

Grace Notes



February 2021



Pastor Delwayne Hahn died on Sunday, January 24th at his home in Cambridge, Minnesota. In his last week, Pastor Hahn was able to be at his beloved home that he had shared with Marilyn and be in the care of his daughters Heidi and Kristiena and granddaughter Dezirae. On his final day, all of his children were able to come and be with him before he finally left this life and joined the Lord.



I was privileged to work alongside Pastor Hahn for the last year and a half. He told me of his diagnosis on the first day we met. And even though I know at times he was weak and weary from his treatments; it was seldom that we on the Grace staff didn't see him in the church office. He loved ministry! Loved it to the very fiber of his being. He loved being a pastor and sharing the good news of God's love with everyone. He believed in the power of the church to transform lives and he did not want that journey to end.

It was on Christmas Eve that he told me he needed to step down from his position at Grace and only one month later he died. For 51 years he served God. This Christmas was the first Christmas Day service that he didn't lead worship, but he was still there on Zoom with the rest of us, hearing again the promise of God proclaimed by the angels, that to us a Savior has been born. This is the gift of our faith, that God comes into our world. God enters into the darkness, into the grief, into our communities and into our lives. God knows what it is like both to live and to die, and we are assured that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.



If he could have, Pastor Hahn would have served in the church another 20 years, baptizing and preaching and teaching, and we would have been blessed by his wit and his witness. Instead, with both tears in my eyes and joy in my heart, I grieve and celebrate. I grieve that we will no longer serve together, and I won't get to hear his stories any more, or be reminded of the way "they used to do things" in the church. I will miss his care and his support not only for me, but for all of you. I give thanks for the time we shared. For as hard as it is to say goodbye, this is also a day of celebration. I celebrate that he is no longer in pain, or tired or worn, but can once again do all the things he loves. I celebrate that at long last he gets to be reunited with those he loves, especially his beloved Marilyn. I celebrate that today he is standing before the throne of God having been welcomed to his eternal home. I celebrate the life of Delwayne Hahn and all that he brought into this world. Thanks be to God! Well done, good and faithful servant.

Let us pray:

God of promise, we give you thanks for the life of Delwayne Hahn. For the 51 years that he served your people and shared the gospel. We give you thanks for his witness, his humor, his family, and for all the ways he brought compassion and care into our world. We ask for you to hold us in our grief, to wipe the tears from our eyes, and to remind us again of the eternal promise we have with you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Funeral plans are still being arranged by his family for the service in New London and he will be buried next to his beloved wife, Marilyn. We, at Grace, did a memorial in our worship on the weekend of Jan. 30/31st. We will be planning a celebration of his life in the spring.

Blessings, Pastor Joanna Mitchell



Pastor Joanna Mitchell's Message



Christian Identity and Values: A Lenten Journey

Peter answered him, "Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. Jesus said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:28

When I was younger, I never really thought that being a Christian was risky business. The majority of the people I knew were Christian and church always seemed pretty tame. People were on their best behavior, they dressed nice, they smiled and sat calmly in pews. But the older I get and the more I study the bible, the more I realize that we have subdued the Gospel. Being a Christian is not for the faint of heart. Annie Dillard, says it this way:

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return.

I love this image of wearing crash helmets to church and taking seriously the tremendous risk that following Jesus entails. Being a Christian is looking to Jesus and not just staying passively in the boat, but risking getting out on the water with him. It is uncertain, scary at times. There will be waves and invitation to step out of the boat in order to follow Jesus. It is out of the safety and the security of the boat where our wild God will lead us forward to encounter new people, try new things and transform our world. The question that we are invited to contemplate is, what does this really look like for us and for our church? What does it really mean to follow Jesus?

