



SPRING 2025

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



## ***"20 Years... and Counting!"***

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

Did you know that it was 20 years ago this February that our church was officially chartered? Back in 2005, the congregation was meeting at the Roosevelt Alexander Elementary School (across the street from us). I know there are still many in our congregation today who were there at the beginning! Our current building was completed 2.5 years later in July 2007. In these 20 years, the church has only had three head pastors (Rev. Harry Slye, Rev. Dean Pogue, and myself). Even the number of staff has been minimal - which I credit to a healthy, supportive, and caring community. In that time, this congregation has also faced hurricanes, a global pandemic, economics downturns, and many other global, national, and local events. Our church has been through 20 years of growing together, praying together, singing together, laughing together, being generous with one another, sharing in one another's joys and sorrows, serving together... simply put: following Jesus together. And, here we are today. While 20 years of ministry as a church is not a very long time (especially compared with many other established churches)... 20 years of faithful, Christ-centered ministry has an eternal impact. The call upon the church remains the same as it has always been for not just the past 20 years, but the past 2,000 years. I think to Jesus' words in his Sermon on the Mount:

*"You (church) are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"*

**Matthew 5:14-16**

As we look to tomorrow, let us continually seek to be a light for Christ in the world today. May the fruit of our labor be pleasing to the Lord, and to God be the glory forever and ever, amen!



**Worship**



**Discipleship**



**Mission**



**Fellowship**

# WORSHIP

Kimber Hamilton  
worship@grandlakespc.org



Lent



ASH  
WEDNESDAY



GOOD  
FRIDAY

## LENT

### A Season of Reflection, Prayer, and Repentance

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Easter morning. We encourage you to journey with us through this season and draw your heart closer to God. Lenten devotional booklets are available in the church foyer.

#### Special Services During Lent:

- March 5 - Ash Wednesday (Service at 6:30pm)
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 18 - Good Friday (Service at 7:00pm)

## EASTER SUNDAY!

April 20<sup>th</sup>

Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with us!  
We will have two services of worship:

- **7:00am - Outdoor Sunrise Service**

(Weather permitting we will be outdoors, behind the church. Please bring your own foldout chair! In the event of inclement weather, we will move the service inside the sanctuary)

- **10:30am - Sanctuary Service**

(Chairs are included for this service 😊!)



Easter Sunday



Worship  
FLOWERS

WANT TO HONOR A  
PERSON OR OCCASION?

Sign up in the binder  
located on the  
volunteer desk

## Worship Flowers

If you are interested in purchasing flowers for worship services in celebration, honor, or memory of someone or something, please sign up in the binder on the volunteer desk!

# MISSIONS

Lee Ann Nuckles  
missions@grandlakespc.org



**RECAP : SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!** For the first two months of February we encouraged everyone to help us collect food pantry items for Katy Christian Ministry through the “Souper Bowl of Caring” initiative. We are so happy to have collected 648 lbs of food to help feed those in need of care. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important ministry!



## Faith in Practice

For over 30 years Faith in Practice has been medical care to the needy in Guatemala. 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, Bill Favenesi and Carol Greene will be serving with the Faith in Practice team from February 22 - March 1. You can learn more about their trip by visiting: <https://www.faithinpractice.org/blog/category/844>

## Love & Serve Day

**Sunday, May 4** - *immediately following worship*

Everyone is encouraged to wear their “Love & Serve” t-shirts - or the new “Come Grow With Us” t-shirt - 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.



One of our mission and outreach initiatives has been to strengthen our connection with our community neighbor across the street, Roosevelt Alexander Elementary School (RAE). These efforts have been greatly appreciated by the staff and PTA at RAE and our church has been awarded the Texas PTA Life Member Award as a Community Partner! The Life Membership Award is one of the highest honors a volunteer can receive. We are definitely humbled by this show of appreciation!

Our Missions Team is currently planning an end of the year Staff & Teacher appreciation at RAE. If you would like to help out, let us know!

# GLPC KIDS

Jessica Henderson  
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Marci Alldred  
childrens@grandlakespc.org

## CHILDREN'S Sunday School

### Palm SUNDAY

### Journey to the Cross

### EASTER EGG HUNT

### CLUB 45

**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. Childcare is available for our youngest kiddos. We would love to see your kids there!

