



SPRING 2021

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



Focusing on the Positive

By Barb Thornley

Lately we have been surrounded by the word “cancel”. For a couple of weeks last year church was cancelled, group meetings and activities were cancelled, in-school classes were cancelled. Family get togethers were cancelled, doctor appointments were cancelled. We wondered who would recognize us with beards and ponytails as trips to hair salons were cancelled; and we donned our new accessory, the mask.

It didn't take long for our imaginations to take hold and to develop some innovative ways of dealing with this new, hopefully temporary, lifestyle. Our pastors and session members put together a worship program that reaches out to all of us. Bible studies and children/youth programs have been offered. Adult Bible studies found ways to connect. Mission and outreach continued as much as possible. Inspirations abound! So here is just a short list of things that are not cancelled.

Love and **Kindness** have not been cancelled.

Prayer and **Devotion** have not been cancelled.

Faith and **Hope** have not been cancelled.

Youth and **Zeal** have not been cancelled.

Optimism and **Tomorrow** have not been cancelled.

Relationships have not been cancelled.

These are all reasons to focus on the Positive. These are reasons to look ahead to our future and know that God is with us. He walks with us every day, in every way. **God** is not cancelled.



Worship



Discipleship



Mission



Fellowship

WORSHIP

By Walt Glover

We continue to offer two in-person worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and to observe social distancing in our sanctuary. We ask that attendees wear their mask throughout the service. We also continue to offer live-stream and recorded worship services.

We have just finished the Advent and Christmas seasons with inspiring and joyous Christmas Eve Worship services. We will now be entering the Lenten season, a period for personal reflection and prayer leading up to Easter. Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service on February 17th that will include the imposition of ashes by the pastor on each attendee who chooses to do so.

The ashes symbolize penance and the dust from which we were made and remind us that everything we cling to and even our lives do not last forever. But, rather than falling into nothingness, we fall into everlasting arms.

Additional services during Lent will be Palm Sunday on March 28th to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and Maundy Thursday on April 1st to remember the Last Supper and Jesus' great commission to his disciples (mandate). Then, of course, we will have a joyous Easter service on April 4th.

We continue to caution everyone. If you feel sick or have been in close 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.

Tune in online to our services via:



Youtube



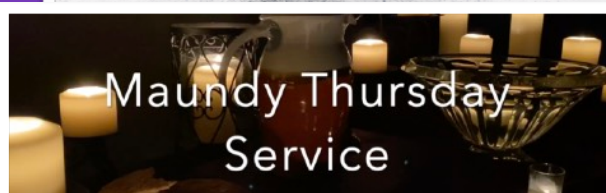
iTunes Podcast



Facebook



Spotify Podcast



A Season of Reflection, Prayer, and Repentance

February 17 - Ash Wednesday
(Service at 7pm)

March 28 - Palm Sunday
(Services at 9am & 11am)

April 1 - Maundy Thursday
(Service at 7pm)

April 2 - Good Friday
(No Service)

April 4 - Easter!!
(Services at 7am, 9am, & 11am)

Easter impatiens flower orders will begin soon!

GLPC KIDS

By Jessica Henderson

We're so excited to see your kids in-person! During both the 9 and 11am services, childcare and Sunday School will be available for all kids through 5th grade. We are wearing masks, social distancing, washing our hands, and minimizing communal supplies to ensure the safety of our kids and staff. Signing up your child is recommended as class sizes are limited. This Spring we are learning about Old Testament prophets. If your family feels more comfortable worshipping from home, Sunday School lessons are emailed to parents each week.



Lenten season is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' resurrection. Pick up a copy of a Lenten devotional for your family at the desk outside the nursery.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, children will have the opportunity during each service to wave palm branches. After the 11am service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and a Resurrection Scavenger Hunt for our GLPC kids. During the scavenger hunt, kids will be able to experience Holy Week in a way that is meaningful to them. Please don't miss out! If you would like to volunteer to host a scavenger hunt station and/or donate egg cartons, please sign up near the welcome center or contact Jessica at glpckids@grandlakespc.org.



GLPC YOUTH

By Tyler Henderson

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY!

SUNDAYS @ 5pm

We are continuing our Sunday Evening Bible Studies! We are currently walking our way through the Old Testament. Weather-permitting we meet in-person by the back covered area of the church. During cold or inclement weather we meet in the Youth Room. Friends are welcome!!



FOUNDATIONS CONFIRMATION CLASS!

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.

YOUTH SUMMER BEACH RETREAT!!!

June 11-14! In light of COVID precautions we are keeping things a little more controlled this year and doing our own retreat. We will be taking some time out and away from the normal rhythms and distractions of the day-to-day to focus on drawing nearer to God.



MEMBERSHIP

SAY "HELLO!" TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We are excited to welcome our two newest members to the Grand Lakes family. If you have been around the church for in-person services, you might recognize Debbie DeLuca who is already jumping in and ushering at the 11:00 service along with her parents, Jim & Judy Thompson. She officially joined our church on December 6. And, thanks in part to some longtime friends who already attend GLPC, René Murphy decided to transfer her membership to our church on January 17. Please give both of them a big "Welcome!" when you see them. If you or someone you know would like more information about becoming a member of GLPC, please contact one of the pastors or email membership@grandlakespc.org.

