



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



"Heaven and Nature Sing"

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

I absolutely love our Christmas Eve Candlelight services. It's the service I most look forward to throughout the year - which I suspect it is for many. Aside from singing Silent Night as candlelight fills the sanctuary with a heartwarming glow, one of my favorite parts of the service is singing the final hymn, "Joy to the World". You probably know the words by heart:

*"Joy to the World! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!"*

First published in 1719, this wonderful hymn was written by the famous English minister and hymn writer, Isaac Watts. In writing this hymn, Watts was inspired by Psalm 98. What you may find interesting is that Watts did not write it as a Christmas hymn. If you read the words of the hymn, nowhere does it mention anything of Jesus' birth. What Watts had in mind was an anticipation of Christ's second coming when King Jesus returns in glory.

However, I do not want that to dissuade you from singing it during the Christmas season, for the season of Advent is a season where we both look back with joy at Jesus' first coming while we also look forward with hope to Jesus' second coming. As the words of the hymn describe, consider the blessed image of all heaven and nature singing praise to our King!

This Advent season I hope you will sing with joy and hope as we celebrate together Jesus our Lord and Savior.



Worship



Discipleship



Mission



Fellowship

Christmas at Grand



Deck the Halls

Saturday, December 2

Calling all elves! Who enjoys decorating for Christmas?! This is for people of all ages! Come join us as we decorate the church building in all its festive Christmas decor! This will be a fun time of service and fellowship as we decorate, sing songs, and we will even have pizza, hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies! Bring the kids!



Join us for the season of Advent!

December 3rd - Hope

December 10th - Peace

December 17th - Joy

December 24th - Love

Christmas Poinsettias

You can help grace our Christmas Eve worship services with poinsettias from Brookwood Community. Each plant is \$12. Order forms are available at the church and forms are due by **December 12th!**

(You may take home your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service.)



GLPC Christmas Ornament Fundraiser

We still have ornaments available - the proceeds of which go to support Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services. You can give your donation in the GLPC app, online, or at the table in the foyer!

KCM Santa's Sleigh Toy Drive

How to sign up? Email Rodney McCain at missions@grandlakespc.org with any questions you may have or the number of children you would like to adopt. Rodney will email you the information on the child(ren) and their wish lists.

Due date? Please make sure your gifts are dropped off at the church by Sunday morning, Dec. 3rd



Lakes Presbyterian!



Sleigh Ride Supper

Saturday, December 9th, 5:00-8:30pm

It's time for our annual progressive-style dinner! Enjoy dinner from Hasta la Pasta at host homes followed by dessert & fun at the Paulsons'. See the Fun & Fellowship page for more information.

GLPC KIDS Welcome to Bethlehem

Saturday, December 16th 2-4pm in Faith Express

Kids will get the chance to journey back in time to discover what life was like in Bethlehem during the time of Jesus' birth.



Club 45 Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th, 3:30-5:00pm

4th & 5th graders are invited for an afternoon of Christmas fun in the Club 45 room! Bring a wrapped gift <\$10.

Youth Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 17th, 5-7pm

All youth are invited to join us at the Favenesi's for a night of dinner and fun! Bring a White Elephant gift of <\$15!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th, 5:30pm

We hope that all will join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve service! This is always a very special night of worship as we remember the significance of Christ's birth. Childcare available.

Note: Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, we will NOT have a Sunday morning service.





Jessica Henderson
jhenderson@grandlakespc.org

Marci Alldred
childrens@grandlakespc.org



CLUB 45 CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Sunday, December 17th from 3:30-5:00pm in the Club 45 room. Please bring a wrapped gift under \$10 for a fun gift exchange!



WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM will give kids an opportunity to experience the Bethlehem marketplace during the time of Jesus' birth! Hope your family can join us Saturday, December 16 from 2-4pm for pottery, carpentry, local cuisine, stable animals, and more!



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. 4th & 5th graders will now meet upstairs in Room 210 in a room just their own! Childcare is available for our youngest kiddos. We would love to see your kids there!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR practices each Sunday morning at 10am in Faith Express! Children will sing in the service the 2nd Sunday of each month. Hope your kids can join the fun!



CLUB 45 is a special time for 4th & 5th graders the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30pm upstairs in Room 210! We engage in Bible study, play games, create art, and enjoy a time to hang out with the youth! (December 17th meeting time will be 3:30-5:00pm.)

No Sunday School Sunday, December 31

No Sunday School or childcare at 9:30am. Childcare will be available for kids 1st grade and younger during the worship service.



YOUTH

Jolene Myers
youth@grandlakespc.org



We had so much fun on Fall Retreat at Mo Ranch this year, studying God's word and building relationships with each other. The Great Pumpkin chase took us to several locations through twists and turns. He was tricky and fast but he was captured...until next year!

We have many exciting activities coming up through the holidays so please watch the calendar and messages from the GLPC app!



Weekly:

Sunday School / Confirmation @ 9:30am

Join us Sunday mornings in the Youth Room
for our weekly Bible lessons.

