

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 November 2023

Dear Grace-filled Friends:

November is a month focused on gratitude. As a nation we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of the month (November 23 this year). In the life of this congregation, it is the month when we celebrate and give thanks during our Stewardship season.

Stewardship, at its heart, is an attitude toward life. It's about acknowledging the gifts that God has given to us, and, in gratitude to God for those gifts, we give back to God in many ways. Stewardship, then, is a way of thinking and expressing thanks.

Our Stewardship theme this year is "Celebrating Abundance" and is based on John 10:10 where Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly," and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

During Sunday worship on November 5, 12 and 19, you will hear personal experiences about Stewardship and Giving from members of the Session in Moments for Ministry. Below are the questions they are asked to reflect upon. I think these are also wonderful questions for all of us to ponder during this season.

Why do you give?
Who taught you how to give?
Why is giving to the church important to you?
What do you wish others knew about giving?
What is giving?
What have you learned about stewardship?
What is important to you at your church?
What is important to you about your faith?

In this newsletter you will find a Stewardship brochure along with a pledge commitment card for 2024. These materials are a good reminder of the wonderful ministries we already support, but also the great opportunities still available to us as God invites us into the future. I ask that you prayerfully and generously continue to support the ministry and mission of this church.

Finally, I want to offer a huge "thank you" for the Pastor Appreciation event on Sunday, October 8. The lunch was a delightful and I'm very thankful for the dozens of cards and notes of appreciation. I can't think of a better gift as we move into a season of gratitude and thanksgiving!

Peace,

Mark

**Submit articles
for the next issue
by NOVEMBER 13
Note: Early deadline
due to Thanksgiving.**

Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday
9:30—3:00**

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

**Reach us anytime by email:
gracepreschurchwe@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



NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Nov 5 – 1 Kings 18:20-39
- Nov 12 – Hosea 11:1-9
- Nov 19 – Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5
- Nov 26 – 2 Kings 22:1-20

November Birthdays

Michelle Stoffregen	11/04
Meg Keeley	11/06
Cecily Wait	11/10
Karen Haus	11/14
Bob Binsacca	11/17
Madelyn Cocoz	11/19
Geri Rentz	11/21
Don Lyons	11/27

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, 11/5. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, 11/4.



Pastor Appreciation

October was designated by our Presbytery as

Pastor Appreciation month. On Sunday, October 8th, the Grace congregation celebrated Pastor Mark Burnham with a basket of thank you cards and letters, a plant and a luncheon of potato salad, green salad with chicken and fruit salad, rolls and cookies for dessert. About 70 people enjoyed the luncheon.

Thanks to all in the congregation who brought cards and came to the luncheon in the Fireside Room, To the helpers who assisted with setup and cleanup and special thanks to Sara Allen, Rosalyn Cannelora, Sharon Lyons, Faye Hutchings, Gail Peterson, Judy Williams and Jan Zimmerman, the team who made the event happen. An extra special recognition to Sonja Luscher for baking over 200 delicious home-made cookies for the luncheon.



Veterans' Day will be acknowledged on Sunday, 11/12. If you have served in the military, be a part of our photo display by submitting one to the office. Your picture will be scanned and returned to you.

2023 Grace Presbyterian Church Monthly Concert Series

Presents



Celeste Stella Trio

Sunday, November 12 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.



Jiwon Evelyn Kwark, violin / Hyunji Park, piano / August Lee, cello

Hannah Circle Meets on Nov. 14 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 Three: A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ: *Luke 8:43-48*



Author Rev. Mahabir tells the reader about the personal plight in ancient times of those with chronic illness and the severe impact this had on their lives. At a time when no medical cures were available, such conditions were matters of life and death, and certain misery.

For contemplation and discussion: How has chronic illness affect you or people in your community? What kind of impact has such illness had on your faith? Why do some people suffer physically more than others, and might there be a spiritual reason for suffering?

All women (church membership is not necessary) are welcome to join us for interesting discussion and fellowship.

—*Blessings and Peace, Geri Rentz*

Nominating Committee Selected

Thank you for your service to the Nominating Committee. They will be actively searching for Grace members willing to serve as elders and deacons. If you are interested in serving and have questions, please talk to one of the committee members.

- ◆ Elders Representatives: Lynn Lyons (Chair), Jan Zimmerman
- ◆ Deacon Representative: Sally Day
- ◆ Congregation Members at Large: Carolyn Choy, Faye Hutchings, Bill Keeley, Elise Teagle.