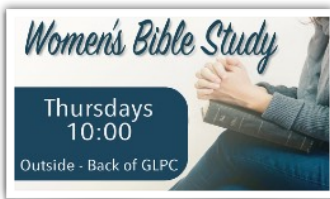


Debbie DeLuca



René Murphy

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



Women's Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays at 10am behind the church. We will begin a study of 1&2 Kings called, "Trustworthy" by Lisa Terkeurst. Please contact Jennifer Malone (jensmalone@msn.com).



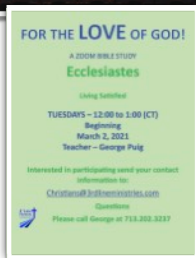
Women's Friday Bible Study

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).



Acts of the Apostles Bible Study

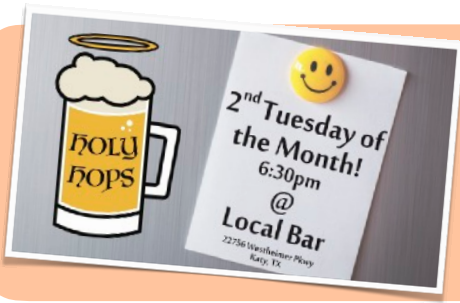
Sundays from 5:00-6:00pm via Zoom. This study is open to anyone! Contact George Puig at g.puig@pkveng.com.



"For The Love of God" Bible Study

Beginning March 2nd, a Zoom Bible study through the book of Ecclesiastes led by George Puig. It will continue on Tuesdays from 12-1pm. For more information, contact George (g.puig@pkveng.com).

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.

By Harry Slye

MISSIONS

A word about Mission from Harry,

Back on the first Sunday in January we asked you to renew our support for the pantry of Katy Christian Ministries – and you did – with 145 lbs of food for those in our community who are struggling with that most basic of needs. Then on the first Sunday in February, you really got into the game with a pile of food items sprawling in our entry room. Our Clerk for the Session, Doug Blalock, packed it into his pickup and hustled it up to KCM. It weighed a total of 378 lbs of food this month! Thank you! The need for food assistance has dramatically increased during the CoVid19 pandemic. People have become unemployed and families who never dreamed they would need help from a community pantry have driven up to ask, “how do I do this?” The KCM folks reported that in 2020 the pantry gave food to an average of 4,000 people per month.

In addition to our gifts of non-perishable food for the KCM pantry, last year our congregation contributed \$7,700 toward the broad range of basic needs ministries that KCM provided in the name of Christ for struggling families and individuals. KCM was the largest of our church’s mission partners in 2020. But you have other mission partners you supported also. We will bring you more information about all of your mission partners this year.

A healthy congregation of disciples of Jesus puts in practice the simplest and hardest of the commands of Jesus, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” That word “as” means two things; it means, “while” we love ourselves, and “as much as” we love ourselves – even when the going gets tough. That’s when Philippians 4:13 comes alive! Look it up.



KCM Food Drive

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



Clothed By Faith

Clothed By Faith - Clothing Donation Drive

Led by one of GLPC's youth - throughout the month of February we are collecting any gently used clothing. It would be so helpful to have the bags labeled by size and gender. Clothed By Faith is always in need of NEW socks and underwear as well, so that is very appreciated. Bins will be available at the church to drop your donations. For more information, email brooklynemoore@yahoo.com.

DEACON MINISTRIES

By Tyler Henderson



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.

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.

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.

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.

The Pastor Nominating Committee has completed and published the Ministry Information Form. The Session will be providing guidance prior to reviewing candidates.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

- ☒ 1. Election & organization of the PNC
- ☒ 2. Writing & submitting the MIF
- ☒ 3. Advertising the Position
- ☐ 4. Receiving & screening PIF'S
- ☐ 5. Interviewing promising candidates
- ☐ 6. Selection of the nominee
- ☐ 7. Election of the nominee
- ☐ 8. Installation of the pastor
- ☐ 9. Completion of the PNC's work

Financial Summary for 2020

To paraphrase the Reverend Henderson, 2020 was an extraordinary year. The financial operations for GLPC were no exception. Highlights for the year are as follows:

Contributions: Thanks to the members and friends of GLPC, contributions for the year totaled 92% of the planned budget. This shortfall in contributions was recovered through a Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan of \$50,000, which has now been forgiven.

Expenses: Church expenses for the year were only 85% of the planned budget, due primarily to the Senior Pastor vacancy and other related employee expenses.

Overall Results: Because total contributions exceeded expenses, the Church was able to add to the cash available for future use. This cash balance is vitally important to the financial health of the Church as 2021 is shaping up to be another “extraordinary” year.

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

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 smile.amazon.com!

**2020 GIVING STATEMENTS
AVAILABLE**
LOG INTO YOUR ACS ACCOUNT
GRANDLAKESPC.ORG/GIVING-YOUR-ACCOUNT

UNDER GIVING CLICK MY GIVING HISTORY – CHANGE THE YEAR TO 2020 – CLICK STATEMENT PDF



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.

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!