



THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503
E-mail: gracpreb@lusfiber.net
Website: www.gracelafayette.org

DECEMBER 2023

Facebook: [gracelafayette](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette)
Phone: 337-984-6400



We will have our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at **5:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 24th**. Please invite family & friends or those you know who may be spending the holidays alone. Our Christmas Eve Service is always very well attended. Communion will be served during this service. Make sure to grab a candle as you enter the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Service! **(We will NOT have a service on Christmas Eve Morning. We will have just ONE SERVICE at 5:30 p.m.)**



Grace Presbyterian Church always participates in Angel Tree as one of our missions during the Christmas season. Our tree will be up on **Sunday, November 26th** allowing those who wish to participate to take an Angel off of our tree. This program allows children that have a parent in prison to be able to receive a Christmas gift that looks like it came from their parent. This year we are serving 12 children. **All gifts are due back to the church office by Sunday, December 10th** to allow time to prepare everything for delivery. We plan to deliver the gifts after worship on **Sunday, December 17th**. Thank you to everyone for helping to make this mission of Grace a successful one! Special thank you to **Sarah Gaspard & Jysele Jones** for coordinating Angel Tree again this year as they have done for many years in the past.

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for Christ’s coming again.



Sunday Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Refreshments

Church Office Hours

M-Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours

M-Thur. 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



SESSION:

Class of 2023 - Margaret Boone, Lynne Castle

Class of 2024 - Betty Adams, Tim Conner, Terry Wolford

Class of 2025 Mary Conner, Jysele Jones
Clerk of Session Sandy Stewart

DEACONS:

Class of 2023 - Carolyn Armstrong, Elke Hitt, Jean McLain, Sandy Stewart

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

David Jones (2023)

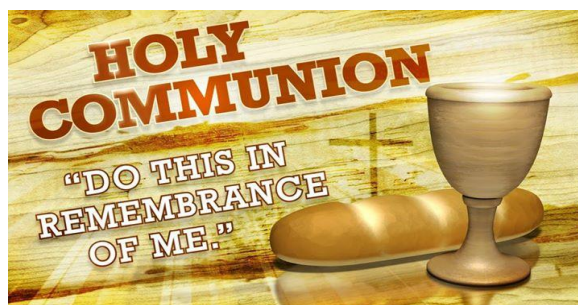
Paul Guillot (2024)

Tim Conner (2025)



The Presbyterian Women encourage the congregation to support **United Christian Outreach** by bringing non-perishable food items and paper products to worship on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Our next collection will be on Sunday, December 3rd. Any monetary donations can be mailed to their P.O. Box. Please contact the church office for the mailing address. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support UCO.



COMMUNION - will be celebrated during our **10:30 a.m.** worship service **on Sunday, December 3rd & also at our 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.** As usual, we invite those who watch our worship service online to gather your communion elements ahead of time so you will be able to take communion with us.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

15 CAROLYN ARMSTRONG
25 TERRY WOLFORD
28 HEATHER JONES COOPER
29 JAY HENDRIX

Committee Meetings

SESSION – Our next Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.** Please let Sandy Stewart know if you are an Elder and cannot attend this meeting.

MDO BOARD – Our next board meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18th at 2:15 p.m.** Please let Tim Conner know if you are on the MDO Board and cannot attend this meeting.



Change of Address

The Presbytery is moving all of its mail correspondence to a Post Office box. Please note the new address for all your mailing, including checks:

Presbytery of South Louisiana
P.O. Box 4847
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4847

CORN CASSEROLE

1 (16 ½ oz.) can cream style corn
1 (11 oz.) can whole kernel corn
1 Tbsp. sugar
½ c. yellow corn meal
2 c. milk
5 Tbsp. Canola oil
¼ c. bell pepper, chopped fine
1 med. Onion, chopped fine
1 pack Ritz crackers, crushed
1 egg, beaten
½ stick margarine

Saute onion & bell pepper in canola oil. Add corn meal, corn & 1 ¾ cups milk. Cook until thick, stirring constantly. Add egg to remaining milk. Mix & add to corn mixture. Stirring constantly until thick. Spray 9x13 casserole dish with Pam, then pour in corn mixture. Melt ½ stick margarine & add crushed crackers. Mix well. Add to top of casserole. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

This recipe is from **Betty Tucker**. It is in the 2nd Presbyterian Women Cookbook. **If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with the congregation, you can email a copy of the recipe to the church office at gracpreb@lusfiber.net.**



For those who are not able to attend in-person worship or if you are homebound, we invite you to stream our **10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service** from home via Facebook Live. Our site is “**gracelafayette**”. Please contact the church office if you have any questions on using Facebook to view our services.



