



AUGUST 24

Grace News

Grace Family,

This Sunday, we finish the letters to churches in Revelation with the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). Laodicea was founded in the middle of the third century BC by Antiochus II of Syria and named for his wife Laodice. Laodicea had four things for which it was renowned. First was its wealth. Laodicea was a major banking center for the area and Tacitus records that after an earthquake in 61 A.D. they refused money from Rome to rebuild because they had plenty. Secondly, Laodicea had some black sheep which gave them fine wool. They exported a black outer tunic that was the latest fashion craze in the empire. Third, they had a medical center where the famous ophthalmologist Demosthenes practiced with an eye-salve that was known throughout the region.

However, the fourth thing that Laodicea was known for was not an asset, it was a problem. They had no good water supply. By the time the water made it through the aqueducts to Laodicea, it was lukewarm and good for nothing.

Jesus compares this church to their water supply – lukewarm and good for nothing. How does a church get that way? The church at Laodicea was rich and thought they didn't need anything, including Jesus. He says that they are really poor, blind, and naked without him. But he offers this church a great promise: "Listen, I'm standing at your door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me."

How can we make sure that we do not become lukewarm? How do we become an asset to our community? How can we open the door and let Jesus into fellowship with us?

Join us this Sunday at 10:30am as we worship God enthusiastically.

Philippians 1:3,

Tracey





Get Involved


Sermon Series Coming This Fall: Every Single Person

The Gospel of Luke is this year's lectionary gospel. Luke, the investigative writer of this "orderly account" of the life of Jesus was a physician. Both Luke's and Jesus' love for people shine through these words. Luke highlights Jesus as a compassionate healer – particularly for those his culture considered outcasts: persons who are demon-possessed, lepers, paralytics, tax collectors, those with physical challenges, the sinful, the ill, the blind, the oppressed, the mourning, the lost, the least, and the uninvited. The Good News of the gospel is that **EVERY SINGLE PERSON MATTERS TO JESUS!** Join us weekly this fall!

September 7	The Bent-Over Woman	Luke 13:10-17
September 14	The Lost	Luke 15:1-10
September 21	A Dying Girl and A Bleeding Woman	Luke 8:40-56
September 28	A Centurian's Slave	Luke 7:1-10

Family Ministry Parent Meeting - August 24

All elementary children and youth parents are invited to an **important** parent meeting this Sunday, August 24th, at 11:45am in the Youth Room. We will be discussing the school year's family ministry schedule, provide volunteer opportunities, collect medical liability forms for the year, and hear music ministry updates. We hope you will join us for this very important meeting and please remember your insurance cards!





Children/Youth Music Rehearsals Resume - Sept. 7

Our children's and youth music rehearsals will resume on Sunday, Sept. 7. (Exultation Choir will resume on Sept. 14) If your student is planning on participating in either our vocal choirs or handbell choirs, please check the connection card in worship on Sunday to ensure you are included in all communications from the directors.

Youth Mystery Event - Sept. 7


All youth are invited to participate in an offsite "Mystery" Event on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 4-6pm. If your youth plans to attend, you **must** check your connection card on Sunday, or let Pastor Cara know. (You will receive the location following sign up)

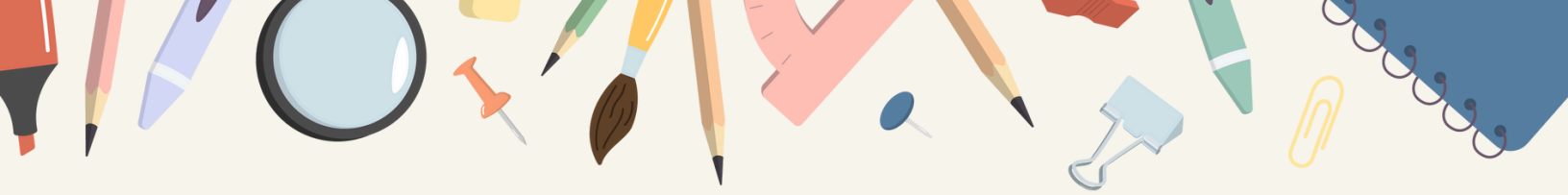
Grief Group - Sept. 16

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 brncosrbest@verizon.net (469-223-6813) for more information. Module topics are shown on the webpage by selecting the link.

