



FALL 2020

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



Dear Church Family,

You are receiving the first copy of the new Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church newsletter. Our church procedures have either changed or have been greatly altered these last few months. Pastor Tyler and the Session have done a wonderful job of keeping us worshipful and prayerful. Deacons have faithfully continued to serve our church community. These occasional newsletters will highlight church events, bring you updates about current church life, and share news from the clergy and session. Watch your mailboxes for future news items which will keep you informed about our GLPC family. If you have suggestions about content please let us know.

1

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Reflect on many of the things that have been going on in the life of GLPC over the past 12 months!

2

UPCOMING FOR THE FALL

Get a preview of what is in store for our community over the next few months!



Worship



Discipleship

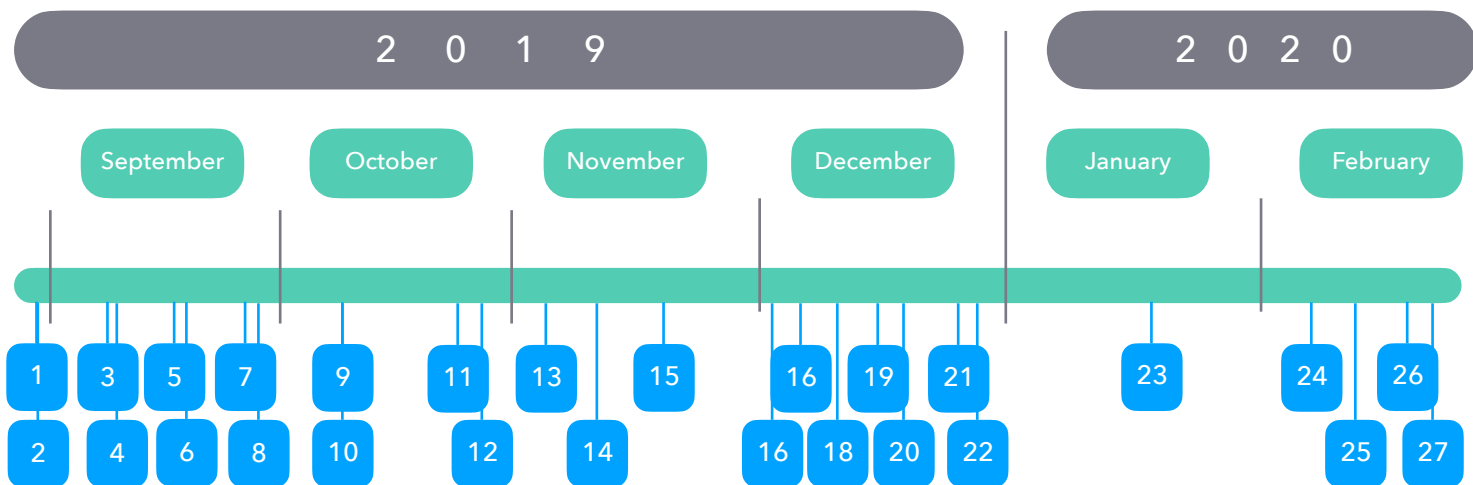


Mission



Fellowship

A Year in Review...



1

Back to School Bingo Night - Aug. 18th: Families filled the sanctuary for games as everyone hoped to win one of the “high quality” prizes from Dollar General. The potluck dinner boasted dishes of every variety.

2

Youth Group Kick-Off - Aug. 18th: Youth and their families joined together in the Youth Room to kick-off the year in a fun way! We met on Sunday Nights throughout the year.

3

Youth Tailgate Party - Sept. 8th: Youth wore their favorite sports team merch as we grilled out and had our Bible Study.

4

Holy Hops Starts Up - Sept. 10th: This was our first Holy Hops gathering at Local Bar - a time of fellowship and theological discussion.

5

Youth Fall Retreat - Sept. 13-15th: Our theme was “Ignite,” and we focused on how God illuminates our lives and places His Spirit’s fire within us to be a light to the world.

6

Team GLPC Begins Training - A casual and fun way to meet and fellowship with others as we walked, jogged, and/or ran in preparation for the upcoming Run For the Children event.

7

Table For 8ish Groups begin - Those who signed up were grouped randomly with other participants and took turns hosting dinners for the group. It was a wonderful way to meet new folks and deepen relationships with others!

8

Women’s Wine Tasting - Sept. 26th: GLPC women gathered to meet, socialize, and deepen relationships.

9

Confirmation Class Begins - Oct. 13th: We had a great group of students and parents gather together to talk about the foundations of the Christian faith.

