

GRACE NEWS

APRIL 27, 2025

Grace Family,

There's a cartoon about Thomas, the disciple of Jesus. He is complaining to Jesus about his nickname. He tells Jesus, "No one calls Peter "Denying Peter!" Jesus tells him he will just have to get over it.

To forever be known as "Doubting Thomas" would be a hard reputation with which to live. In this Sunday's gospel text, John 20:19-31, we find out that Thomas didn't doubt forever. He doubted for only a week, until he saw Jesus alive. Thomas only asked for what the other disciples had received: a chance to see it for himself.

Doubt isn't always a bad thing. The capacity to doubt is one of humanity's noblest traits. There are many practices and beliefs which ought to be doubted. The great preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote that great people "have been distinguished by the fact that in the face of universally accepted falsehoods they dared stand up and cry: I doubt that!"

But what do we do when we come face to face with evidence that causes us to doubt our doubts? What if we, who sometimes struggle with faith, see Jesus? Are we free to change our minds? Can we learn and grow when new truths are uncovered? Are we able to worship and follow Jesus, even if some mystery remains?

Join us this Sunday at 9am and 11:05am as we worship God enthusiastically and proclaim that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Philippians 1:3,

Tracey

Upcoming Sermon Texts

May 4 John 21:1-19

May 11 Acts 9:1-20



Get Involved at Grace

Women's Pilgrimage Renewal Group - April 29

Starting April 22, we will be changing our meeting day, time, and location!

We will be meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6pm. On April 22nd we will gather in the carpeted area of the nathex, and make a decision about a permanent meeting place. We would love to have anyone who has attended Pilgrimage to come and join us for spiritual renewal!

If you have not attended Pilgrimage, it's a wonderful weekend in the beautiful pine trees of Camp Gilmont with brothers and sisters in Christ that includes singing, speakers and discussion, meals together, and time for enjoying the beauty of the camp.

Contact Cathy Bebee, 214-770-4550 or Suzanne Mattison, 972-754-5731 for more details.

Mo Ranch Conferences

You are invited to attend one of the annual Conferences at Mo-Ranch in the beautiful Texas Hill Country near Kerrville. Take a break from the busyness of life to recharge physically, mentally and spiritually. Conference activities include keynote presentations, worship, fellowship, recreation, free time and workshops. The registration link is at the top of this email newsletter. Financial assistance is available.

Men's Conference May 2-4

Our GPC point person for questions is Bill Harrison:
wmcharrison@verizon.net

Women's Conference June 6-8*

Our GPC point person for questions is Helen Blacklock:
kids-ot@hotmail.com

* Childcare is available at the Women's Conference for infants through 8th gradewith structured programming for older children.



ESL / Multi Cultural Celebration - May 7th

Come and join us for the “end of class” ESL celebration on Wednesday, May 7th, 5:30-6:30pm in Wheelus Hall. 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 this newsletter 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 3-fold poster board of some fun facts about your country.

A food dish or 2 from your country - could be dessert, 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.

If you are planning to participate, please RSVP on your connection card. For more information, please see Eunice Pribadi (eunicesantoso@gmail.com) or David Hurwich(dahurwich@gmail.com).

Spice of Life lunch - May 14

Seniors (50+), join us on Wednesday, May 14 at noon in Wheelus Hall for “Taco Wednesday”. The team will be providing tacos with rice, black beans, cheese, tomatoes, sour cream and salsa. Please bring either tortilla chips, salad, fruit, or dessert to share.



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.

- Emilie Klingman's doctors have made good progress in determining a diagnosis.
- Alia Davenport has an assignment in Zambia.