Women of Grace Fall Retreat - Oct. 4

All the women of Grace are asked to save the date for our 2025 fall retreat held on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9am to 2pm at the Oak Point Nature Preserve Pavillion. Tickets will go on sale on August 31st for \$25 each. Scholarships will be available. For more information, contact Laurie Kneeland at coffee4la@yahoo.com.





Festival Singers

If you love to sing, and want a taste of singing in our Sanctuary Choir, we would love to have you join us as a Festival Singer. You would participate in part of the weekly rehearsals preparing for the Sounds of Christmas Concert this December. If you are interested, check your connection card.

SCOTLAND 2026

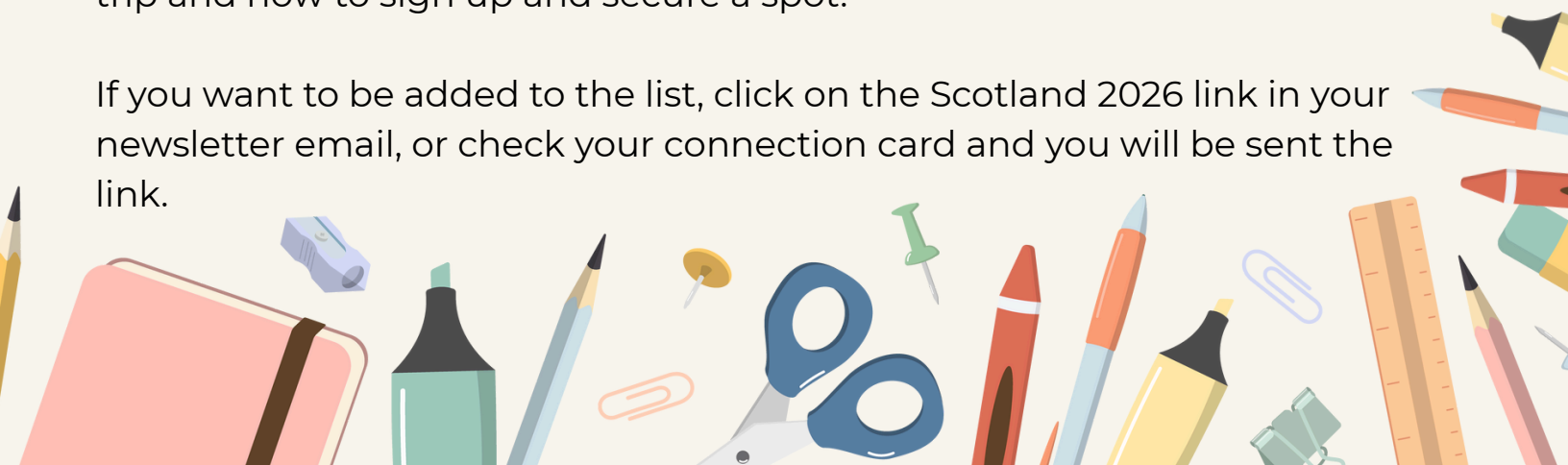
Music Director Michael King and Pastor Tracey Davenport are excited to announce that they will be leading a trip to Scotland during the dates of September 3 – 13, 2026! We are currently gathering names of those interested in this wonderful opportunity.

On this trip we will visit many John Knox and Presbyterian Heritage sites while also uncovering all that Scotland has to offer. We will visit Edinburgh, Sunday worship at St. Giles, John Knox House, Isle of Iona, Stirling Castle, Eilean Donan Castle, Inverness/Loch Ness, Culloden Battlefield, Loch Lomond, the Isle of Skye, Whisky Tasting, and much more!