**PALM SUNDAY:** April 13th, children will have the opportunity to wave palm branches at the beginning of the service!

**JOURNEY TO THE CROSS:** April 13th during 10:30 Sunday School, 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! Adults are encouraged to check it out after the service!

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** After the service on April 13th, GLPC Kids will enjoy an Easter egg hunt and receive a bag full of goodies!

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



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** meets Sunday mornings at 10am in Faith Express. Children will sing during the worship service once a month!



**VBS SAVE THE DATE**  
Starting to make summer plans?!  
Reserve June 2nd-5th for VBS!  
Sign ups will begin soon!

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Carol Greene  
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

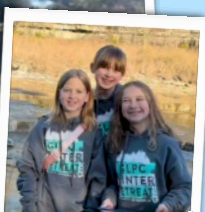
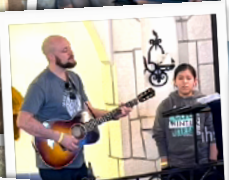
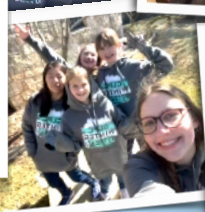
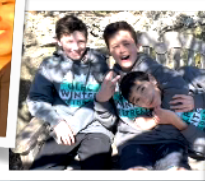
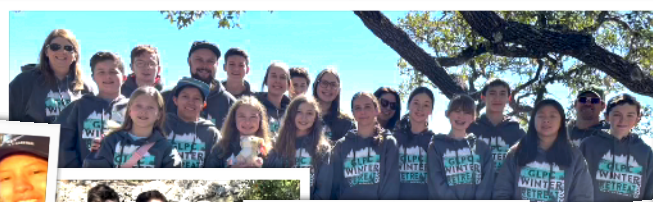
Fridays at noon. We read aloud and discuss books by renowned theologians along with pertinent Bible passages, always from a Reformed perspective.

# YOUTH

Jolene Myers  
youth@grandlakespc.org

## 2025 Winter Retreat Recap!

Our youth had the opportunity to travel to MoRanch Presbyterian Camp for a retreat weekend! Our Bible Study focused on Paul's letter to the Philippians (and we read every word of it by the end of the weekend!), and we talked about what it means to live a grace-filled life. Outside of that there was lots of fun and games and good food, too! (Texas-shaped Belgian waffles anyone?!?)



## GLPC Student Ministry SPRING 2025

**JAN.**

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

**FEB.**

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

**MAR.**

2nd - March Madness  
9th - Spring Break (NO Sunday S.S. or Youth)  
16th - Disc Golf Outing at Willowfork Park  
23rd - Disney Night  
30th - Oreo Night

**APR.**

6th - ZaZerts Night  
13th - Palm Sunday - Youth  
20th - Easter (NO Youth)  
27th - Cabbage Ball

**MAY**

4th - ZaZerts Night  
11th - Mother's Day - (NO Youth)  
18th - Graduate Sunday  
25th - Memorial Day Weekend - (NO Youth)

## REFUGE GLPC STUDENT MINISTRY

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the strength of my salvation, my stronghold" - Psalm 182

### Sunday School @ 9:30am

All youth 6th grade - 12 grade are encouraged to join us on Sunday mornings as we work our way through the Bible learning about its main themes and gospel-centered teaching!

### Sunday Night Youth Bible Study @ 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!



# FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bonnie Pankina  
fun@grandlakespc.org

## Check Out What We Have Coming Up!!



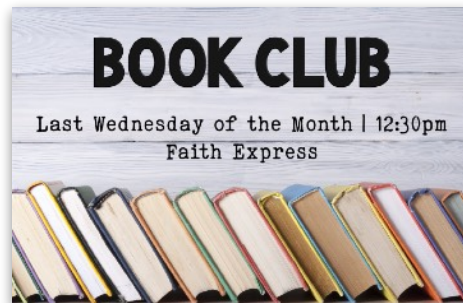
**Mardi Gras Party** Sunday, March 2nd after the service join us for a parade, cake, and fellowship!

### Spring into Action

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



**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.



# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Christianna Toler  
Finance@grandlakespc.org

A new year comes with a new budget. As we closed the books on 2024 there is a good deal of optimism going into 2025. We continue to rise 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.