2024 Phone Directory

With a new year beginning soon it is once again time for Phone Directory updates so that we can make our new 2024 directory which includes Grace Members, Non-Members & Regular Visitors. If you have any corrections to make from last year or are not included in our phone directory, please email gracpreb@lusfiber.net or call Sarah in the church office at 337-984-6400 with any updates or additions that you may have.

Although new directories will not be printed until early February, please let our secretary know by early January if you have changes/additions.



Pledge letters & pledge cards were mailed out in November. Remember, pledging is voluntary, but helps the Finance Committee in creating our 2024 church budget. We do ask that cards be returned by the first week of December. They can be mailed back to the church, dropped in offering plate on Sundays, or brought to the church office. Grace Presbyterian Church would like to thank everyone who continues to tithe. Your tithe makes it possible for us to continue our work of serving God at Grace Church. We earnestly appreciate your support. God Bless You!

A memorial service will be celebrated on **Friday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m.** at **Grace Presbyterian Church** for **Clarice Burch**. She passed away at the age of 90 on October 17th. **Visitation** will be observed from **9:00 a.m. until the time of the service** (also at Grace Church). Clarice & her late husband Beau were very active church members and the Burch Family was among its earliest members. Growing up, Clarice was taught the importance of faith & service, and she was filled with God's love that she shared with others. As Clarice approached her 90th birthday in September, she was determined to renew her driver's license, although she no longer drove. Much to the envy of some of her closest friends, she was successful in achieving this goal by outsmarting the driving simulator and passing the test! Please keep the family & friends of Clarice Burch in your prayers during this difficult time. She will be missed by those at Grace Presbyterian Church.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PW THANK OFFERING – The Presbyterian Women had their annual Thank Offering on **Sunday, November 19th**. They would like to thank everyone who donated and continues to support the Presbyterian Women and all that they do.



Please consider helping on **Wednesday, November 29th at 5:00 p.m.** decorate our Church for Advent. We need everyone's help to put up the Christmas Trees & Decorations around the Church. Please consider coming and helping us, even if you cannot stay the entire time. Your time will be greatly appreciated. A meal will also be served to all our workers. Thank you in advance!



Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias this year in honor/memory of your loved ones. If you purchased a poinsettia, they can be brought home after our Annual Christmas Eve Service or picked up after Christmas at the church by contacting Sarah in the Church Office.



The Church Office will be closed on **December 25th & December 26th** for the Christmas Holidays and on **January 1st & January 2nd** for New Years. Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas & New Years!



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON - will be held on **Friday, December 15th** in the Grace Fellowship Hall at **11:30 a.m.** hosted by the PW Women. Everyone at Grace Presbyterian Church is invited and encouraged to attend this potluck luncheon to help show our appreciation to the Church Staff for all they do throughout the year.



On **Sunday, December 17th** during our **10:30 a.m.** Worship Service, we will have the Handbell Choir from **Cathedral-Carmel School** performing for us. This group is lead by Greig Ashurst who was our previous choir director at Grace Church for many years.

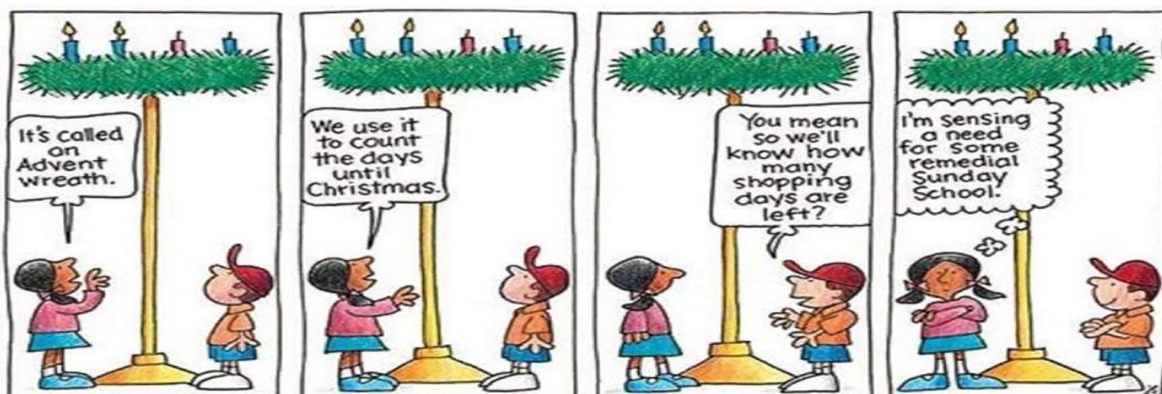
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GRACE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH!!!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