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!
Friends are always welcome!



Spring 2024 Sneak Peek!

GLPC Student Ministry SPRING 2024

JAN.

7th - Youth - Pajama Night
14th - Youth - Lego Night
21st - Youth - Breakfast for Dinner
28th - Youth - Gameshow Showdown

FEB.

4th - "Super" Bowl Night (as in dress like a super hero!)
- 11th - Super Bowl Sunday (NO Youth Group)
16-17th - Youth Lock-In (NO Youth Group Sunday Night)
25th - Youth (Za-Night)

MAR.

3rd - Youth - March Madness
- 10th - Spring Break (NO Sunday S.S. or Youth)
17th - Disc Golf Outing at Willowfork Park
24th - Palm Sunday - Easter Festival & Youth
- 31st - Easter (NO Youth)

APR.

7th - Youth (Za-Night)
14th - Youth - Disney Theme Night
21st - Youth - Oreo Night
28th - Youth (Za-Night)

MAY

5th - Youth - Cabbage Ball
- 12th - Mother's Day - (NO Youth)
19th - Graduate Sunday!
- 26th - Memorial Day Weekend - (NO Youth)



MISSIONS

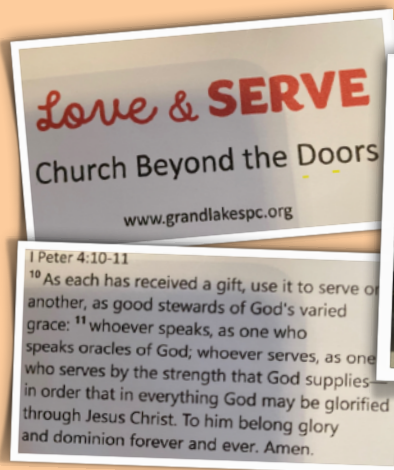
RECAP: GLPC Mission Sunday!!

Mission Sunday 2023 was a huge success, and the Mission Team wants to thank everyone who was able to participate in the projects and to those that volunteered to be the project lead. At least 82 volunteers gave their time to support six different mission projects that helped six different organizations: Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Katy Christian Ministries (KCM), Presbyterian Children's Home (PCHAS) and Roosevelt Alexander Elementary. In addition to these organizations, countless individuals were shown appreciation and thanks through Acts of Kindness. Thanks to Fun & Fellowship for coordinating the meals.



Acts of Kindness

13 volunteers went out into the community to recognize First Responders and Willow Fork Alzheimer's Special Care Center. Also, countless individuals were handed cash to help pay for necessities, groceries and/or lunch. Volunteers handed the below card referencing Peter 4:10-11 : As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another...



Roosevelt Alexander Elementary

Approximately 25 volunteers put together 'Thank You' bags for all 135 staff at Alexander. The bags contained apples, caramel cups, corn snack puffs, gum, pretzels and handwritten 'Thank You' cards. The bags were delivered that afternoon, and the staff was very appreciative.

Cat & Dog Toys

Bonnie and Jessica and a handful of the kids made much needed cat and dog toys. The CAP volunteers were very thankful for the toys.



Katy Christian Ministry : Resale Store

Approximately 28 volunteers drove to the KCM resale store in Kingsland Blvd and helped clean floors and windows, straighten shelves, dress mannequins, organize clothes and toys, restock shelves etc... KCM was beyond excited about the hard work this team put in as the very next day, donors were given a tour of the resale store and presented KCM with a check.



Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services Single Parent Family Facility

16 volunteers drove down to the PCHAS duplex complex which is comprised of four sets of duplexes where single parents and children live as they help transform their own lives. The team planted new bushes, mulched, power washed and performed some other cleanup tasks. And just like KCM, our timing was perfect as donors visited the duplexes the following day.

Sewing Projects

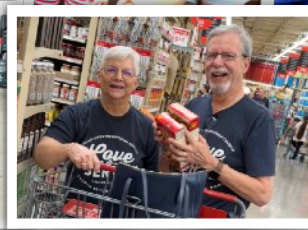
Approximately 16 volunteers sewed pillowcases and stockings which the benefactors will be CASA and PCHAS. Prior to this event, the sewing group sewed 50 Christmas stockings of which 30 will be filled with goodies for the KCM and PCHAS toy drives and the remaining 20 will be given to CASA.



KCM DONATION DAY!!

After worship on Sunday, Nov. 5th, our church went to HEB to purchase food and goods for Katy Christian Ministries' Food Pantry. We collected an incredible 1,416 lbs of food and goods!

Many of us were also able to interact with a number of workers and shoppers to share what we were doing and even some of them joined in our donations!



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bonnie Pankina
fun@grandlakespc.org

WEEKLY EVENTS



Art Fellowship

All are welcome Thursdays, 10am - 1pm (come & go). There is no skill level required! Please bring your own supplies.



