

GRACE NEWS

MARCH 9 | 2025

Grace Family,

This Sunday, the first Sunday in Lent, is when we start our sermon series on **The Red Words**, those words Jesus said while he walked the earth. Adam Hamilton, in his book The Message of Jesus, reminds us that the four Gospels record over forty thousand words that Jesus spoke. "Accounting for duplicates, where the same saying appears in more than one Gospel, we have approximately twenty-five thousand unique words of Jesus. While the gospels emphasize the crucifixion and resurrection as the climax of Jesus' life and ministry, they clearly believed his words matter." Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

If we want to follow Jesus today, it's not enough to know that he is our Savior, who died and rose again. We must know that he is Lord and that what he taught us must be embraced and used to guide our daily lives.

We start this week with one of Jesus' earliest teachings. He said, **"The kingdom of God has come near"** (Mark 1:15). What does that mean? Where is the kingdom of God and what does it look like? What is our part in it? Join us this Sunday at 9am and 11:05am as we worship God enthusiastically.

Philippians 1:3,

Tracey

UPCOMING SERMONS IN LENT

The Red Words

- March 16 **“What is your name?”** Mark 5:1-20
- March 23 **“Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”** Matthew 24:44
- March 30 **“Come to me, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”** Matthew 11:28

Get Involved at Grace

Join our Grace Family

We are receiving new members this Sunday, March 9. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Grace family, please reach out to any of our pastors by email or you may talk to them following either worship service on Sunday.

Pastor Tracey: tracey@gracepc.org, Pastor Cara: cara@gracepc.org, Pastor Wilson: wilson@gracepc.org

Unbounded Love, Grace in Action Capital Campaign

Your spirit of generosity and your faith are inspiring! We plan to announce preliminary totals in worship this Sunday, March 9. If you would still like to make a commitment to give, please complete a purple card and put it in the offering plate/donation boxes or email your commitment to John Moody, Director of Finance: john@gracepc.org

Lenten Dinners - March 14 - April 12

Sign up to share a meal in the home of a Grace member this Lenten season. There are options on a variety of dates in many different locations. Use the link in your newsletter email to sign up or there will be paper sign ups **this Sunday, March 9 only**. This is an opportunity to break bread, meet new friends, and enjoy fellowship with other members of our church family.

Holy Week Schedule

April 12	Easter Egg Hunt, 10AM
April 13	Pam Sunday, 9AM & 11:05AM
April 17	Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner & Worship, 6:30PM
April 18	Good Friday Tenebrae, 7:30PM
April 20	Easter Worship, 9AM & 11:05AM

The Living Last Supper - April 17

This year, for Maundy Thursday (April 17th) we are going to present a Living Last Supper. Congregation members will play Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and the twelve disciples in this interactive remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. If you have dramatic gifts, or not, but would be interested in playing one of the disciples, let Pastor Tracey know. We still need 13 men to step up to participate. You may either check your connection card, or email Pastor Tracey at tracey@gracepc.org to serve in this fun worship experience.

Spice of Life Lunch - March 12

Seniors (50+), it is time to get your Irish on! We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day a little early in March at Spice of Life monthly luncheon. On Wednesday, March 12, our Spice of Life team will be making corned beef and cabbage served with mashed potatoes and carrots. You are asked to bring a side or dessert of your choice. Following lunch we will hear from Bill Urech and Bill Miranda about Donor Advised Funds and Qualified Charitable Distributions. Both are mechanisms for philanthropy and both may provide help in lowering your taxes. Looking forward to seeing everyone, and don't forget to wear your green!

Environmental Stewardship Lunch - March 23

The Environmental Stewardship team is meeting for a picnic lunch on the church grounds on Sunday, March 23, at noon. Bring a salad or dessert to share. All are invited to join us as we talk about our new ideas and our spring efforts. If you have any questions, contact Julie Haworth at jhaworth@flash.net.

Women of Grace Spring Luncheon - Saturday, March 29, at noon

Ladies, the Women of Grace Spring luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 29th, at noon in Wheelus Hall. For just \$12 a ticket, we hope you will join us for a fabulous lunch while you get to know other amazing women of Grace, win prizes, and hear speakers from Streetside Closet and City House. Let's learn about these extraordinary local agencies and how we can get more involved. Childcare will be provided if you need it. You may purchase tickets from the website by clicking on the signup tab at the top, and choosing Women of Grace Spring Luncheon. You may also use the link in your newsletter email.

WOG Spring Mission Project - March 9-29

The Women of Grace will be hearing from the director of Streetside Closet, a mission of the Plano Clothes Closet. In support of this local mission, the WOG will be running a clothing drive. Listed below is the top 10 items needed by Streetside Closet.

Note: Items of this list do not have to be brand new. Gently used or items purchased from thrift stores are welcome.

- 1 Men's jeans, dockers and cargo style pants. Sizes: 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Any length.
- 2 Men's tennis shoes, sizes: 8-13.
- 3 Men's cargo style shorts in sizes: 30, 32, 34 and 36.
- 4 Belts, sizes: 30-44.
- 5 Backpacks, standard adult size.
- 6 Duffle bags with shoulder straps.
- 7 Ladies jeans and pants: sizes: 2,4 and 6.
- 8 Ladies shoes. Sizes: 6-12.
- 9 NEW Men's small & medium underwear.
- 10 NEW Women's small & medium underwear & sports bras.

Items may be dropped off in the narthex on the table against the brick wall.

Grace Live: Texas Two-Step is right around the corner!

Our annual musical extravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 5th here at GPC. This church and community wide event hosted by our very own Exultation Choir will be a night to remember! The night begins with the silent auction opening at 5:30pm. The show starts promptly at 7:00pm with the silent auction continuing during intermission. We will also have our always popular live auction as well. Complimentary refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

Exultation's mission tour will take on a Texas flair this year visiting cities around our great State! They will be ministering to others at a variety of venues and serving through different mission opportunities along the way. All proceeds from the evening help to offset the cost of their tour.

Tickets will be on sale this Sunday, March 9th, in the narthex before and after our worship services and will continue March 16th, March 23rd, and March 30th. You can also pick up tickets at the church office during the week. Prices are as follows:

*Advance purchase: \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students
(Kindergarten through 12th grade)*

Purchase the night of the event: \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students

Reserved seating: \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students

There will childcare available by reservation.

If you would like to donate a NEW item or service to our auction, please contact Teri Waite (teriwaite85@gmail.com or 214-435-9487). She will be happy to help you!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Grace Live 2025 committee. We are responsible for requesting, picking up, and organizing donations. We also set up the auction the day of the show (Saturday, April 5th). If you are interested in finding out more or joining our committee, please email Teri Waite at teriwaite85@gmail.com. It is a terrific way to get involved and help a fabulous group of students.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, April 5th at Grace Live: Texas Two-Step!

Grace Presbyterian Church Treasurer's Report, January 2025

Kevin Mattison, Treasurer

Monthly Activity

	Actual		Fav (Unfav)	Budget	
	Jan-25	Jan-24		Jan-25	Fav (Unfav)
Church Offering	\$126,677	\$132,709	(\$6,032)	\$140,216	(\$13,539)
Church Expenses	90,257	95,810	5,553	100,469	10,212
Church Net (Loss)	36,420	36,899	(479)	39,747	(3,327)
Day School Income	119,358	106,954	12,404	113,550	5,808
Day School Expenses	90,827	86,037	(4,790)	93,768	2,941
School Net (Loss)	28,531	20,917	7,614	19,782	8,749
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	64,951	57,816	7,135	59,529	5,422
Prior Surplus Used	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus used for Debt Payment	(9,447)	-	-	(10,104)	-
Surplus (Deficit)	\$55,504	\$57,816	\$7,135	\$49,425	\$5,422

Year-to-Date Activity

	Actual		Fav (Unfav)	Budget	
	Jan-25	Jan-24		Jan-25	Fav (Unfav)
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- YTD General offering is below budget and below prior year.
- Overall expenses are below prior year and below budget through January 2025.
- PCUSA Loan: Principal \$175,137 | Maturity Date June 25, 2026 | Interest Rate 2.583%
- Total cash is \$845,455 which includes the following restricted funds:
 - \$217,329 - cash reserves
 - \$172,811 – Capital Campaign
 - \$ 74,311 - building and grounds
 - \$ 42,040 - music and worship



2025 Deacon Groups

Each year when new deacons rotate onto our Grace PC Deacon Council, we have important updates and adjustments to share with our community regarding group assignments. Most members will have the same deacon as they did last year. However, if your deacon recently completed their term, you now have a new deacon. You will see our updates for 2025 below. Locate your deacon using this chart or by visiting gracepc.org/deacons. Members of our congregation are grouped and assigned to a deacon by last name in alphabetical order. (Note that if you are married, and you and your spouse have different last names, your assigned deacon is based on the last name of the spouse listed as the primary contact in CCB) We are excited to continue encouraging, serving, and caring for our community!

