



NEWS AT GRACE

Grace Church's 2020 Annual Giving Pledge - Grace Church's 2020 Annual Giving Pledge campaign is underway! As Annual Giving chairs, we hope you will prayerfully consider how you and your family can support the continued growth and strength of our community and Grace's ministry. Letters and pledge cards are in the mail, but please feel free to contact either of us (Jim (Jim.J.Williamson@gmail.com) or Seth (seth.lloyd@gmail.com)) with any questions. You can make a pledge online through your Realm account, by returning the pledge card you receive or by dropping a pledge card in the offering plate. And if you need help signing into that account, please let us know. We're happy to help!

Every pledge matters – and we hope you will join us and our families in supporting the mission of our Church.

Jim Williamson & Seth Lloyd

North Room Chat - Today, Sunday, October 6, our seminarian, Catherine Wieczorek, will lead a discussion on **“Violent Verses: The Bible, Refugees and Genocide.”** Join us the first Sunday of each month at 10:15 am as we discuss spirituality and Christianity in bite-sized chunks. No need to prepare in advance. Just be open to learning something new, sharing your own life experiences, and, most importantly, growing in the Christian faith. And save the date for the following Chat on November 3. Contact Brianna McCarty (McCarty.Brianna@gmail.com) and/or Anne Silver (aesilver@optonline.net) with questions or if you'd like to lead a chat!

Docent-led Tour – As our pattern continues through the fall, we will again have a docent tour this **Sunday, October 6**. Our Grace Church docent tour will take place after the 11:00 am service. The tour will begin in the church at 12:15 pm.

Rector's Bible Study Change of Date Notice & Invitation to the Fall Seniors' Luncheon The Rector's Bible Study is scheduled for this **Tuesday, October 8th**, from **10:30 am to 12:00 pm**.

We will be studying the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Lastly, immediately following Bible Study, I invite everyone to join me for our **Fall Senior Luncheon** in the **Guild Hall**. Please extend an invitation to family, friends, and neighbors to join us for **Bible Study** and, if possible, to remain for what certainly shall be a delicious meal.

Multicultural Day Celebration - We invite you to bring your favorite international dishes as we celebrate the diversity of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights! Please sign up by **Wednesday, October 16** at this SignUp Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4ba5aa28aaf49->

grace” If you have any questions, please contact Denise Young Farrell (dlyfarrell@gmail.com) or Allison Robinson (a.robinson2@verizon.net). Thank you!

Children's Movie and Craft Program; Exploring “Dia de los Muertos” and the Communion of Saints. Saturday, October 19, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm - Bring your children 7+ for a screening of the Disney movie *Coco*, followed by a craft project (and snacks). Coco depicts a young boy, Miguel, who goes on a journey of self-discovery back into the land of ancestors on the Mexican holiday *“Day of the Dead.”* The movie will be preceded by an introduction that explains the holiday and how it is celebrated, and after the movie we will have a short discussion about remembering our ancestors and our connection to the *Communion of Saints*, which is the whole family of God, the living and the dead...bound together in Christ (BCP, p. 862).

Children will be able to make their own ofrenda, or altar, to honor loved ones who have passed away (including pets and relatives that the child may not have met personally, but who are remembered within your family), or just to have as a Halloween decoration. Commonsense Media writes that Coco “has powerful themes of perseverance, teamwork, and gratitude and encourages audiences to love and appreciate their family and always follow their dreams.” **RSVP is required, to Matilda as we will be purchasing craft supplies to accommodate the number of children attending.**

If you have any questions about the suitability of this event for your child, please feel free to contact the Rev. Erika Meyer (emeyer@gracebrookly.org) or Matilda Garrido (matilda.garrido@gmail.com).

Grace Church Holy Land Trip Planning Meeting

We will be meeting to **Sunday, October 20th, from 10:15 to 10:45 am in the North Room** to discuss pertinent information regarding our trip to the Holy Land (June 12-23, 2020). This meeting is mandatory for all planning to journey to the Holy Land. Additional information will be given at that time.

If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in going to the Holy Land, please feel free to email me directly at a.robinson@gracebrooklyn.org or you can email our Parish Administrator, Ms. [Takisha Brown](mailto:Takisha.Brown@parishoffice@gracebrooklyn.org) (parishoffice@gracebrooklyn.org). There is a max limit of 30 pilgrims, so if you are interested (or seriously thinking about it) now is the time to get on the list, as Qumri Pilgrimages, our Guide, is now reserving rooms for our stay in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories.

And now is the time to pay the initial deposit of \$500.00. You should address the check to Grace Church with “Holy Land Trip Deposit” in the memo line. Please forward your deposit to our Financial Administrator, Ms. Sandra Joseph and she will credit your account accordingly. Please try to have all deposits in no later than Monday, September 30th.

