

GRACE NEWS

July 20, 2025

Grace Family,

On Sunday, we continue our summer sermon series on the letters to the churches in Revelation: “*Dear Church, love Jesus.*” This week’s letter is to the church in Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17). Pergamum is a difficult place to be a Christian. Nearly every major deity had a temple here: Athena, Dionysos, Asklepios and Zeus. The altar of Zeus, the largest altar in antiquity, received animal sacrifices twenty-four hours a day. Smoke from burnt offerings could be seen for miles away from this “throne of Zeus.” This practice kept the supremacy of Zeus ever in the public eye.

Jesus describes himself to Pergamum as the One who has the sharp, two-edged sword. This sword was the emblem of the highest official authority. The proconsuls who ruled in this area were vested with this symbol of their authority. Jesus is claiming to be above these earthly rulers, above even Zeus whose throne sits atop the 1000ft mountain on which Pergamum was built.

It's great to believe that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the ultimate authority in the universe. If we do believe that, how does that change how we live our daily lives? Are there things we should be doing or shouldn't be doing in light of this truth? Does our behavior matter in light of the gospel of grace? How do our practices keep Jesus ever in the public eye?

Join us this Sunday at 10:30am as we worship God enthusiastically and wonder how it might look if Christians taught the truth of Gospel, not just with words, but with our lives.

Philippians 1:3,

Tracey

Get Involved

Upcoming Sermons in July and August

"Dear Church... love, Jesus"

A look at the letters to the churches in Revelation

At the beginning of Revelation, John sees the Risen Christ in a vision. Jesus tells him to write to the seven churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) to give them a message regarding what they are doing right, and where they have missed the boat. There might just be a message for our church as well.

July 27	Sarah Rutherford preaching	Luke 11:1-13
August 3	Dear Church in Thyatira	Rev. 2:18-29
August 10	Dear Church in Sardis	Rev. 3:1-6
August 17	Dear Church in Philadelphia	Rev. 3:7-13
August 24	Dear Church in Laodicea	Rev. 3:14-22

Calling All Young Adults - July 27

We will gather for dinner on Sunday, July 27th after the celebration of Sarah Rutherford's ordination. We will go someplace close to the church and hope you can join us. More details will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, reach out to Teri Waite or Pastor Wilson. We look forward to seeing you then.

*Grace Presbytery and
Grace Presbyterian Church
cordially invite you to the*

ORDINATION



*of
Sarah Rutherford*
*to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
in the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

SUNDAY | JULY 27 | AT 3 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
4300 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 75093

Reception to follow in Wheelus Hall

All Exultation members and alumni are invited to sing two songs at Sarah Rutherford's Ordination service on July 27. We will warmup in the choir room at 2pm. Click the link in your newsletter email to let us know if you will join us!

Adult Handbell Choirs Forming for 2025-2026!

We are forming our adult handbell choirs for 2025-2026, including Grace Notes (advanced) and Agape Bells (beginner/intermediate).

Agape Bells, our fun group for beginner and intermediate ringers, is looking for members! Meeting day and time will be arranged to accommodate the group members. If you've never picked up a bell, or if you've only played a little bit in the past and need a refresher, this is the group for you!

Interested in handbells for adults this fall? Click on the handbell link in your newsletter.

Youth and children's handbells will also be forming soon!

For more information, contact Michael King (michael@gracepc.org).

Staff Vacations

Summer means that staff takes some time off. Please respect their time away, as church work is often mentally, emotionally, and spiritually taxing. Texts and calls are not appropriate for any staff member on vacation. A time of rest allows us to return full of energy and enthusiasm. There will always be a pastor on call for emergencies and by calling the church main number, you can get the number for the person on call. Thank you!

Michael away	July 16-25
John away	July 18-24
Pastor Cara away	July 28-Aug 3
Pastor Tracey away	July 30-Aug 11, Aug 29-Sept 1
Pastor Wilson away	Aug 8-14

3rd Annual Fantasy Football League Sign Ups Begin

Cowboys fans, which Dak is gonna show up this year- the Danny White version, or- the Tom Brady version? 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 3rd 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 8/23** in Wheelus Hall at noon. It will last roughly 2 hours
- We will gather at 11am for a potluck lunch in Wheelus- what better way to have a tailgate! So- bring that tailgate food!
- 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? Will Sam Booke 2peat? Will Pastor Tracey be the phoenix rising from the ashes? Is Jeff Thate gonna over draft Kansas City Chiefs players for his team on the road to glory? 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, and just went for it anyway...and ended up winning one of our leagues! This is a very friendly environment to give it a shot. If nothing else- you'll have fun. See the sign-up link in the newsletter email. If you have questions, or want your fears allayed, see David Hurwich, or send me an email at fun@gracepc.org

PS- And yes...you can draft remotely if you can't make it "in person" at Wheelus, and- you can even set it up to auto draft so that you don't have to actively participate (Pastor Cara did VERY well with this strategy last year).

