



SPRING 2024

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



“*Here Comes the Sun... doo-d-doo-doo*”

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

I wonder if you have any plans on Monday, April 8 of this year? In case you do not know, that is the day of the next total solar eclipse that will cross right across the heart of Texas. The path of totality will be west of Houston so you would have to go to the other side of San Antonio or north to the Dallas area. If you plan on seeing it, hope for clear skies and don't forget your solar glasses!

As you know, a solar eclipse occurs when the moon creates a blockage of the light from the sun. The shadow of the moon on the earth figuratively turns day into night. An eclipse does not destroy the light or the source of the light, it only hides it and as it casts its shadow.

Spiritually, sin also creates an eclipse. In a sense, sin is anything that we place between us and God. The more we focus on that thing and the bigger we make it in our lives, the more we allow it to block the light of God in our hearts. Just like a solar eclipse does not destroy the source of the light - the sun, neither does sin do anything to destroy the source of our spiritual light - God's Son.

In one of his parables in Mark 4, Jesus asks, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?" It is a rhetorical question that Jesus asks, but one that should cause us to pause and reflect upon. The season of Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and prayer where we strive to remove obstacles that hinder our devotion to the Lord. I wonder if during this season of Lent you might take a close look at those things that obscure God's light upon your life. So I ask us to reflect on this question: *"What do we allow in our lives to eclipse the light of God?"* Let us remove the shadow of sin upon our hearts. My prayer for us individually, and as a church, is that we would radiantly reflect the glorious light of our Savior, Jesus.



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.

ASH
WEDNESDAY

Lent

Maundy Thursday
Service

HE IS RISEN
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

A Season of Reflection, Prayer, and Repentance

February 14 - Ash Wednesday
(Service at 6:30pm)

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday
(Service at 7pm)

March 31 - 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!

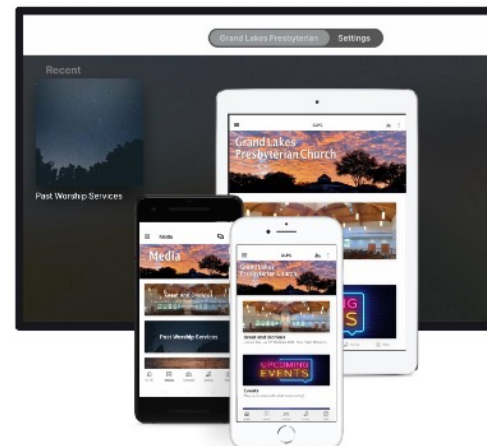
From our app you can:

- 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



MISSIONS

Rodney McCain
missions@grandlakespc.org

2024 is off and running and we are excited for more opportunities for GLPC to go 'Beyond The Doors' in its mission to love and serve. Below are a few efforts in the works for this Spring.



Love & Serve Day

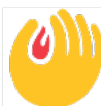
Sunday, May 4 - immediately following worship

Just like we did this past November, everyone is encouraged to wear their "Love & Serve" t-shirts to church on Sunday, May 4. If you do not have a shirt, we will have some available to pick up on the Sundays leading up to that day.

After the service concludes, we would love to have as many GLPC'ers as possible to drive over to H-E-B on Fry and 99 to purchase donations for KCM's Food Pantry. A truck will be available right outside H-E-B to collect the donations.



Faith in Practice



Faith In Practice
Life Changing Medical Mission



For over 30 years Faith in Practice has been medical care to the needy in Guatemala. According to the World Bank, in 2020, approx. 47% of the total population of 17 million lived under the poverty line. Guatemala also has the 4th highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world. Compounding the problem, the healthcare system is broken. The hospitals that do exist are only open 4 hours a day and are often closed for weeks due to lack of supplies and medicines. Patients are expected to pay for tests, medicines, anything needed beyond the physician's consult.

Through long-term partnerships and relationships, Faith In Practice (FIP) has developed that trust and it has given that trust to those with whom it partners. This long-term commitment, going deep rather than wide, empowers the local community to serve, it ensures transparency, and it produces results. FIP cannot eradicate systemic poverty, but it can strengthen and support local Guatemalans so that together we can improve the healthcare of the poor.