GRACE STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES: The Session of Grace Church would like to offer to the entire congregation the opportunity to contribute towards this year's Staff Christmas Bonuses. If you would like to donate, you may place your contributions in the special basket located in the Narthex on **Sunday, November 26th or Sunday, December 3rd** or you may deliver your gifts directly to the Church Office. Your contributions can be in the form of cash or checks, made out to cash. All donations need to be received by December 13th. Grace's Staff make Grace Church the place that we know and love. Your consideration and generosity are greatly appreciated!

JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering assists Church workers & their families during times of need, giving back to those who have spent their lives in the service of the Church. The program provides grants for housing, income assistance & pastoral vocational leadership needs. It also supports the education & development of our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools. When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help sustain these promises & uplift our brothers & sisters in Christ by reducing their burdens & opening new paths of opportunity. **If you would like to give to the Joy Offering, there will be special envelopes for this in your bulletin on Sunday, December 31st.** Donations can be placed in the regular Sunday offering but make sure to place in an envelope. Please make checks payable to Grace Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: will go towards the **Agape and Good Samaritan Funds** that we have set up at Grace Presbyterian Church. The Agape fund is used to help Grace Church Members in times of need and the Good Samaritan Fund is to help non-members. Make sure to include in the memo blank on your check that you would like your donation to go towards these designated funds on Christmas Eve.



Mother's DAY OUT



MDO SONGFEST – **Thursday, December 14th** will be the annual MDO Christmas Songfest at **9:30 a.m.** in the Grace Fellowship Hall. The children will be singing Christmas songs for their families to enjoy. The kids will also get to enjoy their individual class Christmas parties that day before they start Christmas Break.

MDO REGISTRATION – starting on **Wednesday, January 3rd**, MDO will begin taking registrations for their upcoming Summer 2024 and Fall 2024-25 semesters. Spots are offered to our current students first, then registration is opened up to any new families after the first 2 weeks of January. Email mdoatgrace@gmail.com or call 337-984-6400 for more information.

MDO HOLIDAYS – Grace MDO will have a half day on **Tuesday, December 19th** closing at **11:30 a.m.** Then they will be closed **Wednesday, December 20th thru Tuesday, January 2nd**. MDO will resume on **Wednesday, January 3rd**.

MDO THANKSGIVING FEAST – was held on **November 16th** which was the last day before Thanksgiving Break. The kids got to enjoy a Thanksgiving Meal in the Fellowship Hall.



Our Mother's Day Staff:

Nursery Classroom – Nicole Trimble

Toddler 1 Classroom – Cindy LeBlanc & Kelly Dowling

Toddler 2 Classroom – Stacey Bravos & Cheryl Simpson

Preschool Classroom – Kim Menard & Michelle Packer

Pre-K Classroom – Donna Platt & Sue Comenski



9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am - Refreshments		9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO 6:30pm – Al-anon		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Worship 10:30 a.m. UCO Collection	4	5	6	7	8 Memorial Service for Clarice Burch 11:00 a.m.	9
10 Worship 10:30 a.m. Angel Tree Gifts Due	11	12 Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	13	14 MDO Christmas Songfest 9:30 a.m.	15 Staff Appreciation Luncheon 11:30 a.m.	16
17 Worship 10:30 a.m. (Handbell Choir) Angel Tree Delivery	18	19 MDO Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.	20 MDO Closed	21 MDO closed	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 p.m. (NO Morning Service)	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed & MDO Closed	27 MDO Closed	28 MDO Closed	29	30
31 Worship 10:30 a.m. Joy Offering						

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