

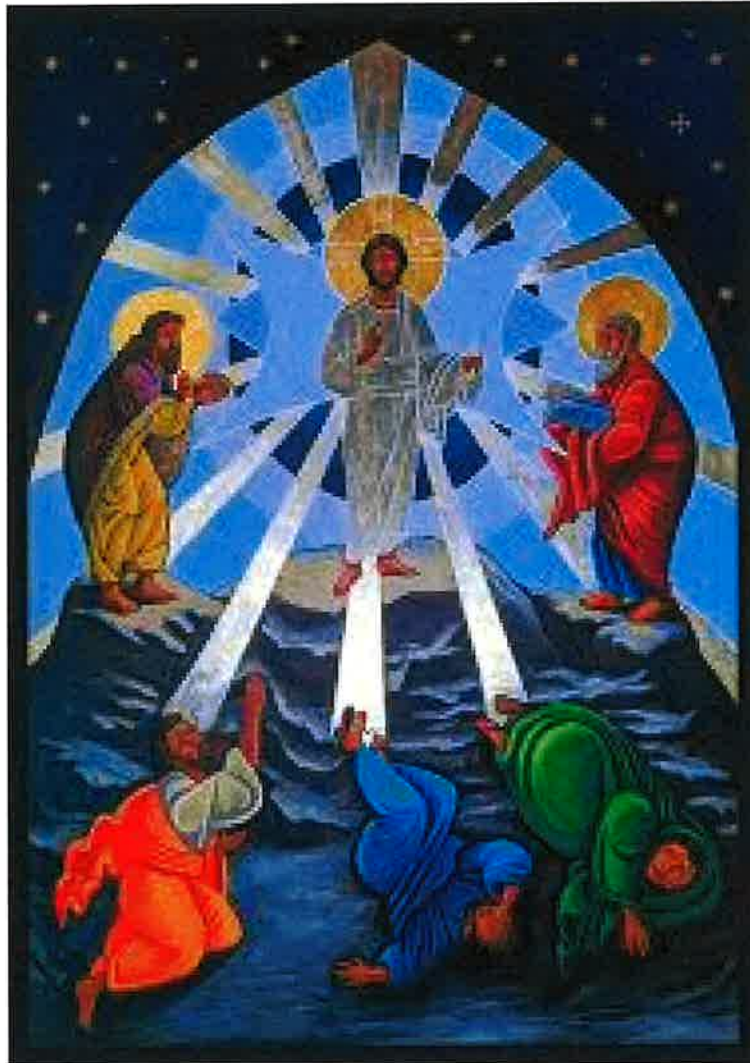
# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

February 15, 2026

9:30 am

Transfiguration Sunday

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*"Get up and do not be afraid."*

## **Prayer Candles**

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

# We Gather

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome /VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
beliefs,  
and those who are cognitively  
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,  
**each one engaged in ministry,  
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,  
and embodying God's love for the world.**

## PRELUDE

### Call to Worship

Listen to God, whose voice speaks from top of the tallest mountain to the depths of humanity.

**May the peace of God's words resonate within us!**

Marvel at the light of the Holy Spirit, which inspires all goodness and shines forth brilliantly against the darkness of sin and evil.

**May the light of the Holy Spirit be the lamp to our true path!**

Follow Jesus wherever he leads you – for Jesus' way is love.

**May the love of Jesus lead us to change ourselves and the world! Amen.**

Posted on Liturgy Link by Rev. Lucas Levy Keppel,  
Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bixby, Okla.

\*Hymn # 662 Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies”

Call to Confession

God calls us home, but we are hesitant to come, to admit where we have been, how we have fallen short, how we have not lived as beloved children. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

**Mothering God,  
we confess that we often wish to spend all of our  
time with you on the mountain top,  
where we are sure of your presence,  
where we feel connected to you.  
We confess that when we come down from the  
mountain,  
we often fail to go back into the world to be your  
hands and feet.  
We struggle to see you in the faces of our neighbor  
and we are overwhelmed by the brokenness we see  
in the world.  
Forgive us, O God,  
when our vision is limited  
and our actions do not live out our discipleship.  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Children of God, we are forgiven.  
As a mother nurtures and holds her babies,  
keeping them ever so close, so God does too.  
**God, we trust that you will continue to inspire us  
and stay with us, on the mountain, and through the  
valleys.**

~ posted on REWORSHIP from at <http://www.gcsrw.org>

Hymn #425 "Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace"  
(vs. 1-3 please remain seated.)

