

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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NOVEMBER 2021
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...down the road with Jesus.

This past Sunday—October 24—we read the Gospel story about “Blind Bartimaeus.” Some of you will recall how Bartimaeus, a blind man in Jericho, who was begging by the roadside, persisted in calling out Jesus’ name when he learned that Jesus was in the neighborhood. The crowd tried to shush him, but he continued to call out until Jesus heard his cries and stopped where Bartimaeus was. Jesus asked the beggar what he wanted Jesus to do for him, and Bartimaeus replied simply but bluntly that he wanted to see. Jesus then pronounced him healed, due to his faith, and the story ends with the sentence, “Right away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus.”

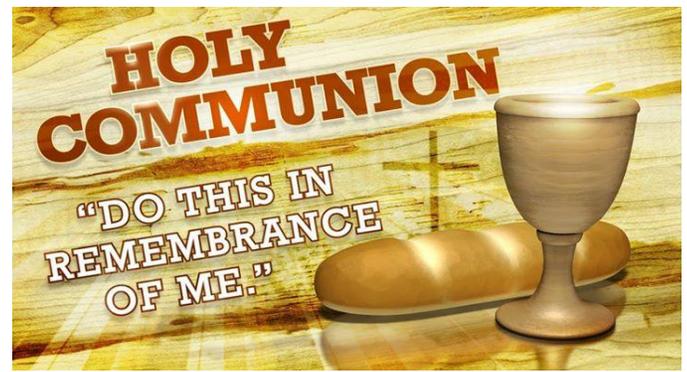
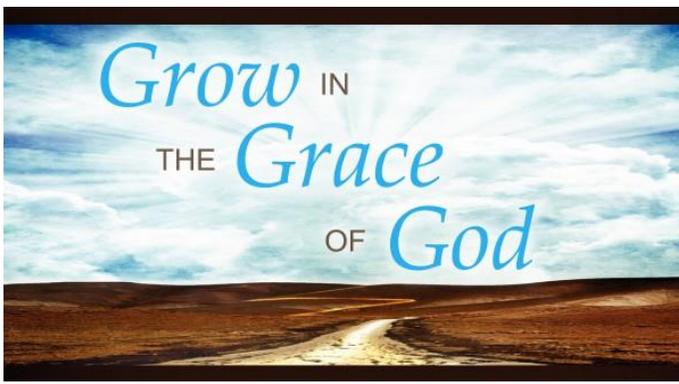
The first time I read this story last week, in preparation for Sunday, I was struck by that last sentence, and in particular, that last phrase, “...and he went down the road with Jesus.” I began to ask myself what I would do in Bartimaeus’ place upon being healed of my blindness by Jesus. Would I go immediately to my family and friends to show them I had been healed and get them to celebrate with me? Surely they would share my joy and excitement over this miracle. But he didn’t. Would I seek out a job, so I could support myself, instead of begging alms from strangers? Surely I would be glad for the chance to earn a living, and surely my family and others would expect me to do so. But he didn’t.

No, Bartimaeus’ gratitude for his healing seemed to drive him to go with Jesus immediately. He had already thrown off his blanket, and the story doesn’t indicate that Bartimaeus looked back for anything. Instead, it seems he simply “went down the road with Jesus.” If you read the rest of the gospel accounts you will find that Bartimaeus was not the first or only man to do this. Even several of the disciples, when Jesus called them, seem to have dropped everything and followed. We have accounts of what many of them experienced after their decision, but we know nothing more about Bartimaeus’ life or future.

According to the Gospel of Mark, the very next event that occurred was Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we have come to celebrate as Palm Sunday. Do you suppose that Bartimaeus was a part of that crowd? We just don’t know. All we know is that his gratitude for his healing led him to forsake everything and follow Jesus.

As we enter this national season of Thanksgiving, I invite you to reflect with me on what our gratitude to God causes us to do and say. Perhaps we will find Bartimaeus’ example instructive.

--Pat Wadsworth



Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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.

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



The Vineyard Sunday School Class is held on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Session Room. We will be studying the book of Luke the first three Sundays in November. On the last Sunday, we will begin an Advent study which will last until Christmas. Please consider joining us for Bible Study on Sunday Mornings before attending worship. Masks are required of everyone in attendance and please practice social distancing when inside Grace Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNION - will be celebrated during our 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, November 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.



The Presbyterian Women encourage the congregation to support **United Christian Outreach** by bringing non-perishable food items and paper products on the 1st Sunday of each month. UCO also accepts monetary donations which are used to purchase protein/meats to go along with the non-perishables that are donated each month. **Our next collection will be on Sunday, November 7th.**

If you are not at worship on collection day and would like to donate, there is a cabinet under the big bulletin board in the narthex where you can place donations anytime or you can drop items off to the church office. Thank you to the Presbyterian Women & everyone that continues to support this mission of Grace Presbyterian Church.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Julia Montgomery**
- 16 Joe Gonzalez**
- 17 Sarah Gaspard**
- 17 Katherine Self**
- 21 Johnathon Boone**
- 22 Sue Blackshear**

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.



Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night (November 6th) before going to sleep!



"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 25th & 26th). Hope everyone has a great holiday.

2ND COLLECTION FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IDA

The Grace Session has decided to do another collection for those affected by Hurricane Ida. Kristina Peterson, minister at First Presbyterian Church, Bayou Blue, LA is collecting and distributing items needed to help the hurricane victims both in and surrounding Gray and regions to the south of her. A friend of David Jones has kindly offered to transport items to the area once again. Items from our 1st collection have been dropped off and were very much appreciated! **Please note: We will continue to collect items until a cutoff date is set.** You may bring them with you to church on Sundays or drop them off at church during regular office hours (Mon-Thurs 9-3:30 and Fri 9-12). Please, NO clothes or food donations.

Below is a list of the most needed items currently:

- Cash or checks payable to Grace Presbyterian Church (put Hurricane Ida on the memo line). If you give cash, please put it in an envelope and write what it is for. This money will go towards gas cards & other items needed as people start to rebuild.
- Gently Used Tools (Crow Bars, Hammers, Drills, Saws, Measuring Tapes.....)
- Bikes (for all ages)
- New Small Toys (small comforting toys or pocket-sized due to limited space)
- Dog Food/Cat Food
- Diapers & Depends
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Bars of Soap
- Dry Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels & Toilet Paper
- Gallon Size & Larger Zip Lock Bags
- Heavy Duty Construction Bags

Thank you for supporting helping a great cause for our neighbors in South Louisiana.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women are once again meeting monthly for Bible Study. They meet in member's homes on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10am. Everyone is not expected to host.

The new Bible Study is "What my Grandmothers Taught Me, Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus."

PW CIRCLE MEETING – we will meet on Monday, November 15th at 10am at the home of Betty Tucker. (312 Thibodeaux Dr.) All women that attend Grace Church are invited to join us for Bible Study and Fellowship.

After Bible Study, anyone who wishes will go out to lunch. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Margaret Boone at marboone@yahoo.com or at (337) 981-2475.

Committee Meetings

SESSION MEETING – the next session meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16th at 6pm. Please let Lynne Castle know if you are an Elder and cannot attend this meeting.



CHANCEL FLOWERS

If anyone would like to place flowers in the Church Sanctuary in "honor of" or in "memory of" someone on a particular Sunday morning, please sign up on the sheet located just outside of the sanctuary. You can also call Margaret Boone at (337) 981-2475 or call the church office to let us know which Sunday you would like. We need more volunteers to bring flowers! Thanks in advance!



Copies of Our Daily Bread are available on the table outside the Sanctuary. Please feel free to pick up a copy on Sunday.

You can also get the daily devotionals online. Below are several ways.....

- Sign up at go.odb.org/devotional to have your devotional delivered by email
- On Facebook at facebook.com/ourdailybread
- Visit the website at odb.org

CORN & PEA SALAD

1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup sugar
1/8 tsp salt (optional)
1 -- 10 oz. can shoepeg corn, drained

1 -- 8-1/2 oz. can English peas,
drained
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped green pepper
1 cup chopped green onions

Combine first 4 ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Cool 5 minutes.

Combine corn and remaining ingredients in a bowl; stir in vinegar mixture. Cover and chill at least 8 hours, stirring occasionally. To serve use a slotted spoon.

Yield: 8 servings

This recipe is from Betty Tucker and was published in the 2nd Presbyterian Women's Cookbook.



It's that time again to decorate our Church for Advent! "Tentative" date is set for **Sunday, November 24th after worship** (will update in the *Sunday Bulletins & by email if the date changes*). We need everyone's help in putting up our 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.



If you wish to purchase a poinsettia, order forms will be available on **Sunday, November 14th, 21st and November 28th**. The price will be in emails/bulletins in the coming weeks. 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.



THANKSGIVING BREAK – The Grace Mother's Day Out Program will be closed the week of November 23rd-25th for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR – on the morning of **Thursday, October 28th**, the MDO staff & children came dressed up in their Halloween Costumes (*some parents dressed up also!*). The parents sat in a huge circle around the Fellowship Hall (*with masks on*) and passed out candy to all the trick-or-treaters. The event went very well and was a great success! The children finished up the last day before Halloween with their individual class parties.



Audrey Self



NOVEMBER

9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship		9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO	9am-2pm MDO		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> <i>(Set clocks back before going to bed)</i>
7 <i>Communion</i> <i>UCO Collection</i> <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 	12	13
14 <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	15	16 <i>Session Meeting 6pm</i>	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	22	23 <i>Mother's Day Out Closed</i>	24 <i>Mother's Day Out Closed</i>	25 <i>Office & MDO Closed</i> 	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
28 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	29	30				

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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