



WINTER 2020

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



**Worship**



**Discipleship**



**Mission**



**Fellowship**

## Dear Church Family,

Rejoice! This is our fourth quarter newsletter so we are entering our Thanksgiving and Christmas season. This is one more thing the COVID 19 battle will cause us to do differently. This persistent and dangerous virus should keep us being cautious and careful, but it cannot keep us from being thankful and joyful. Are we off our rocker? Was the Apostle Paul a little nuts to write to the church in Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" He sure wasn't living in la-la land, for he had been publicly stripped, beaten, and thrown in jail in that city. We hope you know that story in Acts 16. In his later letter (4:4-7) to his brothers and sisters in Philippi Paul reminded them that the peace of God would, "guard their hearts and mind in Christ Jesus." So it will for us as we care for our families and reconnect with our church family this holiday season! Happy Thanksgiving and Rejoice for Advent and Christmas!

On Behalf of the Session, Pastors, and Staff  
Harry Slye

# WORSHIP

By Tyler Henderson

We continue to offer two in-person worship services at 9:00am and 11:00am. We continue to observe social distancing in our sanctuary. We have seats spaced out to accommodate 25% of our sanctuary's total seating capacity. We ask that attendees wear their mask throughout the service.

Over the past few weeks we have been seeing an increase of attendees. With the return of childcare as well of children's Sunday school during 9am and 11am services, more of our families with young children have been able to attend.

Of course we continue to offer a live-stream of our 11:00am worship services on our GLPC Youtube Channel as well as our GLPC Facebook page! The plans for the live-streaming will continue indefinitely.

Anyone can catch up on a service through any of our social media outlets:



Youtube



iTunes Podcast



Facebook



Spotify Podcast

We encourage everyone to subscribe to our pages and even share our services with those you know.

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.



## Can you believe the holidays are almost here!?

As you can imagine, COVID has caused us to have to re-think how we do almost everything when it comes to group gatherings. Our Advent and Christmas Eve Services are typically our highest attended services. We want to assure everyone that we are doing and will do everything we can in order to hold safe and meaningful worship services. We ask for your patience and understanding. We are currently planning our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services and how they will be coordinated. We will be adding additional services. Be on the lookout for details to come!



Advent 1 - November 29th  
Advent 2 - December 6th  
Advent 3 - December 13th  
Advent 4 - December 20th  
Christmas Eve - December 24th

**Poinsettia orders will begin soon!**



# GLPC KIDS

Our GLPC Kids are enjoying being back together Sunday mornings! We are wearing masks, social distancing, washing our hands, and minimizing communal supplies to ensure the safety of our kids. Childcare and Sunday School are available during both the 9am and 11am services for all kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Signing up your child is recommended as class sizes are limited.



## WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm, we will be hosting an event for our GLPC kids called "Welcome to Bethlehem." Along with hearing the Christmas story, children will be able to go back in time to the sights, sounds, and tastes of what it was like when Jesus was born. Your kids won't want to miss this fun learning experience!

# GLPC YOUTH

## YOUTH BIBLE STUDY!

### SUNDAYS @ 5pm

We are continuing our Sunday Evening Bible Studies! What began as a study looking at biblical characters' lives that we interrupted has turned into a walk through the Bible study. We are currently working our way through the book of Samuel!



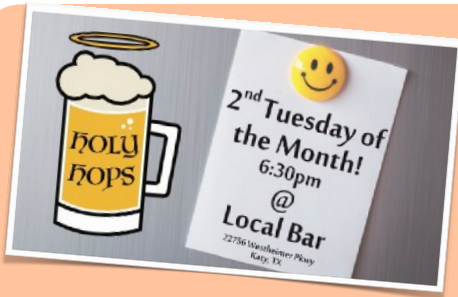
We meet in-person by the back covered area of the church. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own chair, Bible, snack/drink as we study God's word together. Friends are welcome!!

