



SPRING 2023

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



"Come and See!"

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

In John 1:35-51, we see John's account of Jesus' first disciples. It begins with John the Baptist announcing to Andrew and another unnamed disciples (probably John), *"Look the Lamb of God!"* when Jesus passed by. John the Baptist made a public confession of faith, pointed them to Jesus, and they followed him. Likewise, after Andrew encountered Jesus he found his brother Simon Peter saying to him, *"We have found the Messiah!"*, and he brought Peter to meet Jesus. Then the text describes how Jesus encountered Philip and Jesus called Philip to follow him. Philip, then, found Nathanael saying to him, *"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote - Jesus of Nazareth... Come and see."* Nathaniel, even though we see that he had his initial doubts and cynicism encountered Jesus for himself and confessed, *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*

Throughout each of these encounters we see how these first disciples come to make a public profession of their faith in Jesus as they commit to follow him, and it also compelled them to invite others to experience Jesus for themselves. Friends, that should still be our motivation. As we encounter Jesus, profess our faith in him, and follow him in our lives, we ought to be compelled to extend the invitation to others to *"come and see!"* Believe the good news! Jesus is Lord! Jesus is the Son of God! He is the King of kings! Jesus is the living water, the bread of life, the light of life, the resurrection, the vine, the gate, the good shepherd... Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life! God has redeemed us by the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. In Christ we are rescued, forgiven, and set free. All glory be to God! We invite you, dear reader, to *"come and see"*. As a church, let us continue to pray for opportunities to point others to Jesus and to invite them to *"come and see!"*



Worship



Discipleship



Mission



Fellowship

WORSHIP

Kimber Hamilton
worship@grandlakespc.org

Worship is all about the glory of our triune God. Our greatest goal is that our worship services be God exalting, Christ-centered, and inspired by the Holy Spirit. We believe that a service of worship is not something to

be entertained by, but rather something to participate in as we praise God and find our rest in God's grace. It has been our hope to provide an engaging and meaningful worship experience for all.



A Season of Reflection, Prayer, and Repentance

February 22 - Ash Wednesday
(Service at 7pm)

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 6 - Maundy Thursday (Service at 7pm)

April 9 - Easter!!
(Outdoor Sunrise Service at 7:00am - weather permitting. Our regular service is at 10:30am)

Easter impatiens flower
orders will begin soon!

DOWNLOAD THE GLPC APP!

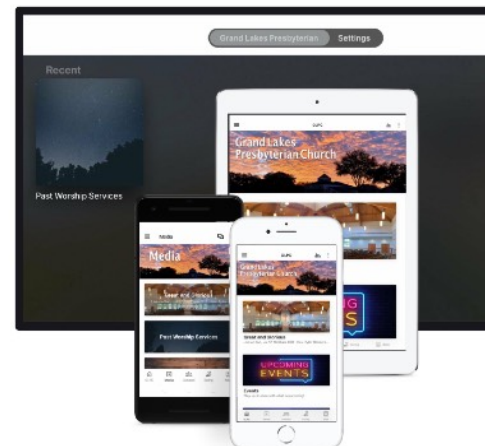
From our app you can:

- Watch our worship services
- Sign in to let us know you're joining us for worship
- Submit prayer requests
- Easily give financially to the ministry of the church
- Sign up for events & share events with others
- Explore info about the church & its various ministries
- Access the Bible
- & MORE!



Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church

Available in App Stores



GLPC KIDS

Jessica Henderson
jhenderson@grandlakespc.org

Marci Alldred
childrens@grandlakespc.org

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held each Sunday at 9:30am & then again during our worship service for Pre-K through 5th grade. Elementary aged children will begin the service with their family and be dismissed to Faith Express after the Children's Lesson. Childcare is available for our youngest kiddos. We would love to see your kids there!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Our children's choir meets Sunday mornings at 10am in Faith Express. Children will sing during the worship service the first Sunday of each month!

EASTER FESTIVAL: On Palm Sunday, April 2, 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.

Monthly Mission Projects

Feb: Grip Socks (Faith in Practice)

March: Easter Basket Goodies (KCM)

April: Diapers & Wipes (PCHAS)

May: Sensory Toys (CASA)



VBS SAVE THE DATE

Starting to make summer plans?! Reserve June 12th-15th for VBS! Sign ups will begin soon!



GLPC Student Ministry SPRING 2023

JAN.

- 1st - Christmas Break - (NO Sunday School or Youth Group)
8th - Youth - Pajama Night
13-15th - WINTER RETREAT WEEKEND!
22nd - Youth (Za-Night)
29th - Youth - Gameshow Showdown

FEB.

5th - "Super" Bowl Night (as in dress like a super hero!)
- 12th - Super Bowl Sunday (NO Youth Group)
19th - Youth (Za-Night)
26th - Youth - Disney Theme Night

MAR.

