

amazing

IN YOUR LIFE | IN OUR COMMUNITY | IN THE WORLD

Grace

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

April 2024

Dear Grace Church Family,

I am writing this article during in the midst of Holy Week but with hopeful expectation of the good news about to burst forth on Easter morning. In many ways, that is how we as disciples (and the church as whole) is called to live—recognizing the present reality of the world around us but with an eye toward the horizon of God’s promised future.

These weeks after Easter bring us to the ancient season which the Church calls “Eastertide,” the 50-day period before Pentecost that gives us time and space to contemplate and digest the implications of the resurrection of Jesus. One of our primary tasks is to be witnesses to the good news of the resurrection.

The poet and farmer Wendell Berry writes this about the challenge at the living out the resurrection: *“So, friends, every day do something that won’t compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it.... Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Ask questions that have no answers.... Laugh—laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.... Practice resurrection.*

I was also reminded recently that a funeral/memorial service in our Presbyterian tradition is called “A Service of Witness to the Resurrection.” It is a powerful testimony of faith they even death cannot our witness to the good news of salvation.

The three women named below were listed in our worship bulletin in the final weeks of Lent. Each one of them, in their own unique way, lived out the promise of the resurrection in their lives. Let us rejoice that these good and faithful servant now rest in the house of the Lord!

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth (Betsy) Williams

Beloved Wife, Mother, Friend, Leader, Inspiration

Born: April 7, 1924 — Died: March 14, 2024

All are welcome to a Memorial Service Saturday, April 6 at 11:00 am with a Reception lunch to follow in the Fireside Room

In Loving Memory of Geri Rentz

Born: November 21, 1941 — Died: March 20, 2024

Geri served many leadership roles at Grace Presbyterian Church and will be missed by her many colleagues and friends.

She was a true servant to others and to the church.

In Loving Memory of The Rev. Grace Choon Kim

Rev. Grace Kim served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 34 years. She died March 18 at her home in Walnut Creek after a lengthy illness. Her service to the PCUSA included 25 years as the associate for Korean curriculum and resource development. Grace often attended services here at Grace Presbyterian with her husband, the Rev. Sun Bai Kim.

Mark

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

Sunday Worship at 10 AM

www.gracewc.org
[www.youtube.com/
@GracePresWC](http://www.youtube.com/@GracePresWC)

**Office Hours: Tues-Fri
9:30 am—3:00 pm**

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



APRIL SUNDAY WORSHIP

- April 7 – Acts 1:1-14
- April 14 – Joseph Moore preaching
- April 21 – Acts 17:1-9
- April 28 – Acts 18:1-4, 1 Cor. 1:10-18

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Rainis	4
Norma Fellner	14
Maryanne Sanchez	19
Marilyn Squire	20
Kathie Paul	24
Sharon Lyons	25
Patricia Hansen	28

Membership Exploration **April 21, 11:30 in the Sanctuary**

Visitors who want to learn more about Grace or are curious about 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.

Hannah Circle Meeting **April 9 at 10 am in the Library**

Join friends for discussion about Lesson 7: an Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus based on Acts 8:26-40. The main idea of the chapter is *The Word of God is an essential tool for expanding the reign of God.*

Light refreshments will be served and a Zoom link will be sent for those who cannot come in person.

Blessings, Jan Zimmerman, Moderator

2024 Grace Presbyterian Church Monthly Concert
Presents

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 BLVD
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94595
LIVE STREAMING ALSO AVAILABLE at
YouTube: [Grace Presbyterian Church Walnut Creek](#)

FREE ADMISSION
Donations are greatly appreciated.

This is the last free concert of the series. Concerts will resume in the fall when music director, Jumi Kim, has an exciting lineup planned for your enjoyment.

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 join friends in 10 am worship on Sunday, April 14 - 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

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 and how it might benefit you and your family, contact Linda Neyer (gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com) or Faye Hutchings (afhutchings@sbcglobal.net)

In Loving Memory of Betsy Williams

Elizabeth Helter Williams was born April 7, 1924 in Los Angeles and died on March 14, 2024 in Walnut Creek. Betsy married Robert Elwyn Williams in 1947 and they were happily married for 72.5 years. She is known at Grace as a leader and supportive pastor's wife.



Throughout Pastor Bob Williams' long career, the couple served congregations at San Geronimo, CA, Redmond, OR, and Oakland, CA in addition to their work with Grace Church.