GLPC members, Cam & Paige Dean, have been actively involved with FIP for many years and this year they are bringing Pastor Tyler along with them. The trip dates are set for April 27 - May 4. Be on the look out for more information on how we can support this mission!



KCM Monthly Food Drive

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

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

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 meets Sunday mornings at 10am in Faith Express. Children will sing during the worship service the second Sunday of each month!

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: March 23rd from 2-4pm in Faith Express, children will go on a fun & impactful Easter journey to catch a glimpse of Jesus & reflect on His love through the power of His sacrifice!

EASTER EGG HUNT: Palm Sunday, March 24th, children will have the opportunity during the service to wave palm branches. After the service, GLPC Kids will enjoy an Easter egg hunt and receive a bag full of goodies!

CLUB 45 is a great time for 4th & 5th graders the third Sunday of each month from 4-5:30pm to dig into God's Word, have fun, & spend time with the youth group!



VBS SAVE THE DATE

Starting to make summer plans?!

Reserve June 3rd-6th for VBS!

Sign ups will begin soon!

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)

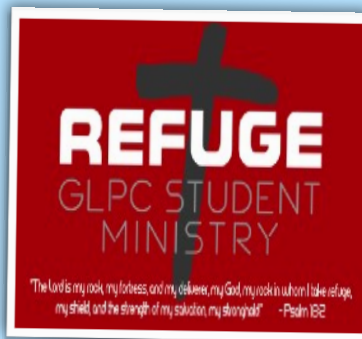
YOUTH

Jolene Myers
youth@grandlakespc.org

Foundations - Sunday School

9:30am

In this class we have been studying the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. All youth 6th grade - 12 grade are welcome to join!



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

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.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bonnie Pankina
fun@grandlakespc.org

Check Out What We Have Coming Up!!

Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday, February 24th at 5pm bring your favorite beverage and/or appetizer and come in costume for a fun evening of 'Whodunit?'



Spring into Action

In March, we will be teaming up with our Facilities team to beautify the church inside & out, so stayed tuned for more info!



Trivia Night will be back April 21st at 5pm! Brush up on your general knowledge & join us for food, fun prizes, & 'GLPC Genius' bragging rights!

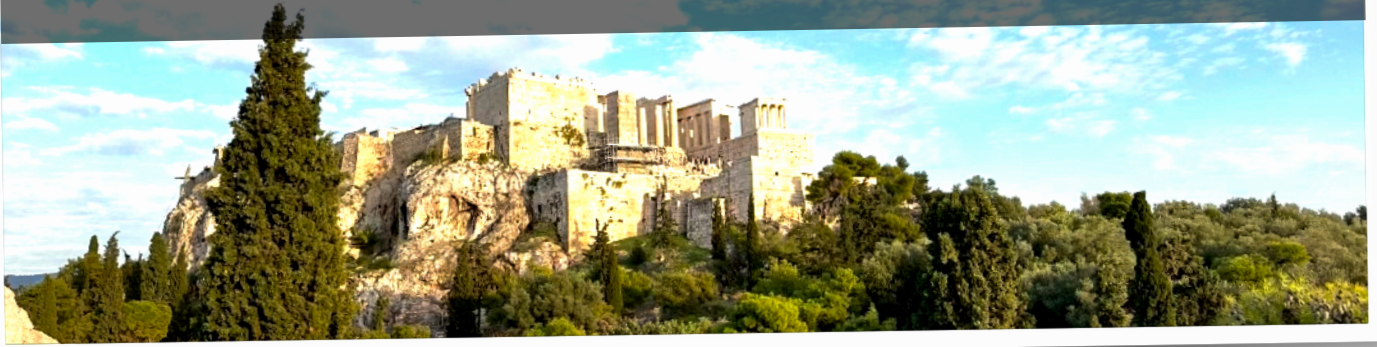


Ladies Tea Party All ladies are invited for High Tea Saturday, May 11th at 11am to celebrate all the special women in our lives!



Table for 8ish is one of the best ways to get to know other members! Many groups were only able to meet a couple times this fall, so we would like to keep those same groups going this spring. If you did not sign up in the fall & would like to join, or if you were in a group & are now unable to meet, please contact Bonnie.