5th - Youth - March Madness
- 12th - Spring Break (NO Sunday School or Youth)
13-18th Spring Break: Youth Room Workdays (details to come)
19th - Disc Golf Outing at Willowfork Park
26th - Youth - Cabbage Ball

APR.

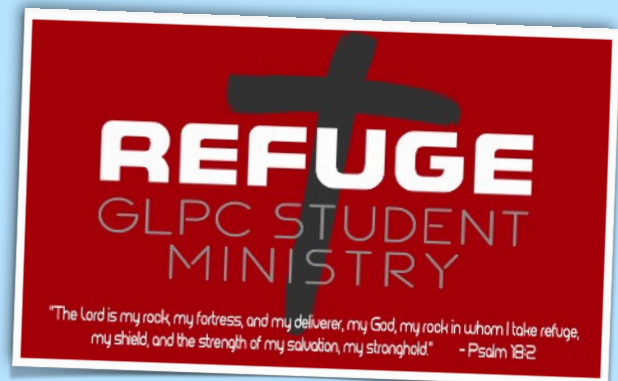
2nd Palm Sunday - Easter Festival & Youth
- 9th - Easter (NO Youth)
17th - Youth (Za-Night)
24th - Youth - Oreo Night
29-30th - Youth Lock-In (NO Youth Group Sunday Night)

MAY

7th - Youth (Za-Night)
- 14th Mother's Day - (NO Youth)
21st - Graduate Sunday & End of Year Party!
- 28th Memorial Day Weekend - (NO Youth)

YOUTH

Joseph Myers
youth@grandlakespc.org



Sunday School @ 9:30am

Join us Sunday mornings in the Youth Room for our weekly Bible lessons and maybe even some donuts!

Sunday Night Youth Group

5:00-6:30pm

All Jr. High & High School students are welcome to join us for a time of Bible Study & fellowship! We have lots of fun theme nights planned. Friends are always welcome!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

RuthAnn Irwin
education@grandlakespc.org

The Apostle Paul encourages the church in Colossae with these words:

*"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,
just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."
(Colossians 2:6-7)*

We believe that rooting ourselves in Bible study with other believers is essential to our call as disciples. We do want to continue our journey in our discipleship groups as we meet together and study God's word. We have several ongoing classes that meet on Sunday mornings as well as Bible studies that meet during the weekdays. Please join us as we gather together!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday mornings, 9:30am

The Voyagers

Room 202

In-depth study of the Bible led by a team who use various commentaries to help enhance the lively class discussion. Meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

The Cultivators

Room 209

The Cultivators Class is a lively discussion-oriented group for on-the-go adults seeking to understand how to apply scripture to daily life. We will be unpacking The Bible from its ancient origins to what each book offers a modern reader. Come as you are – no experience necessary!

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Thursday Bible Study

Room 209

We meet Thursday at 10am and we would love to have you join us! Our studies vary, and we always enjoy great discussion!

Women's Friday Bible Study

Room 209

Fridays at 10am. This class has a goal to grow an understanding of God's word and to deepen our relationship with Him by studying the Bible as well as Bible studies by other theologians.

Men's Friday Bible Study

Room 209

Fridays at noon. We read aloud and discuss books by renowned theologians along with pertinent Bible passages, always from a Reformed perspective.



GLPC has a church subscription to RightNow Media - which means that **YOU** have free access to all of the content on RightNow Media! What is RightNow media? Think Netflix for Bible study and Christian-based content. It has many wonderful studies and exciting programs for all ages. Check it out and see what's right for you and your family! We hope that it inspires you in your faith journeys.

You can sign into your account from any computer, smart phone, tablet or smart TV device such as AppleTV, Roku, FireTV, etc. Not only that, you can invite any of your friends to join for free through our GLPC link! You can also start your own community group study from your home, and even set up virtual watch groups for those who can't make it in person.



How do I make my own account??

- Scan the QR code with your phone's camera.
- Or, go to: www.grandlakespc.org/rightnowmedia



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bonnie Pankina
fun@grandlakespc.org

GLPC is ready to shake off the "cold" weather and welcome spring!

There are several upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

March 24th at 5:30pm - Freshen Up & Fun Night
(For more info, see the Facilities section)



April 22nd - Space Cowboys Game
Tickets are only \$10!
Space is limited. Please sign up by April 10th.

April 30th - 5th Sunday Picnic Salad Potluck
Bring your favorite "picnic style" dish for a fun potluck after our service of worship!



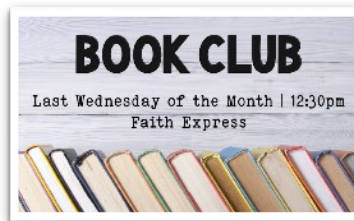
Don't forget about our regular Fun & Fellowship offerings!

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.



Table for 8-ish
Connect with a group of 8-9 people once a month for a meal and fellowship to create lasting friendships.



Book Club
Join us the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 in Faith Express to discuss various books while spending time with one another.



