

amazing

IN YOUR LIFE | IN OUR COMMUNITY | IN THE WORLD

Grace

A monthly publication of Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek, California

March 2024

Dear Grace-filled friends:

The month of March is upon us, which means more hours of sunlight, and we turn our **clocks ahead on Sunday, March 10**. We are in the midst of Lent, walking with Jesus in the wilderness toward Jerusalem and the cross, attempting to keep our minds on the divine things through Lenten practices. The beginning of Holy Week is just around the corner at the end of the month. Easter Sunday is on March 31. As we move into this important time, I want to share some significant developments at Grace Church.



Judy Williams' Retirement

On January 26, Judy submitted a letter to the Session notifying us of her plans to retire as Grace's Office Manager on April 26, 2024. Since she began working at Grace in 2007, Judy has been a vital and beloved member of the church staff as well as good friend to many of you. The Session voted to accept her request with much regret and with gratitude for all she had done.

The Session's Personnel Committee (Sharon Lyons, Marlene Hall, and Kris Ludwigsen) is already hard at work gathering information, putting together a position description, and making plans for a candidate search. You will be hearing more from them soon but please keep an eye out for qualified candidates you might know.

We will also be planning a celebration to thank Judy and to share some cherished memories. The plans for this event are still being put together, but please contact me if you would like to be part of the retirement celebration team.

Session Reorganization

Over the past couple of years, it has become more and more obvious that the current five Committees/Departments structure of the Session needs to be updated and streamlined. To that end, the currently-serving Elders have been working diligently on a reorganization plan. We held two very productive half-day meetings that helped to clarify where we need to focus our efforts and energy.

In place of the five committees, the Session will now be organized into three teams of 3-4 elders each. The tentative names/function of the three teams are, *Up-reach*, *In-reach*, and *Out-reach*.

The new elder assignments are:

Up-reach – Marlene Hall, Lynn Lyons, Nancy Magee

In-reach – Sara Allen, Earnie Cunningham, Gary Parkhurst

Out-reach – Roz Cannelora, Freddie Delamain, Sharon Lyons, Meg Keeley

Please look for more information in bulletins and newsletters as the new teams define and refine their duties and responsibilities. The Session also plans to hold an informational meeting after worship on an upcoming Sunday in April. If you have questions or comments, please contact me or any of your elders.

Peace, *Mark*

**Submit articles
for the next issue
by March 12, 2024**

Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday
9:30—3:00**

Closed Monday & 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 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



MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP

- March 3 – Mark 12:1-17
- March 10 – Mark 12:28-44
- March 17 – Mark 13:1-8, 24-37
- March 24 – *Palm Sunday*
Mark 11:1-11
- March 31 – *Easter Sunday*
Mark 16:1-8

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Dave Fellner	3/02
Hilde Olds	3/09
Angela Borchardt	3/12
Louise Milford	3/12
Mary Lou Thompson	3/12
Jay Kim	3/13
Youngok Kim	3/15
Bill Patten	3/15
Earnie Cunningham	3/18
Marlene Hall	3/20
Faye Hutchings	3/26
Diana Barkley	3/27

HOLY WEEK - A JOURNEY OF SACRIFICE, LOVE AND REDEMPTION

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

Free Concert - 3 pm

Seven Last Words on the Cross (See back of insert for details)

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday worship - 4 pm
Communion will be served

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday
no worship service at Grace

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday, worship at 10 am
Special trumpet music

Financial News — Legacy Sunday

*Loving God, all that we have, all that we are,
all that we might become, is a gift from you.*

Please save this special date. **Sunday, April 14 is Legacy Sunday.** Members and friends of Grace are invited to remember our church through estate planning. Joseph Moore from the Presbyterian Foundation has been invited to lead us in our church service that day. Since 2019, he has served as the Ministry Relations Officer in the South Central Region. Prior to serving at the Foundation, he served as a pastor in both Texas and Colorado. He currently lives in Fort Collins, CO with his wife and three children. We look forward to welcoming him to Grace and hearing more about God's gifts.



Joseph Moore

Grace Legacy Donor - Marjorie Bradley

Marjie Bradley was a member of Grace Church since 1988 and a life-long Presbyterian. She sang in the choir, served on the Rossmoor Friends of Grace, Fellowship committees, and as an Elder, Deacon and Clerk of Session for many years. Marjie passed away at the end of 2023. She left an undesignated legacy gift to Grace in the amount of \$40,000 which Session approved to be split 50% music endowment and 50% for campus upkeep. Marjie had a wonderful sense of humor and a sparkle in her eyes. She is missed at Grace, but we will always remember her generosity of time, talent and treasures.