HE IS RISEN



Finance Updates

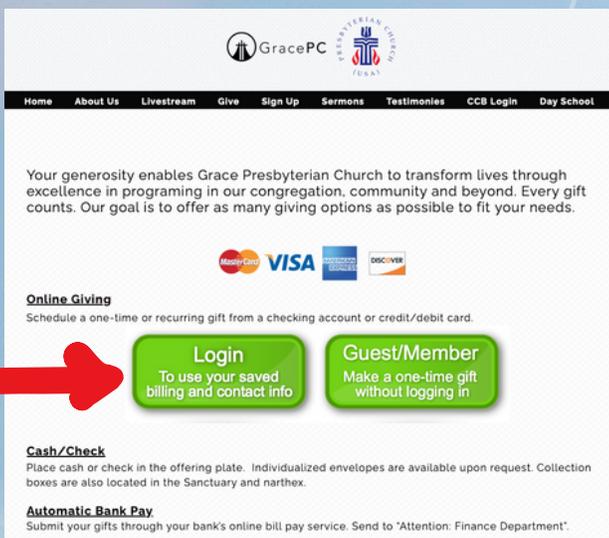
Quarterly Giving Statements

We now have the capability to email giving statements. By using email, we will save money. Please check your membership profile in Pushpay/CCB to make sure we have your correct email address. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of your giving statement, please contact John Moody, 469.429.6808 or john@gracepc.org

To check your individual pledge to the 2025 Operating Fund or the Capital Campaign, log into your Pushpay/CCB account, My Giving, and see your progress underneath the "Pledges" section. You will see total contributions, recurring giving schedules to the campaigns, and pledge progress there.

Update CCB Repeating Gifts

CCB was acquired by Pushpay. To set up a new repeating donation, or one time donation, go to gracepc.org and click on **Give** at the top of the page.



GracePC

Home About Us Livestream Give Sign Up Sermons Testimonies CCB Login Day School

Your generosity enables Grace Presbyterian Church to transform lives through excellence in programing in our congregation, community and beyond. Every gift counts. Our goal is to offer as many giving options as possible to fit your needs.

MasterCard VISA American Express Discover

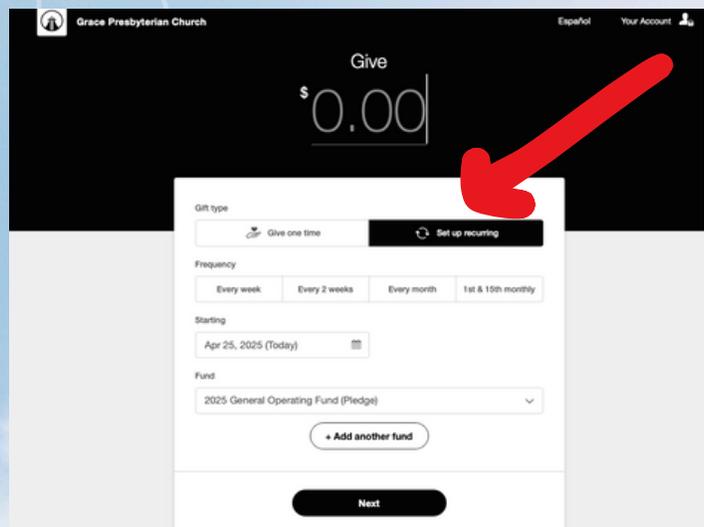
Online Giving
Schedule a one-time or recurring gift from a checking account or credit/debit card.

Login
To use your saved billing and contact info

Guest/Member
Make a one-time gift without logging in

Cash/Check
Place cash or check in the offering plate. Individualized envelopes are available upon request. Collection boxes are also located in the Sanctuary and narthex.

Automatic Bank Pay
Submit your gifts through your bank's online bill pay service. Send to 'Attention: Finance Department'.



Grace Presbyterian Church

Give

\$ 0.00

Gift type
Give one time Set up recurring

Frequency
Every week Every 2 weeks Every month 1st & 15th monthly

Starting
Apr 25, 2025 (Today)

Fund
2025 General Operating Fund (Pledge)

+ Add another fund

Next



Affirmations & Thank You's

Congratulations Pastor Cara & Bryan Raaum for your contributions.

Grace Presbytery has received a grant of \$1.25 million dollars from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish Renewed Grace: Transforming Worship Practices with Neurodivergent Children.

The program is funded through Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative. The aim of the national initiative is to support faith-based organizations as they help children grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God.