Prime Timers
Prime Timers Games Day gathers the first Tuesday of the month from 10-12:00. For more info contact: Verna Powers or Betty Lou Johnson.



Quilters
Bring your quilting projects Thursdays at 1pm and enjoy fellowship with others.

MISSIONS

Rodney McCain
missions@grandlakespc.org

Here is a quick snapshot on some of the things we did as a congregation in 2022:

KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (KCM)

- Debbie DeLuca joined the KCM Board of Directors. She joined subcommittees and is doing great work along with George Puig
- 1,800 pounds of food were donated to KCM Food Pantry (*This feeds approximately 600 people!*)
- 26 members participated in 2 Community Food Fair events
- Adopted 15 children for their Santa Sleigh toy drive
- Red Apple Back to School, school supply drive

PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME (PCHAS)

- Expanded our partnership with PCHAS by participating in their Christmas toy drive, 12 children were adopted
- Back to school supplies drive
- Board game drive
- Expanded monetary donations to help with their mission
- A church member became mentor for PCHAS kids
- Christmas ornament drive where PCHAS was the benefactor

OTHER NOTABLE 2022 ACTIVITIES

- Mission partners brought in for Minute for Mission including Amazing Place, Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CASA), KCM and PCHAS
- Monetary donations for Amazing Place and CASA
- Partnered with ARC of Katy with a donation for them to purchase iPads and other supplies to help with their ministry of working with special needs children and adults
- Supported Honorio Theodoro on his Mission Trip to El Salvador

Vision in 2023

There will be more volunteer opportunities for the congregation to go 'Beyond These Doors' and help the greater Katy community. We look forward to having the congregation support our mission partners in these donation and volunteering endeavors. We feel God is calling us to expand our partnerships with these Mission Partners this year.

Also, the Mission Team is always looking for new members, so if anyone is interested, please reach out to Rodney McCain at missions@grandlakespc.org.

KCM Food Drive

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



DEACON MINISTRIES



Contact & Connections

The CONNECTIONS TEAM stays connected with our students who are away at college. If you have interest in being a part of this ministry please contact us at connections@grandlakespc.org.

Prayer & 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 us at prayers@grandlakespc.org.

Meals & 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 us at meals@grandlakespc.org.

GLPC FACILITIES

Anthony Badalamenti
Facilities@grandlakespc.org

The facility and Grounds Team's mission is to provide a safe, attractive and fully functional facility and grounds to service the GLPC members and our community partners. In 2022, we had a number of projects that we accomplished such as:

- Installed 24/7/365 real-time cameras
- Contracted Katy Constable for Sunday Service
- Front entry camera and electronic unlocking system
- Repaired and replaced rotted wood, damaged hardy boards, recalled and painted all non-brick siding
- Maintained flower beds and seasonal color plants
- Doubled the internet speed to support on-line services
- Began migration from current lights to LED

We believe that God has provided us with the ways and means to provide an extension of the church's mission to our members and community partners. If the use of our grounds and facility can provide a way to prevent at least one young person from getting into trouble then it more than all of our volunteers sweat equity, time and money is well spent.



March 24th at 5:30pm

As the church we want to be good stewards of the resources the Lord has entrusted to us - our building and grounds included. We would love to have you help us freshen things up for Spring! We will have food and, of course, it is a great way to build fellowship with one another.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

David Shafer
Finance@grandlakespc.org

2022 Financial Recap: Overall, 2022 finished off well. Our income was slightly less than budget, but so were our expenses leaving us with a net income of \$16,843. We have maintained level position in our cash reserves, ahead of our 6 months of operating expense target. We invested in property repairs, technology upgrades, and facility security, and Mission funding.

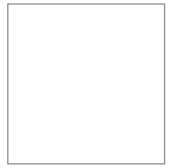
Envisioning 2023: We do face some challenges, but challenges that we feel are manageable. As we were expecting from the slowing economy this fall, our average pledge dollars are down. We have also had a few pledging members move away which reduced our total number of 2023 pledges. In addition, our expenses are going up. One significant area of increase is the interest payments on our loans which are set to reset mid-year which will increase our obligation by \$25,000 for 6 months (meaning that 2024 and beyond will be an increase of \$50,000). We are however looking into other options in an effort to reduce that

figure. The Session has approved a deficit budget for 2023 of \$51,126. On top of this, we still have to calculate our loan principle payments which amount to another \$60,000. The goal is to end 2023 on track with budget while also maintaining our target of 6 months of operating cash. The church is not facing a dire financial crisis, has a comfortable cash reserve, has an experienced and dedicated finance committee and Session, and is well positioned for growth in both spirit and involvement.





GRAND LAKES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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KATY, TEXAS 77450



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If you would like to submit information for our next Connections Newsletter, please contact Barb Thornley at newsletter@grandlakespc.org.

GLPC Highlights

SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:
9:30am

Worship:
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:
The GLPC APP
Youtube
Facebook

Find out more
inside this
issue of
Connections!