Whether this is your first trip to Scotland or have been before, there is nothing like traveling with the fellowship of church friends and discovering pilgrimage sites that have played a role in our faith journey.

Interested in learning more? Those interested will be invited to attend an upcoming zoom and/or in-person meeting with more information about the trip and how to sign up and secure a spot.

If you want to be added to the list, click on the Scotland 2026 link in your newsletter email, or check your connection card and you will be sent the link.



If you would like more information click on the <http://org> website link in your newsletter email.




Aug 17 Congregational Meeting Summary

For the past two years, our Worship and Music committee has been discussing the possibility of going to one worship service on Sunday mornings, not just in the summer months. We have been praying, asking God for guidance, and wrestling with what that would mean for our music program, for Christian Formation, and for our beloved members. We were reluctant to make the move for several reasons:

1. It feels like a step back. To go back to one service after finally moving to two post Covid in some ways feels like a negative.
2. People have strong preferences in worship: style of music, liturgy, formality or informality, time, etc. Having two services meets the style desires more easily.

With much prayer and discussion, we came to the following conclusion:

1. **One worship is not a step back.** If you have been in our combined worship services this summer you have felt how energetic, enthusiastic, and Spirit-filled they have been. When we divide for worship, the amount of energy in the room betrays how we are thriving. Having a full sanctuary does something amazing. It also helps to fulfill our Vision for 2030, with a celebration of God's love in Christ Jesus that is Spirit-led and inclusive of all ages, races, styles, abilities, and gifts. **It is a witness to the world that we can worship and serve God together, no matter our differences.** In this time of such divisiveness, our diversity is a great gift. It is important to be together, to know and love one another. We believe worshipping together will foster greater unity and strengthen our community. **We are better together!**
2. Even though people do have style preferences in worship, **God is the audience in worship.** We want God to be pleased with what is offered, more than someone with a strict style preference. One service will have a broader, more-inclusive worship style that appeals to multiple generations, and a wider range of ages and preferences, allowing us to lift enthusiastic, full-bodied praise to God. We will not limit our musical offerings, and continue to have Sanctuary choir, Children's Choirs, Exultation, all our handbell choirs and praise band, as well as instrumentalists, because God loves to be praised with music. **There will be something for everyone and everyone will get to enjoy the broad range of music we offer.** We will truly worship the Lord with gladness and come into God's presence with singing, as the Psalms command.

A decorative header featuring various school supplies including pens, pencils, a magnifying glass, a pushpin, a paintbrush, a stapler, a paperclip, and a spiral notebook.

3. Your leaders prayed for the Spirit's guidance and a diverse worship committee voted unanimously in favor. **We believe this is where God is calling us** because with it we are creating space for deeper connection, offering a broader welcome, and delivering a more vibrant witness to the grace of God.

Here is the new schedule beginning on Sept 7:

