



SPRING 2022

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



GREAT EXPECTATIONS THIS SPRING!

By Harry Slye

As you see, this is our GLPC Spring 2022 Newsletter. Three cheers for Spring 2022 - bring it on! But as we are preparing this edition, it is February 4 and one of the frozen coldest days in Katy since that Great Valentines Day Freeze of 2021. We are holding our breath in hopes that the power grid in Texas has been fully winterized and is able to save our bacon this weekend. So it is with "Great Expectations" that we are looking forward to Spring 2022 - at the same time we are trusting our heat and lights to stay on!

That phrase, "Great Expectations" was a memorable title for one of the all-time great novels. We're sure it resulted in "great profits" for "Chuck" Dickens when he published it in weekly serial form from Dec. 1860 to August 1861, and then published it in three volumes in 1861. It was always on the lists of required reading for all of us who grew up in the century that began with a "19." Wikipedia describes it as a story of "triumph of good over evil," pretty much like the movies we watched back in that century. No, we don't think novelists or film makers back then had their heads in the sand. They knew that evil triumphed over good in many people's lives, but they wrote novels and produced films to encourage hope and perseverance and the righting of wrongs.

So, we look forward to Spring 2022, and to the continuing decline of this CoVid business that has been around far too long now. And as people who know God's love for us in Christ, we have great expectations that go much farther into our futures than this Spring 2022. We look forward to welcoming our next pastor for Grand Lakes PC. We look forward to new growth for our worship, fellowship, and our ministries together. We look forward to going deeper in our faith and wider in our witness, as we serve in the mission our Lord has entrusted to us.

From all of us who contributed to this newsletter, come enjoy our great expectations.



Worship



Discipleship



Mission



Fellowship

WORSHIP

Walt Glover
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Worship 101: What's It All About?

As we begin a new church year, it's a good time to pause and reflect on why we worship. Our constitution covers it pretty well. (As a reminder, our PCUSA constitution consists of two volumes: The Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. The Book of Order contains the Directory for Worship.) The following shortened excerpts from the Directory for Worship help remind us why we attend church and worship.

Glory to God

Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving, to the holy, triune God. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world.

Grace and Gratitude

God acts with grace; we respond with gratitude. God claims us as beloved children; we proclaim God's saving love. God redeems us from sin and death; we rejoice in the gift of new life.

Jesus Christ

"Fully human, fully God," Jesus Christ came into the world to show God's love, to save us from sin, and to offer eternal, abundant life to all. In

worship, we study and praise Jesus Christ as the model for our grateful response to God.

The Holy Spirit

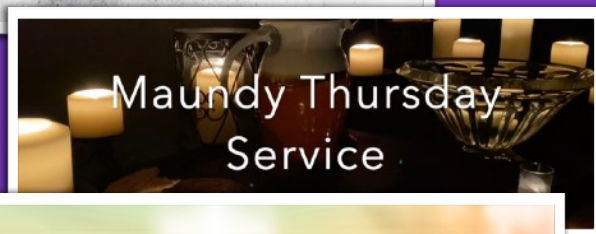
"The giver and renewer of life," the Holy Spirit instills our faith and enables us to follow Jesus Christ. The Scriptures describe how the Spirit moved at the dawn of creation, anointed Christ in baptism, raised Jesus from the dead, and was poured out on the Church at Pentecost. Christian worship affirms to us that the Spirit is still at work in our lives, the life of the Church and the life of the world.

Word and Sacrament

In Christian worship we can have a strong sense of Jesus Christ being truly present and active among us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace, God imparts and sustains our faith, orders our common life, and transforms the world.

Sharing the Good News

A lively and committed worshipping congregation is a great way to reach other people with the Gospel—a primary responsibility of all Christians.



A Season of Reflection, Prayer, and Repentance

March 2 - Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins
(Service at 7pm)

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 14 - Maundy Thursday
(Service at 7pm)

April 17 - Easter!!
(Outdoor Sunrise Service at 7am - *weather permitting*. Also our regular service at 10:30am)

**Easter impatiens flower orders will
begin soon!**

GLPC KIDS

Jessica Henderson
jhenderson@grandlakespc.org



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children's Worship is held each Sunday during our worship service for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children will begin the service with their parents and be dismissed to Faith Express after the Children's Lesson. If you would like to have your child with you during the entire service, worship bags are available outside the sanctuary doors.