The Renewed Grace project strives to shift the culture of worship in Grace Presbytery to become more inclusive of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism, ADHD, and dyslexia. Over the next five years, pastors, children's ministry leaders, worship leaders, and members of thirty congregations will learn from neurodivergent children and their families, as well as experts in disability and theology. Based on what they have learned, each congregational team will work together to design and implement changes to their local worship practices.

Rev. Dr. Jen Bluestein serves as Grace Presbytery's Coordinator of Generational Leadership Development and will lead the project. As our recognition of neurological difference and diagnoses of autism, ADHD, and other disorders increase, Bluestein says, "Church leaders are looking for support in including children with neurodevelopmental disorders in worship and church life because they recognize the importance of children's participation in our churches. This project was developed in response to that growing need from our churches." Renewed Grace will promote the inclusion of neurodivergent children in worship, but the work done by congregations during this project will also benefit the growing number of neurodivergent teens and adults. While this project focuses on worship practices, we also hope that the effects of this project will be felt throughout other areas of church life, including educational and camp ministries.



Grace Presbytery is one of 170 organizations funded through three rounds of the initiative, which was launched in 2022. The grants are funding efforts to help organizations that serve congregations in a broad spectrum of Christian traditions develop new and/or enhance existing programs as they design worship services and prayer practices that more intentionally and fully engage children.

About Lilly Endowment Inc

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff, and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. The principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe.

Holy Week Volunteers!

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, and participants who made this Holy Week so meaningful with the Easter Egg Hunt, God's Gardeners clean up and planting, Palm Sunday Worship, Maundy Thursday potluck and Living Last Supper, Good Friday Tenebrae, and Easter Sunday Worship.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58



Family Ministries Upcoming Events

VBS Roadtrip - June 23-27

VBS is going on a roadtrip from June 23 through the 27th. It will be held from 9am-12pm, and if your child has finished K-5, they have the opportunity to extend through 2PM. **Registration is now open!** Registration will be found on the front page of the website. We are currently looking for volunteers. If you are being called to serve our children this summer, please check your connection card and we will reach out.

Sign up now for the Youth Lock-In - Friday, June 27
Use the link in your newsletter email.

SMACK - July 14-18

SMACK Registration is open! Our Summer Music and Arts Camp for Kids will take place from July 14-18 with a performance on Friday, the 18th.

SMACK is for children who have completed 2nd - 6th grade.
SMACK Jr. is designed for Kindergarteners and 1st graders. To register, please use the links found in the email message above. Space is limited! Register today!



Family Ministries Sunday AM Schedule

Children's Sunday School - 10AM

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

Youth Sunday School - 10AM

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

Godly Play - 11:15AM

Class Godly Play Room 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

Voices in Praise (VIPs) Children's
choir for grades 2 – 5 Sundays, 4 –
5pm 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 – 5pm
Room CE215
Hannah Allen, Director

Handbell Choirs

Grace Notes
Advanced adult handbells
Sundays, 5:45 – 7:15pm
Room: Sanctuary
Michael King, Director

Agape Bells Beginner adult handbells
Sundays, 4:15 – 5pm
Room: CE204-205
Katie Schnittker, Director

Credo
Youth handbells
Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm
Room: Sanctuary
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

APRIL

- 25 Jigsaw Puzzler's Group Meeting, 7PM
- 27 Blood Drive
- 27 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 27 Sunday School for All, 10AM
- 27 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 27 Godly Play, 11:15AM (Godly Play Worship Center, CE213)
- 27 Credo Bell Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 27 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal, 3PM (CE204/205)
- 27 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
- 27 Exultation Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
- 27 Voices in Praise Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
- 27 Sunday Prayer Group, 4PM (MB2)
- 27 Agape Bell Rehearsal, 4:15PM (CE204/205)
- 27 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 5:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 28 Blue Angels Bible Study, 12PM (MB2)
- 28 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 29 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 29 Deacon Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 29 Weeknight Prayer Group, 7PM (Parlor)
- 29 Family Ministries Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 30 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 30 ESL, 5:30PM
- 30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM

MAY

- 1 Generations of Grace Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 1 Men's Pilgrimage Renewal, 7PM (Carradine's)
- 2 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 3 Men's Sat. AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 3 Cyndi Flanagan's Memorial Service, 2PM
- 3 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (CE204/205)