2024 Biblical Tour of Greece



Not only is Greece one of the most naturally beautiful places in the world, it is FILLED with culture and history. We are thrilled to invite you along on this incredible journey to tour Greece by land and sea. Of particular interest for us is the opportunity to visit many sites that share a direct connection with the apostles Paul and John! There is simply nothing quite like being in those places that bring a deeper level of understanding and appreciation of the scriptures. We hope that you can join us!

12 Days: October 15 - 26, 2024

**Visiting: Thessaloniki - Philippi - Berea - Meteora - Athens
Mykonos - Ephesus - Patmos - Rhodes - Crete - Santorini - Corinth**

Cost: \$4,950 *(based on 25 travelers)*

Registration form & deposit due by: June 5, 2024

This trip includes:

- 5 day, 4 night Aegean Sea Cruise
- 6 nights in 1st Class hotels
- All excursions, tours, transfers, and transportation according to the itinerary
- Most all meals during the trip
- Experienced tour manager



www.grandlakespc.org/greece

GLPC FACILITIES

Anthony Badalamenti
Facilities@grandlakespc.org

I am truly blessed, let me share with you why. GLPC's 23,000 sq. ft facility is located on 11 acres of beautiful prime Katy, Texas real estate. There is no way one person, or one small team could provide the level of maintenance required to support GLPC's congregation and its community partners. In 2023, our property and facility volunteer teams dedicated thousands of man-hours mowing and maintaining our flower beds, painting, and repairing our facility and their sweat equity saved the church thousands of dollars.

In addition to the customary mowing and small building repairs in 2024, we would like to add three major projects:

- The GLPC sign and flower beds at the corner of S. Fry and S. Peek roads need improvement, which we would like to complete before the end of February.
- Our landscape and flower beds could use a major trimming and refreshing, which we would like to complete before Good Friday services.
- We would like to update the second-floor paint, specifically the meeting rooms and halls, which we would like to complete before the end of May.

So, what are our plans for these major projects? The corner sign and flower beds are very large projects, which require specialized skills that we may not have internally. Therefore, we are working with two commercial electrical contractors and soliciting landscape professionals for designs and cost estimates. In terms of the landscaping and painting projects, we would like to schedule volunteer work sessions. Last year, the Facilities and Fun and Fellowship teams combined efforts to host a painting session coupled with a Fun and Fellowship event, which proved to be very productive and a lot of fun. The dates for the painting and flower bed work session will be coming soon, so if you enjoy painting walls or garden and like to have fun, please consider joining us! Thank you for all you do and please let me know if you see anything that needs attention.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Christianna Toler
Finance@grandlakespc.org

As we close the books on this past year there is excitement going into 2024. Even though we entered into 2023 with some trepidation and a deficit budget, our congregation rose to the challenge to care for our church and call to mission, care for our pastor and church staff, and ensure the ongoing maintenance of our building and property just to name a few. We managed to not only balance our income to spending in 2023, we had a surplus of \$24,553 which will go to good use as Session reviews our greatest needs. Our stewardship campaign was a great success with an increased number of pledges (84) over last year (76). The call went out that we were in need of approximately \$544,000 in pledged income, and our membership responded with nearly \$541,000 in pledges.

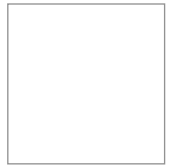
We sought opportunities to better our church ministry through the application and receipt of two grants: the Stoller Foundation Grant (\$30,000), and the Kelso Trust

Grant (\$4,500). These aided our church in providing some much-needed upgrades by repurposing underutilized building footage and creating a general reception area; enhancing the children's area; and allowing some needed replacement of aging technology for our worship services. We also bettered our cash flow position by refinancing our property loan with a new lender, Thrivent Financial, who was able to bless us with a below-market interest rate and reduced monthly note payments.

With Session approving our 2024 budget and the congregation approving Reverend Henderson's new Terms of Call, we have a balanced budget of \$726,805. As always the Session and Finance Committee strive to be the best stewards of our church's contributions knowing this is one expression, along with time and talents, of our membership's faith.



GRAND LAKES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6035 SOUTH FRY ROAD
KATY, TEXAS 77450



Download the GLPC App!



Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church

Available in App Stores



Visit us online:



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

SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:
9:30am

Worship:
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:
The GLPC APP
Youtube
Facebook

Find out more
inside this
issue of
Connections!