

amazing

IN YOUR LIFE | IN OUR COMMUNITY | IN THE WORLD

Grace

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

September 2024

Dear Grace Church Family,

Micro Homes Update

Good news! The foundations for the 6-unit Micro home “Hope Village” were prepared and the concrete was poured on August 23. Meanwhile, the homes were being built at a “pop up” factory in Dublin.

On August 15, I had an opportunity to tour the factory site with supporters from our partners at Hope Solutions, Firm Foundation Community Housing, and HomeAid Northern California. It’s heartening to imagine the people who will soon live in new homes they can call “home.” We are not only helping to fulfill a critical housing need but we will also be fulfilling Jesus’ call to love our neighbors.



The latest schedule calls for the units to be delivered to the church in the last weeks of September and for the grand Opening sometime in late October. Look for more details soon.

Church Office/Landscaping upgrade

The major re-facing project of the Church Office building to repair significant dry rot is almost completed. The next step in the project is the installation of a new irrigation system and new plantings. Thank you again to those who generously donated to the Summer Facilities Campaign!

Narrative Lectionary

On Sunday, September 15, we will once again begin using the Narrative Lectionary, a cycle of readings for use in Sunday worship and preaching. The goal is to annually make our way through the whole scope of the Biblical narrative so that our lives and the life of the congregation can be centered in God’s story.

The cycle of readings run from September through May. We will start in the book of Genesis (see the worship/sermon box) and work our way through the Old Testament in the fall, and then through Jesus’ life and ministry as told in Luke’s gospel in the spring. As always, you are invited to the Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM, when we read and discuss the upcoming scripture lesson.

Website update and new logo

Finally, I mentioned last month that we will be updating Grace Church’s “digital front door” with an ungraded website and a new logo. We hope to both enhance the experience of church members on our website and to welcome new people as they search for a community of faith. The work on the logo is done and the website is 75% complete. The logo and site will be officially launched in early September.

Grace and peace,

Mark

Submit articles
for the next issue
by September 18 , 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
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

WELCOME

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- **Sept 1: Sixth Great End of the Church**
- **Sept 8: Rev. Delianne Koops, guest preacher**
- **Sept 15: Genesis 15:1-6**
- **Sept 22: Genesis 37:3-22; 50:15-21**
- **Sept 29: Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8**

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Burnham	9/5
Stanley Dorst	9/10
Judith Black	9/10
Claire Wait	9/15
Susan Blair	9/23
Kathryn Hoffer	9/23
Jean Karkanen	9/23
Myra Swallow	9/24
Nancy Magee	9/30



Happy Birthday on Sept. 5 to Pastor Mark! We are so thankful for you!

Exoneration of Port Chicago 50

By Pat Devine

On Friday, July 19, 2024, several members of Grace Church attended the Port Chicago Task Force Workshop at the Concord Hilton Hotel. Instead of an afternoon regarding advocacy, it turned out to be a celebratory event as two days earlier the Secretary of the Navy granted full exoneration to the Port Chicago 50 and the 208 Sailors who were court martialed for disobeying orders.

Jonathan Lee, the Chair of the Port Chicago Task Force, gave a special shout-out to Grace Presbyterian Church for being the first church in Contra Costa County to sign on to the Contra Costa Bar Association's petition to seek exoneration for the Chicago 50. Grace may be a little church but it is mighty, stated Lee. The Bar Association's goal is now to focus on education of the public regarding this historic event.

(Left to Right): Victoria Lucido, Gail Peterson, Jonathan Lee, head of Port Chicago Task Force, Pat Devine,



and Charie Reid. Not in photo: Gary Parkhurst and Marlene Hall also attended the event.

