know this is a large commitment, but I would encourage anyone considering joining us to speak to anyone wearing a blue Stephen Ministry badge and see if they have found the training to be beneficial to them and their ministry to others.

You will get 2 workbooks and 3 books as part of the training materials. It costs you \$60 for the materials.

Mike Shaw would be happy to answer any questions you may have. There will be a sign-up on the Connection Card contact Mike at broncosrbest@verizon.net, if you are interested. We would love to have you join us in bringing Christ's love to those hurting among us.





Is God calling you to host a Foreign Exchange Student?

There is a young lady named Laura arriving in TX from Spain on 8/22 with the CIEE exchange program who is still in need of a host family. Laura does not yet have a specific school to attend and can attend her host family's home high school. She does not necessarily have to live in Plano.

Laura will be arriving on 8/22 and will stay for the 2024/2025 school year. We are in need of a welcome host for her who can give Laura a safe place to land until mid-October to allow us time to find a permanent host.

Laura is 16 years old and will be in 11th grade. She has a strong 3.9 GPA and has won a prestigious FAO scholarship through her country of Spain that is given to students who demonstrate strong academic skills, strong English, a desire for cultural exchange, and financial need.

Interests: dance (modern/jazz), pop music, movies, volleyball, painting/drawing

Hosting is a wonderful way to enrich the home of your family and your community while helping a young person achieve their dreams of an exchange in the United States.

Let Pastor Tracey know if you are interested. tracey@gracepc.org



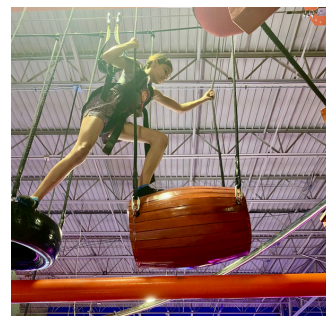
Prayers are being Answered!

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:

- Linda Jasper's mom is doing much better after finding out her hospital visit was not as bad as feared initially.

We Celebrate

We'd like to celebrate with you too! Please send us anything you are willing to share that will give us a reason to praise God with you and for you! Promotions, awards, accomplishments, personal victories, milestones, or "you name it" are welcome. Send them to Pastor Tracey at tracey@gracepc.org



Our incoming 6th graders were welcomed into youth group at their Jump Event.





Mission Updates

Mission is looking for additional groups to help restock the Little Free Pantry. Volume at the pantry has taken off and we are often seeing it near empty. Work involves checking the pantry in the west lot and refilling it from the Narthex/office storage. If you or your group wish to join our effort to alleviate hunger in the community and show the kindness and grace of our church, check your connection card.

GPC is collecting school supplies for Carpenter Middle School in Plano ISD. Carpenter is a Title One school, with about 2/3 of their students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. We will be only be collecting three items:

spiral notebooks (any size or color)
boxes of tissue
pencils

The deadline to bring all donations to GPC is this Sunday, August 11 so that they may be delivered by the first day of school. Please contact Ann Boles at ann.boles@yahoo.com or 972-898-3405 with any questions.

Your Grace Mission team is running monthly events through the Fall. Be on the lookout for details in the newsletter, connection card and Moment for Mission. Upcoming events are:

- A Minnie's food pantry food drive through August in support of their Thanksgiving Giveaway Extravaganza, ending in our Minnie's workday on Saturday September 7th
- The Family Promise Golf tournament on Monday September 30th.
- The Outreach Program (formerly Numana) meal packing event on Saturday October 5th
- Both the Family Promise Dinner of Hope and the PCHAS Fall Luncheon on Thursday November 7th.





Young Adults Ministry

Young adults - please mark your calendar for August 18 at 11:15am for brunch/lunch at Anaya's Seafood Scratch Kitchen, 4621 W. Park Blvd, Suite 100. Looking forward to reconnecting!