CLUB 45

The last Sunday of each month, 5:30-6:30pm in Faith Express. Club 45 is a special time of study and fellowship for 4th and 5th graders as they go on a quest toward a deeper relationship with God. They also get an opportunity to participate in games with the youth!



EASTER FESTIVAL

On Palm Sunday, April 10, children will have the opportunity during the service to wave palm branches. After the service, GLPC Kids will enjoy an Easter egg hunt and resurrection scavenger hunt. Photos with live bunnies will be available. Donations for photos appreciated.



VBS SAVE THE DATE

Starting to make summer plans?!
Reserve June 27th-30th for VBS!
Sign ups will begin soon!

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School is an amazing way for children to become familiar with the Bible and develop a deep relationship with God. Kids are learning stories of the New Testament through The Gospel Project for Kids curriculum. We would love to see your kids there!

GLPC YOUTH

Tyler Henderson
thenderson@grandlakespc.org

YOUTH DISCIPLE GROUP SUNDAYS, 9:30-10:15am

Jr. High and High School students will gather Sunday mornings in the Youth for a time of Bible Study and discussion. We are continuing in our study of the New Testament gospels.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS, 5:00-6:30pm

Jr. High and High School students are welcome and encouraged to join us for a time of weekly biblical Study and fellowship! We have lots of fun theme nights planned, but our focus will always turn toward deepening our relationship with the Lord. Also, friends are welcome!

UPCOMING YOUTH CALENDAR:

- Feb. 20th : Youth Winter Olympics Night
- Feb. 27th : Youth - ZA NIGHT
- Mar. 6th : Youth - March Madness Night
- Mar. 13th : NO YOUTH - SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 20th : Youth Outing - TBD
- Mar. 27th : Youth - Oscars Night
- April 3rd : Youth - Cabbage Ball
- April 10th : Easter egg Help & Youth
- April 17th : NO YOUTH - EASTER
- April 24th : Youth - Oreo Night

YOUTH SUMMER TRIP June 13th - 17th

Highlands Presbyterian Camp, Colorado

This is planned to be a half work trip and half retreat! We will be helping Highlands camp with some much needed work around their facility while also having a great time in study and enjoying the wonderful Colorado outdoors!



BE IN THE KNOW!

Stay up-to-date by signing up for our emails and the Remind 101 app!
Contact Tyler for more info:
thenderson@grandlakespc.org

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

RuthAnn Irwin
education@grandlakespc.org

Joining a small group at church is a wonderful way to grow in your faith. Jesus says, *"When two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Matthew 18:20

Please consider joining a group at church. Spending time together in learning and fellowship together makes our church community and the folks you gather with really feel like a church home! One of the joys of being in a church is the love and support of members for each other. You can only experience this if you get to know your fellow members. What better way is there than to join a small group? We have adult women and men bible studies, a young mom group, adult Sunday school, choir, youth and children's classes that meet each week!

Please also save the date for a fun potluck on Sunday evening, April 24! We will have dinner and a presentation to share with you! We will provide the main dish and drinks and you can bring a side, dessert or both!

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLE GROUPS

The Voyagers

Room 202

An in-depth study of the Bible and is led by a team who use various commentaries to help enhance the lively class discussion.

The Cultivators

Room 209

Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming. The Cultivators Class will cover the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Thursday Bible Study

Room 209

Thursdays at 10am. Please join as we dive into the truths of God's Word through study and friendship.

Women's Friday Bible Study

Faith Express

Fridays at 10am. We are a congenial group of mostly grandmas who love studying the Bible and wonderful fellowship!

Men's Friday Bible Study

Room 209

Fridays at noon. We read aloud and discuss books by renowned theologians along with pertinent Bible passages.

God's Love Story Study

Room 202

Sundays at 5pm. This group walks through books of the Bible and explores God's message of truth for our lives.