Confirmation will resume soon! Currently we are coordinating with our class members and their families to determine the best way to finish out our class which was interrupted by COVID.



Lastly, we are hoping to plan a Summer 2021 Youth Trip! Be on the lookout for more information to come!

# FUN & FELLOWSHIP



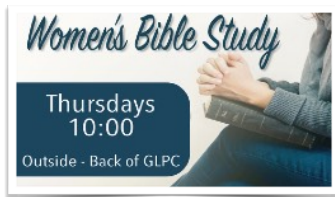
**Holy Hops** meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Local Bar Katy restaurant. Join us as we gather to discuss a timely religious topic while catching up with friends or meeting new ones in a relaxed, fun environment.

## Christmas Campfire Caroling!

Saturday, December 5th at 5pm - GLPC families and friends are invited to join us around the campfire as we sing Christmas songs and enjoy other fun activities! Of course this is pending both with weather and COVID. We will be monitoring both as we near the holiday season.



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



## Women's Thursday Bible Study

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](mailto:fun@grandlakespc.org).



## Women's Friday Bible Study

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](mailto:judy999@comcast.net)).



## Acts of the Apostles Bible Study

Sundays from 5:00-6:00pm via Zoom. This study is open to anyone! Contact George Puig at [g.puig@pkveng.com](mailto:g.puig@pkveng.com).

# MISSIONS

By Laura Joy  
Presbyterian Children's  
Homes & Services

One of GLPC's mission partners is Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Read on to find out more about this wonderful organization!



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services<sup>SM</sup>

## OUR WORK:

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services' (PCHAS) provides Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need since 1903. Our mission is to provide care and support for children and families in need. In the Houston area, we do this through a few different programs: Foster Care and Adoption, Single Parent Family housing, Maternity Services, and our Child and Family program.

We are a faith-based Christian organization which strives to serve like Jesus. We meet our clients where they are and treat them with respect. We focus on our clients' strengths rather than their problems. And we encourage our clients to focus on their future rather than their past. When we do this well, we help children and families find hope and know the love of God. Our philosophy of care is family centered, strength focused and goal driven.

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19:

2020 has been difficult on so many, not least the children and families we serve through this program. The pandemic is causing many families to struggle and really suffer. They are facing job loss, lack of child care, food insecurity and much more. PCHAS has had to think of creative solutions to keep supporting families and children during this time. A few different ways we have responded to the pandemic has been:

- 1) We have increased our outreach funds so that as families have critical needs, such as food, rent and utility assistance or devices for virtually learning.
- 2) Our Child and Family specialists have switched to telehealth for their regular counseling. Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, children who received tutoring from PCHAS increased their reading skills by over 20% and their math skills by over 26%.
- 3) Our Foster Care and Adoption staff are using Telehealth, masks and other personal protective equipment as well as socially distancing when in person visits are needed.

Rather than pulling back, we hope to increase our level of support to children and families who are feeling incredibly vulnerable at this time.

## GET INVOLVED:

Due to the current health crisis, we are currently not conducting any face to face volunteer opportunities. However, PCHAS has opportunities such as back to school time and the holiday seasons to be involved. We offer the opportunity to help with collection drives for tangible items, yielding opportunities to sponsor children and/or help collect and organize these goods. With faithful support from individuals, churches and foundations, we serve 4,500 children and families across three states every year. As stewards of this trust and support, we follow these tenets of excellence to ensure adults achieve self-sufficiency and children are placed into loving, permanent homes.

## KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOOD DRIVE

DON'T FORGET - Donations may be delivered to the church lobby on the 1st SUNDAY of each month!!

## KCM SANTA'S SLEIGH TOY DRIVE

GLPC will be partnering with KCM in their SANTA'S SLEIGH program to provide Christmas presents to children. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor a child!