10

Praise and Worship Night - Oct. 13th: A collective of our various musicians from GLPC joined together to offer a casual praise and worship night in the Youth Room.

11

Trunk-or-Treat - Oct. 26th: Our Children’s Ministry put on this terrific event for our families and surrounding community! We had great participation from GLPC families!

12

The Great Pumpkin Chase - Oct. 27th: Our youth split into teams to endeavor on a competitive city-wide scavenger hunt to find the great pumpkin!

13

Run For the Children - Nov. 2nd: Team GLPC participated in this event for a great cause! We also had a GLPC water stop made up of volunteers from our church!

14

Fall Family Campout - Nov. 9th: Many gathered for a night of fun on the GLPC lawn! We had games, an outdoor movie, campfire, songs, s’mores, and more!

15

Youth Harry Potter Theme Night - Nov. 17th: The youth room was transformed into Hogwarts castle as we enjoyed themed snacks and games leading up to our study.

16

Deck The Halls - Dec. 1st: We gathered to decorate the church for Christmas in a fun way!

17

Drop’n’Shop - Dec. 7th: Youth helped watch GLPC kiddos as parents went to Christmas shopping.

18

Sleigh Ride Supper - Dec. 8th: GLPC’s annual progressive dinner was a wonderful and festive gathering!

19

Women’s Ornament Exchange - Dec. 11th: GLPC women got together to exchange gifts and enjoy time together!

20

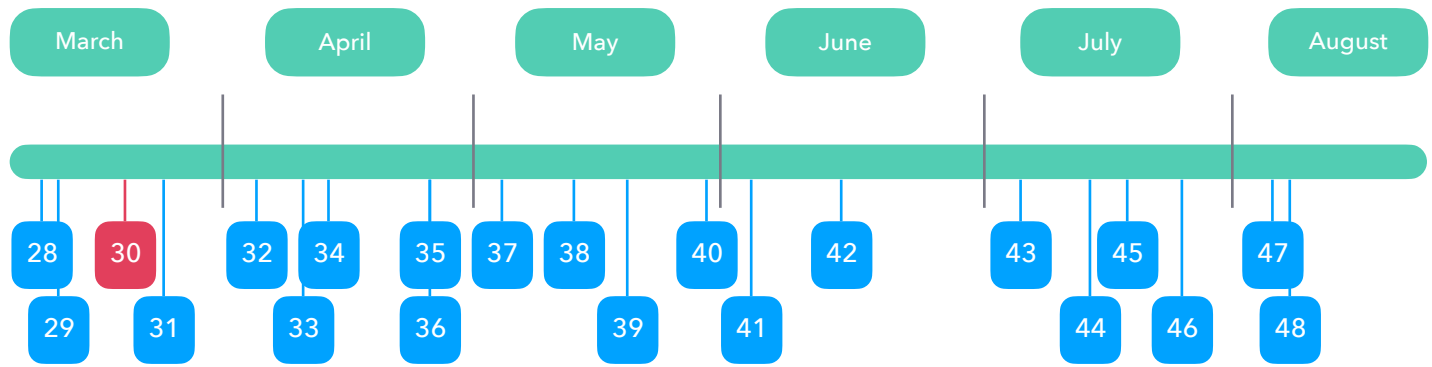
Youth Christmas Party - Dec. 15th: Youth gathered together for a gift exchange and other reindeer games!

21

Christmas Storytime - Dec. 21st: Our GLPC kids and families gathered for a great time of festive fun!

22

GLPC Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Dec. 24th



- 23 Youth Beach Retreat** - Jan. 17-19th: A more relaxing time of retreat, study, and fellowship. We focused in depth on Psalm 86:11.
- 24 Youth Neon Night** - Feb. 9th: We decked out the youth room with neon and black lights and a fun new game of 9 Square-In-The-Air.
- 25 GLPC Valentine's Day Lunch** - Feb. 14th: A time for GLPC members to gather and share support and love for one another.
- 26 Ash Wednesday Service** - Feb. 26th
- 27 Jazz Sunday** - Feb. 23rd: We were led in worship by a wonderful jazz band and after the service held our own GLPC family Mardi Gras parade!
- 28 Men's Top Golf** - Mar. 3rd: A great group of GLPC guys met at Top Golf for an evening of fun!
- 29 Women's Game Night** - Mar. 5th: GLPC women got together for a fun game night!
- 30 COVID Impacts Katy** - Mar. 15th: The first Sunday of COVID restrictions. Church canceled for this Sunday.
- 31 First Online Only Worship Service** - Mar. 22nd
- 32 Palm Sunday Online Service** - Apr. 5th
- 33 Maundy Thursday Online Service** - Apr. 9th
- 34 Easter Sunday Online Service** - Apr. 12th
- 35 Dean's Last Sermon at GLPC** - Apr. 26th

