

GRACE NEWS

MARCH 16 | 2025

Grace Family,

This second Sunday in Lent we continue our sermon series on **The Red Words**, those words Jesus said while he walked the earth. Sunday's text includes a question from Jesus (Mark 5:1-20).

Jesus and his disciples have crossed the Sea of Galilee, surviving a windstorm to reach this man in pagan territory. He's a man possessed by demons, running around naked in a cemetery, unable to be constrained. I wonder what the people of his town call him? Idiot? Sinner? Loser? I wonder what he calls himself? Crazy? Hopeless? Someone who got what they deserved? Jesus asks, **"What is your name?"**

Names are important. What we call ourselves and others is important. Names reveal so much. I wonder what Jesus calls us?

Join us this Sunday at 9am and 11:05am as we enthusiastically worship the God who came in Christ Jesus to destroy the work of the evil that calls us all sorts of bad names and tries to get us to believe them.

Philippians 1:3,
Tracey

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------------|
| March 23 | "Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." | Matthew 24:44 |
| March 30 | "Come to me, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." | Matthew 11:28 |

Holy Week Schedule

April 12	Easter Egg Hunt, 10AM
April 13	Palm Sunday, 9AM & 11:05AM
April 17	Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner & Worship, 6:30PM
April 18	Good Friday Tenebrae, 7:30PM
April 20	Easter Worship, 9AM & 11:05AM

Get Involved at Grace

Lenten Dinners - March 14 - April 12

Sign up to share a meal in the home of a Grace member this Lenten season. There are options on a variety of dates in many different locations. Use the link in your newsletter email to sign up, or use the flyers with qr codes found at the narthex across from the guest center. This is an opportunity to break bread, meet new friends, and enjoy fellowship with other members of our church family.

Environmental Stewardship Lunch - March 23

The Environmental Stewardship team is meeting for a picnic lunch on the church grounds on Sunday, March 23, at noon. Bring a salad or dessert to share. All are invited to join us as we talk about our new ideas and our spring efforts. If you have any questions, contact Julie Haworth at jhaworth@flash.net.

Combined Worship @11:05AM - March 30

We will be worshipping together at 11:05AM on Sunday, March 30. We will also be presenting our First Fruits offering to the capital campaign.

Congregational Meeting - March 30

There will be a brief congregational meeting on March 30, immediately following our combined 11:05 worship service, to elect one elder and one member of the Officer Nominating Committee.

Women of Grace Spring Luncheon - Saturday, March 29, at noon

Ladies, the Women of Grace Spring luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 29th, at noon in Wheelus Hall. For just \$12 a ticket, we hope you will join us for a fabulous lunch while you get to know other amazing women of Grace, win prizes, and hear speakers from Streetside Closet and City House. Let's learn about these extraordinary local agencies and how we can get more involved. Childcare will be provided if you need it. You may purchase tickets from the website by clicking on the signup tab at the top, and choosing Women of Grace Spring Luncheon. You may also use the link in your newsletter email.

WOG Spring Mission Project - Thru March 29

The Women of Grace will be hearing from the director of Streetside Closet, a mission of the Plano Clothes Closet. In support of this local mission, the WOG will be running a clothing drive. Listed below are the top 10 items needed by Streetside Closet.

Note: Items on this list do not have to be brand new. Gently used or items purchased from thrift stores are welcome.

- 1 Men's jeans, dockers and cargo style pants. Sizes: 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Any length.
- 2 Men's tennis shoes, sizes: 8-13.
- 3 Men's cargo style shorts in sizes: 30, 32, 34 and 36.
- 4 Belts, sizes: 30-44.
- 5 Backpacks, standard adult size.
- 6 Duffle bags with shoulder straps.
- 7 Ladies jeans and pants: sizes: 2, 4 and 6.
- 8 Ladies shoes. Sizes: 6-12.
- 9 NEW Men's small & medium underwear.
- 10 NEW Women's small & medium underwear & sports bras.

Items may be dropped off in the narthex on the table against the brick wall.

WOG First Tuesday Evening Bible Study - April 1

The Women of Grace's First Tuesday evening bible study is beginning a new study on April 1st - no fooling! This group meets at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month & we rotate homes while we enjoy sweets, savory snacks, drinks, & fabulous company! In April we will begin the study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*, by Meryl Blair. (book with DVD) The study will last 9 sessions and take us through December. In this study we will encounter stories of women in the Bible who shaped our faith - Jesus' grandmothers & our grandmothers as well. What do they still have to teach us? Please join us on 4/1 at 7pm at Laurie Kneeland's home to discuss the introduction led by Michelle Rutherford (no need to purchase a book) to see if this study and group are for you. If you have any questions, contact Laurie Kneeland at 214-298-6364.

