

## *Adult Education*

This Sunday, March 5, David Pope, President Oak Park Residence Corporation speaks about Racial Justice in Affordable Housing in Oak Park.

## *Bach's St. Matthew Passion*

The Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra in collaboration with Chicago Choral Artists will present Bach's St. Matthew Passion at Grace on Saturday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 26, at 4:00 p.m. The Sunday performance will be live-streamed. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$25.

For more information, visit [www.bachvespers.org/march](http://www.bachvespers.org/march).

## *Volunteer for St. Matthew Passion*

It takes a village to pull off something as large and wonderful as the St. Matthew Passion. We need assistance from you, the Grace family.

Performances are Saturday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. Both of these performances have a 20-minute intermission. During this time the Women at Grace are providing portable snacks and drinks for both audience and performers.

We need your help in managing and restocking tables, and helping visitors feel welcome. These are simple but essential tasks and we appreciate your help in making this happen. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/41IYGFJ>.

## *Support Grace with Thrivent Choice Dollars*

If you are a Thrivent client, you can help support Grace's mission by designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to our church and school by March 31. To learn more, access <https://bit.ly/3J7UIiM> or contact Jim McClanahan ([jmccclanahan@graceriverforest.org](mailto:jmccclanahan@graceriverforest.org).)

### **Benevolence Committee**

Benevolence giving financially supports ministries and programs that further the mission of Grace and the broader mission of the Christian church. Each year, 10% of the congregation's giving is set aside and distributed to benevolence partners to be used by those organizations. This impacts the lives of real people – the majority of whom we may never meet. In sharing the gifts God has first given us, we quickly discover that it is not only other lives that are changed, but, in generous giving, ours as well.

The Benevolence Committee prayerfully discerns partnerships and disbursement levels based on congregational ministry emphases. Committee members assist with the review and oversight of Benevolence funds. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please reach out to Scott Street at [kentuckystreets@msn.com](mailto:kentuckystreets@msn.com).

### **Directory picture day**

As part of the family of Grace, we want your face in the family portrait! Please schedule a time to get your photo taken by professional photographers from ColorCraft. Pictures will be taken in Fellowship Hall Saturday, June 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please sign up on the link by March 30. <https://bit.ly/3kJPeS4>

### **Faith Promise Pledge**

It's not too late to submit your Faith Promise forms to help support the mission and ministry here at Grace. Through our Faith Promise we offer our time, talents, and treasures to help build up our Grace community for this and future generations. Through faithful giving of gifts, we become partners in changing lives here in our community and around the world. You can pick up a form at the front desk or access the form online at <https://bit.ly/3xKEeGX>. Thank you for your generosity. Your gifts to Grace will help sustain our ministry, expand our vision for the future, and support our benevolence partners.

### **Chicago a cappella concert**

Tonight, March 5, at 4:00 p.m., the ten singers of Chicago a cappella will visit Grace Lutheran Church to perform a unique concert of beautifully moving works that will span four centuries. It includes music by Byrd, Howells, Price, Garrop, and more. The performance also examines the circumstances that nearly prevented so many musical treasures from being performed publicly. In addition, they will premiere three new pieces, made possible through the HerVoice Emerging Women Composers Competition.

Visit [www.chicagoacappella.org](http://www.chicagoacappella.org) or call (773) 281-7820 for more information. Use discount code GRACE10 to receive \$10 off general seating tickets (priced at \$35).

### **Last Sunday's Attendance:**

8:30 a.m.: 140      11:00 a.m.: 152

### ***Encounters with Christ* devotion booklet**

The Lenten devotion booklet *Encounters with Christ* contains daily devotions written by Grace members. Book 1, written for the first half of Lent, is available in the atrium. You can also read the devotions online at [habitsofgrace.blog](http://habitsofgrace.blog). Scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address to receive the devotions in your inbox every morning.

### **GriefShare Seminar Series**

The sessions will be held on Fridays, from January 20 to April 21. We will meet from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. in the church library. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. The course also includes online information and a workbook. Go to [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) and click on Find a Group. Use the River Forest zip code (60305) to locate the group and to register. For further information, contact Barbara Hofmaier at [bjhofmaier@comcast.net](mailto:bjhofmaier@comcast.net) or Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. This event is open to the community.

You can join at any point!

3/10/23 - Guilt and Anger

4/07/23 - Lessons of Grief, Part 2

3/17/23 - Complicating Factors

4/14/23 - Heaven

3/24/23 - Stuck

4/21/23 - What Do I Live for Now?

3/31/20 - Lessons of Grief, Part 1

### ***Fellowship Groups***

#### **Yoga at Grace**

Join Yoga with Ackli on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a yoga block, if you have one. The next class is on March 9. Classes are free with a goodwill offering to Grace. Previous experience with yoga is not a requirement! Everyone is welcome.

#### **Religion in Literature**

Our next Religion in Literature meeting will be March 17, 7:30 p.m. in the home of Bill and Karen Clapp, 5845 W. Ohio St., Chicago. Steve Peterson will lead a discussion of Lucas Hnath's *The Christians*, a play about a pastor who decides there is no such thing as hell. Beyond reading it, and in case you want to see the play in production, it is currently running at Citadel Theatre in Lake Forest through March 12, every Wednesday and Sunday. More information about Citadel Theatre is at <https://www.citadeltheatre.org/>. For more information and to be added to the email list, please contact [jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu](mailto:jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu).

#### **Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults**

This new fellowship group fosters community among women whose children are growing up into adulthood. Contact Jessica Bullock (jesbullock23@gmail.com) to be added to the group email list.

### **Cornerstones**

This group for seniors meets Wednesday mornings for fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study with the pastors at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. The next worship with lunch is on March 8. Contact earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more information.

### **Knitting Group**

The knitting group meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Church Library. The next meeting is on March 21, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

### **Theology on Tap**

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. The next meeting is Friday, March 24. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) for details.

### **Moms of Littles**

Mothers of children age infants through teens meet in person on the first and third Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact Sabrina Maggio (sabrina.maggio713@gmail.com) to be added to the email list or learn more about the group's updated meeting schedule.

### **Dads of Grace**

Pastor Lyle and other dads gather for evenings of fellowship once a month. The next gathering is Monday, March 27. Email Pastor Lyle for more information (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

### **Men of Grace**

The Men of Grace group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9 a.m., in the Youth Center. The next meeting is Saturday, March 25. We are currently reading and discussing *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.)

### **Retired Leaders**

The Retired Leaders group meets on Tuesday, March 14, 10 a.m. in the church library. The speaker is Roger Willer, ELCA Director for Theological Ethics, speaking on "God's Gift of Non-Establishment Government: Introducing the ELCA Study on Civic Life and Faith." All are welcome.

### **Finding Hope**

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The next meeting is March 10. Contact Judie McDonnell ([judie.mcdonnell@att.net](mailto:judie.mcdonnell@att.net)) for more information or if you need to arrange a ride.