Marjorie Bradley

Recently, Music Director, Jumi Kim, noticed the dim lighting in the front of the sanctuary. She proposed to the Business Team to consider updated lighting which would enhance both worship and concert performances. Part of Marjorie Bradley's legacy gift to music was used to fund the lighting project in the sanctuary. The new lighting is indeed beautiful and is a noticeable upgrade to the chancel area of the sanctuary. Thank you to the Business team for making this happen so quickly.

Legacy Society and Pledge Final Report

*God is Good.....we are
Celebrating Abundance!*

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign generated \$232,213 in pledges toward a budget goal of \$250K.

Thank you for your faithful, and ongoing generosity in support of

Grace Presbyterian Church's ministry to congregation, community, and beyond.

For detailed copy of Grace Presbyterian Church — Program Budget Planning 2024, Please request one from the office.

Contact Faye Hutchings, Financial Secretary, or Linda Neyer, Treasurer, for any questions.

Again, heartfelt thanks to the giving community of Grace Church members and friends!

—Linda Neyer, Treasurer



Hannah Circle Meets on March 12 at 10 am

Join friends in the Library or on Zoom to study Lesson six of Sacred Encounters: *A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus based on Acts 3:1-10.*

Jesus teaches the disciples (and all Christians) that the reign of God includes people on the margins of society, particularly people with disabilities.

For contemplation before the meeting:

1. How do you feel people with disabilities are currently treated in our culture?
2. What can be done to improve accommodations for people with special needs?
3. How are people with special needs represented in entertainment and media? Name a specific character to support your response.

All women are welcome to attend and enjoy Study, social time and refreshment.

—Blessings, Geri Rentz and Jan Zimmerman

Business Team Report

Our busy Business team (Earnie Cunningham, Gary Parkhurst, Sara Allen, Linda Neyer and Mark Burnham) is working on campus repairs and improvements. Here are just a few of the projects they are working on.

1. Sanctuary/Office Dry Rot repair. Some has been completed, more estimates are needed for additional repairs. Waiting for estimates.
2. Oak Room Deck steps replacement, sub-floor and wall damage have been evaluated and will be estimated soon.
3. Campus Landscape
From Facility Campaign Money
Decision made to not go with EBMUD incentive. Decide on carpet mulch/grass tolerant plants in back yard. Remaining facility campaign funds to be spent on drought tolerant plants in front of office and narthex.
4. Narthex Doors, Replace hardware on new courtyard doors for better security. Estimate of \$5,482 accepted.
5. Enhanced/Repaired lighting in sanctuary, Estimate of \$5,603 accepted and project was completed Feb. 22.
6. Application of gutter downspout mesh throughout campus will be completed by a handyman for the purpose of flood prevention.
7. Door from sanctuary to Fireside courtyard, repairs to be completed by handyman

Please say 'thank you' to Grace's hard-working Business team.



CCIC Update

Contra Costa Interfaith Council, formed in 1992, includes several local churches and synagogues who have joined together to serve the community in coordination with Contra Costa social workers. Physical needs, food and monetary amounts are being met by members of this organization.



Annually, Grace Deacons donate \$1200 in food cards to this ministry. Additionally, we continue to furnish food boxes for distribution as needed by social workers' clients. *Thank you* to Grace members and friends who support CCIC by donating checks designated to "Food Boxes". These funds are used to purchase foods specified by CCIC to be included in the boxes. Items from the food barrel are also "gleaned" for this purpose. (The list of needed food items is located near the barrel. Egg noodles and peanut butter are always in short supply!)

Grace has actively support this effort since 2003 and has delivered 810 boxes to date. The group recently received a \$38,000 grant to further their work. A gift that will be used well.

—Sharon Lyons CCIS Representative

Save the Date for the April Free Concert.
See back of insert for *March* Concert Information

PSALMS, HYMNS, & SPIRITUAL SONGS!



THE
NEW
CHOIR

Grace
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | CELEBRATING 60+ YRS

(Sun) Apr 28
3:00 pm

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

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
www.gracewc.org
www.youtube.com/@GracePresWC
March 2024

Address Service Requested
Dated Material

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

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.

Church Membership

Let Pastor Mark know if
you would like information
about being a member of
Grace Church.

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

Livestream worship in on <https://www.youtube.com/@GracePresWC>—Every Sunday at 10:00 am.

Recordings of past services available on our YouTube channel. Or,
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.

MARCH GATHERINGS & MEETINGS

Sunday, March 3, Worship with Communion at 10 am

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday Worship at 10 am | Session Meeting at 11:30 am
Free Concert - 3 pm -Seven Last Words on the Cross (See back of insert for details)

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday Worship - 4 pm. Communion will be served

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday - no worship service at Grace

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday, Worship at 10 am | Special trumpet music

Bible Study, every Wednesday at 10 am in the Library