This year for Lent we will be exploring this topic. On Ash Wednesday, we will have a guest preacher from Bethel College who will introduce the topic of Christian Identity and then each week we will be preaching on the 5 values that I presented to you all last month: Centered in Christ, Accepting of Everyone, Compassionate, Connected and Empowered to share God's love. Values, that I believe we hold here at Grace. These values are a rough draft with a working definition. In order for us to accept them as our values, we need to engage them, contemplate if these are the right ones, have dialogue about them, and ask important questions about them. I hope that we will wonder "what does this value mean about my own personal life?", and also "how does this value effect the way we operate as a church?" Our values will help us shape the mission and vision for what is next for Grace Lutheran.

There will be a number of opportunities to participate in Lent. We will be having worship at 1pm, 6pm and 7:15pm in person with a sign-up. We will also be sharing our worship online. We will be forming discussion groups to explore the values each week that will take place in small groups in our sanctuary for our adults, or on zoom and in person for our catechism youth. I hope that you will find a way that feels comfortable for you to participate and be a part of this conversation.

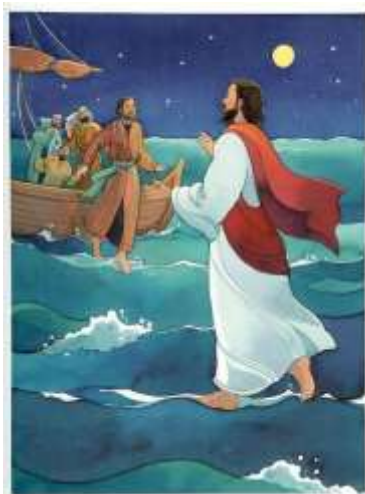
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Pastor Joanna Mitchell's Message

Continued from Page 2

As I reflect on this last year, and all of its complexities: from the election, to COVID-19, to the protests and riots, what I realize is that our faith influences how we react and our own participation in justice. Understanding our Christian Identity, embracing our values and studying the ways of Jesus will transform our lives. It will lead us out of comfort and security to take risks and to act on behalf of someone else. I know personally, I am a little nervous to see where God might lead us, but I am excited too because when Jesus says "Come," I am certain that whatever is in front of us will be filled with God's Spirit and hope that our world most desperately needs.

Blessings,
Pastor
Joanna Mitchell



Love and How to Focus your Heart

By Ann Lange

Last year in my WOW Bible study group I shared this cut out heart and message with each of them and gave them a challenge to direct the love in their hearts off of themselves and onto others for the upcoming "Love Month". Rather than purchasing Valentine gifts for my children, I gave my gift of love and time, but in order to do that I believe we must also have the most important love within us, the love of Jesus. When I grew up, my mother would say at bedtime, "I love you, Dad loves you. And Jesus loves you most of all." It is God who loves us more than we can image. It is God who gives us the desire to love others. And it is God who reminds us that Christ's unfailing love in us is what matters most of all.

We all have love in our hearts, but don't let that love

Vision Board

fail you in these times of stress, anxiety, worry, mourning, and difficult times we are all facing right now. We need to keep our hearts and minds focused on other things. The number one thing we all want now is peace. The pressures of life can do all sorts of things inside us. Fear and anger can fill our minds, and restlessness can disturb our souls. We get to the point where all we want is a little peace, but we can't buy it. Peace comes from God. It is the fruit of his Spirit, along with love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Rick Warren highlights the following: Freedom comes when you focus your mind on God's truth. Three things he suggests you can do that will make the biggest difference in managing your mind are:

First, think about Jesus. Hebrews 12:3 says, "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (NIV) What gives you the power to keep on going? You think about Jesus. Keep your mind on who he is and the example he's given you for how to live a life that pleases God.

Second, think about others. Hebrews 10:24 "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." (NLT) Many people around the world think about themselves first. So anybody who thinks more about others than they do about themselves is going to shine. When you choose to think about what others may need and how you can help, you'll find that it's hard to let your problems get you down.

Third, think about eternity. The Bible says in Colossians 3:2 "Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth." (NLT) Whatever you're worried about today is probably not going to matter in five years, much less in eternity. Everything is put into perspective when you think about your life in light of eternity.

