

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 October 2023

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

I was looking back over my previous newsletter articles and found the October, 2020 edition, which included this news quote: “The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 has now surpassed 200,000—reaching what was once the upper limit of some estimates for the pandemic’s impact on Americans.” As we all know, COVID-19 was not even *close* to being done in October of 2020. In fact, as of September 16, 2023 the total U.S. death toll from COVID-19 is a stunning 1,143,192.

I mentioned in last’s months article that I tested positive for COVID while visiting family in Seattle. The symptoms were fairly mild, and I recovered quickly. However, I did suffer a rebound and tested positive again right before Labor Day weekend. I’m very thankful that the Rev. Sally Juarez was able to step in and preach for me that Sunday!

While life has mostly returned to “normal” since the worst of the pandemic shutdown, I want to encourage everyone to be as safe as possible when it comes to COVID, flu, and RSV. Please keep up to date on your vaccinations and where a mask if you need more protection.

To close, I want to share a poem that was passed on to me recently

## Blessing for the Brokenhearted

***There is no remedy for love but to love more. - Henry David Thoreau***

**Let us agree for now that we will not say the breaking makes us stronger or that it is better to have this pain than to have done without this love.**

**Let us promise we will not tell ourselves time will heal the wound, when every day our waking opens it anew.**

**Perhaps for now it can be enough to simply marvel at the mystery of how a heart so broken can go on beating, as if it were made for precisely this—**

**as if it knows the only cure for love is more of it, as if it sees the heart’s sole remedy for breaking is to love still,**

**as if it trusts that its own persistent pulse is the rhythm of a blessing we cannot begin to fathom but will save us nonetheless.**

- Jan Richardson

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Peace, *Mark*

**Submit articles  
for the next issue  
by OCTOBER 15**

### 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



## OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Oct 1 – Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15
- Oct 8 – Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9
- Oct 15 – 1 Samuel 8:4-20; 11:14-15
- Oct 22 – 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5
- Oct 29 – 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

## October Birthdays

Lori Camenson	10/04
Shirley Dal Porto	10/04
Nancy Brixey	10/05
Linda Hohenfeldt	10/07
Kevin Riach	10/09
Kathy Anderson	10/11
Marsha Stark	10/12
Mark Borhardt	10/17
Sally Day	10/19
Lille Tuttle	10/20
Paisley Tuttle	10/20
Vivienne Tuttle	10/20
Barbara Pennington	10/22
Anne Bergera	10/25
Bill Keeley	10/26
James Martin	10/28
Margo Riach	10/31

### Hannah Circle Meets on 10/11 at 10 am



Join us in the Library or on Zoom where we will continue our Study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, Lesson Two: The Exorcism in Gerasa. Scripture: *Luke 8:26-39*.

Author Rev. Mahabir tells us how people in ancient times reacted to those with mental or physical disabilities. In *The Exorcism in Gerasa* story in Luke 8, Jesus sees the image of God in the demon-possessed man, and responds to the situation with respect, and compassion. Jesus serves as an example for us of how to listen and attend to the needs of others.

Recently, the Circle decided which charities would receive a gift from the accumulated funds of the Presbyterian Women. Their choices include:

**Today's Youth Matter, Oakland, Center for Elders Independence (PACE program) - Concord, and the Trinity Center - Walnut Creek.**

—*Blessings and Peace, Geri Rentz*

**Opera Gala Concert**  
 October Concert—2nd in series  
*Featuring*  
 Opera Arias and Duets from *Die Fledermaus* by J. Strauss,  
*Don Giovanni* and the *Magic Flute* by Mozart,  
*Rusalka* by Dvorák, *Camelot* by Lerner,  
*Iolanthe* by Gilbert and Sullivan and more.

**Jumi Kim**  
Soprano

**Joshua Hughes**  
Bass-Baritone

**Sunkyong Park**  
Piano

**Sunday, October 15 at 3 PM — Admission is Free!**

Donations are greatly appreciated and help to sustain our concert series offering to Grace members and friends and the community.

**Mission Giving**  
 Thank you to those who have given to the Peacemaking Offering. The total received so far is \$1,765.80. The offering will be complete on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

### Pastor Appreciation Sunday Special Lunch on October 8 11:00 am in the Fireside Room

Join your Grace friends for Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 8. There will be a fellowship luncheon with salads and treats for dessert.



**Save the date**  
**HARVEST THANK YOU LUNCHEON**  
*to thank our many 'givers'*  
**Sunday, Oct. 29 at 11 am, Fireside Room**  
**Chinese Food Favorites will be served**

### Purchase a Pie and Help Grace Preschool!

Order your pie now for end of October pickup. The order form is in the Narthex, or you may contact the office to order. **Order deadline is October 12.** Many favorites and delicious varieties are available. \$17 per pie. Proceeds benefit the school.



# WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

On Sunday, September 24, **Jordan Enright-Schulz** was baptized into the Christian Faith. At the same time she became a member of Grace Church. We are delighted that Jordan chose Grace as a launching point for her faith journey.



Jordan was born in Oakland and raised in Marin County. She graduated from Dartmouth College where she earned a bachelor's degree in English and Spanish Literature. A highlight of that time was studying abroad in Madrid, Spain. She also spent a term volunteering at an orphanage for infants orphaned by HIV/AIDs in Malawi, Africa.

Jordan worked in the tech industry for many years, mostly in marketing positions. In 2020, she returned to college to obtain a paralegal certificate. Cal State East Bay in Hayward was no exception during the Pandemic Shutdown – her whole program ended up being online as it started just a week before Covid hit.

Jordan's hobbies include reading, running and walking, yoga, and meditation. She recently joined the Grace Chancel Choir. *Please give a warm welcome to Jordan.*

## Grace Family Camp at Westminster Woods

Grace Preschool had a wonderful September weekend at Westminster Woods! We typically attend Camp in May, but had to reschedule due to illness. Our trip included eight families and three teachers, with a total of 31 campers. We enjoyed being together



in the redwoods, singing around the campfire, making arts and crafts, hiking to the giant cargo net, swimming, playing on the playground and roasting lots of marshmallows for s'mores!

We love how camp traditions don't change much (making 'froot' loop necklaces, singing around the campfire...) as well as new camp experiences each year provided by the parents. This time we enjoyed making giant bubbles! We also had a dad bring a telescope and we were able to see Saturn and its rings!

At night, the children ran in the meadow with glow sticks and flashlights. The children aptly named this event "the preschool dance party!"

It was really special to see families getting to know each other better. **We are so grateful for the Lass Family fund that supports this special time together in nature.**

## Session Department News

Your **Business Team** has been hard at work with various projects. Dry rot repairs have taken place in the office wing. The old Wisteria vine, which was contributing to the dry rot, was removed



along with the rotted pergola. Repairs were made to the front of the office and the main entrance off Tice Valley Blvd. The repairs were painted to blend in with the rest of the building. The result is a fresh, clean and more modern appearance. Dry rot repairs continue and will take place over the next year or so. Repairs were made to the insulated subfloor of the Oak Room. The next step is to spray for termites and rodent-proof the crawl space under the Oak Room floor. Thank you to elder Gary Parkhurst.

Replacement of the lawns with mulch, in collaboration with PG&E is still in the approval process. Thank you to Earnie Cunningham for spearheading this project.

Preparations are underway for the annual pledge drive. Thank you Reta Wilcox.

**Worship & Education** has planned 'Education Sundays' for October 15, November 19 and December 10. Topics to be announced. The first meeting was in September and well-received. New Advent paraments were selected and ordered. Thanks to Jan Zimmerman, Marlene Hall and Lynn Lyons.

The **Discipleship Team** is hard at work planning a celebration on Sunday, October 8 and the Harvest Thank you event on October 29. **Congregational Life** is organizing the Earth Care Meetings and has plans for an 'Aging and Saging Retreat' in the latter part of 2024. Thanks to Roz Cannelora, Pat Devine and Sara Allen.

Your **Witness & Ministry** team seeks to share information with the Grace congregation about the organizations that they chose to received donated church Mission Funds. Stay tuned for an informational presentation on November 12 from one of these organizations. Thanks to Meg Keeley, Liz Bradner and Gail Peterson.

## Earth Care Exploration Team

Those who are interested in Care for the planet and all of creation attended the Earth Care Exploration Meeting on Sun. 10/1. The Earth Care Team is in its exploratory stages, so it is a good time to get in on the ground floor of this earth-centered ministry. For more information, contact Elder Pat Devine 925.945.6726. Your voice is welcome and needed!



— Pat Devine, Congregational Life



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

### **OCTOBER GATHERINGS & MEETINGS**

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

Sunday, October 1 at 10 am, *World Communion Sunday*

Sunday, October 1 at 11:30 am, *Earth Care Meeting* in the Library

Wednesday, October 4 at 1:30 pm, *Deacons Meeting* in the Library

Sunday, Oct. 8, *Pastor Appreciation Day and Luncheon*

Tuesday, October 10 at 10 am, *Hannah Circle Meeting* in the Library

Sunday, October 15, 11:30 am, *Education Sunday* in the Fireside Rm

Sunday, October 15 at 3 pm, *Opera Gala Concert*

Sunday, October 22 at 11:30 am, *Session Meeting* in the Library

Sunday, October 29 at 11 am, *Harvest Thank you Luncheon* in the Fireside Room