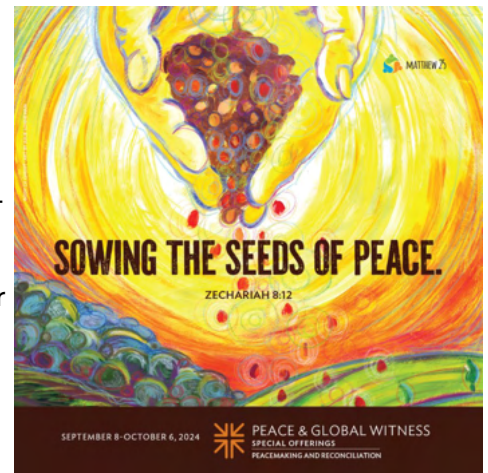
Peace and Global Witness Offering – Sowing the Seeds of Peace

The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people.

In Zechariah 8:12, the prophet Zechariah casts a vision for peace. He shows forth a world where each person lives without enmity, fear and destruction.

There are many ways that we already sow the seeds of peace in our community, both as a congregation and as individuals. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way we can extend Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. Through our generous support, our gifts will combine with

churches across the PC(USA) to sow seeds of peace around the globe. Twenty-five percent of this offering will stay with our church to promote peace through our own ministries, and 25% is retained by our presbytery for peace and justice ministries in our region. The remaining funds are distributed to Presbyterian initiatives in the world.



During the month of September, our congregation will receive inserts in the bulletin and members of our Outreach committee present "minutes for mission" that will describe the work of peace supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering. **This offering will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 6.**

We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us. You may contribute to the Peace & Global Witness fund by designating "Peace Offering" on your check to Grace Presbyterian or you can make a direct contribution through the PCAUSA website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/peace-global-witness/> Thank you for your generosity! When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

- The Outreach Committee

Hannah Circle, Grace Presbyterian Church's chapter of Presbyterian Women, a national group within the Presbyterian Church, is guided by the Purpose of the organization: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

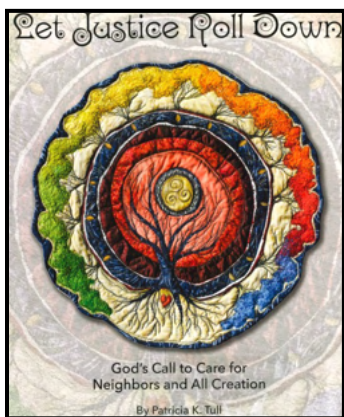


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- To support the mission of the church worldwide,
- To work for justice and peace, and
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

We strive to do this through a series of nine monthly meetings in which we will follow the PW/ Horizons Bible Study followed by a time for fellowship, light refreshments and small groups to act on what we are learning. The 2024-2025 Study is "Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to

Care for Neighbors and All Creation".



Scripture tells us that all of creation belongs to God. We are called to care for creation because God loves it but also because a healthy creation supports human well-being. We are called to care for neighbors and creation with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems.

Hannah Circle joyfully invites all women to join us for the first meeting of the 2024-2025 season on **September 10 at 10:00 in the Fireside Room**. We are looking forward to an exciting year and welcome your energy and ideas. Study books will be available at the meeting.

Summer Mission Giving

Thanks to generous donations from the congregation, the following gifts were collected during the summer months.

- Summer Facilities Campaign \$8,805
- Backpack Drive \$970 and 24 Filled Backpacks for 4th & 5th Graders



(L - R: Back: Marlene Hall, Gail Peterson, Charie Reid, Debora; Front: Susan Blair, Fran Whipple, Kathy Anderson)

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

Andrew Sords
Violin Recital

Brahms
Beethoven
Sarasate

Timothy Durkovic, piano

Grace
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | CELEBRATING 60+ YRS

(Sun) Sep 22
3:00 pm

Moved???
New Phone Number???
Email changes to Debora@gracewc.org
or call the office 925-935-2100

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
September 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 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

Bible Study with Pastor Mark (weekly)
Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Library or via Zoom

Sunday, September 1, Worship with Communion at 10 am
Session Meeting at 11:30 am in the Library or on Zoom

Tuesday, September 10 - Hannah Circle Meeting, 10 am Fireside Room

Sunday, September 22 - Andrew Sords, Violin Recital 3 pm Sanctuary (Free Concert)