Please make sure that your passport is current and that it is still valid at least 6 months from the time we return to the USA.

The trip roster is filling up quickly but there is still room for those who are interested in going to the Holy Land but have yet to make a commitment. Shortly, I will make the remaining space available to others within the Diocese of Long Island, and other friends and family members of parishioners. Again, please mark your calendars and join me for this important meeting.

Thanks,
-- Allen

The Heights Interfaith Shelter Returns to Grace on October 21 - And We Need Your Help! If Fall is here, can the shelter be far away? Sign up to volunteer as Grace again hosts the Heights Interfaith Shelter, beginning on Monday, October 21. There's no better way to make a difference than to sign up to cook a meal or stay overnight when the Heights Interfaith Shelter is in session. We are proud to offer hospitality in the form of a welcome dinner, and a place to sleep to up to twelve homeless men on Monday through Friday nights. How can you help? You can cook a simple meal for our shelter guests and volunteer sleepover hosts. Or you can come for dinner and sleep overnight – in Classroom #1, just off the Gym – on beds with fresh linens and your own bathroom. This year, we will host the shelter for four weeks, from **October 21 to November 15**. And we need your help! Please sign up to share a meal and spend the night with our guests. **Sign-up boards are at the back of the church beginning this Sunday, September 29.** If you have any questions or to volunteer please contact Elizabeth Stong, Charlotte Thorp (charlottethorp@yahoo.com), or Emily Horcher (ejhorcher@gmail.com).

Day of Centering Prayer and Visio Divina; Saturday October 26th, 10:00 am-3:00 pm - This day of **centering prayer** will begin with a brief review of the practice. We will spend most of our time in centering prayer with a break for lunch in silence. We will enter the centering prayer with guided meditations that help us explore how we are relating to our thoughts. We will also engage in experiences of **visio divina**, a form of “divine seeing” in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image.

Recommended for anyone who would like to spend a day in centering prayer practice. A \$20 donation is requested to cover the cost of a box lunch and to help us sponsor future events, but if you are unable to pay for the lunch, please come anyway!

For more information or to RSVP, contact Lindsay at lindsay@lindsayboyer.com or 718-858-4119.

Confirmation Classes - We are pleased to announce that our first confirmation class will be offered **Sunday, October 27, in the North Room after the 11:00 am service.**

Confirmation class is available to anyone who is currently in the 6th grade or up. Classes will last approximately 1.5 hours each. Please note - parents are expected to attend this first session to learn about expectations and requirements for students. Participation in the confirmation classes requires a commitment to attend eight sessions, which will take place on **October 27, November 17, December 1, January 19, February 9, March 15, April 19, and May 17**. Confirmation will take place on **Saturday, June 6, 2020**.

Please direct questions to Catherine Wieczorek at cwieczorek@gracebrooklyn.org. We look forward to seeing you all on the 27th!

Men's Book Group – After a successful initial conversation, the Grace Men's Book Club is going to continue into the fall and winter. Please join us for deep conversation as we reflect on the following books, and how they intersect with our lives and our faith. We will meet from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the North Room and each session is independent. Here is the upcoming schedule, continuing to focus on works by women of color:

Tues, Oct 29th: *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obrecht

Tues, Jan 28th: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Tues, Mar 31th: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

These books are available on for free on Kindle and in hard copy from the Brooklyn Public Library. Please e-mail Jim.J.Williamson@gmail.com to RSVP.

The Children's Music Program will be held on **Tuesdays, at 2:30 pm in the Choir Room** with Paul Olson. **Two sessions will be offered: 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm** to accommodate **Grace Church School students ages 3 to 5** and **3:15 pm to 4:00 pm** to accommodate **students between the ages of 6 to 8**. Please contact Paul Olson at paulrichardolson@aol.com or 718.619.7895 for questions, concerns, or information.

Rekindling Compassionate Cooks with Opportunities to Nurture and Serve - We are pleased to announce the return of Compassionate Cooks, a quiet yet important ministry of care for members of the congregation in need of a meal. A simple, nutritious meal is prepared and delivered to an individual or household following a hospitalization, birth of a child, or other life event. We are looking for volunteers to prepare and/or deliver fresh, homemade meals on an on-call basis as needed and as able. To join our list of volunteers and help us re-launch this special ministry, please email Sarah Steele (sarahsteeleync@gmail.com). If you or a loved one is in need of a meal from Compassionate Cooks, please contact Takisha Brown in the Parish Office (718-624-1850 x 10).