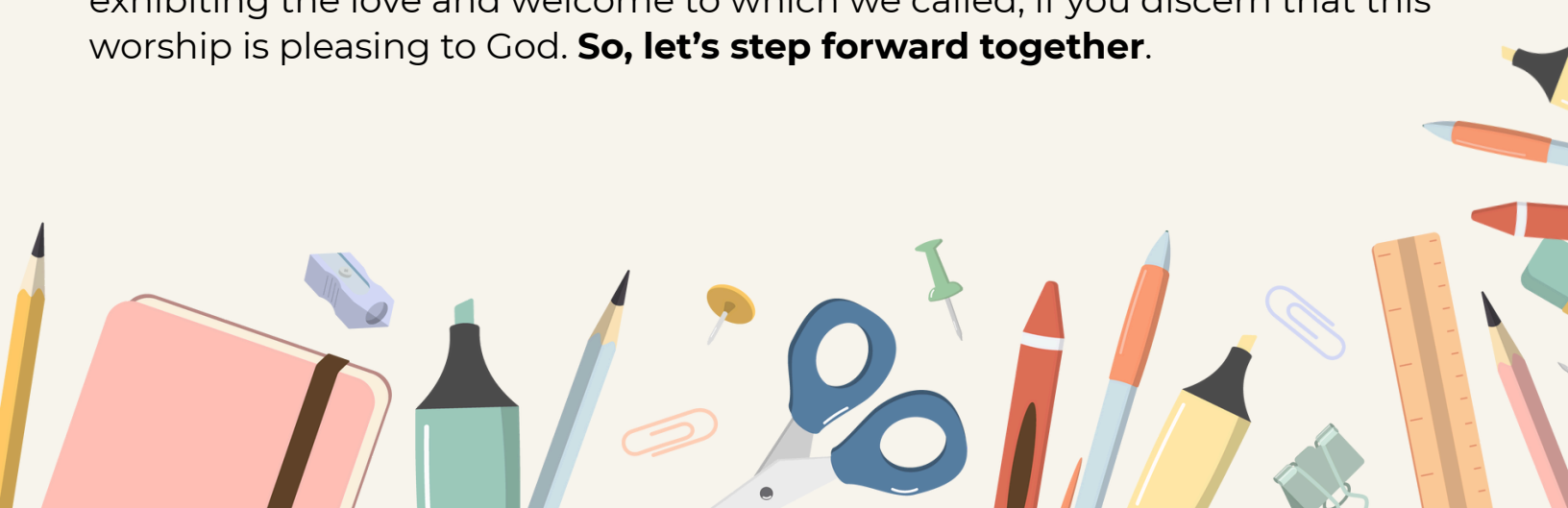
9:15am	Education for all ages (some adult classes will start at 9)
10:15am	Dedicated Fellowship Time
10:30am	Worship with Nursery and Godly Play
11:30am	Word of Life Sunday School

Also after worship at 11:30am: Meet with those who gave announcements? Volunteer recruitment? Work gatherings? Meetings? Special classes? Luncheons?

These times were worked out in consultation with Family Ministries to be most suitable for children and youth. We figured adults could adjust more easily.

Here's my ask: **Bring an open heart and mind** as we come together to proclaim and celebrate the all-encompassing love of Jesus Christ for everyone.

After we have tried the new schedule this fall, we want to hear from you. I, Pastor Cara, Pastor Wilson, or any member of the Session would love to know, not your personal preference in style or time, but if you feel the Spirit of God in this place, if you believe the gospel is preached and our church is exhibiting the love and welcome to which we called, if you discern that this worship is pleasing to God. **So, let's step forward together.**

A decorative footer featuring various school supplies including pencils, a sharpener, a highlighter, a pushpin, a pair of scissors, a paperclip, a ruler, and a spiral notebook.



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 had her long awaited surgery and initial reports are good!
- Jane Toberman is up walking and making good progress.
- JoAnn Woods, Clark Carradine's former relative, is feeling much better.





2025 Officer Nominating Committee

The Officer Nominating Committee has begun working to identify active members of Grace Presbyterian Church to serve as officers. You are encouraged to offer names to the committee for consideration.

We will be nominating:

- 4 candidates to serve a 3 year term on Session as Elders. They provide strategic leadership for our church. (Member Engagement, Christian Formation Adult, Christian Formation Children, Day School)
- 7 candidates to serve a 3 year term as Deacons
- 3 candidates to serve a 2 year term on the Officer Nominating Committee.

What is an Elder?

GPC members, who have:

- Wisdom and maturity of faith
- Demonstrated skills in servant leadership
- Compassionate spirit

Elders provide strategic leadership for our church.

What is a Deacon?

