

Weekly Announcements

August 27, 2023

Installation of Grace School Faculty

New and returning faculty and staff of Grace School will be installed during worship this Sunday.

Taste of Grace Coffee Hour

Join us this Sunday, August 27, for our final Taste of Grace after worship. Goodies will be provided by our Stephen Ministers and by our Elementary Education Committee. Stephen Ministers continue to serve this community by providing high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in our congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. The EEC guides the decision-making of our school and are celebrating the blessing of our teachers as they begin this new school year. Come and learn who these folks are, what they do, and celebrate the good gifts God has given Grace.

Save the date: September 10

The annual Grace Church and School picnic is just around the corner! Join us after the worship service on Sunday, September 10 for food, fellowship and fun in Fellowship Hall. The links to RSVP and volunteer at the picnic are available on Grace Links. For questions, please email Julie Hinz at jhinz@graceriverforest.org.

Sunday Bible Class

Sunday Morning Bible class will continue to meet at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room. We will finish the book we are currently exploring on September 3. Due to the Grace picnic, we will not gather on September 10. Classes will resume September 17, starting at 8:45 a.m. We will study *God's Law is Love* by Augsburg Fortress. Participant Guides are available at the front desk, and everyone is invited!

Women's Choir resumes rehearsals on September 7

Grace's Women's Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the music room on the second floor. Women of all ages, from teens to seniors, are welcome to join the group. All that's required is that you enjoy singing. Questions? Contact Gwen Gotsch who directs the group (ggotsch@graceriverforest.org, 708-557-5740).

GriefShare Seminar Series

A new offering of the 13-week GriefShare seminar series begins on Thursday, September 21. The sessions will be held on Thursdays from September 21 to December 28, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church library. (Please note: on September 28 and October 26, we will gather in the conference room.)

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. Whether you are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, other family member, or a friend, and no matter what the cause of your loved one's death, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help by being with others who understand what you are feeling. The course covers the topics found on page 4 of the announcements and includes video sessions, online materials, and a workbook.

The Loss of a Spouse Seminar

Are you grieving the death of a spouse?

If so, your life has changed forever, and the emotions and challenges you are dealing with may seem too hard to bear. But help is available. On September 17, we will be offering "The Loss of a Spouse" seminar from noon to 2:00 pm in the Grace church library.

The seminar is co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and St. Giles Catholic Church of Oak Park. This practical, hope-inspiring seminar uses a biblical perspective and features video interviews with top Christian experts on grief and recovery as well as personal testimonies from widowed men and women. Attendees will receive a booklet filled with practical tips, encouraging words, insights from Scripture, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help in their life ahead.

Do plan to come, and please share this information with others who are facing this loss and might benefit. The event is free, and a light lunch will be served at the beginning of the meeting. To register, call 708-366-6900 or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org.

For more information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. All are welcome.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 165

Fellowship Groups

Yoga with Ackli

Yoga class with Ackli begins Thursday, September 7. Class is held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. You do not need prior yoga experience! Classes are gentle and we focus on alignment for strength and flexibility. Bring a yoga mat and a beach towel or blanket with you to class. Please dress in clothing that you can comfortably move around in. If you have questions about class or yoga in general, please call Ackli at 708-516-2701.

Cornerstones

This group for seniors meets Wednesday mornings for fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. The next fellowship with Bible study is on August 30. Please note: beginning Wednesday, September 6, Cornerstones will resume its regular schedule with fellowship at 10:00 a.m. followed by Bible Study with the pastors at 10:30a.m. Contact Esther Armstrong with any questions at earmstrong@gracriverforest.org.

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.

Knitting Group

The knitting group meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Church Library. The next meeting is on September 12, 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 September 22, at 7:00 p.m. at One Lake Brewing Company. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@gracriverforest.org) for details or to be added to the email list.

Religion in Literature

The Religion in Literature group will meet September 15, 7:30 p.m. to discuss Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, led by Steve Peterson. Two copies are available for checkout in the church library. Linda and Bryan Bernard will host in their home at 1840 N New England Ave., Chicago. To be added to the email list, please contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu. All are welcome!

Retired Leaders

This group of retired Christian men and women in former positions of leadership meets monthly on Tuesday mornings. The group is on break for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact John Halvorson at johnlhalvorson@yahoo.com to be added to the email list.

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

The dads of Grace gather offsite for evenings of fellowship once a month. Email Justin Hartung for more information (jhartung@gmail.com).

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 September 23. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.)

Finding Hope

The support group for people with chronic illness meets on the second Friday of the month. The next meeting is September 8, at 10:00 a.m. Contact Judie McDonnell (judie.mcdonnell@att.net) for more information or if you need to arrange a ride.

GriefShare schedule:

- September 21: Is This Normal?
- September 28: Your Grief Journey (meeting in the conference room)
- October 5: Loneliness & Sadness
- October 12: Self-Care
- October 19: Fearful & Overwhelmed
- October 26: Anger (meeting in the conference room)
- November 2: Regrets
- November 9: Grief & Your Household
- November 16: Grief & Your Friendships
- November 23: no meeting (Thanksgiving)
- November 30: Questions for God
- December 7: Stuck in Grief
- December 14: Hope & Resilience
- December 21 *or* December 28 (TBD): What Do I Live For Now?

To register, go to GriefShare.org, click on Find a Group, and use the River Forest zip code (60305) to locate our group; call 708-366-6900; or email gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. For further information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. You can join the seminar series at any point, and all are welcome.