MISSIONS

Rodney McCain
missions@grandlakespc.org



KCM Food Drive

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



CanCare provides hope and healing for the cancer community by providing a survivor by the side of anyone facing cancer to create a world where no one faces cancer alone. What clients and volunteers experience when they connect with CanCare is designed to be a refuge in the cancer journey, a place of connection.

CanCare is a nonprofit organization of cancer survivors who would be with a person of same type or treatment of cancer throughout their journey. For more information, please contact our church representative, Carol Greene at walkergirl2@yahoo.com.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Merry Armentrout
fun@grandlakespc.org



SPRING CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP!

Sunday, April 24th, 5:00 p.m.

It is always a great time when we gather together! We will have a food, trivia, and more is in the works. The church will provide the main dish and we are asking folks to bring a side dish or dessert to share. More specifics to come!

Art Fellowship

Thursdays, 10am - 1pm *(Come and go as you like)*

Do you paint, draw, sculpt, or have any other artistic interests? All are welcome to come join us for a time of fellowship. There is no skill level required - it doesn't matter if it's your first attempt or you're a seasoned artist, we enjoy gathering to share our knowledge and encouragement with one another. Please bring your own supplies.

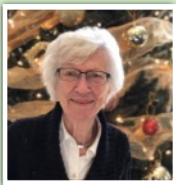


MEMBERSHIP

Christianna Toler
membership@grandlakespc.org

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

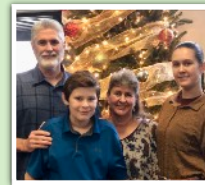
Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church is blessed to welcome so many new members. Some faces you may have already seen now for some time around the church. Other recent new members were ready to join soon after first arriving through our front door. If you would like to place a face with the name, stop by the bulletin board near the stairwell where we have photos of our new members. Please welcome the following folks to our church family:



Phyllis Cramer



**Bill & Gwen Favenesi
and Family**



**Kinton & Julie Lawler
and Family**



**Stella Mitchell
and Family**



**Britt & Megan Mitchell
and Family**



**Richard & Cassie
Harmond and Family**

We also wish to celebrate with Tim and Christin Sears as Rev. Harry Slye conducted their service of holy matrimony on December 28, 2021. Now that's something to sing about!



If you or someone you know would like more information about becoming a member of our church, please let one of our pastors know or contact our membership team by emailing membership@grandlakespc.org or by calling the church office at (281) 646-7500.

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED SAINTS IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Tedi Rainwater

Jackie Westfahl

DEACON MINISTRIES



Contact and Connections

Attention GLPC members!! The Connections Team is looking for volunteers to shower our college students with goodies, motivation & most importantly, prayer for the next school year!! Please consider signing up for this ministry-it is an easy way to get involved in an outreach program of our church while encouraging our youth during a pivotal time in their lives. If you are interested please contact Emily Trivette or 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, Claudia Dempsey, and Christina Diaz 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 Debbie Nichols at meals@grandlakespc.org.



