

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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FEBRUARY 2020

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THROUGH MARDI GRAS TO LENT

“Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for Baptism or confirmation, and for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a period of forty days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.*

I have included this excerpt from the *Book of Common Worship* especially for those of you who may never have heard Lent explained so succinctly. I raise the topic of Lent now because before the month of February is out, we will be into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday occurs this year on February 26, because Easter falls on April 12. (I pause here to give you a chance to mark your calendars!)

Before we get to Lent, however, we are celebrating the season of Mardi Gras, which is not a religious season, but a “last blast” before the austerities traditionally observed during Lent. Mardi Gras seems to be more popular than Lent, probably for obvious reasons: it is more fun, it encourages self-indulgence, and it allows us to disguise ourselves as someone else while we do it all.

It seems to me that reconciliation, mentioned in the first paragraph above, is one of our society’s deepest needs at this point in time. Reconciliation with other people can be a very difficult process, depending upon how deeply we hurt and how long we have been estranged. For many of us, reconciliation will be the most difficult thing we ever do; in fact, some people are never able to reconcile with certain other people. This is “heart work,” and it becomes very personal, and touches the depths of our being.

With whom might you need to reconcile? Do you need to reconcile with more than one person? How long have you been estranged? Do you really remember the original offense that caused the rift in your relationship? How can you rely upon God and God’s people to help you make it through the process?

I recommend you try one of the spiritual disciplines that you may never have tried before as you prepare yourself to reconcile with those from whom you are estranged.

**Book of Common Worship*, p. 233 (2018). PCUSA Office of Theology & Worship. Westminster John Knox: Louisville.



Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

Church Office Hours

M-Thu. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Our next collection will be on **Sunday, March 1st**. Please consider donating to this mission of Grace Presbyterian Church.

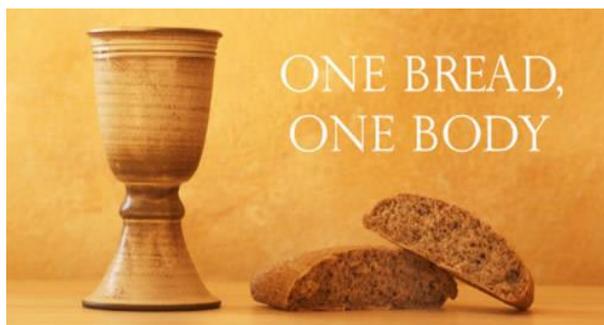
Thank you to everyone who donated to UCO for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 2nd.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NURSERY: Room 4

VINEYARD: currently studying “*Bible Interpretation Series*” from *The Thoughtful Christian Series*.

A Nursery is available every Sunday during Sunday School and Worship in Room 4.



COMMUNION - will be on **Sunday, March 1st**. If anyone is home bound and would like to receive communion, please let us know in the church office so that we can bring communion to you.

Everyone is invited to join us **after worship on Sunday, February 16th** for a potluck Mardi Gras themed lunch hosted by the Fellowship Committee. We need members and friends of Grace to bring salads, veggies and fruits. The main dishes and dessert is already taken care of. There will also be a Mardi Gras game with small prizes. Hope everyone can join us after worship on February 16th after worship.

WONDERFUL *Wednesday*

We will begin our six-week study of ***The Walk*** by Adam Hamilton on **Wednesday, February 5th**. Bible study every Wednesday night at **4:45 pm**, followed by dinner. We ask for a donation of at least \$3.00/person to cover the cost of the meal provided that evening. Please let us know if you would like to provide a meal for the group on a Wednesday Night.



After worship on Sunday, February 9th, we will go out to lunch as a group at **Chopsticks**. (4243 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy, Ste. 101) Everyone is invited to join us for food and fellowship! Contact **Margaret Boone** if you plan to attend so she can make reservations. (Margaret 337-981-2475)

Committee Meetings

MDO BOARD – will meet on **Tuesday, February 4th** at **5pm** in Room 8.

