

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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NOVEMBER 2023

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Moving into November

“See, I am doing a new thing! Can you perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

November may seem a strange time to be thinking and talking about “new things.” As we enter November, we pass Reformation Day, celebrate All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days, and many of us are thinking about Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the end of the year. Yet we read on the first Sunday (this month) about how Joshua became the Israelites’ new leader following the death of Moses (Joshua 3:7-17).

We are reminded of our debt to our reformer forebears for all their labors on behalf of the Church, and rightly so. The Church in their day was badly in need of fresh air and a return to the faith of the apostles. Each of the reformers, in his own way, and in his own place and time, was seeking to accomplish this.

Both of the Old Testament readings above illustrate that even in ancient times God recognized the need for reformation among his chosen people. By the time they reached the border of the promised land, the people’s faith needed renewal. God accomplished this by appointing a new leader (Joshua), and giving the people a fresh experience of God’s power and good will toward them, as they reenacted the crossing of the Red Sea by crossing the Jordan river on dry land, just as their ancestors had.

By the time the Israelites got to the other side of the Jordan River, they understood anew who God was and who they were as his people. They had their own experience of awe in the face of his demonstrated power, and they felt a new calling to be his faithful people moving forward into his renewed covenant with them. God knew they would need this in order to get through the challenges that lay before them. They had been “reformed” for their journey!

Today’s Church also needs reforming, and most of us are having a difficult time figuring out how to do that. The Church has obviously not done enough serious reforming in my lifetime to keep up with God or his people! Too many of us are still clinging to our old habits vis-à-vis “doing church,” and many others have rejected those old ways, and have tossed out the Church altogether, as a result.

God is still calling his Church—Grace Presbyterian Church, in the mix—to reform; which means letting go of many of our old ways, and reexamining how we express and live out the eternal values that do not change. God is always going ahead of us—“doing a new thing”—and our challenge is to “perceive it”—try to keep up with the “new things” he is doing in our community and our world. The people around us are looking for the eternal answers to their daily problems, but if we offer them answers only through worn out language and rituals, they look elsewhere for help. Let it **not** be so!

-Rev Pat Wadsworth



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:

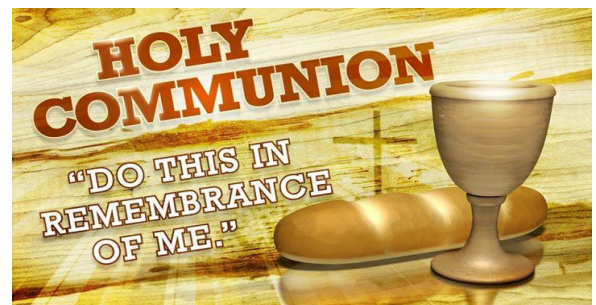
David Jones (2023)

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, November 5th.** 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, November 12th (2nd Sunday in November).** As usual, we invite those who watch our worship service via Facebook Live to gather your communion elements ahead of time so you will be able to take communion with us.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Julia Montgomery
- 16 Joe Gonzalez
- 17 Sarah Gaspard
- 17 Katherine Self
- 22 Sue Blackshear

Committee Meetings

SESSION – Our next Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 14th 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, November 9th at 2:15 p.m.** Please let Tim Conner know if you are on the MDO Board and cannot attend this meeting.



Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night (November 4th) before going to sleep!

CRANBERRY CONGEALED SALAD

- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cherry gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 can whole cranberry sauce
- ½ cup celery, cut fine
- 1 cup sour cream
- ¼ cup chopped pecans

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water, when dissolved, add remaining ingredients. Cool in refrigerator until solid.

This recipe is from **Gloria Donohoe**. 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 or bring a copy of the recipe to the office.



Pledge letters & pledge cards were mailed out on **November 1st**. Remember, pledging is voluntary, but helps the Finance Committee in creating our 2024 church budget. We do ask that cards be returned by **December 1st**. 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.



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](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette)". Please contact the church office if you have any questions on using Facebook to view our services.

