

amazing

IN YOUR LIFE | IN OUR COMMUNITY | IN THE WORLD

# Grace

A monthly publication for members and friends of Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek, California February 2022

Dear Grace-filled Friends,

I (Karen) sadly write this farewell letter to you on the day before a surgical procedure on my heart. It was discovered late last fall that I have had a heart attack that badly damaged my left ventricle. Therefore, it only makes sense for me to retire and aim for a more restful life. In truth, I don't want a more restful life; I love working at Grace! However, attempting to be sensible, my last Sunday at Grace will be February 6. I look forward to visiting occasionally, such as on March 19, when I will participate in Jung-Kook (Jay) Kim's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration concert.



It has been a privilege to be part of your lives, to get to know you better, to share your burdens. My history with Grace began in May 2011, when I was pastoral intern for five months. I returned in March 2015 as organist and director of music. In September 2016, I was ordained and installed as your associate pastor of music and pastoral care. Thank you for welcoming me in all these roles.

Some of my worst mistakes are humorous in retrospect, such as the time I had to cancel a Mini-Choir rehearsal because I had a round brush hopelessly entangled in my hair. Another time, I forgot to bring the anthem to a Chancel Choir rehearsal, so we practiced by singing the wrong words to the right tune on the verses and the right refrain with words dictated from my phone. Favorite memories include Readers' Theatre plays (especially "The Fourth Wise Man," complete with sound effects and Susan Blair's cardboard camel, Obed), organ recitals, my ordination and installation, Communion (always a sacred time whether in church or home), Abraham's Tent, the choirs' surprise grandbaby shower when Jack was born, making music with the choirs, playing the organ in church, and conversations with church members and friends, whether in the context of pastoral care or not.

I have enjoyed "starting" and developing projects and groups such as the No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Pageant, Earth Care Team, Peace Pole, Blue Christmas, annual 18-hour Prayer Vigil, Grief Group at Grace, Care Notes (back of the sanctuary), and Readers' Theatre of Grace. None of my ministry would have been possible without the help of God, church staff, and volunteers. Thank you so much. May God richly bless you always!

With love,

*Karen Hastings-Flegel*

## Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday 9:30—3  
Sat. – Mon. Closed

Reach us anytime by email:  
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925-433-5454

Pastor Emerita: Charie Reid

Treasurer: Linda Neyer

Asst. Treasurer: Geri Rentz

Financial Scty: Faye Hutchings

Headshot Photos: Carol King

Preschool Director: Joy Martin

## FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Feb. 6 – Isa 6:1-8 & Luke 5:1-11
- Feb. 13 – Psalm 1, Luke 6:17-26
- Feb. 20 – Gen 45:3-11,  
Luke 6:27-38
- Feb. 27 – Exodus 34:29-35,  
Luke 9:28-36



Submit articles by  
**February 18**  
for the next issue.

## February Birthdays

Joan	Larsen	1
Sheila	Whipple	2
Betty	Adams	6
Jean	Irvine	7
Wendy	Watkins	15
Jennifer	Wallace	16
Reta	Wilcox	17
Linda	Neyer	25
Florence	Stone	28

## WELCOME

### Visitors

Visitors who want to learn more about Grace or seek membership, are invited to let one of the pastors know of your interest. We'll set up a meeting to answer your questions about being a Presbyterian and/or a member of Grace Church.

—Discipleship Department

### Session News

Karen's retirement celebration will be delayed until such time as in-person gatherings are permitted. The Personnel Committee will be working with Worship & Ed. to find a replacement for the Music Director position.

At the meeting on January 23, Session approved the 2022 budget. Some numbers may change when a new Music Director is hired.

The Session elected Trustees- Dave Fellner, Reta Wilcox and Sara Allen, Treasurer-Linda Neyer, Asst. Treasurer-Geri Rentz and Financial Secretary-Faye Hutchings.

### Annual Report

The Annual Report will be distributed at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30. The report will be available on the Website. If you would like one mailed to you, contact the office. There is no *Stewardship in Action* report this month. You are encouraged to read the annual report to see how Grace Church has practiced stewardship throughout the year.

### In-person Meetings at Grace Church

Meetings other than worship were cancelled in January due to the surge in the Omicron variant of the Covid virus. A decision will be made in February about whether it is safe to resume Church activities that include in-person meetings on the church campus.

As of the beginning of February, meetings will be held by Zoom or postponed until safety permits us to meet in-person again. Updates about meetings will be published as soon as they are available.



### Mission in Action

In November, Grace Church gave \$1,000 to Trinity Center, located in Walnut Creek, who serves impoverished and unhoused individuals.

Presbytery Mission received \$1,995 in December from Grace Presbyterian Church for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Thank you to all who donated to help those in need.



### Church Directory "App" Available

If you are a smart phone user, we would like to remind you about Grace Presbyterian Church's mobile app. It includes a Church Directory (Directory) and Online Giving (Give Now). You can download and be ready to use within minutes by following the steps below.