- 36 Dean and Tricia's Car Parade** - Apr. 26th: GLPC showed its love and support for Dean and Tricia by lining up all the way down Peek road to say farewell to them.
- 37 GLPC Hosts Girl Scout Blood Drive** - May 3rd. We had an incredible turnout for this important cause. Enough blood was donated to save 138 lives!
- 38 New GLPC Website Launches**
- 39 GLPC Re-Opening Group Announces Re-Opening Plan**
- 40 Youth Group meets back in person**
- 41 In-Person Sunday Morning Services Resume** - June 7th. Pre-recorded services continue to be offered online.
- 42 Interim Pastor Search Committee begins work**
- 43 GLPC begins Live-Streaming 11am Service** - July 5th
- 44 Virtual VBS** - July 13-15th
- 45 GLPC members elect our Pastor Nominating Committee and our Nominating Committee to elect elders and deacons**
- 46 Rev. Harry Slye Announced as Interim Pastor**
- 47 Graduate Sunday** - Aug. 2nd: GLPC celebrated our graduates and had our first communion together in person since COVID impacted the Katy area.
- 48 Senior Sendoff**— Aug. 6th: Before graduates headed off for college we gathered for an outdoor cookout and blessing party with them

GLPC KIDS

By Jessica Henderson

GLPC Kids has had a fun-filled year! We kicked off the 2019 school year with a revamped Children's Worship time. Children learned why we worship, The Lord's Prayer, and began learning the books of the Old Testament. GLPC member, Tom Wilson, offered his musical talents for a time of praise and worship with the kids. We also added an additional elementary Sunday School class to ensure each child receives age appropriate lessons.



In October, we held our annual Trunk-or-Treat. We shared a great time with the community through decorated cars, awesome costumes, candy, food trucks, and live music.

December brought Drop n' Shop, Christmas Storytime, and our first annual Kids' Christmas Eve Service where children were able to participate in telling and acting out the story of Jesus' birth.

We started 2020 with an exciting new Sunday School curriculum. Though COVID put meeting in-person to a halt, it did not stop us from learning about Jesus together. From the end of March to the present, Sunday School lessons have been emailed to parents to do at home. They include Bible story videos, questions, games, and crafts.

In lieu of our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Easter worship bags filled with activities, crafts, and candy were delivered to kids' homes. In July, children participated in a virtual Vacation Bible School. The children's committee delivered VBS supplies and goodies to the children. Each child also had the opportunity to see what other kids were enjoying VBS with them. Additionally, during the summer, a weekly children's devotional video was posted to our GLPC Kids' Facebook page.



In August, we held a back-to-school car parade where children received special blessing bags along with a back to school prayer. We were also able to begin offering Sunday morning childcare on a limited number basis thanks to our amazing childcare staff.

Currently, our kids are learning about repentance and God's sending judges to turn the Israelite's hearts towards Him. Trunk-or-Treat and other plans for the Fall are TBD.

2020 began with a really great Beach Retreat where we studied Psalm 86:11 in depth which says, “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.” We continued meeting on Sunday Nights - even having a fun Neon Night in the youth

summer trips to Mo Ranch, but those had to be cancelled. We were able to celebrate our graduates in August and send them off with a cookout and words of blessing and encouragement from family and friends.

It has definitely been a year of highs and lows but we continue to do all we can to continue in discipleship and grow both individually and as a group! We are so looking forward to the days, weeks, and months ahead.



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Over the last 12 months, we have seen a lot of happenings in the life of GLPC!

Back to School Bingo Night - Families filled the sanctuary for games as everyone hoped to win one of the "high quality" prizes from Dollar General. The potluck dinner boasted dishes of every variety.



Fall Family Campout - Thanks to Robert Dwyer for helping make the first one so memorable. A great memory was seeing tents spread over the church grounds. We roasted s'mores while Bill Irwin and Tom Wilson led us in songs. Thanks also goes to Suzi Jackson and the Bell Ringers for providing a huge, homemade breakfast. We will have another one when we can do it safely.



Tables for 8ish - Small groups of 8-10 people gathered once a month in each other's homes for appetizers and entrees. Thanks to Connie and Tom Paulson, we all met together at their gorgeous home for desserts. What an amazing way to meet new friends.

Team GLPC - GLPC had a walk/run team as well as a volunteer water stop team to support Run For the Children!



Sleigh Ride Supper - Annual Christmas progressive dinner, a favorite event for many people. We again gathered in each other's homes for appetizers and entrees, then all met together at the beautifully decorated home of Connie and Tom Paulson for desserts. Many thanks to Connie and Tom for offering their gorgeous home each Christmas season.



Mardi Gras Parade - Who can forget Anthony Badalamenti leading our Mardi Gras Parade. A huge thanks to Anthony for making our inaugural parade a fun afternoon for children and adults. Thanks also to Eric Salmon and Tamara Fashi who served our lunch that day.



Women's Activities - Among the activities offered this past year were a Wine Tasting, a Game Night that turned into Two Truths and a Dare, and a Christmas Ornament Exchange. Ladies, be on the lookout for upcoming events, please join us.



GLPC Men's Top Golf

Back on March 3rd, we had a terrific men's outing to Top Golf! The atmosphere was lighthearted and the food was delicious, but the guys who attended made the evening great! We hope to offer more Men's Ministry focused events in the future!



Prime Timers

YES, PrimeTimers is ALIVE and WELL! Prime Timers have played Bingo, attended Movies, taken Day Trips, and had Holiday luncheons. Shutting down for the pandemic meant that in 2020 so far we only had game days in January and February. We are enjoying the on-line Sunday services. Thanks for everyone's efforts. PrimeTimers are just waiting for the All Clear Virus notice so that we may resume the Fun & Fellowship!

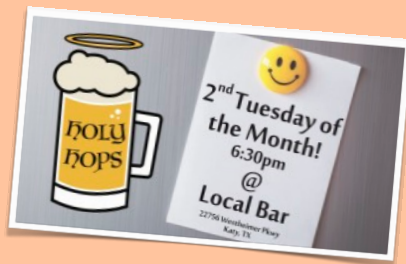


ONGOING & UPCOMING

We are all feeling a bit disconnected from our church family because it has been hard to engage in fellowship. We are working to discover some unique ways to have some socially-distanced fun in the coming months since 2020 has presented challenges.



Family Fun Movie Night, September 11, 6:30 p.m., is our first big event in this new normal that we are adjusting to. Pack up some lawn chairs, a picnic and come watch Disney's "Onward" on the church grounds. The church will be open for restroom use but we are encouraging everyone to stay outside as much as possible.



Holy Hops meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Local Bar Katy restaurant. Join us as we gather to discuss a timely religious topic while catching up with friends or meeting new ones in a relaxed, fun environment.



There is much uncertainty for the next few months with regard to event planning, but be reassured the fun will be back when we can do it safely. Possibilities might be a bonfire night (in lieu of family camping), outdoor caroling night, or outdoor Christmas movie. Have faith...we will be back together soon for some fun and fellowship!

Thanks to committee members Christianna Toler, Linda Utterback, Linda Kershner and Jennifer Badalamenti for helping to make every event we held unforgettable. It is an absolute pleasure to serve as Elder for Fun and Fellowship here at Grand Lakes.

WORSHIP

By Tyler Henderson

The past 6 months have certainly caused churches around the world to adapt in order to provide online services. GLPC's strategy began by offering pre-recording services which premiered on Sunday mornings via Youtube and Facebook. This was done from March to the end of June.



June 7th was our first Sunday of in-person worship services and in July we began live-streaming our in-person services.

Our re-opening workgroup has done a wonderful job to take precautionary measures to keep our congregants as safe as we can.

Lately, since we have seen greater attendance numbers, we will begin offering two worship services (9:00 and 11:00 am).

We continue to caution everyone. If you feel sick or have been in proximity to someone who has COVID-19, please worship with us from home. Additionally, if you are in an at-risk category, we encourage you to worship with us from home as well.

We continue to offer our services on:



Youtube



iTunes Podcast



Facebook



Spotify Podcast

Subscribe to GLPC to stay up-to-date!

COVID Bulletpoints:

- Social Distancing continues
- Masks are required
- Practice personal cleanliness

MISSIONS

By K Adams



One of the many ministries that GLPC supports is Amazing Place. Amazing Place West is a new ministry for Katy which provides evaluations, counseling, programming, community education, and caregiver support for people experiencing mild to moderate dementia. It offers a safe and engaging place for people with dementia to socialize while offering a few hours' respite to family caregivers.

Day Program. Although Covid-19 has paused the in-person program, four hours of virtual care, five days a week, is available through subscription for caregivers.

Connections Programming continues to provide community education, counseling and evaluations, and family support through the Savvy Caregiving Program. The virtual, free 6-week course connects caregivers with an understanding of dementia, its effects on behavior and how to develop strategies for caregiving and decision making.

The Caregiver Support Program is open to the public and currently meeting virtually the 1st Thursdays and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Other programs offered are Brain Health Matters and Memory Training. For a complete schedule visit the Amazing Place website. Grand Lakes can help Amazing Place-West with contributions of support. For more information please contact K Adams, Grand Lakes' representative on the Amazing Place-West Council of Churches, klamsmdiv@gmail.com.

DEACON MINISTRIES

Contact and Connections

Please help us send love, encouragement, and special goodies to the college students and military of our congregation! We are looking for volunteers to "adopt" a student (or

two 😊) for the school year. Your

responsibilities would include: praying for your student(s), sending texts, emails or good old snail mail to check in, sending care packages at special times to let them know that their church family is thinking of them, and meet ups in person when appropriate and possible. Please help us CONNECT with these important members of our congregation by CONNECTING with us TODAY!! Contact Suzi Jackson at connections@grandlakespc.org.



Prayer and Care

If you would like to join our prayer team or if you have a prayer request that you would like our church to be praying for please contact Carol Greene at prayers@grandlakespc.org.

Meals and Memorial Services

GLPC provides meals to individuals and families in times of need. If you would like to partner with our meals team by providing a dish, please contact Cheryl Shafer and Debbie Nichols at meals@grandlakespc.org.



Host and Hospitality

We are always looking for friendly folks to welcome visitors as they walk in the doors of GLPC! We want everyone who comes in to be warmly welcomed and to feel like our community could be a safe place for them and their family. Contact Sarah Priest at hospitality@grandlakespc.org.

Baptism Anniversaries

Rachel Alldred
July 28, 2019

Georgia Theis
August 4, 2019

Aubrey McCauley
September 8, 2019

Leah Stodola
October 6, 2019

Lee Widger
January 26, 2019

Leo Widger
January 26, 2019

Liam Widger
January 26, 2019

Aleah Widger
January 26, 2019

Remembering Our Loved Ones

Ann Van Amberg
September 8, 2019

Ruby Vermont
October 14, 2019

John Moore
December 21, 2019

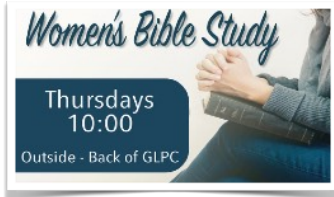
Judy Knoth
April 19, 2020

Mary Wheeler
July 6, 2020

Fred (Ted) Buck
July 21, 2020

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Due to COVID, our Sunday school classes are paused until further notice. However, we do have a few Bible Studies kicking off in September:



Thursdays at 10 a.m. outside of the church near the playground. The group is studying "Matchless" by Angie Smith, this 8-week study searches for the truth as Smith unfolds the story of Christ - His mission, miracles and message. For more information please contact Merry Armentrout at fun@grandlakespc.org.

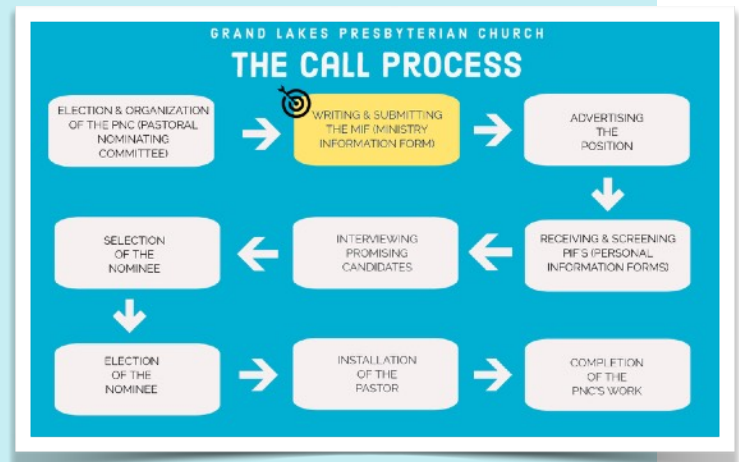


Friday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We will start off with some Fellowship time and then we'll have a short devotional that will focus on the Christian perspective of some current events and will include applicable Scripture readings. If you are interested in joining our group, visiting one of our meetings, or if you would like more information, please contact Judy Adams (judy999@comcast.net).