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer for Understanding

Dazzle us with your holy love,  
draw us into your purifying presence,  
speak to us your transforming truth.  
Then, grant us grace  
to live every moment  
changed by such glory—  
daring to live with hope and courage and love  
reflecting the life of Jesus,  
through whom your glory shines  
in the most unexpected ways. Amen.

~ written by Christine Jerrett,  
Reflections on being the Church in God's new creation

First reading from the 2 Peter 1:16-21

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 17:1-9

SERMON

\*Hymn #193 "Jesus Take Us to the Mountain"

## **We Respond**

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation

## *Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the year).

### Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer (page#35 in the hymnal)

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining"

### \*Charge and Benediction

In the coming week,  
may the presence of God envelop you.  
May the holy cloud comfort you.  
May the divine voice encourage you.  
May the power of the Spirit transform you,  
transform us,  
transform our world. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith.  
<https://spaciousfaith.com>

### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

**And also with you.**

*(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to*

*ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)*

## POSTLUDE

***\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.***

*All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*

## The Week Ahead at Grace Presbyterian Church: Feb. 15-Feb. 22

*For additional information, call the church office or ask an usher!*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sun. Feb. 15  | 9:30 am Sunday Service<br>10:30 am Fellowship  |
| Mon. Feb. 16  | 9:00 am Jazzercise<br>7:00 pm Yoga   |
| Tues. Feb. 17 | 9:30 am Iyengar Yoga<br>6:00 pm Jazzercise<br>7:00 pm Session Meeting                                |
| Wed. Feb. 18  | <b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>9:00 am Jazzercise<br><b>7:00 pm Ashes Distributed</b><br>7:00 pm Essentrics |
| Thur. Feb. 19 | 9:30 am Iyengar Yoga<br>10:30 am Aging Gracefully Group<br>7:00 pm Deacons Meeting                   |
| Fri. Feb. 20  | 9:30 am Restorative Yoga   |
| Sat. Feb. 21  | 8:30 am Jazzercise<br>8:45 am Iyengar Yoga<br><b>9:00 am - Church Retreat</b>                        |
| Sun. Feb. 22  | 9:30 am Sunday Service<br>10:30 am Fellowship  |

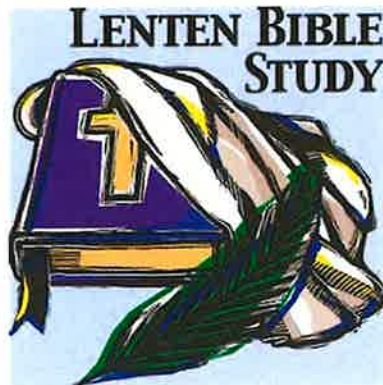
### **Vision Statement**

*We are an open and affirming congregation. We genuinely welcome people of all ages, race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose, each one engaged in ministry, seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship, and embodying God's love for the world.*

## LENT

Ash Wednesday - February 18 - Ashes will be distributed at 7:00 pm.

Palm Sunday - March 29      Easter Sunday - April 5



Pastor Debbie will lead our Lenten Bible Study based on the book: “Turning the Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power” by Kathy Escobar: “With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the money changers’ tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus’ actions and words turn the world’s idea of power on its head.”

Purchasing the book is not required to participate in the Lenten Study.

We will meet in Room 3 from 11:00-12:30 on the Sundays during Lent (February 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 29th). A Zoom link will be available.

*Please contact Nancy Varga at 732-543-9479 or [nmvarga2011@comcast.net](mailto:nmvarga2011@comcast.net) for more information regarding the Bible Study and/or Christian Ed.*

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### Abiding Love Lutheran Church Lenten Invitation

Rev. Adrian Deepak of Abiding Love Lutheran Church has invited us to take part in their Bread & Soup Lenten Meditations Wednesday evenings. 6:30pm Soup & Bread -7:00 Service. It is an evening of prayer and reflection.



**Will start February 25 with a Taize Service.**

**Women's Bible Study**

**Mark Your Calendar: March 4, 2026 - 12:00 pm**

**We will be studying and discussing:**

**Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ**

**Pick up a book from Pastor Debbie**

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**Spiritual & Mental Wellness Team**

**The Aging Gracefully “and all that comes with it “ group will meet weekly on Thursday 10:30-11:30 am in room 3.**

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**Our Story- God's Story All Church Retreat**

**Sat, Feb 21, 9am-3pm.**

Join us for a day of storytelling, conversation, imagining and planning. We will be led by Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, executive director of NEXT Church.