If you have any problems, feel free to call me. For those of you who decide to use our mobile app, I would also appreciate any feedback as to the instructions below, and the apps ease of use and helpfulness, etc.

Enjoy! Linda Neyer, Treasurer (925-640-8488)

- Search for the MinistryOne App - Go to the Apple App or Google Play Store. Search for MinistryOne and download the app to your mobile device
- Locate the MinistryOne App on Your Device - Your church app will be located within the MinistryOne App
- Find Grace Church app by Name, City or Zip
- The app will prompt for your login - you can use either your email address or cell phone number as long as we have them in our system.
- The app will confirm by asking for a code which is sent to either your email address or text to your cell phone.
- Touch the 'X' in upper right corner to exit out of profile
- You should now see tabs for:
  - ⇒ Give Now - online giving
  - ⇒ Directory - church directory
  - ⇒ Message - we do not use
  - ⇒ Profile - if you would like to edit your information

**Heartfelt thanks from Jan Zimmerman** for all of the support she received with late daughter Joy Zimmerman's memorial service. Thank you to all who attended the service and reception, and for the many other means of encouragement she has and continues to receive.

## ***Church is Not a Spectator Sport***

We enter the sanctuary or turn on our computers. It looks like a theater with the “stage” in front and the “orchestra pit”. We take our seats and wait for the show to begin. But wait. This is not a stage production. This is a worship service and we are the body that makes up the church.

On January 16 Pastor Mark gave a sermon on I Corinthians 12:1-13, in which Paul reminds the church in Corinth that the Spirit provides different talents and means of service to the church body. Do we use our talents for ourselves or for the betterment and common good of the body we are a part of? This has meaning for us at Grace Presbyterian today. Since resuming in-person services we have struggled to have enough people to have services. It takes a multitude of volunteers: the greeters, ushers, candle lighters, the people who work the sound and camera systems, the choir, bell choir, and pianists, the liturgist, the Communion servers, those who count the offering and those who help in the office, and the Elders and Deacons. The people who are using their talents to do these services, (and many wear more than one hat), need help. Sometimes they would like to attend worship with friends or family without having a job to do. Many of these tasks take very little time. If we can each agree to help a day or two a month, according to our abilities, it would lighten the load on our overburdened sisters and brothers.

Let’s all look into our hearts and see what talents the spirit has given us and pray that we might be able to see a way to serve our church family. Many hands make light work. Pastor Mark reminded us that we don’t *go* to church, we *are* the church. In other words, Christianity is *not* a spectator sport! If you find that you would like to volunteer in some way, contact the church office and your interest will be passed on to the appropriate team.

— Sally Day



## ***Needlers Continue Good Works During Pandemic***

Needlers could not meet in-person throughout most of 2021 but they still kept knitting and crocheting and adding to our Grace Mission Giving. There were only eight Needlers and they still were able to complete many projects. We sent 250 scarves to Operation Gratitude to be included in care packages for our Active Military, Veterans, and First Responders. We filled three very large plastic bags with scarves, hats and fingerless gloves for One Warm Coat and made and delivered lap robes to our home bound members and friends.

— Marsha Stark



## ***Food For Thought—Thank you!***

Thank you! Thank you!, dear friends at Grace, for your support of the Food for Thought (formerly “Let’s Feed the Kids”) winter break food project just concluded.

I want to report to you that with the help of a generous grant from the Presbytery of San Francisco. and our own Witness and Ministry funds, we were able to help 520 families with small children get through the time when school breakfast and lunch isn’t available.

The need was very great this year.

Grace Church contributed 1,040 cans of tuna for the project. Working with the larger Multifaith community, we were all able to prepare and deliver 2,080 boxes of grocery staples, fresh produce, and breads. Four boxes of food and a turkey were distributed to each family through 12 elementary schools in Richmond.

Thank you so much to Bill Keeley and Charie Reid for volunteering their time to make and pack the boxes. Thanks to all who helped in any way. Please consider joining us in the effort to feed the kids during the next holiday. No child should go hungry!

— Gail Peterson (volunteer)



Grace Presbyterian Church  
2100 Tice Valley Boulevard  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Sunday Worship at 10 AM  
<https://www.gracewc.org>  
February 2022


Address Service Requested  
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## WELCOME STATEMENT

*We welcome and celebrate  
all who join with us*

—the young and the old,  
the rich and the poor,  
the gay and the straight,  
the strong and the weak,  
the meek and the brave—  
and though we are  
different one from  
another, we are united  
in loving and praising God  
and in loving each other.



**Please note, due to changes in requirements by the county,  
all persons, regardless of vaccination status are required  
to wear masks to worship and other meetings.**

**In-person SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are at 10:00 AM.  
*Fellowship is cancelled for the time being.***

**Livestream worship is available Sundays at 10:00 AM through Zoom,  
video or telephone option. *Contact the office to get on the email list.***

**Watch recordings of worship services at [www.gracewc.org](http://www.gracewc.org).**

**Listen to the latest Sunday sermon on your phone.  
*Dial 925-236-2487***

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