She was a charter member of Grace Presbyterian Church and the Grace Women's Association. She was instrumental in the founding of Grace Co-op Preschool. Betsy was a beloved servant of Grace Church for decades, and a dear friend to so many members, present and past. She served many years running a County elections polling place and was a founding member of P.E.O. Chapter QC.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday April 6, 2024 at 11am at Grace Presbyterian Church. Please write down or email your memories for the family. They have asked that these be given to the Grace church office.



The service will be available through livestream on the church's YouTube channel. The recorded service will be available on the church website afterwards.

In Loving Memory of The Rev. Grace Choon Kim

Rev. Grace Kim served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 34 years. She died March 18 at her home in Walnut Creek after a lengthy illness.



Her service to the PC(USA) included 25 years as the associate for Korean curriculum and resource development. She retired from the PC(USA) in 2016.

Her retirement coincided with that of her husband, the Rev. Sun Bai Kim, who served as a pastor in Columbia, South Carolina, and Atlanta before serving as the associate for Korean congregational enhancement in the PC(USA). Grace and Sun Bai were married for 55 years. Grace Kim often attended services at Grace Presbyterian with her husband. The Grace community offers sincere condolences to Rev. Kim and his family.

Birthday Celebration Honoring Jung Kook (Jay) Kim You're Invited

**Saturday, April 20, 2024, Oak Rm
2:30—3:30 pm**



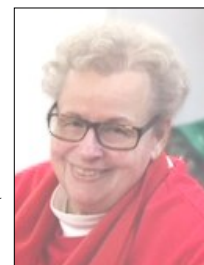
Join the Kim family for a musical celebration to celebrate the March 17th 92nd birthday of Jung Kook (Jay) Kim. A concert will be performed and a cake reception will follow.

In addition to the celebration of his birthday, Jay Kim's long-awaited memoir documenting his life is nearing completion. Congratulations to Jay and the team of family and professionals that are bringing the novel to completion. Jay's story, from his early years and harrowing escape from No. Korea to the present day is documented in the book. It is his life's work and contains fascinating detail about the history and culture of Korea, China and Japan before the Communist takeover of No. Korea.

Your Grace family is so proud of you Jay for this momentous accomplishment. The family and friends of the Kims hope you will join the festivities on April 20

In Loving Memory of Geri Rentz

Geri, age 82, passed away in her home on March 20, 2024. Geri is survived by her beloved sister, Diana Rentz of Walnut Creek.



Geri was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 21, 1941. Her father died when Geri was quite young and the family moved to southern California. She attended Rosemead High School and graduated at just age 16. Geri worked at the family Construction firm and later went to work with Wells Fargo Bank. She finished her career as an Assistant Vice President.

Geri moved to northern California to enjoy her retirement. she enjoyed sports, travel, reading, movies, bridge and anything that gave her mind a challenge.

After joining Grace Presbyterian Church in 2012, Geri quickly became a beloved and productive member. She served as Elder, Clerk of Session, head of Pastor Search Committee, Moderator of Presbyterian Women, and Assistant Treasurer. She founded Grace Book Club and Bridge Club. Geri was a generous soul. If she saw a need, she took action. She was a true servant to so many.....her presence, friendship, generosity and tireless work will always be remembered. Her ashes will rest at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette . **A celebration of Geri's life will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church in the coming months. Condolences may be sent to Diana Rentz, 1741 Holland Circle, Walnut Creek, 94597.**

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
April 2024

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 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.

Meetings and Gatherings

Sat., April 6—Betsy Williams Memorial Service (11 am) and Reception (12pm)
The congregation is invited to attend.

Sun., Apr. 7 Session Meeting in the Library at 11:30 am

Sun., April 14, 10 am Worship with Joseph Moore of the Presbyterian Foundation on *Legacy Sunday*

Sat., April 20 at 2:30 pm — Jay Kim's Musical Birthday Celebration
Grace members and friends are invited to the Oak Room for a short concert and cake reception

Sun., April 21—11:30 am in the Sanctuary for information and membership exploration.

Also this Sunday, the Preschool will hold a fundraiser on the sport court.
Grace members and friends are invited to join them.

Sun., Apr. 28 Session Meeting in the Library at 11:30 am. Free Choir Concert at 3:00 pm