

amazing

IN YOUR LIFE | IN OUR COMMUNITY | IN THE WORLD

Grace

A monthly publication for members and friends of Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek, California

April 2021

Dear Grace Church Family,

The beginning of April this year marks the conclusion of the season of Lent, the forty days of self-examination and spiritual disciple that helps prepare us for the good news of the resurrection of Christ. It also means that Holy Week is upon us.

On the back page of this newsletter is the worship schedule for Holy Week, so I hope you will plan to join us (via Zoom or in person) on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The darkness of Holy Week points us toward the heart of our Christian faith—God does indeed always win!

One of the big questions the congregation faces after Easter is when (and how) to begin gathering together in person for meetings, fellowship, and worship. There are a number of factors to consider, including State and County COVID-19 guidelines, the location of the gathering (inside or outside), the status of attendees (vaccinated or not), and many others. We are also looking to our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and to the Presbytery of San Francisco for guidance and wisdom.

Ultimately, the decision of when and how to reopen the church campus is made by the Session. The most difficult aspect of reopening is deciding which ministry activities are consistent with current allowable practices and provide sensible protection of the health and safety of the participants. It is important to understand that recovering from a pandemic does not happen in a linear fashion.

The words of wisdom from Ecclesiastes 7:8 are especially relevant today: “Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; the patient in spirit are better than the proud.” As we look with hope toward the ending of COVID-19 restrictions, please keep the Session elders in your prayers as they look toward the future.

I will close with a personal observation: it was one year ago this month that I started as your pastor here at Grace. While I never imagined that one year later we would not yet have met in person to worship together, I am very grateful for the privilege of being part of the life of Grace Church. I’m very much looking forward to being together in person with the congregation and to shaking hands and sharing a hug! And now, a prayer for Easter:

*Easter glory fills the heaven,
Easter light pervades the earth,
now the Son, his triumph given,
brings his promise of new birth.
By his awesome act of giving,
sin and death are put to flight,
hope and life invade our living,
new created by his light.*

- Leith Fisher

Easter Blessings, *Mark*

WORSHIP AT 10 AM ON SUNDAYS VIA ZOOM

- April 4 – Easter: *Mark 16:1-8*
- April 11 – TBD
- April 18 – Easter 3: *Luke 24:36b-48*
- April 25 – Easter 4: *Earth Day Sunday*

For information, to view recorded worship services and more, go to our website, <https://www.gracewc.org>.

Contact the Church:

Email: gracepreschurchwc@gmail.com
or 925-935-2100

Sr. Pastor Mark Burnham:
925-433-5459 or
revmrb@gmail.com

Associate Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel: 925-433-5458 or
korgan81@yahoo.com

Pastor Emerita: Charie Reid

Parish Associate: Diana Barkley
Office Manager: Judy Williams
Treasurer: Linda Neyer
Asst. Treasurer: Geri Rentz
Financial Scty: Jennifer Wallace
Headshot Photos: Carol King

All Articles must be submitted
by April 19
to be included in the next issue.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Katherine Stidwell | 4/3 |
| Barbara Rainis | 4/4 |
| Betsy Williams | 4/7 |
| Norma Fellner | 4/14 |
| B.J. Boone | 4/18 |
| Maryanne Sanchez | 4/19 |
| Marilyn Squire | 4/20 |
| Kathie Paul | 4/24 |
| Sharon Lyons | 4/25 |
| Patricia Hansen | 4/28 |

Interfaith Council of Rossmoor

By Meg Keeley

This is the first of a series of articles that will be submitted by the Witness and Ministry Committee in the coming year. **It is our intent and hope to inform our faith community about the organizations that Grace supports in the wider community and world through your generous giving and when possible, active participation.** This month, we are featuring The Interfaith Council of Rossmoor.



The mission of the Interfaith Council of Rossmoor (ICR) is as follows: “We are an interfaith community—people from a diversity of religions, spiritual expressions, and indigenous traditions—gathering to manifest our unity and mutual respect as we promote the spirit of community and service by honoring differences, cultivating understanding, and serving the human spirit for the community of Rossmoor.” Its stated purpose is: “To be a forum for conversations, education, and dialogue for the diverse communities within Rossmoor seeking mutual respect and understanding.”

Members represent faith practices including: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Islam, Ananda, Unity, Unitarian Universalist, Hinduism, Baha’i, Tao Te Ching, Sufism Reoriented, and others.

ICR fulfills its mission and purpose through activities and services including:

- Big Question Forums such as this year’s “What is our purpose of life?” –held at 2:00, 3rd Monday each month features speakers representing different faiths.
- Compassionate Listening Workshops
- Diversity Consciousness Initiatives working in collaboration with Rossmoor Advocates for Diversity and the Black Lives Matter groups at Rossmoor
- Sanctum space in Dollar Clubhouse which houses a small interfaith library and space for conversation/prayer
- Brotherhood/Sisterhood Dinner in May
- Harvest Festival and Food Drive in November
- Outreach to the Rossmoor community including website, newspaper column, and print materials
- Sponsorship of the Diablo Valley Threshold Singers

Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2-2:30. All are welcome to attend. Meg Keeley is the representative for Grace and Diablo Valley Threshold Singers at these meetings. You may contact Meg with any questions you may have about the Rossmoor Interfaith Council at megkeeley327@gmail.com.

Earth Care Corner

Grace will observe Earth Day on April 24 during the worship service.

Nationally, the Earth Day 2021 theme is “Restore Our Earth.” On April 22, many world leaders will meet in a global climate summit. The 2nd annual Earth Day Live will feature digital workshops, panels, and special performances. These events will be preceded by two days of global digital climate summits. The “We Shall Breathe” virtual event on the evening of Apr. 21 should fit in well with our Matthew 25 emphasis on racial justice. For more information, please see EarthDay.org.