Elder Member Engagement,
David Hurwich



Grief Group – Sept. 16

The Grief Group at Grace has now been helping people for over 10 years and we will be starting our next group on Sept. 16. We meet Tuesday evenings in person from 7PM to 9PM. The class will meet for 8 weeks and we utilize curriculum from a local organization, Faith & Grief Ministries. This is an extension of Stephen Ministry at Grace. To sign up, you can check your connection card, and you'll receive a link to the online registration form. That link can also be found in this email. Please contact Mike Shaw at broncosrbest@verizon.net (469-223-6813) for more information. Module topics are shown on the webpage by selecting the link.

What Does Our Mission Committee Do?

I occasionally get asked “What exactly does the Mission Committee do?” or “Why don’t we do Mission anymore?” After I shake my head, I realize that in the whirlwind of activity we do at Grace PC, it can become unclear what Mission actually does sometimes. So let me take a minute to sing the praises of our committee.



We support Family Promise—a charity dedicated to transitioning homeless families into housing—through financial support and meal prep. We are longtime partners with Minnie’s Food Pantry supporting through both financial support and quarterly workdays. We have served dinner on New Year’s Eve at Austin Street Shelter for over 35 years. We support Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services who help foster children and families to self-sufficiency. Refugee Services; that’s Mission. Carter Blood Drive? Mission. All those food/toiletries/cereal/school supplies drives you see in the narthex? Mission. ESL and citizenship classes? Mission. Family Gateway Christmas Gifts? Mission.

Our newest Mission project is the Little Free Pantry, to which you are generously donating non-perishable food items to every week. We affirm our neighborhood developmental school—Beaty—with donations, drives, and teacher appreciation. And while we are mostly focused on local projects, beyond our borders we build and support clean water initiatives in Guatemala with Living Waters.

Mission is always ready to help those in need; we are leading a response to the Hill Country Flooding Relief with hopefully a trip in the fall to help in the area recovery. We are open to ideas and you may see exciting new opportunities to serve our community soon. And if you are passionate about serving others, please don’t hesitate to join our team!

Mission Elder Bryan Haworth

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.

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.

- Tanya Valenta's surgery was a success!
- Wendee Fleck's mom has moved to rehab!
- Cindi Garrison has made tremendous recovery from a heart and kidney transplant!

Want to Learn?

We have moved to our summer schedule. There is *NO* children's and youth Sunday School during the summer.

Summer Adult Sunday School

Bible Boomers, will return in fall

Koinonia, will return in the fall

Trinity, off in July - will resume on Aug. 3

Visions of Faith, see below

Word of Life, 11:30am - Currently studying Hebrews

Wheelus Hall

CE204/205

MB2

MB3

MB4

Summer Series on World Religions

The Visions of Faith Sunday School class is hosting a summer series on world religions which will continue through August 24. The class meets in MB3 at 9:15am. All are invited for both learning and fellowship.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

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

Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM

Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM

Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM

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

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

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

MB4

MB2

MB2

MB2

***** Class will resume in the fall.**

Calendar

JULY

- 18 SMACK Musical Presentation, 5:30PM
- 19 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 19 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Grace Place)
- 20 Visions of Faith SS, 9:15AM (MB2)
- 20 Summer Combined Worship, 10:30AM
- 20 Word of Life SS, 11:30AM (MB4)
- 20 Session Meeting, 11:45PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 20 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 21 Cancer Support Group, 12PM (Zoom)
- 21 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 22 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 22 Women's Pilgrimage Renewal, 6PM (Parlor)
- 22 Tuesday Evening Prayer Group, 7PM (Parlor)
- 22 Family Ministries Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 23 Summer ESL, 5:30PM (MB2)
- 25 Men's Fri. AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 25 Jigsaw Puzzle Group Meeting, 7PM (Narthex)
- 27 Visions of Faith SS, 9:15AM (MB2)
- 27 Summer Combined Worship, 10:30AM
- 27 Word of Life SS, 11:30AM (MB4)
- 27 Sarah Rutherford Ordination Service, 3PM
- 27 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 28 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 29 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 29 Women's Pilgrimage Renewal, 6PM (Parlor)
- 29 Tuesday Evening Prayer Group, 7PM (Parlor)
- 29 Deacon Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 30 Summer ESL, 5:30PM (MB2)
- 30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM