

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 June/July 2023

Dear Grace Church Family,

As we move into the month of June and summertime, I'd like to share some updates and news. Below are a few items of interest—please let me know if you have questions or comments.



### June/July Sermon Series – The Book of Revelation

During the three Sundays in June and two in July, I will be preaching a sermon series from the final book of the Bible, The Revelation to John. *Revelation* is among the most powerful yet most misunderstood books in the Bible. It is a pastoral letter, much like Paul wrote, but one filled with stunning and challenging images.

As one writer put it: “*Revelation* paints, more than preaches, a ringing assurance that God is Lord of creation and history.” This five-week series is an opportunity to explore *Revelation* more deeply in the context of our worship life together.

### Earth Care Ministry

On Sunday, April 30 a group seven church members met to explore reviving the Earth Care Committee at Grace Church. Current Elder Pat Devine-Cummings gave an overview of the work of the Committee since its inception. The Earth Care ministry focuses on both on the spiritual aspect of caring for God Creation and practical applications of positive environmental programs and actions.

In the near term, the Team will be exploring the current recycling practices at Grace and to see what needs to be reassessed and what training needs to take place. **The Team will meet again on Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 am in the church library.** All interest people are invited!

### Micro Homes Update

The plans to build a 6-unit Micro Home Village with Hope Solutions in the church parking lot continue to move forward. We still face one big hurdle regarding affordable housing regulations. Meanwhile, Firm Foundations Community Housing, continues to work with their architect and engineering teams to complete the building plans and applications.

### Buildings and Grounds

The Business Team of the Session is responsible for maintaining the church's buildings and grounds. Most recently they have been working on a couple of water issues—a repair of the drains outside the entry to the sanctuary and a new roof on a section of the Fireside Room. As the weather warms and dries out, look for some new landscape work being done around the campus. Please join me in a word of thanks for our Business Team elders and team members.

Grace and peace, *Mark*

**Submit articles for the next issue by July 21**

### Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday  
9:30—3:00**

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

**Reach us anytime by email:  
[gracepreschurchwc@gmail.com](mailto:gracepreschurchwc@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 925-935-2100**

**Sr. Pastor Mark Burnham:  
925-433-5459 or  
[revmrb@gmail.com](mailto: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**

### **JUNE**

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

- June 4 – Revelation 1:9-2:7
- June 11 – Revelation 4:1-11
- June 18 – Rev. Charie Reid preaching
- June 25 – Revelation 5:1-13

## June/July Birthdays

Robert Stark	6/02
Mary Ann Littig	6/03
Lynn Binsacca	6/05
Mariane Anderson	6/07
Carol King	6/09
Jan Zimmerman	6/12
Lynn Lyons	6/15
Pamela Bouey	6/16
Roger Schultz	6/16
Alice Aldrich	6/20
Leslee Prah	6/22
Ralpa Storbeck	6/22
Jane Burkland	6/23
Dan Owens	6/26
Jerome Williams	6/26
Victoria Lucido	6/28
Jon Littig	6/29
Elizabeth Sloan	7/01
Barbara DiGiorgio	7/03
Charie Reid	7/04
Dorothy Miller-Nelson	7/06
Jean Savage	7/07
Freddie Delamain	7/08
Kris Ludwigen	7/10
Pat Burnham	7/12
Judith Jones	7/12
Cecile Hasselbrink	7/15
Rosalyn Cannelora	7/17
Pepe Hernandez	7/25
Carolyn Choy	7/26
Liz Bradner	7/27
Raglan Tuttle	7/28
Marshall Tuttle	7/29
James Blair	7/30
Gail Peterson	7/30

### Father's Day is Sunday, June 18

There will be a display of photos in the Fireside Room after worship if you wish to bring a photo of your father or another significant man in your life. Bring your picture to the Fireside Room before church.

### The Endowment Fund of Grace Church

has supported many projects over the years. Those who left gifts to the church would be happy to see us enjoying their generosity. For more information about the Endowment Fund, email Linda Neyer ([gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com)) or Faye Hutchings ([afhutchings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afhutchings@sbcglobal.net)) for information. You may also pick up a card in back of the sanctuary to let us know of your intentions. Thank you for your generosity.



**We are grateful to our faithful Grace community! Through April month-end, Grace has received almost 60% of our annual pledge goal of \$250,000. We are truly blessed.**

### Free Concerts Will Return in September

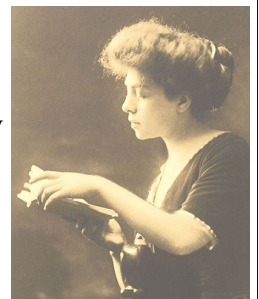
Jumi Kim, Music Director will introduce a new concert series in September. Our free Concerts feature world-class performers and are about one hour with easy-access parking. Freewill offerings are welcomed.