In the meantime and throughout the year, here are some actions that you might take to help God’s earth — have meatless Monday meals – pledge to use reusable grocery bags – “sustainable fashion” (giving away old clothes when no longer needed & buying used clothes made of natural fabrics) – buy local and organic food when possible – call or write your elected officials in support of about legislation benefitting the earth. You might even become a “citizen scientist” through the free smart phone app, Global Earth Challenge™, making observations (via word or photo) about local air & water quality, insect populations, climate change, plastic pollution, & food sustainability, which will help provide valuable environmental insight & a platform for policy change.

Board of Deacons

By Sally Day

Deacons have existed since the earliest days of the church when, according to Acts 6:1-6, the disciples appointed "...seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom..." to care for the women who were being neglected when the men went out to proselytize. Grace's Board ministers to those in need, to the sick, the friendless and those who may be in distress. They also have other duties as assigned by the Session.



There are 12 Deacons on the Board, each serving a three-year term. Each year four Deacons complete their terms and are replaced by four new Deacons. (In the event a Deacon is unable to complete the three-year term, a substitute is nominated for the remainder of that term.) Each Deacon is given a list of a share of the congregation to keep in touch with for the duration of the term of office. When the Deacon completes the term, the list is given to an incoming Deacon.

In 2020 the Board increased the number of contacts with the congregation due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic and the lists were expanded to include engaged non-members. The Deacons worked hard to let people know that they have not been forgotten even though we were unable to physically see each other in church. We are continuing this new tradition in 2021, making more phone calls and sending more cards and notes. **In order to further improve communications, the Board wants the congregation to know who their Deacon is.**

So, in this edition of Grace in the World we are including a list where you can see the name of your Deacon. Just look for your name on the alphabetized list beginning in the right column and continuing on the insert! This provides you with a way (in addition to our pastors and the church office) to express your needs, joys and concerns, and suggestions for improving the worship experience at Grace. We hope you will keep the list with your directory and feel free to contact your Deacon.

Please note: The vacant deacon position is expected to be filled soon by the Nominating Committee. Please contact the office or Sally Day if you have any questions.

If your name is not on the list and you would like to be assigned to a Deacon, contact Judy at the office or Sally Day at 925-300-3332.



Jan Zimmerman and Gessica Johnston walk to the Rossmoor Labyrinth after being inspired by the Sunday service on March 21st.

| Parishioner Name | | Deacon |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Betty | Adams | Kathy Anderson |
| Sara | Allen | Kathy Anderson |
| Kathy | Anderson | Jane Burkland |
| Mariane | Anderson | Sally Day |
| Tung | Au | Maryanne Sanchez |
| Lorna | Barber | Mary Munsell |
| Diana | Barkley | Kathy Anderson |
| Donna | Bell | Faye Hutchings |
| Anne | Bergera | Gail Peterson |
| Constance | Bills | Judith Jones |
| Bethallyn | Black | Jane Burkland |
| Lavenia | Black | Vacant |
| Jim | Black | Kathy Anderson |
| Judith | Black | Kathy Anderson |
| Susan | Blair | Carol Parker |
| Tim | Blaney | Carol Parker |
| David | Bonde | Barbara Odell |
| B.J. | Boone | Mary Ann Littig |
| Mark | Borchardt | Vacant |
| Angela | Borchardt | Vacant |
| Pamela | Bouey | Vacant |
| Marjorie | Bradley | Mary Ann Littig |
| Liz | Bradner | Barbara Odell |
| Gary | Brasser | Jane Burkland |
| Marilyn | Bray | Jane Burkland |
| George | Bray | Jane Burkland |
| Nancy | Brixey | Jane Burkland |
| Loree | Bunten | Gail Peterson |
| Jane | Burkland | Faye Hutchings |
| Patricia | Burnham | Faye Hutchings |
| Lori | Camenson | Judith Jones |
| Rosalyn | Cannelora | Sally Day |
| Phyllis | Carman | Barbara Odell |
| Laura | Chapman | Gail Peterson |

Continued on insert.

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

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
<https://www.gracewc.org>
April 2021

Address Service Requested
Dated Material

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



To help fill "One Big Need" for food in our Community, the city of Walnut Creek is sponsoring a food drive. Look for the colorful logo and consider making a donation of food or funds. **Make a cash donation to the Food Bank through www.Walnut-Creek.org/Service.**

Within Rossmoor: Drop off food and monetary donations at Rossmoor Rotary collection Station at Gateway Clubhouse (8:30 am to noon).

The church campus is closed for now.

Watch worship services anytime at <https://www.gracewc.org>. Go to the Sunday Services page and click on the links to view.

Listen to the latest Sunday sermon on your phone. Dial 925-236-2487 anytime.

10:00 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:

Zoom meeting: Welcome, social time, recorded worship followed by discussion.

OTHER MEETINGS ON ZOOM:

10:00 AM WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
with Rev. Mark Burnham

**9:30 AM THURSDAY CONVERSATION
& COFFEE** with Rev. Mark Burnham

10:00 AM MEN'S CLUB: Meets second
Friday of each month

11:00 AM WOMENS' CIRCLES:
Times TBA

HOLY WEEK at GRACE

3/28 PALM SUNDAY
Zoom Worship at 10 AM

4/1 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Zoom Interactive Worship at 7 PM

4/2 GOOD FRIDAY
Sanctuary open from noon to 3 PM
for individual prayer

4/3 HOLY SATURDAY (afternoon)
Flowering of the cross will be
outdoors by the front of the church.

4/4 EASTER SUNDAY
7 AM Sunrise Service in the courtyard.
Limited attendance. Please RSVP.

10 AM Zoom Worship