Larissa writes, “We are a people of holy Scripture, enveloping ourselves in a living text which inspires our faith. Yet, we can get wrapped up in *our time* rather than God's understanding of time; the work we do rather than the participation we take in God's unfolding story.” Larissa will help us think about how we can be more in sync with God's time and story. Together we will discern what is needed to move forward faithfully and joyfully as Grace Presbyterian Church. We need your input and your commitment. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 18 - email - [office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:office@gracepcsb.org) or call the office 7321-297-9182.**

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**A Fundraising Concert for the church**

**Save the Date - Saturday, April 25**

**Led by our own world renown artist Vince DiMura**

**Memorable and meaningful music of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder**

**Keep your ears and minds open for how you can help.**

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**South Brunswick Food Bank Items Needed:**

Ground coffee - Jelly - Chef Boyardee, or any canned pasta  
Crushed tomatoes - Pancake mix - Syrup Spaghetti, and any boxed pasta  
Paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, Boxed milk such as Parmalat -



# Beyond the Silence: A Guide to Youth Suicide Prevention *at Sand Hills Community Wellness Center*

We often worry about the mental health of the young people in our lives, but the fear of "saying the wrong thing" can keep us silent. It's time to break that silence.

**MARCH 28**  
**9:30 AM - 12 PM**

This workshop is designed to move us from a place of uncertainty to a place of action. You don't need to be a doctor or a psychic to make a difference; you just need the right tools and the courage to start a conversation. In this session, we strip away the stigma and focus on practical, life-saving skills.

Susan Tellone is a highly accomplished Registered Nurse, Certified School Nurse, and health educator, holding a Master's degree in Nursing and a Bachelor's degree in Mental Health and Rehabilitation. With nearly 40 years of experience as a psychiatric nurse, she has dedicated her career to the critical field of suicide prevention.



**REGISTER AND LEARN  
MORE ON OUR WEBSITE**



*Sand Hills Community Wellness Center*  
57 SAND HILLS ROAD, KENDALL PARK, NJ 08824

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARYANN**  
732-419-3551 OR SANDHILLSWELLNESS@GMAIL.COM





SAND HILLS COMMUNITY  
WELLNESS CENTER

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**FEBRUARY 28 | 7 PM-8:30 PM**

57 SAND HILLS RD, KENDALL PARK, NJ 08824

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 12. TO RSVP  
AND LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE



QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
SANDHILLSWELLNESS@GMAIL.COM



[HTTPS://SANDHILLSWELLNESS.WIXSITE.COM/  
SANDHILLSWELLNESS/TRIVIANIGHT](https://sandhillswellness.wixsite.com/sandhillswellness/trivianight)





# Qigong with Elizabeth Walters at Sand Hills Community Wellness Center

Qigong means *energy work* or *energy cultivation*. It is an ancient Chinese healing practice that combines simple body movements, meditation, visualization, and breathing techniques to activate and cultivate Qi. Join us to learn about and practice Qigong.

Classes offered on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every  
month  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

\$12.00 per class  
\$40.00 for a package of 4 classes

Register by emailing  
[walters.ej@gmail.com](mailto:walters.ej@gmail.com)

Let your energy move like water –  
fluid, strong, and effortless.  
Qigong reminds us to release what is heavy  
and welcome what is light. Each movement  
is a quiet celebration of life,  
each breath a return to harmony.”  
Qigong Master Robert Peng



Sand Hills Community Wellness Center  
57 SAND HILLS ROAD, KENDALL PARK, NJ 08824

# Grace Presbyterian Church

presents



## GRACE FOR DINNER

A **FREE MEAL** for anyone facing food insecurity. If you are a neighbor in need, please come to our table. All are welcome. Guests can also **choose 2 bags of groceries**. *Doors open at 4:00pm*

**Saturday, March 14, from 4:00-5:30pm**

57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Park, NJ

732-297-9182

Email: [office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:office@gracepcsb.org) Website: [gracepcsb.org](http://gracepcsb.org)

**Order meals by Mon March 9th**

Call or email with name, phone number, number of meals needed and number of children under 18.