Property Gardening Workday - April 12

It is once again time to clean out the old and bring in the new. Your property committee is planning a gardening workday on Saturday morning, April 12, beginning at 9am. But, the committee isn't large enough to tackle this ourselves. We need help! Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help beautify our grounds in time for Easter, even if it is only 1 hour. If you are able to attend, please check your connection card during worship and drop it in the offering plate.

Grace Live: Texas Two-Step is right around the corner!

Our annual musical extravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 5th here at GPC. This church and community wide event hosted by our very own Exultation Choir will be a night to remember! 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.

Exultation's mission tour will take on a Texas flair this year visiting cities around our great State! 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.

Tickets will be on sale this Sunday, March 9th, in the narthex before and after our worship services and will continue March 16th, March 23rd, and March 30th. You can also pick up tickets at 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.

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 are looking for volunteers to help with our Grace Live 2025 committee. We are responsible for requesting, picking up, and organizing donations. We also set up the auction the day of the show (Saturday, April 5th). If you are interested in finding out more or joining our committee, please email Teri Waite at teriwaite85@gmail.com. It is a terrific way to get involved and help a fabulous group of students.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, April 5th at Grace Live: Texas Two-Step!

Grace Presbyterian Church Treasurer's Report, January 2025

Kevin Mattison, Treasurer

Monthly Activity

	Actual Jan-25	Actual Jan-24	Fav (Unfav)	Budget Jan-25	Fav (Unfav)
Church Offering	\$126,677	\$132,709	(\$6,032)	\$140,216	(\$13,539)
Church Expenses	90,257	95,810	5,553	100,469	10,212
Church Net (Loss)	36,420	36,899	(479)	39,747	(3,327)
Day School Income	119,358	106,954	12,404	113,550	5,808
Day School Expenses	90,827	86,037	(4,790)	93,768	2,941
School Net (Loss)	28,531	20,917	7,614	19,782	8,749
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	64,951	57,816	7,135	59,529	5,422
Prior Surplus Used	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus used for Debt Payment	(9,447)			(10,104)	
Surplus (Deficit)	\$55,504	\$57,816	\$7,135	\$49,425	\$5,422

Year-to-Date Activity

	Actual Jan-25	Actual Jan-24	Fav (Unfav)	Budget Jan-25	Fav (Unfav)
Church Offering	\$126,677	\$132,709	(\$6,032)	\$140,216	(\$13,539)
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- YTD General offering is below budget and below prior year.
- Overall expenses are below prior year and below budget through January 2025.
- PCUSA Loan: Principal \$175,137 | Maturity Date June 25, 2026 | Interest Rate 2.583%
- Total cash is \$845,455 which includes the following restricted funds:
 - \$217,329 - cash reserves
 - \$172,811 – Capital Campaign
 - \$ 74,311 - building and grounds
 - \$ 42,040 - music and worship



Prayers are being Answered!

Your Prayer Team meets every Sunday in MB2 at 4PM and a 2nd prayer team meets every Tuesday evening at 7PM in the parlor to pray over the prayers that have been shared with us. If you would like to have personal hands-on prayer, or wish to join us you are welcome at either meeting. 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.

- Capital Campaign came in significantly over the original goal!
- Kristi Tsao's surgery was a success!
- Clarimonde Tatge is over her bout of pneumonia!
- Ken Peterson is getting stronger in his rehab!

Affirmations & Thank You's

**Thank you to our fabulous Capital Campaign team for
all their hard work:**

Brian Balbinot and Michelle Rutherford - Campaign Chairpersons

Wes Durow - Communication

Kevin and Suzanne Mattison, Jim and Lynn McCoy - Lead Gifts

Melvyn and Kris Turner -Advance Commitments, Party Hosts

John Moody and Pat Harris - Fulfillment

Dwight Nichols - Coordinator

Amy Hicklin and Steve Fraser - Gratitude and Ministry Sundays

Karen Williams - Celebration

Mike Shaw - Prayer

Bryan Raaum - Youth and Children

Brad and Ann Boles - Party Hosts

Family Ministries Upcoming Events

High School/College Senior Scholarship Application – Due Apr 1st

Grace PC awards several scholarships to graduating seniors (High School or College) on Senior Sunday. The students must be members of Grace PC and the qualifications vary for each scholarship. One of the awards requires that students fill out an application to apply: The Bob Tobermann Family Award. This is to recognize a graduating senior (High School 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, go to the form online at [gracepc.org>signups](http://gracepc.org/signup). **The deadline to fill out your form is April 1st.**

Kidquake Registration - April 25-27

Parents, it is time to register for the upcoming Kid Quake weekend at Camp Gilmont. If you or your child is interested in attending Kidquake, please fill out the form on the website in signups, or check your connection card and we will send you the link to the form.

