

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.gracelafayette.org

JANUARY 2021

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The Promise of the New Year

As I write this on New Year's Eve-eve, 2020, I, like you, am wondering what the new year—2021—will bring. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the presidential election, and the social unrest of the year now ending, I am sure most of us are hoping for a better year ahead.

We have heard many jokes and seen many cartoons about people who are eager to bring 2020 to a close, if not forget it forever! The general opinion seems to be that 2021 **has** to be better than 2020. I have long ago stopped saying that any situation “can't get any worse,” because that seems to me a temptation to “fate” to test us. Nevertheless, I am also inclined to agree that the new year will surely be better.

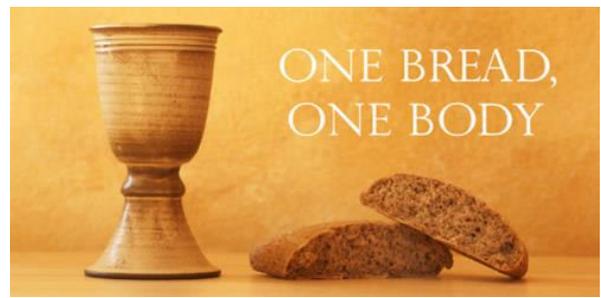
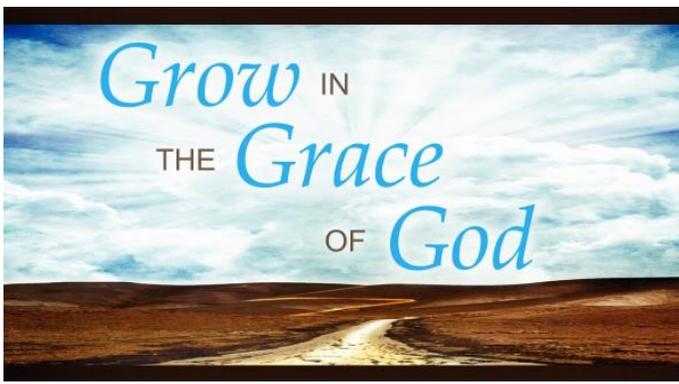
In the midst of all this speculation, however, we people of God need to remind ourselves that, while God makes some broad promises about the future, God does not promise any of us particular favors for particular days or years. It surely behooves us to pray and work for better days, not only for ourselves and our own families, but for everyone. However, God's people have endured many difficult trials and tribulations through the ages in spite of such prayers. Further, I believe many of those faithful were better people than I am!

We have just finished celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas, in which we are reminded that Jesus—Emmanuel—is God with us. What we are promised by Jesus himself is that he will be with us always—that he “will never leave us nor forsake us”—regardless of circumstances.

We therefore launch into the new year 2021 with few promises, even from God, besides this: that God in Christ and through the Holy Spirit will accompany us throughout the year that lies ahead, just as God did throughout the very difficult year of 2020.

Let us remember to acknowledge God in our daily lives and to call upon God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—even more often than we did in 2020!

Rev. Pat Wadsworth



Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m. Worship

Church Office Hours

M-Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

COMMUNION - will be celebrated during worship on **Sunday, February 7th**. As usual, we invite those who watch our worship stream to gather your communion elements ahead of time so you can take communion with us.

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



Epiphany of the Lord

“Epiphany” means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God’s saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God’s covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important – not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world.

Traditionally, the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 6th, the conclusion of the season of Christmas; Epiphany may also be observed on the previous Sunday, as we customarily do.

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, February 7th**. Please consider donating to this mission of Grace Presbyterian Church. There is a cabinet in the narthex under the big bulletin board where people can place food items & paper goods at any time. All these items will be gathered up each month when our donation takes place. Thank you to everyone who participates in this mission of Grace Church.

UPCOMING – our **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** collection will be on **February 7th**. Please bring your non-perishables & paper products to be donated to United Christian Outreach. Thank you to everyone who support this mission of Grace!

Baptism of the Lord

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. This is a Trinitarian event: as Jesus emerges from the water, the Holy Spirit descends from heaven as a dove, and we hear a voice naming Jesus as God's beloved Son. In ancient Christian tradition, the Baptism of the Lord is closely connected with the Epiphany as both are manifestations of God's saving purpose through Jesus Christ; accordingly, these festivals are adjacent to one another in the Christian calendar. The baptism of the Lord also foreshadows the season of Lent, as the Gospels tell us that Jesus was driven into the wilderness for forty days after his own baptism.

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but also give thanks for the baptism we share with Christ. Therefore, Sunday, January 10th is an appropriate time to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism or for the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant.

Committee Meetings

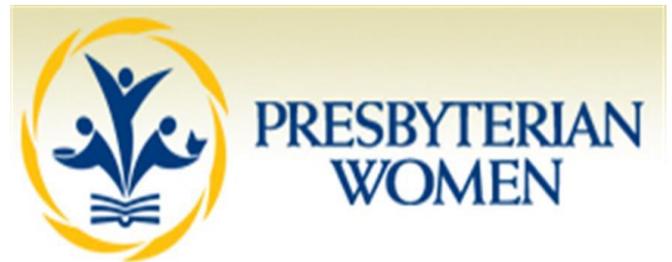
SESSION – our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 19th at 6pm**. Please let Lynne Castle know if you cannot attend this meeting.



