

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

April 2023

Witness and Ministry Committee News

The Witness and Ministry Committee seeks to provide opportunities for members of Grace to be witnesses of God's love by both working in collaboration with and by contributing financial support to faith-based and community-based programs that offer social justice and services to the wider community. We do this in three major ways:

- distributing budgeted mission funds to local organizations;
- facilitating special offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing;
- participating in the Micro Homes and other collaborative projects.

Committee members attend meetings of local organizations and explore ways that Grace congregation members can participate in projects and events sponsored by these organizations including collection of food goods, backpacks and educational materials and other donations.

Local programs to which we have provided budgeted funding support in previous years include:

Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition acts as a communications link between churches that have volunteers and other resources, and the agencies which provide social services including food, shelter and clothing to the needy in the community.

Hope Solutions provides supportive housing and vital services and is committed to building and renovating homes for unhoused families and individuals.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa seeks to provide opportunities for interfaith dialogue through educational programs, social events, community service projects, environmental social justice programs, and opportunities for volunteer service in programs.

Interfaith Council of Rossmoor provides a forum for conversations, education, and dialogue for the diverse communities within Rossmoor seeking mutual respect and understanding.

Westminster Woods (Camperships) An outdoor education and recreation program in West Sonoma county with strong Presbyterian roots. It provides a week-long Family Camp in a stress-free environment for families to regroup and enjoy a purpose-filled vacation.

San Francisco Safehouse (Hope Center) Founded by Presbyterian pastor Glenda Hope with multi-faith partners to empower and support women who are experiencing housing instability and sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Habitat for Humanity organizes volunteers to build decent, affordable housing, home ownership counseling, home repairs and affordable community financing for home ownership. Habitat is currently building homes for 42 families at Esperanza Place in Walnut Creek.

Trinity Center located on the campus of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. Provides transitional housing and partners with the community to provide shelter, meals, and social services to the homeless, including homeless youth.

The Witness and Ministry Committee invites you to attend our April meeting and to consider becoming a member of our committee. **We are seeking guidance as we consider continuation of former funding recipients and to explore new opportunities for support and service.** We meet the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 am in the Church library. **We hope to see you at our next meeting which will not be held on Easter Sunday, and will be posted in the coming weeks.**

By Meg Keeley, Witness & Ministry Team

Submit articles for the next
issue by **April 14**

Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday
9:30—3:00**

**The office is closed
on Monday and Saturday**

Reach us anytime by email:
gracepreschurchwc@gmail.com

Phone: 925-935-2100

Sr. Pastor Mark Burnham:
925-433-5459 or
revmrb@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Mark Burnham

Pastor Emerita: Charie Reid

Music Director: Jumi Kim

Treasurer: Linda Neyer

Asst. Treasurer: Geri Rentz

Financial Scty: Faye Hutchings

Office Manager: Judy Williams

Preschool Director: Joy Martin

APRIL SUNDAY WORSHIP

- April 2 – Matthew 21:1-17
- April 9 – Matthew 28:1-10
- April 16 – Matthew 28:16-20
- April 23 – Acts 10:1-17, 34-48
- April 30 – Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

April Birthdays

Barbara Rainis	04/04
Betsy Williams	04/07
Norma Fellner	04/14
Maryanne Sanchez	04/19
Marilyn Squire	04/20
Kathie Paul	04/24
Sharon Lyons	04/25
Patricia Hansen	04/28

Curious About Church Membership?

Visitors who want to learn more about Grace Church or seek Church membership are invited to let Pastor Mark know of your interest. He will answer your questions about being a Presbyterian and what you need to do to be a member of Grace Church.

Mission Giving

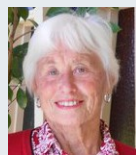
As of the printing of the newsletter, Grace donors have contributed the following:



- 2023 PDA/Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief = \$2,925
- 2023 Special Offering/One Great Hour of Sharing = \$1,705.79.
- Hope Solutions = \$760
- CCIC for the 4th week food program = \$1,575

In Memory of Rita Dorst

May 9, 1931 —
February 18, 2023



Hymn Festival

Sing Along
In Collaboration with

St. Anne's Catholic Church
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

- Sheila Wilkins, organist
- Karen Hastings Flegel, organist
- Jumi Kim, organist & soprano
- Dawn Ferry, mezzo soprano
- David Chavez, tenor
- Pepe Luis Hernandez, bass
- Hyunji Park, pianist

FREE ADMISSION
Donations are greatly appreciated.

(Sun) Apr 23
3:00 pm

Free Concert - 4/23 at 3 pm - Hymn Festival and Sing-Along

In this last concert of the season, we have a stellar lineup of musicians and singers and invite you to lift up your own voice in the joy of singing. The concert is a collaborative effort between our neighboring churches, St. Anne's and St. Andrews.

Concerts are about one hour and 15 minutes. There is plenty of seating and free, easy-access parking. Grace appreciates your free-will offering to help offset the cost of production. Please invite a friend to this sure-to-be stellar performance.



Holocaust Remembrance Day

Tuesday, April 18 marks the day when communities around the world will observe Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day. **On Sunday, April 16th, Grace Church will honor the victims of the Holocaust** by hosting an interfaith prayer during worship. Members of the B'nai Israel of Rossmore and Temple Isaiah in Lafayette have been invited to participate in the prayer service. As a Matthew 25 Church that seeks to work towards eliminating racism and xenophobia, we will remember and honor the Jewish victims of the Holocaust as well as other groups who lost their lives. Such an observance is a reminder to all of us to work for reconciliation in the world and to confront xenophobia wherever we run across it in our own communities.

by Pat Devine-Cummings

Hannah Circle to Meet Tuesday, April 11

Two hearty souls dared another day of intense rain and wind in March and participated from the Library. The rest of us joined the meeting on ZOOM. To everyone, a Big Thank You!!