If your last name falls between:

Your deacon is:

Group 1	Aboud-Barkett	Helen Blacklock
Group 2	Bauemeister-Brockman	Kelly Nichols
Group 3	Brooks-Cheng	Jim Stahler
Group 4	Chow-Davies	Julia Blonk
Group 5	Davis-Edera	Fred Alves
Group 6	Edwards-Frey	Linda Jasper
Group 7	Fry-Hamilton	Scott Snyder
Group 8	Hansen-Hess	Brian Schnittker
Group 9	Hicks-Ives	Fran Morris
Group 10	Jasper-Kopca	Becci Harris
Group 11	LaGrange-Masano	Christine Edera
Group 12	Mattison-Meyer	Rich Josh
Group 13	Migliore-Motney	Vicki Wulfekammer
Group 14	Muic-Norris	Leina Pascaline
Group 15	O'Neal-Priest	Melvyn Turner
Group 16	Raaum-Salas	Mary Erwin (Moderator)
Group 17	Sanders-Snare	Sarah Morrison
Group 18	Snyder-Thate	Linda Jasper
Group 19	Thomas-Walker	Bill Harrison
Group 20	Walters-Wulfekammer	Cheryl Bertran
Youth	A-Z	Bella Jones

If you have a question related to locating your deacon, you may email Tanya Valenta at tanya@gracepc.org or Pastor Wilson at wilson@gracepc.org.

Prayers are being Answered!

Your Prayer Team meets every Sunday in MB2 at 4PM and a 2nd prayer team meets every Tuesday evening at 7PM in the parlor to pray over the prayers that have been shared with us. If you would like to have personal hands-on prayer, or wish to join us you are welcome at either meeting. If you would like to receive a list of the prayers weekly, send a message to Mike Shaw at broncosrbest@verizon.net to be added to our efforts to connect to the Lord and the community. Every week, God responds and answers.

- Bonnie Moreland is out of the hospital.
- Bob Meyer is out of the hospital.
- Pilgrimage #53 is starting and looking strong!

Affirmations & Thank You's

Congratulations to Bella Jones! She competed in the VASE arts competition last weekend and received a perfect score and an award. Her picture, pasted to the right, is about anorexia and the struggle teens have with self image.



Thank you to the Thomas family for hosting our youth 's karaoke game night last Saturday night! They had a great time!

Family Ministries Upcoming Events

High School/College Senior Scholarship Application – Due Apr 1st

Grace PC awards several scholarships to graduating seniors (High School or College) on Senior Sunday. The students must be members of Grace PC and the qualifications vary for each scholarship. One of the awards requires that students fill out an application to apply: The Bob Tobermann Family Award. This is to recognize a graduating senior (High School or College) who demonstrates an ongoing commitment to serving others in the model of the Tobermann family legacy of selfless service. To be considered, you must submit responses to a series of questions. If interested, go to the form online at gracepc.org>signups. **The deadline to fill out your form is April 1st.**

Kidquake Registration - April 25-27

Parents, it is time to register for the upcoming Kid Quake weekend at Camp Gilmont. If you or your child is interested in attending Kidquake, please fill out the form on the website in signups, or check your connection card and we will send you the link to the form.

Grace Presbytery has Summer Opportunities for Youth

Hello families, I am excited to announce that Grace Presbytery has multiple opportunities for youth this summer! Some of these opportunities are through sister churches and some are through the Presbytery. There are mission trips, camps, conferences, etc. Please see attached flyer found in your newsletter email for more information. There is something almost every week this summer and financial assistance is available. If you are interested in attending any of the opportunities please email me at cara@gracepc.org and I can help you get registered.

Youth Ministry

Let's Talk Body Image

Calling all middle school girls and moms, join us for an important conversation about Body Image. Think Pink Inc. in partnership with Let's Talk Body Image at Memorial HighSchool are hosting a free online event on Sunday March 30, 2025. 6 p.m. CST.