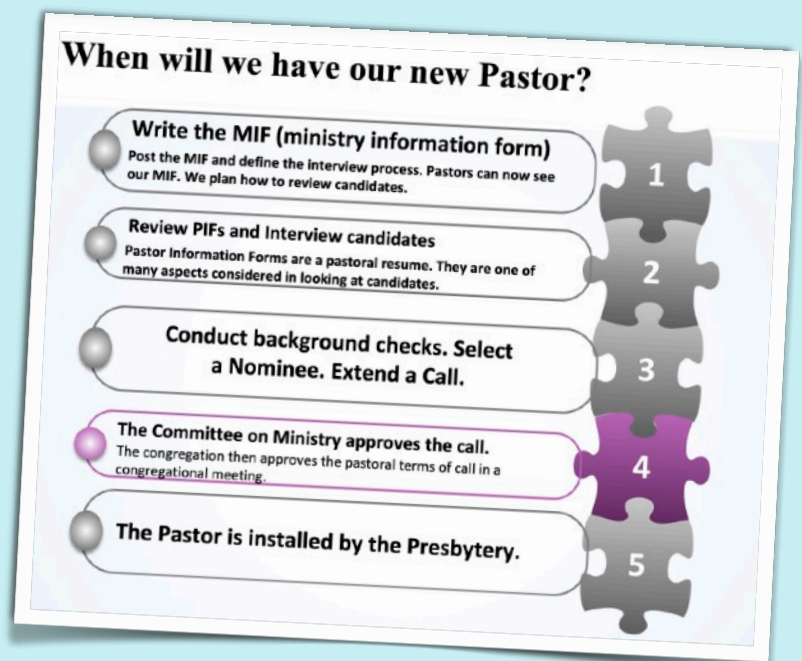
Pastor Nominating Committee

by Lyn Miller

The Pastor Nominating Committee is making excellent progress in finding our new Senior Pastor. We have narrowed our search to a single candidate.

Currently, the candidate is going through the approval process with the Presbytery. We will have more information to share with you soon.

Lyn Miller, co-chair
Garry Schoonover, co-chair
Brian Armentrout
Betty Lou Johnson
Mickey Kohler
Kathy Spelman



GLPC FACILITIES

Anthony Badalamenti
Facilities@grandlakespc.org

Did you know that our sanctuary was officially opened on June 28, 2007? The GLPC campus is comprised of a 23,000 square foot sanctuary and multipurpose building which sits on over 10.5 acres of beautiful trees and lawn.

Like your house, our building and property requires a systematic maintenance/updating program to maintain a safe and fully functional building and grounds. Last year our 14-member mowing team did an excellent job keeping our property clean and freshly mowed. We estimate that this team saved our church at minimum of \$50,000 per year. Our landscape and facilities teams completely redesigned and updated our flower beds, repaired the many sprinkler systems, upgraded 50% of our parking lot

lights and 100% of our facility exterior lights to low voltage LED light and trimmed nine oak trees around the rear entrance and children's playground.

In 2022, our teams have several major updating/maintenance projects identified of which we are beginning to solicit competitive bids. As you can expect, at times there are small projects that need attention, so if you have a couple of free hours one afternoon or evening, please let me know.

Additionally, we would like to expand the church's hand tools inventory beyond its current one hammer, one pair of pliers, two screwdrivers, and four paint brushes. If you have tools that need a new home please consider dropping them off at the church.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Rob Fore
Finance@grandlakespc.org

2021 Financial Recap: 2021 was another strange year for many of us. Grand Lakes elders approved a conservative budget for last year expecting more uncertainty carrying over from 2020. Our pledge numbers for the year represented about a 27% decrease from before the pandemic began. Unsure about what our in-person worship and other face to face activities would look like, we managed expenses extremely well during the year as we aimed to protect the church's resources and the gifts from all of you.

To our delight, the year progressed in an extremely positive direction. In-person worship increased, face to face activities resumed, and giving held strong. We ended the year more or less hitting our expense budget right on the nose. This included some much needed investment in property maintenance as well as fulfilling all of our commitments to Mission. Where we exceeded expectations was in the pledged and non-pledged giving categories. Our goal is always to budget

to a break even number. We ended the year with a six-figure surplus and a significant increase to our cash reserves.

Even more encouraging, we had a successful stewardship campaign led by Jim Thompson which represented a 20% increase to our campaign from the year prior. What does this mean? We will share with you more during our upcoming congregational meeting, but for now we are happy to report that we will be reinvesting this surplus from 2021 and the improved stewardship numbers back into the church. We will be looking at other capital improvements to be completed and we will be looking to grow our programs in youth, adult education, and children's ministries. We are also doubling down on our commitment to Mission. This is all possible thanks to God's love and the faith and support of all of you. Thank you and God bless GLPC in 2022.

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

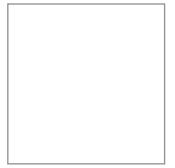
amazonsmile

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!



GRAND LAKES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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 us at newsletter@grandlakespc.org.

GLPC Highlights

SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:
9:30am

In-Person Worship
Service at:
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:
Youtube
Facebook

Find out more
inside this
issue of
Connections!