Our next Circle Meeting will be **Tuesday April 11th**. We study Lesson 8 "Sabbath and Justice" in our guide, "**Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight.**" **Key Idea: Sabbath and justice go hand in hand. Celebrating the Sabbath means living lives of justice all week long.** The Scripture is **Isaiah 58**. We are nearing the end of the 2022-2023 Bible Study year. May 9 is our last meeting before we begin a three-month vacation. Jan and I want to arrange a light brunch of fruit and pastries for our last meeting. **Please email or call us and let us know if you would be able to attend in May.** We will resume Bible Study in September with a new Guide from The Presbyterian Women's Association. When the new Guide is available, we will let you know via Email and the Sunday Bulletin.

- by Jan and Geri

Are You an Earth Care Advocate?

A number of years ago, the Earth Care Committee was formed at Grace Church. The team was instrumental in making Grace a certified "Earth Care Congregation." One of their projects was to install recycling cans in every room of the church and to raise awareness about the mission. The team has not met in some time now.



Do you feel called to an Earth Care Ministry? Are you concerned about the environment and would you be interested in taking part in continuing the Earth Care Team of Grace Church? If the answer to these questions is "yes," then please plan on attending a meeting on **Sunday, April 30 at 11:30am in the Library** to discuss the next steps.

Did you know that in 2024, Contra Costa County is instituting stricter recycling rules for commercial buildings such as those here at Grace. If recycling is done improperly, the church could be fined. The work of those passionate about earth care is more important than ever. We hope to see you on April 30.

Grace Welcomes New Members

Introducing **Barbara and John Bean**, who were welcomed into membership on December 18, 2022. Both John and Barbara spent their early years growing up in Oregon.

After their marriage, John began a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy. They began this journey in Georgia and before the end of his Naval career had lived in Hawaii, Alaska, and England. Along the way, their family included two sons and a daughter, who benefitted from what Barbara describes as "the vagabond lifestyle."

After the Navy, John went to work for Lockheed Missiles and Space and Barbara worked as an Administrative Assistant for a high school and then for a college.

Meanwhile their children grew up and Barbara and John recently moved from Southern California to Rossmoor to be closer to their daughter, Dr. Meredith Bean, who lives in Mill Valley. Their son David lives in Torrance, California and their son Scott lives in Tigard, Oregon. While living in Torrance, they were active at the Presbyterian Church of the Master. A very warm welcome to Grace, John and Barbara!

HOLY WEEK 2023

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2 - Worship
with Communion at 10 am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6 - Worship
with Communion at 4 pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 7 - Noon to 3 pm
The Sanctuary will be open for
individual prayer and reflection

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9 - Worship at 10 am
with special music
bring flowers for the living cross

Book Club News

Thank you to the members who attended the rainy-day March Club meeting in-person. With Zoom, we were eight for discussion. The consensus was "The Local" by Joey Hartstone was a good read. Email any suggestions for May or June.

For April our novel is "The Fallen Angels Book Club" by R.

Franklin James. If you are interested in learning more about Rae James, she was featured in the February 8, 2023 issue of the Rossmoor News.

The teaser for the novel is....The Fallen Angels Book Club has only two requirements: the members must love books and have a white-collar criminal record. Hollis Morgan fits the bill. Left holding the bag in an insurance fraud scheme concocted by her now ex-husband, she served her time and is trying to rebuild her life. All she wants is for the court to pardon her conviction so she can return to law school. And then there is a murder...

This is Hollis Morgan Mystery #1 in the series, published April 25, 2013. Available on Amazon, kindle, Audio or paperback. It can also be found as a used book on some sites. *- Blessings, Geri*



Helpful Product if You Lose Power

Many Walnut Creek residents lost power for more than 24 hours during the recent storms. Sonja Luscher learned of a helpful product - LED lightbulbs with a battery backup. If the power goes out, these handy bulbs will stay lit for up to six hours, helping to keep you safe in such an emergency. They are available on Amazon for a reasonable price.





2100 Tice Valley Boulevard
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Sunday Worship at 10 AM
<https://www.gracewc.org>
April 2023

Address Service Requested
Dated Material

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Permit No. 8241
Concord, CA

A Food
Bank
donation
barrel is
in the
Narthex.



Please continue to fill
up the barrel to help
neighbors in need.
Thank you for your
contributions.

In-person SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are at 10:00 AM.
Join friends for Fellowship time after church.

Livestream worship link is at www.gracewc.org - Sundays at 10:00 am

Watch recordings of worship services anytime at www.gracewc.org

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

APRIL 2023 EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at 10 am, Bible Study in the Library or on Zoom

Sunday, April 2 at 10 am, Palm Sunday with Communion

Thursday, April 6 at 4 pm, Maundy Thursday worship with Communion

Good Friday, April 7 from 12—3 pm, sanctuary open for individual prayer

Sunday April 9 at 10 AM, EASTER worship in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 11 at 10 am, Hannah Circle Meeting in the Library

Sunday, April 16 at 11:30 am, Book Club in the Library

Sunday, April 23 at 11:30 am, Meeting of Session in the Library