We need to focus on Jesus, other people, and your home in eternity. It will take the focus off of yourself, which is how God intended for you to live. Live in him, and you will bear fruit.

Ann Lange
Vision Board



Pastor Maria Markman's Message

CONFESSION

People of Grace,

"Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others..." 2 Corinthians 9:13

First, I would like to say thank you to all of you who held me in prayer while I was recovering from COVID-19. I am getting better each and every day. I am no longer contagious but can still feel the effects of the virus, mostly in my energy levels. For those of you who sent cards, made meals, or walked my dog Chandler, thank you! It has occurred to me throughout this illness, your prayers and actions over the past few weeks for me is an extension of God's abundant grace! And the best part is that I know all of you do this for each other as well.

At our staff meeting this past week, we created two lists, one that outlined the things we were proud of during the past year and the second, asked about possibilities for sharing God's love in 2021. It has been, and continues to be apparent to all of us on staff at Grace that one of the brightest spots of our lives and ministries is all of you. The ways in which you minister to one another, if it's on Zoom, through a phone call, or a card sent, food delivered, and prayers prayed. For some, this past year has been a year that allowed for more and deeper connections at Grace. Our conversations on Race, Zoom fellowship, mid-week advent worships, and small groups created opportunities to get to know one another in ways that just running to church on Sunday morning and going through the motions doesn't provide. One of my goals with Children's and Family Ministry is how can we continue the conversation of faith past the doors of Grace and into our homes throughout the week. I believe this past year has shown us this possibility and I hope it is a treasure our families continue to discover even as we begin to meet together in person.

I am extremely excited for our journey through the Lenten season this year as together we discover and explore the values at Grace. Historically the Lutheran church in America has not been so good at being "confessional." Although as a tradition, being confes-

sional is at our core, at our foundation. In seminary, it is required reading for all of us to read the *Book of Concord*. A book that holds our confessional documents, our confessions of our belief and our faith in the Lutheran Church. To confess has multiple meanings. To confess can mean to repent or fall to our knees in apology like Pastor Melissa from Tapestry pointed out in her and Josue's sermon on January 23/24. To confess can also mean to share your belief, we do both of these in worship together in the order of confession and forgiveness, in our singing, in our recitation of the Lord's prayer, scripture, and the creeds, and through the giving and receiving of communion. We most often confess together in worship, but individual confession with a pastor or close friend is faithful and can be very meaningful. Lastly, there is another way we confess our faith. This way might seem like something more charismatic churches do through testimony. How do we share our faith not just with our community of faith, in our homes with our children, but out in the world? As the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation on the list of responsibilities, I was called to Grace to be attentive to, is outreach into the community and create community partnerships. I believe we must work together in ministry to our community. As I said above, this past year has encouraged and empowered us to take our faith deeper, not just going through the motions, and take our faith beyond our church walls and into our homes. Let us not stop there. How could the simple posture of being invitational transform our church once more? What things have we done at Grace this past year that have helped make you feel alive? What would happen if you invited someone in your life to participate next time? or simply shared with friends and family what you have been up to in order to engage their imaginations too? To begin a new conversation? To be confessional about your life and your faith?

At the heart of the Lenten season is the practice of confession. Join me in continuing to explore what this means for us in our life of faith!

"Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others..." 2 Corinthians 9:13

Peace,
Pastor Maria Markman

**AS A RESULT OF YOUR
MINISTRY, THEY WILL GIVE
GLORY TO GOD. FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY TO THEM AND TO
ALL BELIEVERS WILL PROVE
THAT YOU ARE OBEDIENT TO
THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:13**

Ministries



LIVE FROM RAKAI!