**One meal per person-** Choice of:

1: Chicken Coconut Curry (mild)

2: Vegetable Pad Thai (veggies, tofu and noodles)

Meals prepared by **Maricel's Kitchen, East Brunswick**

*Let us know if you have transportation limits; we may be able to arrange delivery. If you are unable to pre-order, any remaining meals will be given out starting at ~5:15pm.*

Canned tuna. Please bring the item(s) to the church and put it in the cart by the front door. If you have any questions contact Lee - [mrsp52@comcast.net](mailto:mrsp52@comcast.net)

### Look Who's Serving

|                       | February 15                  | February 22                      | March 1                      | March 8                      |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Liturgist</b>      | Amy Miller                   | Cheryl Kotch                     | Carol Thomson                | Lee Piotrowski               |
| <b>Usher</b>          | Laura Taff                   | Amy Miller                       |                              |                              |
| <b>Zoom</b>           | Peter Godinez                | Brian Boccardi                   | Maryann Rappa                | Janice Royer                 |
| <b>Worship Leader</b> | Rev. Debbie Paton            | Rev. Debbie Paton                | Rev. Debbie Paton            | Rev. Debbie Paton            |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>    | Sandy Chm                    | Sandy Chm                        | Janice Royer                 | Vee Casey                    |
| <b>Counters</b>       | Mike Royer<br>Dottie Pickell | Fran Trischetta<br>Carol Thomson | Laura Taff<br>Lee Piotrowski | Mike Royer<br>Dottie Pickell |
| <b>Musician</b>       | Vince DiMura                 | Vince DiMura                     | Vince DiMura                 | Vince DiMura                 |
| <b>Open/Close</b>     | Carol Thomson<br>Mike Royer  | Carol Thomson<br>Mike Royer      | Carol Thomson<br>Mike Royer  | Carol Thomson<br>Mike Royer  |

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor Debbie - Debbie is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. Works off site on Friday. She can best be reached by email [pastordebpaton@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebpaton@gmail.com) or cell phone 630-886-6785. Please honor Monday as her sabbath by only calling if it is an emergency.

Vince Di Mura - Music Director

Church Office - This Week - Maryann Rappa will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. She can be reached at [office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:office@gracepcsb.org) or 732-297-9182.

## NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT?

- ❖ Questions about donations - Contact **Al Goddard**
- ❖ Questions about the children's ministry - contact **Nancy Varga**  
[nmvarga2011@comcast.net](mailto:nmvarga2011@comcast.net)
- ❖ Questions about the Deacons - contact **Kathie Scott**  
[kathiemscott@icloud.com](mailto:kathiemscott@icloud.com)
- ❖ Have a prayer request? - contact **Tami Aug** [tamaraaug@gmail.com](mailto:tamaraaug@gmail.com)
- ❖ Put an announcement in the bulletin? tell the **church office by Wednesday.**  
[office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:office@gracepcsb.org)
- ❖ Put an article in the newsletter? [Maryann Rappa office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:Maryann Rappa office@gracepcsb.org)
- ❖ Want to get involved? **Contact an elder.**

Questions about **Finance or Personnel** - Rob Aug; **Hospitality** - Janice Royer, **Outreach** - Donna Keller; **Preschool** - Nancy Varga, Carol Thomson; **Property** - Jim Elieff, Mike Royer; **Worship** -Dottie Pickell; **Stewardship** - Rob Aug; **Christian Ed.** - Nancy Varga; **Wellness** Irene Carman; **Clerk of Session** - Peter Godinez

**Elders** - Rob Aug, Irene Carman, Jim Elieff, Peter Godinez, Donna Keller, Dottie Pickell, Janice Royer, Mike Royer, Nancy Varga

**Deacons** - Tami Aug, Gloria Bernard, Judianne Brown, Vilija Casey, Barbara Elieff, Amy Miller, Gabi Quaely, Kathie Scott

### USERS' GUIDE

- **Welcome!** If you are visiting, please sign our guest book on the table in the hall before entering the worship space.
- If you have a **prayer request**, fill out a blue *prayer request card* (the other side of the welcome card) and put it on the offering plate.
- **Restrooms** are on the fellowship hall side of the sanctuary.

#### **More information?**

**Grace Presbyterian Church**- 57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Pk, NJ 08824 Phone number- 732-297-9182 email us at - [office@gracepcsb.org](mailto:office@gracepcsb.org) - Visit our website: [www.gracepcsb.org](http://www.gracepcsb.org) - Or check us out on Facebook!