Pastor Nominating Committee

- by Ashly Latter

Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) have been meeting weekly since mid-July to develop and begin implementing our strategy for finding a new Senior Pastor. Key to that process is developing a Ministry Information Form (MIF) that defines GLPC and the characteristics we want in our new pastor. We hope to have the MIF completed and posted by late September. Please pray for God's guidance in this process.



Recruiting New Lawn Cutting Team Members — by David Shafer

Are you tired of sitting in your house every day and looking for a couple of hours of mental and physical diversion? Join the GLPC Lawn Cutting Team. We have 2 commercial sized Zero-turn mowers that we cut our fields with on a bi-weekly basis, and we are always looking for new volunteers. It is a great way to drive these quick, powerful and fast mowers, and it takes very little training to operate the mowers with very little physical exertion. Ask our 2020 volunteers if you do not believe me: Chris Smith, Jack Kershner, Steve Utterback, Garry Schoonover, Larry Miller, Rob Fore, Dick Huebner, Frank Poysky. Who wouldn't want to join this team of influential folks. For more information, contact David Shafer at Shafer_DL@yahoo.com.

FINANCE REPORT

GLPC Finance Year in Review

As a starting point, let me offer a quick recap of our Operating Budget for 2020. The Session approved an operating budget for the year based on total revenue of \$807,200. 75% of this budget is comprised of Pledge Income, 15% is Non-Pledge income, and 10% is Facilities Use and other miscellaneous income.

Income Report: Through the first 7 months of the year, the church has brought in \$409,000 in revenue (\$388,000 of this amount is Pledge and Non-Pledge contributions). This represents 91% of the budgeted income for this category through July – a shortfall in budgeted pledge dollars of about \$37,000. We are also down almost \$8,000 in facilities use fees since our building has been closed to outside group activities.

While we are down slightly in terms of the rate of our giving, let's also point out that, because of COVID, church attendance year-to-date is down about 163% from the same time last year. This means that our members are doing a fantastic job of utilizing the alternate forms of giving that are available via online or mail in options.

Expense Report: Overall, we are managing expenses well. Year-to-date expenses are \$404,000 compared to \$440,000 which we budgeted for the first seven months. We do anticipate needed repairs in the near future (2 out-of-commission air conditioning units,

several projects relating to the kitchen, and some other lingering repairs).

The bottom line: Factoring in what GLPC has paid toward its building debt year-to-date, GLPC has a cash flow shortfall of \$24,000 through the first 7 months of 2020.



So what does that mean? It means we need to stay focused on managing expenses, and I would ask that we all pray and reflect on the Pledge commitments that were made prior to the start of this highly irregular year.

We have much to say grace over at Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church, and I feel the commitment and faithfulness of our members is at the top of that list. The church is doing “okay.” We have a conservative strategy to managing our cash balances which is why we budget to a break-even level. The goal is to preserve cash, reduce debt, and stay focused on our commitment to “celebrating the grace and glory of God through meaningful worship, study, service, outreach, and caring relationships of our members and community.”

**Be on the lookout for our
2021 stewardship campaign:
“STAY CONNECTED!”**

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Designate Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church as your Amazon Smile charity and GLPC will automatically earn a portion of your order from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)!

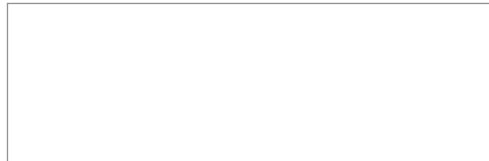
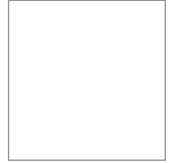
3 Ways to Give

- ① Online at grandlakespc.org
- ② During Worship
- ③ Mail in a check

“God’s people faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes, and dedicated gifts.”
2 Chronicles 31:12



GRAND LAKES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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KATY, TEXAS 77450



Stay up-to-date with the latest news by signing up for
the GLPC Weekly Email Newsletter!

To sign up visit our website:



grandlakespc.org

Follow us on:



A very special thanks to Barb Thornley, Christianna Toler, and all our newsletter contributors! If you would like to submit information for our Winter Connections Newsletter, contact Barb Thornley at newsletter@grandlakespc.org.

GLPC Highlights

In-Person Worship

Services at:

9:00 am

11:00am

Live-Streaming On:

Youtube

Facebook

Find out more
inside our
debut issue of
Connections!