Grace Presbytery has Summer Opportunities for Youth

Hello families, I am excited to announce that Grace Presbytery has multiple opportunities for youth this summer! Some of these opportunities are through sister churches and some are through the Presbytery. There are mission trips, camps, conferences, etc. Please see attached flyer found in your newsletter email for more information. There is something almost every week this summer and financial assistance is available. If you are interested in attending any of the opportunities please email me at cara@gracepc.org and I can help you get registered.

Youth Ministry

Let's Talk Body Image

Calling all middle school girls and moms, join us for an important conversation about Body Image. Think Pink Inc. in partnership with Let's Talk Body Image at Memorial HighSchool are hosting a free online event on Sunday March 30, 2025. 6 p.m. CST.

Get the healthy conversation started with your daughters and hear from moms, highschool girls and women committed to helping our girls have a healthy body image.

What is crucial for a healthy body image? Self acceptance, Balanced Health, Positive Self Talk, Focusing on Strengths, Critical Thinking about Media, Support from Others and Respecting Diversity.

Fostering a healthy body image involves developing self-compassion, focusing on well-being rather than appearance, and surrounding oneself with positive influences. It's important to remember that it's normal for bodies to change during adolescence, and what matters most is how a person feels about themselves, not how they look.

Event co-hosts: LM Shafer, Amy Vogel and Sarah Castro.

Visit: [Girlsthepink.org/events](https://girlsthepink.org/events) to register for this free online event. Space is limited.

Family Ministries Sunday AM Schedule

No youth or children's Sunday School or Godly Play this Sunday, March 16 due to spring break.

Children's Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Preschool	CE 211	Helen Blacklock & Lorna Little
Kindergarten - 1st	CE 212	Mark Ellis & Xenia Gross
2nd - 3rd grades	CE 214	Brad Boles & David Hurwich
4th - 5th grades	CE 216	Liz Urech & Eme Thomas

Youth Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Middle School & High School	CE 200- CE203	Jack Davenport, Austin Nichols, Bryan Raaum, Teri Waite

Godly Play - 11:15AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>
Godly Play	CE 213 (Godly Play Worship Center)

Want to Learn?

**Children's School Year
Sunday School
10AM**

**Youth School Year
Sunday School
10AM**

School Year Adult Sunday School - 10am

Bible Boomers

Koinonia

Trinity

Visions of Faith

Word of Life

Wheelus Hall

CE204/205

MB2

MB3

MB4

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM MB4

Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM MB2

Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM MB2

Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM MB4

Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM MB2

Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM MB2

Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8:30-10:30AM MB2

Want to Sing or Ring?

Choirs

Sanctuary Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm

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, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

Cherub Choir

Children's choir for PK thru 1st gd.

Sundays, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

Handbell Choirs

Grace Notes

Advanced adult

handbells

Sundays, 5:45 – 7:15pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

Credo

Youth handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

Agape Bells

Beginner adult handbells

Sundays, 4:15 – 5pm

Room: CE204-205

Katie Schnittker, Director

Carillon Ringers

Children (Grades 3-5)

Handbells

Sundays, 3 - 4pm

Room CE204/205

Michelle Rutherford & Hannah
Allen, Directors

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

Hannah Allen – Children's Choirs, hannah@gracepc.org

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

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director, Agape Bells Director katie.schnittker@gmail.com

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director, mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net

Calendar

MARCH

- 14 Women's Pilgrimage Renewal, 5:30PM (CE204/205)
- 14 Jigsaw Puzzler's Group Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 15 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 16 2nd Sunday in Lent
- 16 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 16 Sunday School for Adults, 10AM
- 16 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 16 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 17 Blue Angel's Bible Study, 12PM (MB2)
- 17 Cancer Support Group Meeting, 12PM (Zoom)
- 17 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 18 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 18 Weekday Prayer Meeting, 7PM (Parlor)
- 18 Worship & Music Committee Meeting, 7PM (MB4)
- 18 Property Committee Meeting, 7PM (Workroom)
- 18 Grief Group, 7PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 19 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM (MB2)
- 19 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 19 ESL, 5:30PM
- 19 Citizenship Class, 6:45PM
- 19 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 20 Generations of Grace Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 20 Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 21 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)