**A Grace 4 Rakai All-Congregational Event
Sunday, February 21st - 9:30 AM
In the Sanctuary AND via Zoom!**

By Debbie Jorgens

We hope you'll join us for this wonderful and unique opportunity to hear directly from Richard Mutaawe, LIVE from Rakai, Uganda! In an interview conducted by Ann Hill of African Children Today, Richard will provide an update on our sponsored children, the initiatives underway

in Rakai, and the challenges they are facing as a result of COVID-19.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, and we wouldn't be surprised to hear from one or two of our sponsored kids! This event is *not* only for those who sponsor children in Rakai – *EVERYONE* is welcome! Please note that we will begin at 9:30 AM, not 10:30 as previously communicated. Hope to see you there!!



14515 Nowthen Blvd. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
763-568-7349

www.familypromiseanoka.org

Family Promise

By Alden Riley

The new year is a time for reflection. As an organization, when we look back on this past year we are celebrating all the great things we've accomplished despite everything that challenged us along the way.

In mid-March when we all received the first stay-at-home order, we had a temporary plan to continue to provide shelter for families at our Day Center. As things progressed, and we gained knowledge on the novel Coronavirus, it became clear that our plan was unsustainable and unsafe for the families who wouldn't be able to quarantine while living in community in shared space.

Through the CARES act and a partnership with Anoka County we were able to access funding to shelter families in an extended stay hotel, where they would have private rooms to quarantine if needed and a small kitchenette to prepare meals. Though the main goal of our organization is to provide case management to assist families with identifying and removing barriers to accessing stable housing, it is a core component of who we are to also provide shelter, hospitality, and meals. The network of congregations and community members like you who have been supporting our organization for the past 10 years didn't allow for these changes to completely change our service model. Your passion to help families and commitment to our organization inspired so much generosity and support during truly unpredictable ways times. Our partnering congregations quickly came up with some solutions and to offer hospitality and support to the families at the hotel. Eventually we even figured out a way to provide some meals. This response was later emulated by Family Promise affiliates across the country. Though

many of us may prefer to give a more personal donation or volunteer to share fellowship with families experiencing homelessness, your financial contributions and donations of supplies and gift cards have been so truly helpful in allowing us to continue supporting families in need.

A partnership with Anoka County and the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority also gave an opportunity for us to help six families find affordable housing through a voucher program. As long as these families follow-up and complete their annual paperwork, they will have housing for the rest of their lives.

Our staff truly stepped up to keep the serving going, with a special thanks to our case manager, Sue, who ballooned her caseload to DOUBLE the average number of families at a time.

Our graduate services program has continued to grow as families are choosing to continue case management services and working towards their bigger goals and maintaining their housing independence.

We have made an offer for the new Case Manager for Family Promise in Anoka County. This new staff person will take on much of the magic Sue, has been working for the past 7 years while Sue transitions into a new role focused on housing search and stabilization. Stay tuned for more details in the very near future!

As much as 2020 was a year of the unexpected and unprecedented for Family Promise, we hope 2021 will be the year of progress and growth!



Tips for Practicing Self-Care

Monday, February 8th

6:30-7:30 PM

via Zoom

By Debbie Jorgens

Many of us are better at caring for other people than we are for ourselves. Yet, it is essential to pay attention to the needs of our own body, mind, and spirit if we are to live as fully as God intends. And it is through the nourishment of our own well-being that we can help nourish the well-being of others.

What has been successful for you in caring for yourself? Where do you struggle? We hope you'll join us for an interactive one-hour zoom gathering for this important discussion on improving our self-care! No registration necessary.

Children's Ministry



The Power of Love

By Stacy Surratt

The Women's Retreat Team is excited to be hosting another "Social Devotions" in the month of February. "Social Devotions" is a monthly virtual Zoom Gathering for ALL Grace Women. Because of COVID-19, there will not be an overnight GLC Women's Retreat this year in February 2021- But the Women's Retreat Team still wanted to connect and encourage every woman at Grace Lutheran Church during these trying times.