Our 2025 stewardship campaign was successful and showed an increase in pledged income (\$534,557) over total pledge funds taken in last year (\$509,000). Along with other income sources (program fees, special offerings/donations, short-term investment interest, etc.) we feel we are on track to take in around \$728,000 this coming year. That said, we are mindful that unexpected increases in costs could occur. We do our best to plan for this. Some of our costs, such as our insurance premiums, will not be known until mid-year.

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.

Our work is never done - Keep growing with us!

FINAL BUDGET IN BRIEF as of 12/31/24:

### INCOME:

Contributions – \$678,307  
Other Income – 36,398  
Total All Income – \$714,705

### EXPENSES:

Op. Expenses – \$(724,738)  
NET TOTAL – \$(10,033)

# GLPC FACILITIES

Anthony Badalamenti  
Facilities@grandlakespc.org

Each year I say that I am the luckiest GLPC Elder, however, thanks to all the volunteer teams 2024 was outstanding in terms of what was accomplished. Our inside volunteer teams lead by Jack & Linda Kershner, Steve & Linda Utterback, John & Kathy Spelman not only organized the usual pre-Easter and pre-Christmas clean up sessions, but they and several members identified that our kitchen and coffee bar areas needed tons of TLC. Kathy, Linda U. and Linda K, contacted Bonnie Pankina, (fun and fellowship elder) and held a joint work and fun and fellowship event which was a huge success. Our GLPC mowing team lead by Larry Howell kept our eleven acres freshly mowed and clean of urban clutter. Additionally, this team spend countless hours trimming our oaks tress and collected over 60 cubic yards of cuttings. Not only did Larry lead the mowing team but he, Dave Shafer, Steve Utterback, Jack Kershner, and John Spelman rebuilt the dumpster container fencing, which was destroyed by a storm. Finally, our finance committee allocated funds to update the landscaping and lights for our sign located at corner of S. Fry and S, Peek roads. Finally, Paige Dean engineered and built GLPC banner holders which I feel are the envy of all the surrounding churches.

In 2025, the GLPC facility and grounds volunteer teams will participate and support the various church functions and programs, such as Vacation Bible School, fun and fellowship events, ACORN, Children's Easter Egg hunt, and special facility request. Surfing off the success of last years joint fun and fellowship and work session, we will try to hold at least one of these to paint the second-floor halls in mid-March and we are visiting with Bonnie on the organizing of it. The mowing team will continue to have fun in the sun and capture all the vitamin D they can use. Finally in 2025, we will continue to make project funding using the below decision tree:

1. Safety and security
2. Functionality
3. Appearance
4. Nice to have

In summary, I am truly blessed to be the facilities and grounds elder and thanks to all the volunteers 2024 was an outstanding year and again and we look forward to a safe 2025. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any team or join our work sessions please let either the team leaders or me know. Finally, if you see something that needs attention please let me know.

## DOWNLOAD THE GLPC APP!

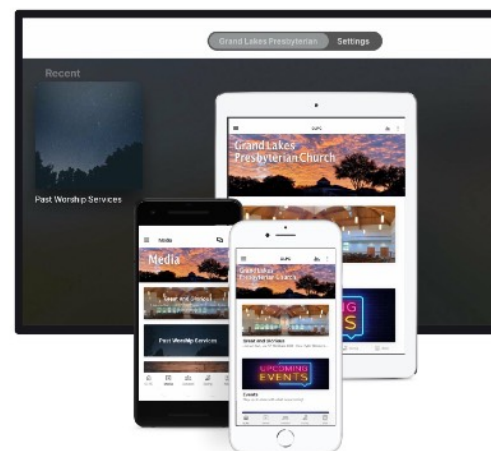
### From our app you can:

- 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!



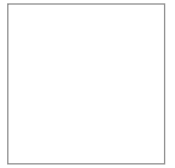
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**GRAND LAKES**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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If you would like to submit information for our next Connections Newsletter,  
please contact Barb Thornley at [newsletter@grandlakespc.org](mailto:newsletter@grandlakespc.org).

## GLPC Highlights

### SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:  
9:30am

Worship:  
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:  
The GLPC APP  
Youtube  
Facebook

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