

# Grace

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 2024

Dear Grace Church Family,

On October 22 and 23 the six long-awaited Micro Home units were delivered to the church parking lot! The new community, called "Hope Village," will be the first affordable cottage community established on faith-owned land in Contra Costa County.

The units include kitchens, baths, along with shared outdoor living spaces. All are 100% electric, air-conditioned, and meet all energy standards on a compact scale. These are not pallet homes or tough sheds, but dignified places to call home. There is also a fully-equipped laundry facility and an office/meeting space located in an additional unit.

This project would not have been possible without our partners: Hope Solutions, Firm Foundation Community Housing, HomeAid Northern California, and the City of Walnut Creek. Hope Solutions will provide on-site social services, including counseling, health care referrals, and life skills development. A Hope Solutions property manager will oversee the community's day-to-day operations.

Many thanks to the members and others who have supported this innovative project of the past three years. Below are some photos of the installation.



Grace and peace.

**Submit articles  
for the next issue  
by November 15, 2024**

### Sunday Worship at 10 AM

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

New Office Hours: Tues-Fri  
8:30 am—2:00 pm  
Closed Monday & Saturday

Reach us anytime by email:  
[Info@GraceWC.org](mailto:Info@GraceWC.org)  
Phone: 925-935-2100

Sr. Pastor Mark Burnham  
925-433-5459 or  
[Mark@GraceWC.org](mailto:Mark@GraceWC.org)

Pastor Emerita: Charie Reid  
Music Director: Jumi Kim  
Treasurer: Linda Neyer  
Asst. Treasurer: Wendy Watkins  
Financial Scty: Faye Hutchings  
Administrator: Debora Chew  
Preschool Director: Joy Martin

### NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Nov 3: 1 Kings 17:1-24
- Nov 10: Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10
- Nov 17: Isaiah 6:1-8
- Nov 24: Jeremiah 36:1-8;  
31:31-34

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Michelle Stoffregen	11/4
Meg Keeley	11/6
Cecily Wait	11/10
Karen Haus	11/14
Bob Binsacca	11/17
Madelyn Cocoz	11/19
Tom Young	11/19
Don Lyons	11/27

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, 11/3. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, 11/2.



**Veterans' Day will be acknowledged on Sunday, 11/10.** 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.



**Peace & Global Witness Offering Update**

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Thank you for your generous giving. We have received **\$2,900** for this offering.

During our **2024 Stewardship campaign**, Grace Celebrated our **Abundance**. "As each has received a gift, employ it for another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10". We are grateful to all our faithful donors who have allowed us to reach 90% of our \$250,000 goal for 2024. We have committed 48% of our budget to Inspiring thru worship and learning, 28% to Caring for our congregation, and 24% to Reaching Out to our mission work.



Our mission work also includes providing land for Hope Village, our onsite Micro Homes project for six affordable homes. Together with our partners: Hope Solutions, Firm Foundation Community Housing, HomeAid Northern California, and the City of Walnut Creek, this represents a bold step forward in addressing the pressing issue of affordable and accessible housing in our community. Grace receives a nominal monthly land rental and utilities reimbursement. Our partners provide the significant investment....once again we Celebrate our Abundance!

Dave Allen, of True Wealth Advisory Group, will give a presentation on **Tax Effective Giving** in the Church Library at **11:30 am on Sunday, November 24**. He will present strategies for making donations that will reduce taxable income. Please attend and ask your questions.





*Purchase a Pie and Help Grace Preschool!*

Order your pie now for a pickup on November 17. The order form is in the Narthex, or you may contact the office to order. Order deadline is **Nov 7**. Many favorites and delicious varieties are available. \$20 per pie. Proceeds benefit the school.

*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”* - Plato

The worship service on Sunday, October 13 was an amazing time for us at Grace as I experienced the beautiful power and heart of song. Our Grace Chancel Choir brought life and heart and it came into me as I sat there connecting with my faith. Especially when the Choir shared the anthem “Soon and Very Soon” by Andre Crouch and then “poof”—suddenly people were clapping along. They were so engaged that some even clapped afterward. This certainly does not happen often and it brought me to consider the “why?” Why do people sometimes applaud after hearing an anthem or a song played? Why do some not applaud? It made me consider that this decision is not a “all or nothing” choice—not for me and not for anyone. So I wanted to share this with all of you—in case you are wondering “why” people applaud—don’t worry, don’t try to figure it—applaud if you feel called to and if you are not, then don’t—the music will be in your heart regardless.

