



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church



"A Season of Thanksgiving"

By Rev. Tyler Henderson

As far as holidays go, Christmas reigns supreme. And for good reason - what better event to celebrate but the birth of our Lord and Savior? It also takes the top spot in the secular sense as well. If we are honest, most of the excitement of the Christmas season is the decorations around town, the festive songs on the radio, the warm glow in our homes from the lights on our Christmas trees, the movies, the presents... the list goes on and on. Thanksgiving is an important holiday, but in more recent years, it feels like the Thanksgiving holiday gets treated like a speed bump to Christmas season. As soon as Thanksgiving leftovers are put away our Christmas trees go up and Black Friday shopping begins!

In our worship services through the month of November we have been focusing on the importance of giving thanks. We are discussing how we can grow in our thanksgiving through: 1) Acknowledging what God has done - praising the Father our Creator, the Son our Redeemer, the Spirit our Sustainer; 2) Participating in what God is doing through stewardship and service; and 3) Trusting in what God will do.

For us, Thanksgiving ought to be more than merely "Turkey Day". Thanksgiving is to be the posture of our heart toward God. So, may our thoughts and prayers be like that of the Psalmist who praised God:

Psalm 136:1-3, 26

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever...

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Giving thanks requires us to slow down... so before we jump too quickly into the Christmas season, let us give thanks with sincere hearts to God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!



Worship



Discipleship



Mission



Fellowship

Christmas at Grand

🎄 Deck the Halls 🎄

Saturday, November 29, 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!

November 30th - Hope
December 7th - Peace

December 14th - Joy
December 21st - 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.

Missions: Christmas Toy Drives!

We are currently gearing up for our Christmas Toy Drives! We are supporting KCM's Santa's Sleigh and PCHAS's Christmas Kids with toy and gift donations. Signup sheets to sponsor a child are on a table opposite the Mission Wall.



Lakes Presbyterian!



Club 45 Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7th, 4:00-5:30pm

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

Women's Ornament Exchange

Thursday, December 11th, 6pm

Bring an appetizer and an ornament for an evening of fun!

Sign up online or in the foyer to receive address.



Sleigh Ride Supper

Saturday, December 13th, 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.

Youth Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 14th, 5-7pm

All youth are invited to join us for a night of dinner & fun!

Bring a White Elephant gift of <\$15!



GLPC Kids Birthday Party for Jesus!

Sunday, December 21st 11:30am-12:30pm 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.

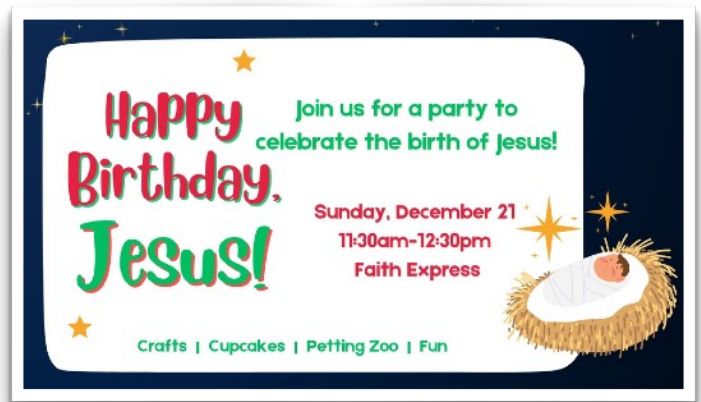
Childcare is available.

GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN KIDS

Jessica Henderson
jhenderson@grandlakespc.org



CLUB 45 CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Sunday, December 7th from 4:00-5:30pm 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 11:30am-12:30pm in Faith Express! Hope your family can join us for Christmas crafts, cupcakes, petting zoo, and fun!

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. 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 3rd Sunday of each month. Hope your kids can join the fun!

Sunday, December 14 our children's choir will lead us in worship the entire service! Don't miss out!



CLUB 45

CLUB 45 is a special time for 4th & 5th graders the 1st 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!

No Sunday School December 28

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

No Elementary Sunday School

Enjoy worship as a family!