# DEACON MINISTRIES



## **Contact and Connections**

Our Contact and Connections team led by Suzi Jackson and Emily Trivette have been working hard to connect our college students to a GLPC sponsor. These sponsors are committing to send care packages and notes of encouragement to our college students as they are off at college. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Suzi Jackson and Emily Trivette at [connections@grandlakespc.org](mailto: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 and Claudia Dempsey at [prayers@grandlakespc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hospitality@grandlakespc.org).

## **Pastor Nominating Committee**

- by Ashly Latter

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), elected by the congregation, has been charged with selecting the next Senior Pastor nominee. We have met faithfully for twelve weeks. The congregation is represented well by PNC members from varying age groups with various viewpoints, resulting in thorough considerations of our task. We are glad to tell you that our work, guided by the Holy Spirit, has been cordial and productive and has progressed well.

We have now completed the exhaustive process of defining the Ministry Information Form (MIF) that is used to announce and invite applications for our Senior Pastor position. The Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been approved by our Session and has been sent to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery for their final approval before it can be posted and advertised.

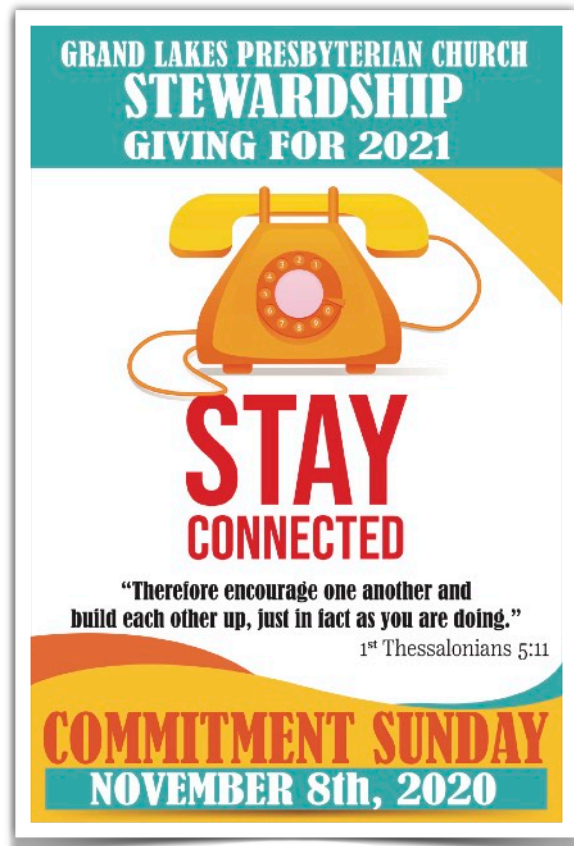


# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

## STAY CONNECTED THRU STEWARDSHIP

We are all stewards of Grand Lakes Church. It is our individual and collective responsibility to support and maintain Grand Lakes in these trying times. We often think of Stewardship as a once a year program where we fill out a pledge card in November pledging a portion of our treasure to the following year. While important, the church has many needs that rely on each of us for support as stewards in teaching, church leadership and simply attending either in person or online. Commitment Sunday, November 8, is soon approaching but that is just the beginning of our stewardship. It is more important than ever that we be fulltime stewards for Grand Lakes in these uncertain times.

**Commitment Sunday is  
November 8th!**



**amazon**smile

**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 [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)!

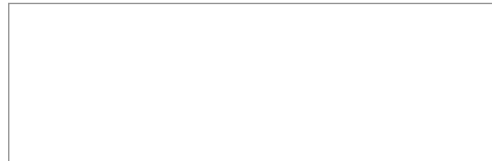
## 3 Ways to Give

- ① Online at [grandlakespc.org](https://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  
6035 SOUTH FRY ROAD  
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:



If you would like to submit information for our next Connections Newsletter,  
please contact Barb Thornley at [newsletter@grandlakespc.org](mailto:newsletter@grandlakespc.org).

## GLPC Highlights

### In-Person Worship

Services at:

9:00 am

11:00am

### Live-Streaming On:

Youtube

Facebook

Find out more  
inside this  
issue of  
**Connections!**