THANK OFFERING PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Women will celebrate their annual Thank Offering on **Sunday, November 19th**. This offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over & above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. In the 135 years since Eliza first asked women to give a "thank offering to her Lord," more than 1,600 different projects in the USA and around the world have benefited from grants funded by faithful and generous givers.

You can respond to Eliza's inspiring call to support mission initiatives and demonstrate thanksgiving for God's blessings through giving to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. For more information, please visit: www.presbyterianwomen.org/thanks.

There will be a basket in the back of the Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 19th** for any donations. Cash or checks payable to PW Women.



We need volunteers to bring refreshments for after church and volunteers to provide chancel flowers on Sunday Mornings. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Sarah know in the church office which Sunday works best for you. She can be reached at (337) 984-6400 or at gracpreb@lusfibe.net. Thank you in advance!



If you wish to purchase a poinsettia, order forms will be available on **Sunday, November 19th and November 26th**. Information about who you want honored or remembered can be submitted at that time. In the event that you cannot attend worship on those days, you can contact the Church office and place your order with Sarah. **Order early if you would like a poinsettia this Christmas.** Poinsettias can be brought home after our Annual Christmas Eve Service or picked up after Christmas at the church. We will let everyone know the price as soon as our provider lets us know.



It's almost that time again to decorate our Church for Advent! Please consider helping on **Wednesday, November 29th**. Time is TBA. 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. Thank you in advance!



Grace Presbyterian Church enjoys participating in Angel Tree as one of our Missions at Christmas Time. As they have done in the past, Sarah Gaspard & Jysele Jones will be coordinating the Angel Tree Program again this year. This program allows children that have a parent in prison to be able to receive a gift that looks like it comes from them. This year we have 12 children on our list to provide for. **Our tree will be put up for Sunday, November 26th** for you to take an angel off the tree if you chose to participate in this wonderful ministry. **All gifts will be due back to the church office by Sunday, December 10th** so we have time to prepare them for delivery the following Sunday.



"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
Revelation 7:12, NRSV

The Church Office will be closed on Thanksgiving and the following day (November 23rd & 24th). Hope everyone has a great holiday.

Mother's DAY OUT



MDO NURSERY ROOM IS BACK OPEN! – after almost a year of being closed, we were finally able to reopen our Nursery Classroom. Months ago, we were forced to close that room due to a lack of teachers. About a month ago, we were approached by a lovely lady named Nicole Trimble who was very interested in working in our MDO Nursery Room. We currently only have just that 1 teacher in the room but would love to add another teacher to our staff as soon as we are able to enroll a few more children in the MDO program. Our nursery class is 6-months to 1-year old. If you know anyone interested in enrolling their child in a 3-day a week program, please have them contact our Grace MDO at mdoatgrace@gmail.com.

MDO REGISTRATION – There is availability in “most classes” at this time for our Fall/Spring Semester. For more information or to register your child or grandchild, please call the church office at (337) 984-6400 or email mdoatgrace@gmail.com. We have 5 classrooms....Nursery, Toddler 1, Toddler 2, Preschool & Pre-k4.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR – on the morning of **Tuesday, October 31st**, the MDO teachers & children dressed up in their Halloween costumes (*a lot of parents dressed up also!*) The parents & grandparents sat in a large circle around the Fellowship Hall and passed out candy & little trinkets to all the trick-or-treaters. This event is always a favorite of the MDO children & staff.





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	4 <i>Daylight Savings Ends (Set clocks back before going to bed)</i>
5 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. UCO Collection</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Veterans Day</i>  <i>MDO Board Meeting 2:15 p.m.</i>	10	11
12 <i>Communion</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. Poinsettia Sales</i>	13	14 <i>Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.</i>	15	16 <i>MDO Thanksgiving Feast</i>	17	18 <i>Election Day</i>
19 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. PW Thank Offering Poinsettia Sales</i>	20	21 <i>MDO Closed</i>	22 <i>MDO Closed</i>	23  <i>Church Office & MDO Closed</i>	24	25
26 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. Angel Tree will be up</i>	27	28	29 <i>Decorate the Church (Time: TBA)</i>	30		

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