2021 Phone Directory

It is once again time for Phone Directory updates so that we can make our new 2021 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 2020 phone directory, please email the church office at gracpreb@lusfiber.net or call Sarah in the office at 337-984-6400 with any updates or additions. Items that may have changed could be your name (if you got married), Phone #'s, Address, Email Address.....

New Phone Directories will not be printed until probably early February but please let us know in the church office by mid-January if you have changes/additions.



PW HOME CIRCLE – will meet on **Wednesday, January 13th at 10am** at Betty Adams' House. The ladies will be studying "*Love Carved in Stone*". All women that attend Grace Presbyterian Church are invited to join us for Bible Study and Fellowship.

Thank you!

Everyone!



Dear Members of Grace Presbyterian Church,

I would like to thank you for the truly heartfelt tribute in the Gracevine about my dad, Rodney Hamilton. Thank you to the person that was kind enough to be sure our family had a copy of this December 2020 issue.

So many of you sent sympathy cards with such kind and personal notes. A special thank you for your thoughtfulness. My parents were so blessed to be a part of such a caring fellowship.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Hamilton Tortorich
(on behalf of my entire family)

An offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary for donations on Sunday Mornings. You can place your donation before or after service in the plate. If you are not ready or able to attend in-person worship, you can still mail in your donation if you choose to. **The Church Address is 518 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70503.** Thank you to everyone that is continuing to support your church during the pandemic.

MOTHER'S DAY OUT



MDO REGISTRATION – beginning on **Tuesday, January 5th**, MDO started taking registrations for our upcoming Summer 2021 and Fall 2021-2022 Semesters. Spots are offered to our current students first. Once that period is complete, we will open registration to any new families that would like to join the MDO program. New children may register starting on January 19th. For more information, call (337) 993-1231 or email mdoatgrace@gmail.com.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Patricia Trahan (Pat Harrington's Mom)
- 18 Emily Foreman Babineaux
- 24 Andrea Montgomery
- 25 Randall Smith
- 27 Ray Montgomery
- 28 Robert Hess, Jr.
- 29 Libby Gaspard
- 31 Lana Gaspard

If we do not have your birthday on our list, please let us know and make sure all your family members are included. Birthdays can be emailed to gracpreb@lusfiber.net or you can call the office at (337) 984-6400.



**CHRISTMAS
THANK YOUS!**

Thank you to all who helped make Advent and Christmas a joyful and meaningful time at Grace. From all those who donated gifts, provided music, set up Communion, worked our sound system.....THANKS for your time & gifts!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Thank you to **Everyone** who helped “hang the greens.” The Church looked wonderful for the Christmas season.

Thank you to **Sarah Gaspard** for picking up the poinsettias in Broussard this year and to **Margaret Boone** for setting them up and watering them. They looked really beautiful this season.

Thank you to **Katharine Schendel** for your beautiful music you provided during the Christmas Season and thank you to **Nick Manzo** for adding your wonderful vocals to our services each Sunday.

The **Grace Staff** would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts, cards, and kind words during this Christmas Season.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our special offerings in the month of December for Staff Bonuses, Agape Fund, Good Samaritan Fund and the Joy Gift Offering.

Thank you to all the **PW Ladies** for your gifts to the church staff and for continuing to collect food to be donated to United Christian Outreach during the holiday season.

Thank you to **Nick Manzo, Katharine Schendel and Valerie Hunter** for your music in our beautiful Christmas Eve Service. They were outstanding! We had a great turnout for our candlelight service and everyone did a great job.

Thank you to **Betty Adams, Shan Angelle, Carolyn Armstrong, Elke Hitt, Betty Tucker & Patti Rice** for helping take down the Christmas Decorations on January 4th. Also thank you to **Paul Guillot** for taking down the wreaths and to **Gray Guillot** for storing all the decorations for next year.

Thank you to **Terry Wolford & Bob Hess** for streaming our Worship Services on Facebook during 2020. It is a big commitment these guys make to be able to work our sound system each Sunday along with streaming our services on Facebook for those who choose to watch virtually.

Thank you to all our Advent Readers and Candle Lighters during the Christmas Season. **Betty Adams, Sarah & Lana Gaspard, Shan Angelle, The Conner Family & The Self Family, and Danny & Caroline Jones.**

Thanks to **Rev. Pat Wadsworth** for the wonderful sermons this Advent Season. Grace Church is very lucky to have you as Interim Pastor during our time of transition.

Thank you to **Jean McLain** for leading our music when our Music Director is absent and thank you to **Dr. Donna Wadsworth** for playing the organ when our organist is absent.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GRACE!

January



10:30 am - Worship	6:30pm – Al-anon	9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO 9am – UL Writing Class 6pm – Co-Dependence	9am-2pm MDO 5-6:45pm – AA 7-8pm – Al-anon	1:30pm – Al-anon	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Church Office Closed (New Year's)</i>	2
3 <i>Communion</i> <i>UCO Collection</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Congregational Meeting & Installation (after worship)</i>	11	12	13 <i>PW Home Circle Meeting 10am (Betty Adams House)</i>	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Church Office Closed (MLK Day)</i>	19 <i>Session Meeting 6pm</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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