

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church

518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503

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OCTOBER 2023

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SEEING DISPLACED PEOPLE THROUGH GOD'S EYES

This is the title of an article by Dr. Mary T. Lederleitner, which recently came across my desk, and gave me a great deal to think about.

Throughout human history there have always been displaced people, many of them forcibly displaced. This is as true today as ever, and it always leaves the displaced at a disadvantage in many ways—poverty, hunger, homelessness, persecution, etc. In fact, it could be argued that the problem is bigger today simply on the basis of world population levels. The U.N. says that there are over 100 million displaced people today.

As Christians, it behooves us to look at what the Bible says about displaced people. The Old Testament teaches repeatedly that foreigners and strangers are to be treated like God's own people—not cheated or taken advantage of. (Exodus 23: 9; Numbers 15:16)

Beginning with Adam and Eve, any number of Old Testament people were displaced for various reasons. Noah, Abraham and his progeny—especially Joseph—along with Moses and the Israelites, even after they possessed the “promised land.” God called upon his people to empathize with foreigners and strangers because they, too, had been displaced.

In the New Testament we find Jesus and his parents displaced immediately, along with many others. Jesus went on to teach empathy for strangers and to demonstrate empathy and love for outcasts of society. He readily identified with the homeless — saying he had “nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58), and with those looked down upon by religious leaders. He taught that anyone who treated them with dignity was doing the same to him (Matthew 25:35).

As the early church began to live out their calling in Christ, they were soon displaced and scattered from Jerusalem in many directions. Indeed, Jesus called them to go to the ends of the earth with his teachings (Acts 1:8) The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us to show hospitality to strangers (13:1-2), and Peter reminds us that as citizens of the Kingdom of God on earth, we are now strangers here ourselves, and should live and treat others accordingly (1 Peter 1:17).

All of this should inform our attitudes and efforts toward displaced peoples in today's world—a very volatile topic across the globe. Let us examine our own feelings and beliefs in light of these biblical teachings, and as ambassadors for God's kingdom, let us share the faith that we claim. Let us choose political leaders whose policies reflect the faith we hold, and who have the courage to stand up for displaced people and their needs.

-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:

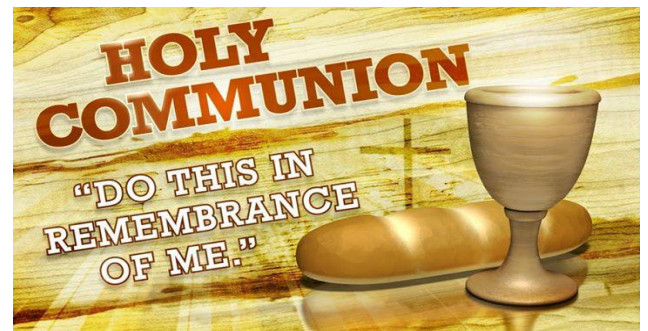
David Jones (2023)

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 5th.** 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.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

7	Jysele Jones
11	Sandy Stewart
18	Jim McLain
20	Valerie Lapointe
27	Paul Guillot

Committee Meetings

SESSION – Our next Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 10th 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.

On **November 3rd & 4th** will be the 153rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery with a full slate of worship, business, and fellowship. This meeting will be held at Covington Presbyterian Church.



CHOCOLATE POUND CAKE

1 cup butter, softened
½ cup solid shortening (Crisco)
3 cups sugar
5 eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
½ cup cocoa
Pinch of salt
½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla
1-1/4 cups milk

Beat butter and shortening together until smooth. Add sugar and beat until light and fluffy.

Add in 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition.

Combine dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture alternately with milk and vanilla.

Spoon batter into a greased and floured 10-inch tube or bundt pan.

Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until done.

This recipe is from **Sarah Gaspard**. It is one of her favorite desserts to make.

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.





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.



Grace 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!



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!



The month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Make sure to show your pastor (*Rev. Pat Wadsworth*) how much he is appreciated this month. The "official" day for this celebration is always on the 2nd Sunday of October. This year that day will be **Sunday, October 8th**. Thank you to Rev. Pat for all you do for Grace Presbyterian Church & for our congregation.



Every year Grace Presbyterian Church participates in Angel Tree which is a part of Prison Fellowship. This program allows children that have a parent in prison at Christmas to receive a gift from them. Towards the end of November, we will put up our Angel Tree at Grace Church. This year we will have 12 Angels (children's names) hanging on our tree. If you would like to participate, you will grab an Angel off our tree and purchase a gift for the child. Each Angel will have gift recommendations on them. These Angels will be placed on the gifts with a special message from their parent and delivered to the children before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who continues to help with Angel Tree each year!



MOTHER'S DAY OUT NEWS

GRANDPARENTS LUNCH - On **Thursday, October 5th**, we will have our MDO Grandparents lunch. This event was started several years ago and has been a huge success. Grandparents of our MDO Students can bring a bag lunch and eat with their grandchildren in the Grace Fellowship Hall. This event is from **11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR – **Tuesday, October 31st** at **9:30 a.m.** will be our 4th Annual Halloween Spooktacular Event. Parents & Grandparents of our MDO Children gather around the Grace Fellowship Hall and the MDO teachers parade the children around the room trick-or-treating. On this day, the children (and teachers) get to dress in costume which everyone always enjoys. The parents/grandparents of the kids are asked to volunteer to help pass out candy & also to donate Halloween candy & little trinkets for this event. There is a donation box located under the little bulletin board near the church office for donations.

MDO REGISTRATION – Registration for Fall 2023-2024 semester is ongoing. There is availability in all 4 classes at this time. 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 four classrooms....Toddler 1, Toddler 2, Preschool & Pre-k4.

MDO TEACHERS NEEDED – we are still looking for Nursery Teachers & Substitutes to join our MDO Team!! Potential applicants should be coachable, teachable, and love children.

If you are interested or know anyone that would be interested, please contact the church office at (337) 984-6400 or email our MDO Director at mdoatgrace@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and making you part of our fabulous team!

Our Teachers for the Fall 2023-2024 Semester are:

Toddler 1 Class: Cindy LeBlanc & Kelly Dowling

Toddler 2 Class: Stacey Bravos & Cheryl Simpson

Preschool Class: Kim Menard & Michelle Packer

Pre-K Class: Donna Platt & Sue Cosminski



9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am - Refreshments		9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion Worship 10:30 a.m. UCO Collection	2	3	4	5 MDO Grandparents Lunch 11:00 a.m.	6	7
8 Worship 10:30 a.m.	9	10 Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:30 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:30 a.m.	30	31  MDO Halloween Sppktacular 9:30 a.m.				

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