Fall 2023 Grace Concert Series  
 Sep. 10 : Ensemble Ari  
 Oct. 15: Opera Gala Concert  
 Nov. 12: Celeste Stella Trio  
 Dec. 17: Grace Christmas Concert

**Hannah Circle meets next on September 12, 2023.** We begin in the fall with our new Bible Study: **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**. The Bible study by author Olive Mahabir invites readers to consider Jesus, “the good shepherd” (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel According to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled. The new Study Guide will be available at our meeting in September.

### Book Club will meet next on Sunday July 16th

at 11:30 am in the Library. At the last meeting, we decided to read a fact-based historical novel, *The Personal Librarian*, published in 2021, by Berkeley Books, 352 pages. *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray is based on the life of Belle da Costa Greene. Belle is a Princeton-educated librarian who, in 1902, lands a high-profile job with steel magnate J.P. Morgan. What J.P. and the elite New Yorkers she encounters do not know is that Belle is a Black woman passing as white. Belle quickly learns that being white will not allow her to overcome prejudices against women working in the male-dominated field of art and rare book collecting. The novel traces the gains and losses that come with her choices.



Belle da Costa Greene.

## Grace Welcomes Kathryn Hoffer

Many of you have seen Kathryn perform at worship and at Grace concerts. Grace welcomed Kathryn to membership in April.



Kathryn was born in Elgin, Illinois. She has lived in Rochester, NY, Minneapolis, MN and Anchorage, AK. She has two adult children, a daughter who lives in Tokyo and a son who lives in Oakland.

Kathryn recently moved to Rossmoor from Anchorage where she was active as a violinist and music educator. She retired in April, 2022, after 39 seasons as concertmaster of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra.

Her fifty-year career in music education included teaching in public school, private studio and community settings. In 2002 Ms. Hoffer was named a BP-YWCA Woman of Achievement. She received the individual Artist Award in the Anchorage Mayor's Arts Awards program in 2003 and in 2010. Additionally, she was the honoree of the American String Teachers Association's Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award. She is currently a member of the Diablo Symphony and is enjoying getting involved with music in the East Bay.

Kathryn was attracted to worship at Grace Church because of the warm welcome, the strong sense of community, and the well-appreciated music program.

**Congratulations to Matthew Stark**, grandson of **Bob and Marsha Stark**, who graduated from Northgate Highschool in Walnut Creek. Throughout the past years Matthew has shared his musical talent in many places and received numerous awards for his saxophone performances. He will be studying at the Manhattan School of Music in New York.



Granddaughter of **Jon and Mary Ann Littig, Bridget Leighton**, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. She completed these studies in three years maintaining a 3:85 GPA. She received her diploma with "Distinction." Bridget has returned to Tennessee where her family now resides to use this gap year to earn money and determine where she hopes to achieve her Master's. **Congratulations Bridget! And - congratulations to all of the proud grandparents.**

## In Memory of Marjorie Bradley

Longtime member of Grace  
Elder, Deacon & Clerk of Session  
Member of the choir  
Served on fellowship teams and  
Rossmoor Friends of Grace



November 16, 1924-May 30, 2023

## Equal Exchange—Changing the Coffee Industry One Farmer at a Time

Each Sunday morning at Fellowship time we enjoy coffee purchased from Equal Exchange. Their mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through their success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.



In 1986, Equal Exchange started with an idea: what if food could be traded in a way that is honest and fair, that empowers both farmers and consumers? Founders - Rink Dickinson, Jonathan Rosenthal and Michael Rozyne - asked this question as they envisioned a trade model that values each part of the supply chain. They decided to take a big risk and started importing fairly traded coffee from Nicaragua, despite a US embargo against the Sandinista government. A new business was born from this bold act of solidarity with Latin American farmers and Equal Exchange grew from there.

Today after 30 years and counting, Equal Exchange is a thriving model of Fair Trade that has exceeded the founders' original vision. With over 30 years of experience behind them—a history replete with successes, failures, innovative partnerships, exciting new products, and inspiring stories—they are humbled by just how far they still need to go. Not so long ago, the specialty coffee industry dismissed a vision of more equitable relationships with farmers as unrealistic. Today there are 400 coffee companies purchasing at least a small portion of their coffee under Fair Trade terms.

But the growth of Fair Trade has not come without profound challenges. The acceptance of large plantations and corporations such as Nestlé into the Fair Trade labeling system calls into question the very underpinnings of the certification system of which Equal Exchange is a part. Even with their successes, most small-scale farmers around the world remain impoverished and at the mercy of volatile, complex commodity systems.

This article was reprinted as an excerpt from the *History of Equal Exchange* from their website: <https://shop.equalexchange.coop>. To shop for coffee or chocolate and for information, please go to the website.





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

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### ***Curious About Membership?***

Visitors who want to learn more about Grace 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.

—Discipleship Department

**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](http://www.gracewc.org) - Sundays at 10:00 am

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

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

### **JUNE & JULY 2023 GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS**

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

Sunday, June 4 and July 2 at 10 am, Communion Sundays

Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 am, Earth Care Meeting in the Library

Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 10 am, Hannah Circle Meeting in the Library

Sunday, July 16 at 11:30 am, Book Club in the Library. No meeting in June

Sunday, June 25 at 11:30 am, Meeting of Session in the Library