



# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



## ***"The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer..."***

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

One of my favorite Christmas movies is "Elf" (I imagine that is true for many; it's so good!). There is one line in the movie in which Buddy the Elf says,

*"The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear."*

Like you, I love so many of the Christmas hymns. While it is difficult to name a favorite, for me, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is high on the list. It is one of my favorites because it brings to mind our Christmas Eve candlelight service. This is usually the very first hymn we sing in the service because the hymn itself serves as a call to worship with its first verse:

*"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,*

*O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.*

*Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him!*

*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"*

Even as I read these words, I can almost feel the warmth of our community gathered in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve night singing in harmony the melodic words of this hymn. Reflecting on the words themselves, they are an invitation for all to come in joyful, reverent celebration of Christ our Lord.

Ultimately, we are to extend this invitation to those around us every day of the year through our words and actions. So, may our lives be living examples of what it means to truly adore Christ (not adoring as in the kind of "aww that's cute" way, but in its fullest definition which is to *"love and respect deeply"*).

I hope that your life will "sing loud" for all to hear... for as Buddy the Elf reminds us, that is the best way to spread Christmas cheer. *"O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"*



**Worship**



**Discipleship**



**Mission**



**Fellowship**

# Christmas at Grand

## 🎄 Deck the Halls 🎄

Saturday, November 30, 5-7pm

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 food, hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies! Bring the kids!



## Join us for the season of Advent!

December 1<sup>st</sup> - Hope  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - Peace

December 15<sup>th</sup> - Joy  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> - 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.)



Flat Ceramic Ornament: \$5  
Glass Globe Ornament: \$20

Cookbook: \$10

## GLPC Ornaments & Cookbooks

We still have some Christmas ornaments and Cookbooks available for purchase. Items may be purchased with cash, check, or on online through the GLPC app or website.



## KCM Santa's Sleigh Toy Drive

**How to sign up?** Email LeeAnn Nuckles at [missions@grandlakespc.org](mailto: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. 1.



# Lakes Presbyterian!



## Sleigh Ride Supper

**Saturday, December 7th, 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.

## Club 45 Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 15th, 3:00-4:30pm**

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 15th, 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!



## GLPC Kids Birthday Party for Jesus!

**Saturday, December 21st 2-4pm in Faith Express**

Join us for a party to celebrate the birth of Jesus!



## 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 is available.



Jessica Henderson  
jhenderson@grandlakespc.org

Marci Alldred  
childrens@grandlakespc.org



**CLUB 45 CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be Sunday, December 17th from 3:00-4:30pm in the Club 45 room. Please bring a wrapped gift under \$10 for a fun gift exchange!



**BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS** will be Saturday, December 21 from 2-4pm in Faith Express! Hope your family can join us for Christmas crafts, food, petting zoo, Christmas carols, and fun!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held each Sunday at 9:30am & then again during our worship service for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Elementary aged children will begin the service with their family and be dismissed to Faith Express after the Children's Lesson. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3rd Sunday of each month. Hope your kids can join the fun!

Sunday, December 15 our children's choir will lead us in worship the entire service! Don't miss out!



**CLUB 45** is a special time for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15th meeting time will be 3:00-4:30pm.) **Starting in January, we will meet the 1st Sunday of each month!**

### No Sunday School November 24 & December 29

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



## FALL RETREAT RECAP

Fall Retreat back at Luther Hill was so much fun and some were taken to new heights! There was some fierce competition for the Victor's Cup games, but only one group could be declared the winner. We studied 1 Peter and were reminded of Christ's "Living Hope". It reminds us that no matter how difficult life gets, God is always present in our life, and He loves us. He has a purpose for us, and we are to live boldly and with purpose every day.



## The Great Gingerbread Man Chase!

Sunday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 3-5pm

The Gingerbread Man is on the loose! Teams will have to work together to solve clues as they chase the Gingerbread Man around town. I hope you will join us for this festive scavenger hunt!



## Fixer Upper - Gingerbread House

Sunday, Dec 8th

Bring your best construction skills for this fun fixer upper activity! Bible Study will follow.

## Spring 2025 Sneak Peek!

## GLPC Student Ministry SPRING 2025

**JAN.**

5<sup>th</sup> - Pajamas & Cocoa Night  
12<sup>th</sup> - Campfire Glow Night  
19<sup>th</sup> - Lego My Ego Night (legos & breakfast for dinner!)  
26<sup>th</sup> - Gameshow Showdown

**FEB.**

2<sup>nd</sup> - "Super" Bowl Night (as in dress like a super hero!)  
9<sup>th</sup> - Super Bowl Sunday (NO Youth Group)  
14-16<sup>th</sup> - Youth Winter Retreat!!  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Za-Night



## Youth Christmas Party!

Sunday, Dec 15th, 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!



# MISSIONS

Lee Ann Nuckles  
missions@grandlakespc.org

**HOPE**  
Impacts



## Hope Impacts

Hope Impacts is an outreach organization that assists the homeless in the Katy area. During the month of October, our church family completely filled our donation box with new socks and underwear for Hope Impacts! Thank you, GLPC, for your awesome support!

## KCM DONATION DAY!!

After worship on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, our church went to HEB to purchase food and goods for Katy Christian Ministries' Food Pantry. We collected an incredible 2,020 lbs of food including 29 turkeys and 34 hams!



# FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bonnie Pankina  
fun@grandlakespc.org



## 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, the GLPC app, or by scanning the QR code!



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Carol Greene  
education@grandlakespc.org

## 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.

### 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.

# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Christianna Toler  
Finance@grandlakespc.org

## Come Grow with Us! - Stewardship Campaign 2025

I make a living planting seeds that grow into a harvestable, nourishing crop. It takes most of the year. Then at the end of each year, I must plow my fields under and start over. Our church budget works very much the same way – we take the pledged “seed” gifts of time, talent, and treasure and work to cultivate a nourishing church so that we may carry out God's Great Commandment. WE are the church. We plant the seeds for our growth. We depend on each other to cultivate our Christian lives at GLPC.

Last year we came very close to our commitment goal of \$550,000 in pledges to cover our anticipated needs. Thanks to your continued generosity we are 75% through the fiscal year and expect to meet all commitments. It is near harvest time, and the cycle continues. In the coming months we will prayerfully set our 2025 budget goal and start planting our seeds once more. Our work is not done - Keep growing with us!

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to Jim Thompson who has overseen our stewardship campaigns for as many years as I can remember. He has decided to step down as chairman this year, opening the position for new leadership. Stay tuned. Thank you, Jim!

### BUDGET IN BRIEF as of 9/30/24:

#### INCOME:

Contributions – \$470,122  
Other Income – 30,955  
Total All Income – \$501,077

#### EXPENSES:

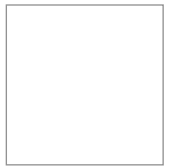
Op. Expenses – \$(566,281)

NET TOTAL – \$(65,204)





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



## Download the GLPC App!



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Roku



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**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](mailto:newsletter@grandlakespc.org).

## GLPC Highlights

### SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:  
9:30am

Worship:  
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:  
GLPC APP  
Youtube  
Facebook

Find out more  
inside this  
issue of  
**Connections!**