SESSION – will meet on **Monday, February 17th** at **6pm**. Please let Lynne Castle know if you cannot attend this meeting.



PW HOME CIRCLE – will meet on **Monday, February 10th** at **10am** at Mary Lou Montgomery's House. All women of Grace are invited to join us for Bible Study and Fellowship.

PW DAY CIRCLE – will meet for our Bible Study on **Tuesday, February 11th** at **10am**. All women of Grace are invited to join us for Bible Study & Fellowship.

PWCT – will meet on **Tuesday, February 4th** at **2pm** in the Grace Church Library.



Church Directory

2020 Phone Directory

We are in the final stages of making our 2020 directory which includes Grace Members, Non-Members & Regular Visitors. If you have any corrections to make from last year or were not included in our 2019 phone directory and have not contacted the office yet, please email the church office at gracpreb@lusfiber.net or call Sarah at 337-984-6400 with any updates or additions by February 12th. Items that may have changed could be your name (if you got married), Phone #'s, Address, Email Address, etc.



If we do not have your birthday on our list, please let us know and make sure all your family members are included. We would love to have everyone's birthday included on our list so that we can wish you a Happy Birthday on your special day! Birthdays can be emailed to gracpreb@lusfiber.net or you can call the office at (337) 984-6400.



Robert "Bobby" Guynn passed away at the age of 92 on **December 11, 2019**. A service was held at Grace Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, January 18th** officiated by Rev. Pat Wadsworth. Thank you to the Presbyterian Women for providing the family with a wonderful meal after the service.



Thank you to **Terry Wolford** for installing a new keypad at our church. Everything is back up and running smoothly.



CHANCEL FLOWERS – please sign up to bring flowers on Sunday mornings. Flowers can be *"in memory"* or *"in honor"* of a loved one. Our flower calendar is in the Narthex. You can also let Sarah know in the church office if you would like to bring flowers to place in the Sanctuary. We place your name & who you are honoring or remembering in our Sunday Bulletin.



GREETERS NEEDED

We are looking for more volunteers to serve as Greeters on Sunday Mornings. Signup sheets are located outside the church office. Please stop by and sign up to be a greeter in 2020. On Sunday morning, you will need to get to church a little early so that you can pass out bulletins and welcome everyone to Grace.



We need volunteers for **After Church Refreshment Hosts** on Sunday Mornings. Something simple.....like cookies or fruit. Coffee, water and lemonade are available at the church. Sign up outside the Church Office or contact the Office if you would like to help!

MOTHER'S DAY OUT



There are still spots open for our **Summer 2020 and Fall 2020-2021 Sessions**. Please contact our Mother's Day Out for more information by phone at 337-993-1231 or by email at mdoatgrace@gmail.com.

MARDI GRAS PARADE - MDO will have their Annual Mardi Gras Parade on **Thursday, February 20th at 1:30 p.m.** on the Grace Tennis Court. Everyone is invited to join us for this fun event that the children look forward to each year. They will also have "floats" that they made in class.

GET INVOLVED!



The 2020 Session met for the first time on Monday, January 20th and selected which Elders to chair each committee. Our new committee chairs for 2020 are.....

Committee Chairs

Christian Education and Fellowship -
Co-Chairs, Lynne Castle & Betty Adams
Missions/Outreach - Paul Guillot
Property/Landscape - Terry Wolford
Personnel - Danny Jones
Stewardship/Finance - David Jones
Worship - Margaret Boone

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone at Grace Presbyterian Church for keeping me in your prayers since my accident. I appreciated the phone calls, cards, emails and especially the food provided for me and my family after my surgery! I would also like to thank the women that filled in at the church office after my surgery....**Mary Conner, Elke Hitt and Patti Tucker Rice**. It is going to take many months of physical therapy with many challenges ahead but at least now I am on the road to recovery. The past 6 weeks have been difficult not being able to walk good but with the help of many, they have made this process easier for me. I am expected to have a full recovery between 6-9 months. It is great to have such a great Church Family.