GPC members who have:

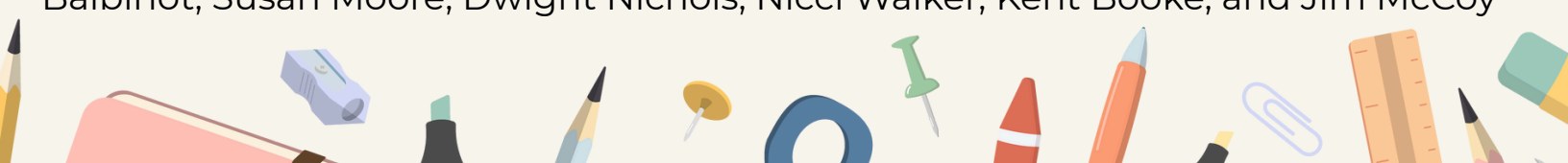
- Strong faith
- Warm sympathies
- Dedication
- Good judgment


Deacons minister to the needs of the congregation.

Turn in nominations via the bulletin insert in Sunday's worship service

Any member of the Officer Nominating Committee would be happy to talk with you about these positions and the qualifications for each:

David Hurwich - Moderator, Teri Waite - Elder, Sarah Morrison - Deacon, Brian Balbinot, Susan Moore, Dwight Nichols, Nicci Walker, Kent Booke, and Jim McCoy





Affirmations & Thank You's

Dear Grace Plano,


Thank you from the bottom of my heart for hosting my ordination service on July 27. I am still in awe of the incredible day, and I really appreciate all of the time and energy that went into making the service possible. Thank you especially for the beautiful communion set. I cannot wait to use it soon! I give thanks to God for all of you.

Love, Sarah Rutherford

Thank you to our Sanctuary Choir for leading us in worship during Sunday mornings, as well as at Lee Straayer's memorial service. We are blessed to have such talented and dedicated musicians at Grace willing to serve as called.



Our 6th graders were welcomed into youth group with their fellow middle schooler's at the annual "Jump" event. Thank you to Bryaan Raaum for being their sponsor.





Want to Learn?

Promotion Sunday - September 7th

Children's & Youth Sunday School and Godly Play will resume.

Summer Adult Sunday School

Bible Boomers , (returns Sept. 7 @9:15am)	Wheelus Hall
Koinonia , (returns Sept. 7 @9:15am)	CE204/205
Trinity @9:15am - Currently studying Book of Ezekiel	MB2
Visions of Faith , see below	MB3
Word of Life , 11:30am - Currently studying Hebrews	MB4


Summer Series on World Religions

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

August 24 Newer Religions - Sikhism, Baha'i Faith, and Latter Day Saints

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 (returns Sept. 11)	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, 9:15AM
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/Tintinnabulators

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

AUGUST

22 Jigsaw Puzzler's Group Meeting, 7PM
23 Fantasy Football Draft/Potluck, 11AM (Wheelus Hall)
24 Blood Drive
24 Trinity SS, 9:15AM (MB2)
24 Visions of Faith SS, 9:15AM (MB3)
24 Summer Combined Worship, 10:30AM
24 Word of Life SS, 11:30AM (MB4)
24 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
25 Blue Angels Study Group, 12PM (MB2)
25 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
26 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
26 Tuesday Evening Prayer Group, 7PM (Parlor)
26 Property Committee Meeting, 7PM (Workroom)
26 Women's Pilgrimage Renewal, 6PM (Narthex)
26 Deacon Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
27 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
27 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
28 Men's Pilgrimage Renewal, 7PM
29 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
31 Trinity SS, 9:15AM (MB2)
31 Visions of Faith SS, 9:15AM (MB3)
31 Summer Combined Worship, 10:30AM
31 Word of Life SS, 11:30AM (MB4)
31 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)

SEPTEMBER

1 Church Offices Closed for Labor Day
2 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
2 Nurture Council Meeting, 1:30PM (MB2)
2 Dayschool Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
2 Tuesday Evening Prayer Group, 7PM (Parlor)
3 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM (MB2)