Update on Hope Village



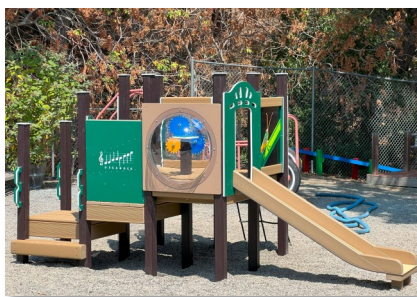
Perhaps you saw the story of Hope Village at Grace Presbyterian on the local news? NBC News anchor Jody Hernandez and team was on the Grace campus on October 17 to interview Mark about Hope Village.



On Wednesday, October 11, the official groundbreaking ceremony took place on the site in the parking lot where the future village will be placed. Present at the groundbreaking were about 70 people. Along with other notables were Walnut Creek Mayor, Cindy Silva and Supervisor Candace Andersen. The village of six microhomes to house homeless seniors is in the final approval stages. A construction date has not yet been set.

Check out "The Grasshopper"

Grace Cooperative Preschool has a new play structure! Installed just in time for the start of the school year, "The Grasshopper" has many features to delight and challenge our preschoolers. Children may access the structure by climbing up steps, using a rock wall, or a net ladder. Once on the platform, children can play music on the chimes, turn gears, and peek out of a large bubble. Children have enjoyed taking babies up the "the house" and sliding down the slide. The structure is raised enough to allow "hiding" underneath too! It has a colorful panel with a photo of flowers and a grasshopper. This structure was purchased with proceeds from our 50th Anniversary event and last year's spring fundraiser. We appreciate the support of the Grace Presbyterian Church community in helping us realize this goal.



Grace Promotes Peace in Palestine and Israel Through Our Giving *by Meg Keeley*

Each year, the Witness & Ministry Committee of Grace provides information about the recipients of our regularly budgeted gifts to the community and the world. It is especially meaningful in these times to know that our gifts are reaching out into the troubled Holy Lands. One of the organizations that we help to support through our gifts is the Pilgrims of Ibillin, which supports multiple organizations, activities, and initiatives to help bring peace and reconciliation to the Holy Land. A signature recipient of their support is the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin, Israel. These schools educate 3,000 (currently enrolled) children from all ethnic and religious backgrounds including Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Druze heritage in the ways of peace, reconciliation, respect, and justice. Pilgrims of Ibillin has also developed partnerships with schools and organizations in the West Bank, Gaza, and elsewhere in Israel to support additional projects working for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Pilgrimages offer visits to many of these partner organizations.

Harvest Festival of the Interfaith Council of Rossmoor, Monday, November 20, Event Center—4:00-5:30pm

You are invited to attend the annual Harvest Festival sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Rossmoor

The annual Harvest Festival will honor Rossmoor residents who have shared gifts of love and service within Rossmoor and in the wider community. This celebration is free and benefits the Foodbank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Persons being recognized were nominated through an invitation that was extended in October in the Rossmoor News. The recipients of the awards will be presented and will briefly speak to their experiences of service. Words of inspiration will be shared from various faith traditions and there will be musical performances including songs by the Diablo Valley Threshold Singers and Jumi Kim, Soprano and Music Director at Grace Presbyterian, and others. Refreshments will be available complements of Byron Park and The Carlton Kisco Senior Living Communities.

A collection will be taken to benefit the Foodbank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. This will be an opportunity for all who participate to enter the spirit of the Harvest Festival as they share their own gifts of love to the community. For those who cannot attend or who wish to donate online, they may visit the donation portal on the foodbank's website at: give.foodbankccs.org

The Interfaith Council of Rossmoor is made up of people from diverse religions, spiritual expressions, and indigenous traditions who gather to manifest their unity and mutual respect while promoting the spirit of community and service—honoring differences, cultivating understanding, and serving the community. This is one of several annual events held by the organization that foster brother and sisterhood in the Rossmoor community. For information, contact: Meg Keeley megkeeley327@gmail.com



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

Address Service Requested
Dated Material

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
P A I D
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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.

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

Church Membership: Please speak to Rev. Burnham for information.

NOVEMBER GATHERINGS & MEETINGS

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

Daylight Savings ends, *Turn back clocks on Sat. Nov. 4*

Sunday, November 5 at 10 am, *Communion Sunday*

Sunday, Nov. 12, *Speaker from 'Food for Thought'*, Fireside Room

Sunday, November 12 at 3 pm, *Celeste Stella Trio Concert and Reception*

Tuesday, November 14 at 10 am, *Hannah Circle Meeting* in the Library

Sunday, November 19, 11:30 am, *Education Sunday* in the Fireside Rm

Thursday, November 23, *Thanksgiving Holiday*, Office Closed the 23rd and 24th

Sunday, November 26 at 11:30 am, *Session Meeting* in the Library