--Sarah Gaspard



Church Committees

Church "Ministry Teams" to consider

servicing on:

Spiritual Development Committee
Worship Committee
Outreach/Publicity/Public Relations Committee
Fellowship Committee
Mother's Day Out Board
Personnel Committee
Stewardship & Finance Committee
Building and Grounds Committee
Nursery Helper

We call the above "ministry teams" because they help us fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES



Synod Youth Workshop

When: July 13-18, 2020 (Monday-Saturday)

Where: University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

Who: Youth going to 9th grade to Graduated Seniors

Website: synodyouthworkshop.com

Early Registration is from February 1st – June 1st. (Price increases after)

Cost: \$396 for youth and adults with a Home Group

\$495 for individual youth without a Home Group

ALL Registrations require a \$100 deposit

Synod Youth Workshop is designed to provide youth and adults with an opportunity to receive and share the Gospel of Christ, create communities of faith, reach out to the world around the event, and honor our calling to be Christ-like.

****Registration forms are available in the Church office.*

CAMP + AGAPE

When: June 7-13, 2020 (Sunday-Saturday)

Where: Feliciana Retreat Center

Who: 3rd – 12th grade

- **Explorer Camp** – those who have completed 3rd-5th grade
- **Pathfinder Camp** – those who have completed 6th-8th grade.
- **Adventure Camp** – those who have completed 9th-11th grade.
- **Senior Intern Program** – those who have completed 12th grade.
(these campers assist the counselor's while still enjoying everything Camp Agape has to offer)

****Registration forms are available in the Church office.*

****Fundraisers to be held to help with the cost of camp. Contact the Church Office for more information.*

Communion

Our Next Holy Communion will be served on **Sunday, March 1st**. Communion is served on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Pastor's Office Hours

Rev. Pat is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3:30pm and on Wednesdays from 1pm – 7pm. He can be reached at 337-781-1806 or wadpl@lusfiber.net.

Liturgists

2 *Betty Adams*
9 *Danny Jones*
16 *Tim Conner*
23 *Paul Guillot*

Greeters

2 *Sandy Stewart*
9
16
23

Refreshment Hosts

2
9
16 *Fellowship Com.*
23

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 *Catherine Sarwar*
5 *Wayne Elmore*
5 *Danny Jones*
13 *Denny Gaspard*
22 *William Burch, Jr.*
27 *Elizabeth Conner Balapitiya*
27 *Elisabeth Faust*



If we do not have your birthday on our calendar, please let Sarah know in the Church Office (337-984-6400) so that we can include your special day!



February

| | 9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 6:30pm – Al-anon | 9am-2pm MDO | 9am-2pm MDO 9am – UL Writing Class 9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 6pm – Co-Dependence | 9am-2pm MDO 5-6:45pm – AA 5:45pm – Baby Boot Camp 7-8pm – Al-anon | 9:30am – Baby Boot Camp 1:30pm – Al-anon | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 <i>Communion</i> | 3 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> | 4 <i>PWCT Meeting 2pm</i> <i>MDO Board Meeting 4pm</i> | 5 <i>Wonderful Wednesday 4:45pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:30pm</i> | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 <i>Les Amis (Chopsticks)</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 <i>Wonderful Wednesday 4:45pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:30pm</i> | 13 | 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>  | 15 |
| 16 <i>Potluck Meal After Worship (Mardi Gras Theme)</i> | 17 <i>Session Meeting 6pm</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Wonderful Wednesday 4:45pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:30pm</i> | 20 <i>MDO Mardi Gras Parade 1:30pm (Tennis Court)</i> | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Office Closed (Mardi Gras)</i> | 26 <i>Ash Wednesday Service (Time-TBA)</i> | 27 | 28 | 29 |

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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