- Lynn Lyon, Elder

**Diablo Vista Chorus**, one of our long-time facility renters, is having a show and fundraiser.

The event is **Saturday, November 9** at Carondelet High School in Concord. Doors open at 4:30, and dinner is at 6:00. There will be both a Silent Auction, and live auction and they will be performing a bunch of great songs. Tickets and information can be found at:

[www.DiabloVistaChorus.com](http://www.DiabloVistaChorus.com)



Moved???



New Phone Number???

Email changes to: [Debora@GraceWC.org](mailto:Debora@GraceWC.org) or call the office 925-935-2100

# FALL 2024 CONCERT SERIES

- SEPT 22: ANDREW SORDS VIOLIN RECITAL
- OCT 20: HANS UWE HIELSCHER ORGAN RECITAL
- NOV 17: CELESTE STELLA TRIO CONCERT
- DEC 15: GRACE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

2024 Grace Presbyterian Church Monthly Concert Series Presents

## Celeste Stella Trio

Jiwen Evelyn Kwark, violin / Hyungi Park, piano / August Lee, cello



Grace PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Sun) Nov 17  
3:00 pm

# HEALING through SONG

39th Annual Holiday Concert  
Sat. Dec 7, 7 PM  
Paramount Theatre

Tickets Now On Sale!  
\$15 - \$80  
100@ \$100 VTI Experience

Info & Ticket Links:  
[www.oigc.org/tickets](http://www.oigc.org/tickets)

Our own Joe Lim will be singing at this concert.

Get 30% Off Your Tickets Now! Enter the code “OIGC39” before selecting your seats to UNLOCK 30% off select ticket tiers on Ticketmaster or mention it at the Paramount box office. This is a perfect opportunity to treat your family, your friends, or even yourself to a night of

Sunday Worship at 10 AM  
November 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.



#### Prayer Chain

If you have concerns that  
would benefit from the  
power of prayer, please  
contact Faye Hutchings or  
the church office.

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

Livestream Worship on [www.GraceWC.org](http://www.GraceWC.org) — Every Sunday 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  
Church Membership: Please speak to Rev. Burnham for information.

### Meetings and Gatherings

**Sun. Nov. 3: Daylight Savings Ends.** Communion Sunday at 10:00 am  
Session Meeting at 11:30 am in the Library or on Zoom.

**Wed. Nov. 6, 13, 20 (No class on Nov. 27):** Bible Study with Pastor Mark at 10:00 am in the  
Library or via Zoom

**Wed. Nov. 6, 13, 20 (No class on Nov. 27):** : Grief Support Group Session, 2:00 - 3:30 pm,  
Fireside Room

**Tues. Nov. 12:** Hannah Circle Meeting, 10:00 am Fireside Room

**Sun. Nov. 17:** Celeste Stella Trio Concert 3:00 pm Sanctuary (Free Concert)

**Wed, Thurs, Fri, Nov. 27, 28, 29** - Church Office will be CLOSED for Thanksgiving.



# STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 PETER 4:10

## *Stewardship – A Way of Living*

God has given each of us many gifts – time, talents, and material treasure. Stewardship is defined as responsibility and oversight for a resource that does not belong to us. Indeed, everything we have is through God's grace.

Your gifts of time, talents, and treasure sustain Grace Church's ministry to our congregation as well as our missions to our community and beyond. We celebrated all of these gifts at our recent Harvest Lunch, as is our tradition at Grace.

Now, it is time to plan for next year's ministry and missions with our pledges for 2025. Members of the Session have made their pledges for 2025 and urge you to give the information on the following pages your prayerful consideration.



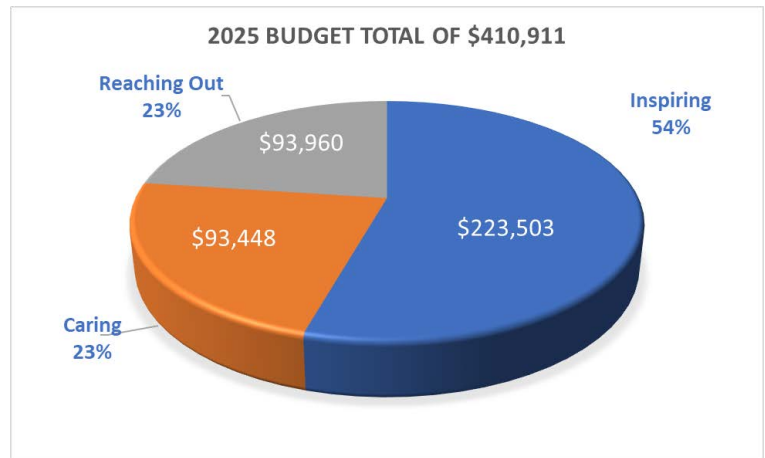
*In Matthew 10:8, we are commanded:*

***Freely you have received; freely give.***

*The word stewardship means "oversight" and "responsibility for the use of a resource that does not belong to oneself."*

## *How Does Grace Focus and Celebrate Our Abundance?*

The purpose of generating income from pledges and other gifts, facilities rental, and investments is to advance the work of the church. We believe that telling the story of how income and expense translate to ministry will encourage and gratify donors. This pie chart shows the expenses, including the allocation of staff time, to offer the **ministries of Inspiring, Caring, and Reaching Out** as directed by the UpReach and OutReach session teams.