For questions about the Young Adult Ministry at Grace Presbyterian, please connect Bonnie Moreland at 972-523-1266 or Wilson Nicholson at wilson@gracepc.org.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Dinner - Aug. 11

When: Sunday, August 11th

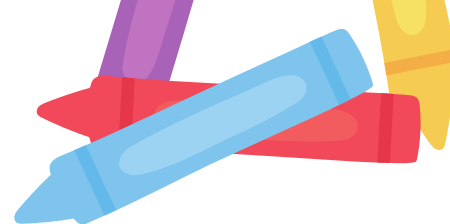
Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Who: Incoming 6th graders-12th graders

Come enjoy dinner and fellowship with other students! We will also be chalking the Dayschool and Beaty Early Childhood sidewalks to encourage the teachers for another school year.

Please contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org or Tanya Valenta at tanya@gracepc.org for questions or additional information.





Family Ministries

Sunday Morning Education Opportunities

Getting to Know Your Bible Class - Aug. 11

Families you are invited to a special “Getting to Know Your Bible Class” on August 11th from 11:15am-12:00pm. Children and parents will meet in 204/205. Youth and parents will meet in the Youth Room. We will have snacks, play games, and do other activities all while getting to know our Bibles a little better. Children and youth are invited to bring a bible with you to church on August 11th.

Stress and Anxiety Management: Supporting Youth - Aug. 18

Presented by the Grant Halliburton Foundation

Young people face challenges with stress and anxiety more than ever before. This presentation provides strategies and practices to help adults guide students to reduce and manage symptoms while recognizing when they need to seek professional services for mental health concerns. The workshop will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, Aug. 18 in CE 204/205. All parents, grandparents, and educators are encouraged to attend. Childcare is available in CE105.

Intergenerational Godly Play - Aug. 25

All children and their parents and youth are invited to a Godly Play Open House on August 25th from 11:15-12:00pm in Room 204/205. Children and their parents will participate in the full Godly Play Worship Experience. Youth will hear the story and then have a lesson in the youth room to ask questions and reflect on the story.





Want to Sing or Ring?

All children & youth choirs will resume rehearsals on Sept. 8

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?

We will return to our school year schedule on Sept. 8

Children's School Year
Sunday School
10AM

Youth School Year
Sunday School Schedule
10AM

Adult Sunday School Summer Schedule - 11AM

Word of Life

MB4

School Year Adult Sunday School - 10am

Visions of Faith

MB3

Bible Boomers

Wheelus Hall

Koinonia

CE204/205

Trinity

MB2

Word of Life

MB4

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM

MB4

(Will return on Aug. 5)

Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM

MB2

(Will Return on Aug. 12)

Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM

MB2

Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM

MB4

(Will return on Aug. 7)

Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM

MB2

(Will return on Sept. 4)

Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 7-9AM

MB2

Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM

MB2





Calendar

AUGUST

- 9 Children's Back to School Movie Night, 6:30PM (Youth Room)
- 9 Jigsaw Puzzler's Meeting, 7PM (Grace Place)
- 10 Quilt Ministry Meeting, Quilt Show
- 11 Combined Worship, 10AM
- 11 Word of Life Adult SS, 11AM (MB4)
- 11 Getting to Know Your Bible Class, 11AM
- 11 Session Meeting, 12:30PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 11 Flutopia Rehearsal, 2PM (Youth Rooms)
- 11 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 11 Youth BBQ, 6PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 12 Blue Angels Study Group, 12PM (MB2)
- 12 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 13 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 13 Mission Committee Meeting, 7PM (MB4)
- 14 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 14 Spice of Life Luncheon, 12PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 15 Children & Youth Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 15 Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 16 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 17 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 17 Fantasy Football Draft Potluck, 12PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 17 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Grace Place)
- 18 Combined Worship, 10AM
- 18 Word of Life Adult SS, 11AM (MB4)
- 18 Stress & Anxiety Workshop, 11:15AM (CE204/205)
- 18 Young Adult Brunch, 11:15AM (Anaya's)
- 18 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 19 Blue Angels Study Group, 12PM (MB2)
- 19 Cancer Support Group, 12PM (Zoom)
- 19 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 20 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)