Get the healthy conversation started with your daughters and hear from moms, highschool girls and women committed to helping our girls have a healthy body image.

What is crucial for a healthy body image? Self acceptance, Balanced Health, Positive Self Talk, Focusing on Strengths, Critical Thinking about Media, Support from Others and Respecting Diversity.

Fostering a healthy body image involves developing self-compassion, focusing on well-being rather than appearance, and surrounding oneself with positive influences. It's important to remember that it's normal for bodies to change during adolescence, and what matters most is how a person feels about themselves, not how they look.

Event co-hosts: LM Shafer, Amy Vogel and Sarah Castro.

Visit: [Girlsthepink.org/events](https://girlsthepink.org/events) to register for this free online event. Space is limited.

Family Ministries Sunday AM Schedule

Children's Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Preschool	CE 211	Helen Blacklock & Lorna Little
Kindergarten - 1st	CE 212	Mark Ellis & Xenia Gross
2nd - 3rd grades	CE 214	Brad Boles & David Hurwich
4th - 5th grades	CE 216	Liz Urech & Eme Thomas

Youth Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Middle School & High School	CE 200- CE203	Jack Davenport, Austin Nichols, Bryan Raaum, Teri Waite

Godly Play - 11:15AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>
Godly Play	CE 213 (Godly Play Worship Center)

Want to Learn?

**Children's School Year
Sunday School
10AM**

**Youth School Year
Sunday School
10AM**

School Year Adult Sunday School - 10am

Bible Boomers	Wheelus Hall
Koinonia	CE204/205
Trinity	MB2
Visions of Faith	MB3
Word of Life	MB4

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM	MB4
Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM	MB2
Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM	MB2
Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM	MB4
Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM	MB2
Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM	MB2
Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8:30-10:30AM	MB2

Want to Sing or Ring?

Choirs

Sanctuary Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

Exultation Choir

Youth choir for grades 6 – 12

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

Voices in Praise (VIPs)

Children's choir for grades 2 – 5

Sundays, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

Cherub Choir

Children's choir for PK thru 1st gd.

Sundays, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

Handbell Choirs

Grace Notes

Advanced adult
handbells

Sundays, 5:45 – 7:15pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

Credo

Youth handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

Agape Bells

Beginner adult handbells

Sundays, 4:15 – 5pm

Room: CE204-205

Katie Schnittker, Director

Carillon Ringers

Children (Grades 3-5)

Handbells

Sundays, 3 - 4pm

Room CE204/205

Michelle Rutherford & Hannah
Allen, Directors

Feel free to contact any of the ensemble directors for more info
we would love to have you!

Hannah Allen – Children's Choirs, hannah@gracepc.org

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir, michael@gracepc.org

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director, Agape Bells Director katie.schnittker@gmail.com

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director, mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net

Calendar

MARCH

- 7 Quilt Ministry Meeting, 9AM (CE204/205)
- 7-9 Pilgrimage
 - 9 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
 - 9 Sunday School for All, 10AM
 - 9 Confirmation, 9:45AM (Youth Room)
 - 9 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
 - 9 Godly Play, 11:15AM (Godly Play Worship Center, CE213)
 - 9 Session Meeting, 12:30PM (Wheelus Hall)
 - 9 Credo Bell Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Sanctuary)
 - 9 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal, 3PM (CE204/205)
 - 9 Agape Bell Rehearsal, 4:15PM (CE204/205)
 - 9 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
 - 9 Exultation Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
 - 9 Voices in Praise Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
 - 9 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
 - 9 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 5:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 10 Blue Angel's Bible Study, 12PM (MB2)
- 10 Weeknight Women's Dinner, 6PM Seager & Sons
- 10 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 11 Tuesday Women's AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 11 Weekday Prayer Meeting, 7PM (Parlor)
- 11 Mission Committee Meeting, 7PM (MB4)
- 11 Grief Group, 7PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 12 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 12 Spice of Life Luncheon, 12PM (Wheelus Hall)
- 12 ESL, 5:30PM
- 12 Citizenship Class, 6:45PM
- 12 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 13 Generations of Grace Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 14 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 14 Women's Pilgrimage Renewal, 5:30PM (CE204/205)
- 14 Jigsaw Puzzler's Group Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 15 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)