Quilters

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

MONTHLY EVENTS



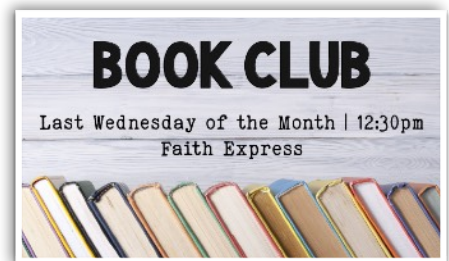
Prime Timers

Prime Timers Games Day gathers the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00-12:00pm.



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

Meets the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 in Faith Express.

ONE-TIME EVENTS



Sleigh Ride Supper

All who sign up will be assigned to a small group and a home where you will enjoy dinner from Hasta La Pasta before gathering together at the Paulson's for dessert and fun! \$10/person. Register at the church, through the website, or the GLPC app!



SCAN ME



Grace to Table Cookbooks

Our "Grace to Table" cookbooks have arrived! Cookbooks are \$15 and net proceeds will go to support our youth ministry! Cookbooks may be purchased with cash, check, or online with the purchase link.



SCAN ME

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Deluca
membership@grandlakespc.org

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

It is my honor to present the following new members to the Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church family!



The Kleyn Family (Eugene, Elmarie, and their son Nicolas) have joined our church by letter of transfer of membership from Durbanville, South Africa. Welcome to the family! We are glad you found us!

Our door is always open for new members, so if you or someone you know would like more information about becoming a member of our church, please make yourself known to Reverend Tyler Henderson, by emailing our membership team (membership@grandlakespc.org), or call the church office at 281-646-7500.

Our church family mourns the loss of lovely member Marsha Huebner.

GLPC FACILITIES

Anthony Badalamenti
Facilities@grandlakespc.org

This past Fall we made some big updates to our facility. We opened up a wall to create a singular, visible, and welcoming check-in area for our children's ministry. Not only will this enhance our engagement with families (especially first time visitors with kids), but it will also help us have a more secure process. We have also created a fellowship space where folks will be able to gather to greet one another over their morning cup of church coffee and donuts. It will also be a good space to stage food for future potlucks and other activities. This project was made possible by a generous grant awarded to the church by the Stoller Foundation. While major construction is done, painting is still underway! If you have an interest in lending a hand, let us know.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

RuthAnn Irwin
education@grandlakespc.org

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.



rightnow MEDIA GLPC has a church subscription to RightNow Media - which means you can too (for free)!

What is RightNow media? Think Netflix for Bible study and Christian-based content. 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!

How can you make your own account??

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



SCAN ME

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!

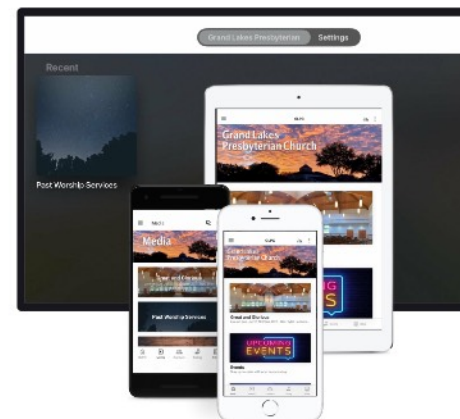


SCAN ME



Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church

Available in App Stores



How are we doing?

In spite of what seemed to be an uphill road at the beginning of 2023, our congregation is on track to be well in balance by the end of this year. Much of this balancing of the budget can be attributed to not only the membership heeding the call to fulfill our obligation to care for our church financially, but also to the refinancing of the building and property loans. Additionally Grand Lakes received two grants that allowed us to reimagine some underutilized space within our building as well as upgrade or replace some of our audio-visual equipment. In the meantime, the finance committee is keeping a constant vigil over caring for the needs of our worship space with an eye on potential future capital projects as our facilities continue to age.

Commitment Sunday was November 12th. It was an important day in our church's yearly calendar where we recommit ourselves (individually and corporately) to the Lord.

It is understood that making a pledge to financially support our Church is an expression of our Faith. This year we have decided to take a different approach to stewardship. Rather than conduct our campaign to see what we have to work with when it is over, we instead are taking a vision-forward approach to let you know that we have set a goal for 2024.

We have diligently worked through what we feel it will take to fund all that we wish to do here at Grand Lakes Pres. We have set a pledge goal of \$550,000 that needs to be reached in order to do all of the things we have planned for this coming year. We feel strongly and positively about where the church is headed and have great expectations. Between the pledges and other income that finds its way to us throughout the year, we feel like we can address all four of the important pillars of our church: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, & Mission.

Lastly, a BIG THANK YOU to JIM THOMPSON who has once again given generously of his time to spearhead our stewardship campaign. What a blessing!

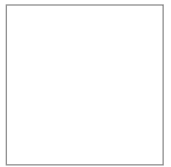


While November 12th marked the official day of commitment for our church, we will continue to collect pledge cards until the end of the year for those who missed getting them in. Simply drop your card off at the church, mail it in, or place it in the offering plate during the worship service.





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!