

Thank you to Joanna Schubkegel

Joanna Schubkegel has announced her resignation from the Parish Nurse position. We are thankful for her ministry here at Grace and grateful that she and her family will remain part of our congregation and community. Be on the lookout for more information regarding how we will celebrate Joanna's time of ministry at Grace. The Parish Nurse job description will be posted in the near future.

Belonging Study: It's Not Too Late to Sign Up

This Lent we will gather each Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. beginning on February 18 to study the book titled *Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential As a Disciple*, by Karoline Lewis. You can sign up for the study on the button below. The book is available for pickup at no charge at the Grace Reception Desk. In preparation for the first session, please read the Prologue, Introduction, and Chapter One. Be sure to join us at 8:45 a.m. each week for Grace Gathers.

Ash Wednesday and Lent Worship At Grace

Join us on February 14 for Ash Wednesday worship with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 8:25 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays in Lent: on February 21 through March 20, join us for Lenten Midweek worship at 8:25 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.. Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Graceful Evening

Grace School's annual formal dinner and fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. at the Nineteenth Century Club, in Oak Park. Learn more about how to get involved and to purchase tickets at graceful2024.givesmart.com. Tickets will also be available each Sunday in the atrium for in-person purchase.

Altar Flowers During Lent

In order to stay in keeping with the season of lent, Grace keeps the altar clear of flowers and decorations as we relect, repent and await to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. This means that after Sunday, February 11 our altar flower sponsor program is on hold until Easter. You can, however, sign up for flowers at later dates any time you like. The sign up remains at the front desk. Thank you for supporting our worship services in this way.

Grace to Host Cambridge Concert: Saturday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

Inspired by a trip to Cambridge University in 2019, Artistic Director John William Trotter has created a program of rich, vibrant English choral masterworks and folksongs, plus a new work by a 2023 HerVoice Composer Competition winner, performed by the ten singers of Chicago a cappella in resonant cathedral-like settings where sound and space work together in unique and harmonious synergy. This concert features works by Byrd, Vaughan Williams, Britten, and winner of the HerVoice Emerging Women Composers Competition. Tickets: <https://www.chicagoacappella.org/concert-event/cambridge-concert/>

Help Make our Website Great with News Submissions

If you have news that are relevant to Grace Church, you can get them posted on our website, Graceriverforest.org. Articles should be a maximum of 300 words in length, and you may include photos and links. Please limit submissions to news relating to Grace Lutheran Church and its missions and events. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and relevance.

All content (and any questions) can be sent to Brenda Adams at bklaus@graceriverforest.org.

Urgent Needs for Migrants in Oak Park

Only these items are needed: winter jackets, sweatpants (especially for men and boys,) leggings for women, hoodies, layering items, socks, gloves, hats, blankets, suitcases, and sleeping bags. We ask that you please to stick to this list. You can drop off items in the atrium bin at Grace.

A Word of Thanks

On behalf of the migrant families and our new refugee family, thank you for your generous and ongoing donations to this ministry at Grace. Stay tuned to the bulletin board in the atrium for photos and updates. You are making a difference today!

Fellowship Groups

Cornerstones Bible Study

Bible study for seniors on Wednesdays. On February 14, join us for fellowship at 10:00 a.m., Bible study at 10:30 a.m., Morning Prayer with imposition of ashes at 11:30 a.m., and lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 p.m. Contact Esther Armstrong at earmstrong@graceriverforest.org for more information.

Yoga at Grace

Yoga with Ackli meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a yoga block if you have one. Classes are free with a goodwill offering to Grace.

Moms of High School Teens and Young Adults

This fellowship group fosters community among women whose children are growing up into adulthood. Contact Beth Reynolds (beth.reynolds@insight.com) to be added to the group email list.

Theology on Tap

Come for community and monthly conversations about faith and life. Email Pastor Troy (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org) for details or to be added to the email list.

Dads of Grace

The dads of Grace gather offsite for evenings of fellowship on the fourth Monday of every month. This group will meet on February 26, at 7:30 p.m. Email Pastor Dave Lyle for more information (dlyle@graceriverforest.org).

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.

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 group will meet again on March 2. Email Pastor Troy for more information (tmedlin@graceriverforest.org.)

Religion in Literature

The February 16 meeting of the Religion in Literature group will be held in the home of Amy and James Claud, 326 Forest Ave., River Forest, at 7:30 p.m.. Roger Ferlo will lead the discussion of Cantos 1-17 of Dante's *Inferno*. Perfect for Lent! Roger is President Emeritus of Bexley Seabury Seminary and Priest Associate at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church. He has taught an Adult Ed session at Grace on Dante and was a Cantata preacher last year. All are welcome. For further information contact jill.baumgaertner@wheaton.edu.

Knitting Group

This month, the group will meet on February 20, 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the church library. Beginners are welcome! Contact Karen Eckstein (ecksteinkaren2@gmail.com) with questions.

Finding Hope

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

Retired Leaders

The Retired Leaders group will meet again on February 13. Jill Baumgaertner will present the session titled “My Ecumenical Life”. Join us to hear about how she could study and teach Catholic authors, serve on the editorial staff of a progressive mainline journal, teach at an Evangelical college, and remain Lutheran to the core — and never feel like a living contradiction. For more information or to be added to the email list, contact John Halvorson at johnhalvorson@yahoo.com. All are welcome!

GriefShare Seminar Series

Our current GriefShare seminar series is being held on Thursdays through April 11, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church library except as noted below. You can join the course at any point, and all are welcome. 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@gracriverforest.org. For further information, contact facilitator Linda Bernard at 773-259-4720. GriefShare schedule:

- February 15: Fearful & Overwhelmed
- February 22: Anger (conference room)
- February 29: Regrets
- March 7: Grief & Your Household
- March 14: Grief & Your Friendships
- March 21: Questions for God (conference room)
- March 28: Stuck in Grief
- April 4: Hope & Resilience
- April 11: What Do I Live For Now?

Last Sunday's Attendance: 265