Becoming Beloved Community: Sacred Ground – Jesus' commandment to us is quite clear: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We are called to recognize the neighbors beyond our social circles and geographic neighborhoods. At this moment in history, we are called to undertake the work of spiritual formation by listening deeply to our neighbors' stories around race and allowing ourselves to be transformed by the unseen pain and new vision of God's Kingdom their stories reveal.

In his book, **America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America**, the Rev. Jim Wallis writes, "Racism is America's original sin and must be named as such. Sometimes it expresses itself explicitly and overtly, with the Charleston murders being perhaps the most extreme example in decades. But racism lingers far more pervasively in implicit and covert ways in American institutions and culture, in often unconscious attitudes, and in the very structures of our society."

Grounded in our call to faith, hope and love, Sacred Ground, a 10-part documentary films and readings series, focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Our common goal is to gain insight and deepen our consciousness by understanding the history of the United States from other than a European American lens.

We will form a dialogue circle (or circles) of four to fourteen people beginning in October to meet on a Monday evening on a biweekly basis (with the occasional exception) to engage with films, videos, written materials and each other. Save for two assigned books, all materials will be available for free to circle members.

SYLLABUS

SESSION

1. 10/28/19 Stepping onto Sacred Ground.
2. 11/18/19 The Roots of Whiteness, and Deeper Roots.
3. 12/9/19 Whose Land? Exploring Indigenous History.
4. 01/6/20 Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery: Exploring Black History.
5. 01/27/20 Whose Land: More Layers: Exploring Latinx History.
6. 02/10/20 Americas, Not Foreigners: Exploring Asian/Pacific American History.
7. 02/24/20 Selective Access to the Melting Pot and the American Dream: 1830-1960's.
8. 03/9/20 Divisions in Present-Day White America.
9. 03/23/20 Legacies: Racism's Long Life.
10. 04/13/20 Becoming Beloved Community.

For a more in-depth look at the syllabus online go to: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/syllabus-preview>. Registration forms can be found in the back of the church.

If you are interested in additional events /activities, visit <https://www.brooklynhistory.org/public-programs/400-years-of-inequality-slavery-race-and-our-unresolved-history/> to see the Brooklyn Historical Society offerings.

Save the Date - THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is **December 15, 2019 at 11:00 am** (There will not be a 9:15 am service that day). Rehearsals will be held from **9:00 am-11:00 am on Saturdays, November 23, December 7, and December 14**, as well as a shorter rehearsal for more prominent roles on **November 16**. More information and the opportunity to sign up will be provided shortly. Contact Brianna McCarty (McCarty.Brianna@gmail.com) in the meantime with questions.

Escape the Great Indoors! - Scout Me In. Boy Scout Troop 213, active in Brooklyn Heights for more than 50 years, is actively recruiting new scouts. Boys and girls aged 10 1/2 to 18 are invited to come to a meeting to experience our activities. You will learn outdoor skills, develop leadership qualities, and much more. We are an active troop that hikes or camps at least once a month. We meet weekly in the Grace Church Brooklyn Heights gymnasium on Thursday nights from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. For more information, stop by, or contact Scoutmaster Rich Kelley 917-576-1310; (richkelly@nyc.rr.com). *Troop 213 does not discriminate based on race, gender, or sexual orientation.*

Are you a volunteer at Grace? Our new volunteer hours are **Tuesday-Thursday from 10 am-12:45 pm and 2:15 pm-5:00 pm**. To schedule a time to utilize office space, please contact our Parish Administrator, Takisha Brown at parishoffice@gracebrooklyn.org or call the office at 718-624-1850 x 10 to set up an appointment. Please be mindful that the Parish Office is **closed Monday-Friday from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm**. Thank you in advance for helping us to transition into becoming more effective in every area of ministry.

Do you have an announcement for Grace Notes and the Parish News? - If you would like to submit an announcement for Grace Notes and/or our Parish News, please send all information to the Parish Office (parishoffice@gracebrooklyn.org) no later than **5:00 pm on Wednesday** of each

week. Submissions that do not meet the deadline will be published the following week. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Interested in participating in or receiving a bi-monthly newsletter? Who are our high school or college bound students at Grace? Any alumni attending Grace? Anyone moving away or individuals moving to the neighborhood and attending Grace? Having an exhibition (graphic art, sculptures or photography)? Where will it be? Published a book lately? Any book signings? Vacation rentals? This publication could help us get to know each other better and engage in dialogue. Hope you will consider this format. If interested please contact Charlotte Thorp at (charlottethorp718@gmail.com).

Get Connected with Grace Notes by signing up at www.gracebrooklyn.org. We send out an email to the parish every week. Also, be sure to follow us on both our Social Media accounts. We can be found on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchBrooklynHeights>) and Instagram (@gracechurchbrooklyn).