So feel free to *Virtually* swing by to get a "Spiritual Nugget" and Socialize with the Women at Grace on a monthly Zoom Call. Each month's call will have a different theme and is meant to uplift and provide a few spiritual truths for you to apply to your daily lives.

February's **Social Devotion** will be on Sunday evening February 21, 2021 from 7pm-7:45pm. The Zoom Link will be available for you on Grace at a Glance as well as on the GLC web site under Church Online - Zoom Meetings. **There is no need to RSVP** - just pop on each month and enjoy seeing our Grace Women and hearing how God can impact our lives!

Below are the Monthly Themes and Dates:

February 21, 2021- The Power of Love

March 21, 2021 - Faith and Worry

April 18, 2021- Sing for Joy

May 16, 2021 - You are Not Alone

We are looking forward to seeing every GLC woman's beautiful face on February 21st. Please look for an email in February that will remind you of this fun and encouraging event! If you have any questions - contact Stacy Surratt at 317-506-6362 or stacysurratt@yahoo.com



Children's Ministry Schedule

By Pastor Maria Markman

Wednesday, February 10th 6:00-7:00 PM	Zoom Valentine Party
Sunday, February 14th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-Person Sunday School Kick-off Love Celebration (In the fellowship hall)
Wednesday, February 17th	Ash Wednesday (pick up your family Lenten Devotions)
Thursday, February 18th 6:30 PM	Children's Ministry Team Meeting
Sunday, February 21st 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 28th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 7th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 14th	No Sunday School Spring Break
Sunday, March 21st 9:30AM - 12PM	No Sunday School; Sign up for a time slot to come and make your Resurrection Garden or to pick up a kit to do on your own.
Sunday, March 28th 9:30-10:20 AM	Sunday School Celebration: Eggstravaganza! In the fellowship hall
Sunday, April 4th	No Sunday School Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 11th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School
Sunday, April 18th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School
Sunday, April 25th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School
Sunday, May 2nd 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School
Sunday, May 9th 9:30-10:20 AM	In-person Sunday School
Sunday, May 16th 9:30-10:20 AM	Last Day of Sunday School Celebration!

Children's Ministry

Youth Ministries



When: February 10, 6:00-7:00 PM
How: Via Zoom
What: Crafts, games, and stories
What to bring: Dress in red or pink or hearts or just come as you are! Make sure you have construction paper, glue and scissors for making heart animals, & plain white paper and drawing utensils for other crafting!



Youth Volunteering at ACBC Every Monday

By Kristi Larson

High School Students interested in volunteering at ACBC food shelf on Mondays from 12:00 pm—2:00 pm please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org. Not in the Anoka-Hennepin district but still interested in volunteering a different day? Contact Kristi and let's set something up!



Returning to in-person Sunday School

By Pastor Maria Markman

We are excited to announce we will be returning to in-person Sunday School beginning with a party on February 14th in between worship services beginning at 9:30 AM and ending at 10:20 AM. Kids of all ages are welcome to attend together. We will be in the fellowship hall to ensure we can social distance, until weather permits we will stay indoors, but when the weather gets warmer, we may move to an outdoor model much like in the fall. If we need to split into multiple rooms and groups for safety we are able to do so. Kids are required to wear masks. Together we will explore the Bible lesson for the day through stories, games, crafts, and other activities! We look forward to seeing you face to face!

We will be discontinuing the 9:30 zoom Sunday School call starting on Sunday, February 7th



Green Ribbon Meeting

By Kristi Larson

Our next Green Ribbon Meeting is on Monday, February 1st at 6:00 at church! Parents, grandparents, and other caregivers of children with mental illness are invited to join us to share and listen with empathy and grace. You are not alone! This is an open group for parents in and outside of Grace. Please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org.