## **Inspiring (UpReach and Deacons)** \$223,503 - 54% of our \$410,911 budget

*Our church inspires through worship and learning.*

Our church **inspires** through worship and learning. We celebrate the vibrancy of our worship, offering holy space for experiences of God. We gather as a community of faith to celebrate God's presence and listen for God's call to service in our world. Our pastor, working with the UpReach Team, prepare weekly and special worship services. We have a strong tradition of involving lay members in our worship. We offer Sunday worship each week, and make these services available to homebound people through Livestreaming and our website.

We emphasize continuous **learning** as part of faith formation. Adult study and reflection happen throughout the year through Bible study, women's gatherings, and discussion groups. Orientation is provided for those who wish to become members, and for those becoming elders and deacons.

### **Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to WORSHIP AND LEARNING:**

- Ministry leadership in worship/preaching/music
- Instruments, choirs
- Funerals, baptisms
- Banners and decorations
- Liturgists
- Moments for Ministry
- Communion supplies and preparation
- Bulletins, offering envelopes
- Ushers, greeters, counters
- Worship resources, music purchases
- Technology support
- Curriculum
- Presbyterian Women

## **Caring (OutReach & Deacons)** \$93,448 - 23% of our \$410,911 budget

*Our church offers ongoing care and support to all members and friends of our congregation, and to others in need.*

Deacons and others respond to individuals in times of crisis, such as illness and bereavement. We keep in touch with members who are housebound and can no longer come to the church campus. We want this church to be a caring community where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another. The OutReach team and Deacons and others welcome visitors and strive to acquaint the community with our church.

### **Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to CARING:**

- Staff time, both office staff and pastor
- Visits to hospitals and care homes
- Counseling
- Newsletter distribution monthly
- Constant Contact and other email information
- Fellowship Hour and other gatherings
- Prayer Chain
- Deacons

## **Reaching Out (OutReach)** \$93,9608 - 23% of our \$410,911 budget

*Our church reaches out, well beyond church walls, to provide time and money for God's work in the world.*

The OutReach Team and donors help in our city, state, country, and in countries around the world by supporting local mission and the outreach work of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. We are called to seek justice and equality. We support special projects as needs are identified.

### **Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to REACHING OUT:**

- One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness Offering, Christmas Joy
- Care for the Earth Initiatives
- Local projects such as Food Bank
- Time for planning and facilitating the Micro Homes being built by Hope Solutions on our property.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

1 Timothy 6:18

## **Pledge Drive 2025 (InReach)**

Annual pledges enable the InReach Team to predict the majority of our income as we prepare the church budget. The proposed budget for 2025 (also available in line item format) is similar to the past two years.

However, in each of those years, we have had a substantial deficit. Our Facilities income has not returned to pre-Covid levels, despite two rate increases in the past two years. This means the deficit must be covered by investment income. The InReach committee has undertaken a number of maintenance projects this year. These have been covered by the Facilities Campaign, a number of generous bequests, and the remainder from investment income. There are many other projects deferred to future years.

You will hear from members of the InReach team in Moments for Ministry on November 3, 10, and 17. On November 24, we will collect pledges to add to pledges already received by mail or online.

### ***PLEASE PLEDGE IN THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING***

Explore the Grace Church website (<https://www.GraceWC.org>) "Ways to Give" page and you will find information about different ways to pay your pledge, make donations for special offerings and more. The page includes an online pledge form that is simple to fill out and submit. Scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone camera and be taken to the online pledge page. You may use this as an alternative to the mail in card.



**If you need help** with anything on the "Ways to Give" page, contact Linda Neyer, Treasurer, at [Treasurer@GraceWC.org](mailto:Treasurer@GraceWC.org) or 925-433-5456; or Faye Hutchings, Financial Secretary, at [Faye@GraceWC.org](mailto:Faye@GraceWC.org) or 925-588-3527.

**A pledge card and envelope are attached here** and you may still submit your pledge by mail, drop it in the collection plate, or bring it to the office.

***Thank you on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church.***