Lent Activities



Faith in an Anxious World

By Kristi Larson

It doesn't take a lot to see that our world is hurting right now; as much as we want to shelter young people from it, kids and youth absorb that pain and transform it into an anxiety of their own. Right now, that anxiety is intensified by online learning, isolation and little access to traditional outlets and communities like sports, church and the arts. It's hard to know how to help kids see where God is at work and how to have faith in this anxious world.

For the month of February, high school students are invited to join Kristi for conversations around anxiety, faith, mental health, hope, helping others and helping themselves every Tuesday at 6:30pm. The curriculum we will be using is quite good and I highly encourage students take advantage of this opportunity. We will have meaningful conversations, but we also will have time for games, fun and catching up. These conversations are for ALL high school students, not just those diagnosed with Anxiety or those who attend Grace. Registration is free.

For more information and to register for this 4-week conversation please check out the high school ministry page at www.graceandover.org.

I miss seeing all of our youth and hope you will join me as we unpack what to do in this anxious (but hope-filled) world. Feel free to contact me with questions at KristiL@graceandover.org.



Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th

Drive by Ashes: 8:00am until 5:45pm

Worship: 1pm, 6pm and 7:15pm

See our web site at www.graceandover.org for more details.



Lenten Devotions for all at Grace

Any way you choose to join us for Ash Wednesday, you will have the opportunity to pick up a Lenten Devotional. The Devotions will be for all ages and an opportunity for you to dive deeper into your faith and into conversation with your family or friends.



Lenten Wednesday Worship

Worship: 1pm, 6pm and 7:15pm

With small groups in person and on Zoom. Look for sign ups. See our web site at www.graceandover.org for more details.

Administration



A huge Thank You to the following who came out on a cold and windy day to ring the Salvation Army Bells at County Market on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 12th. Your help was greatly appreciated by Grace and by those who benefit from the help of the Salvation Army.

Those ringing the bells this year were Jackie Pettibone, Beth Petersen, Noelle Sand, John Peterson, Dick Thompson, Dean Keller, Angie Barthel, Lola Barthel, Ron Clarstrom, Phil Knutson, and Kent Swedberg.

The Salvation Army is an international movement and is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



The one and only TBakes is retiring



After much thought and prayer, Tom Baker has decided that his 11th year at Grace will be his final and is stepping down as Youth Coordinator so he can focus on responsibilities at home. As you know, Tom has been a stability in the youth ministry program at Grace, an advocate for our youth and caring presence in so many lives. Tom (and his family) will continue to worship at Grace so while this isn't goodbye it is time to celebrate his impressive career in youth ministry.

Please join us **Rescheduled to February 7th!!!** for an outdoor celebration between 12:00 and 1:00. Everyone is invited to drive by to share a smile or visit with Tom in the church courtyard.



Grace Lutheran Church
13655 Round Lake Blvd.
NW Andover, MN 55304
763-421-6520
www.graceandover.org

Building Task Force Update

By Charlie Wold & Dennis Grabowski

Last week, three open meetings were held to discuss the upcoming vote on Sunday, Jan. 31, at 9:30am regarding our two church properties. As a first step, to determine how church membership will move forward regarding the removal of the two portables, the congregation will be asked to vote on one of three options: Keep both properties, sell the property on Round Lake and Bunker, or sell Nightingale. At each meeting, Greg Ackerson articulated a detailed presentation describing the data and the financial implications of each of the possible options. Members of the building committee were, and still are available to answer questions you might have.

Once the congregation makes this decision, we will together determine: What will the building plans be like going forward? What do we need to support our future vision? What are our budgetary constraints? Most importantly, what do we feel God is calling us to do?





Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW.
Andover, MN 55304
(763) 421-6520
www.graceandover.org

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Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th

Drive by Ashes:

8:00am until 5:45pm

Worship:

1pm, 6pm and 7:15pm

Please see details on www.graceandover.org



Lenten

Wednesdays Worship

Worship:

1pm, 6pm and 7:15pm

With small groups in person and on Zoom.

Look for sign ups. Please see details on

www.graceandover.org