Childcare available for 1st grade and younger
(Kinder & 1st grade in Faith Express)



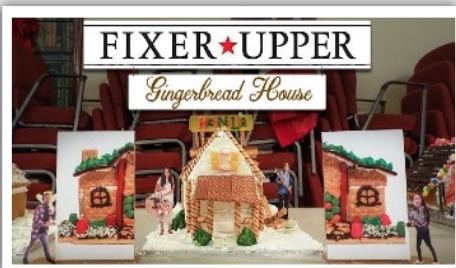
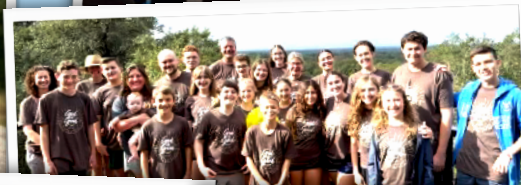
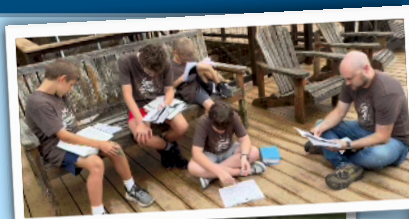
YOUTH

Marci Alldred
youth@grandlakespc.org

RECAP: FALL RETREAT

We had a GREAT retreat! We studied the story of Joseph in Genesis which reminded us that no matter how difficult life gets, God is always present in our lives. God loves us and has a purpose for us! There was some fierce competition for the Victor's Cup games, but only one group could be declared the winner (sorry guys - maybe next year)!

Scan the QR code to watch our recap video:



Fixer Upper - Gingerbread House Sunday, Nov 30th

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



The Great Gingerbread Man Chase! Sunday, Dec 7th, 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!



Youth Christmas Party! Sunday, Dec 14th, 5-7pm

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

2026 WINTER RETREAT - Feb 13-16

Scan the QR code for more info!



Spring 2026 Sneak Peek!

GLPC Student Ministry SPRING 2026

JAN.

- 4 - Pajamas & Cocoa
- 11 - Campfire Glow Night
- 18 - Lego My Eggo (legos & breakfast for dinner!)
- 25 - Show & Tell

MISSIONS

Lee Ann Nuckles
missions@grandlakespc.org

RECAP: MISSION SUNDAY!!

Our church came together to support Mission Sunday on September 14 by cleaning the KCM Resale store, making blankets for CASA and Hygiene bags for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, cards for our military and first responders, gift bags for Alexander Elementary, the choir performing at Oak Park Retirement Resort, and attending the grounds at the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. Thanks to all that participated and to those that offered support for the day!



RECAP: LOVE & SERVE - KCM DONATION DAY!!

After worship on November 2, 2025, GLPC had another successful shop and donate to KCM at HEB to help with the Turkey for Every Table food drive. Our members have been faithful to donate food items and necessary products on the first Sunday of each month to the KCM food pantry.



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVES

We are currently gearing up for our Christmas Toy Drives! We are supporting KCM's Santa's Sleigh and PCHAS's Christmas Kids with toy and gift donations. Signup sheets to sponsor a child are on a table opposite the Mission Wall.

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.

Outreach Ministry

Susan Hutson
outreach@grandlakespc.org

RECAP: ACORN ART FESTIVAL!!

2025 was our 2nd annual Acorn Art Festival! This year we had over 60 vendors join us for an exciting day on the GLPC grounds which drew a great turnout from the community! Thank you to all who helped with the Acorn Art Festival - we could not have done it without your help!



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Susan Maulding
fun@grandlakespc.org



Deck the Halls

Saturday, November 29 | 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!

Women's Ornament Exchange

Thursday, December 11 | 6-8pm

Ladies of GLPC, get ready to jingle and mingle!

Bring an appetizer and a wrapped ornament for a night of fellowship and fun. Sign up at the church or through the QR code. After signing up, the event address will be emailed to you.



Sleigh Ride Supper

Saturday, December 13 | 5:00-8:30pm

All who sign up will be assigned to 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 or by scanning the QR code! Childcare is available at the church.



Annual Chili Cook Off

Sunday, January 25th | After Worship

Bring your favorite chili or side and join us for great food and fellowship! Have your tastebuds ready to cast a vote for your favorites!



MEMBERSHIP

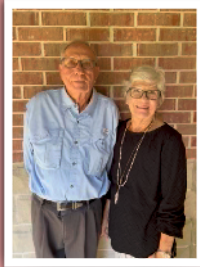
Debbie DeLuca
membership@grandlakespc.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

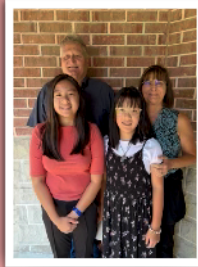
It is my honor to present the following new members to the Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church family!



Paul & Lynn
Cincirpini



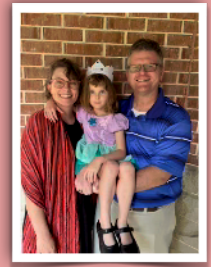
Ed & Silvia
Dannhaus



Rob & Kathryn
Folse



Joseph & Nora
Sai



Bart & Olivia
Shirley

We are thrilled you are a part of our church family!

Let's be sure to welcome them all!



Our New Welcome Desk!

We are so grateful for a generous grant from the Presbytery that allowed us to have a beautiful custom built welcome desk to greet our visitors! We added a monitor to highlight the life and fellowship of our wonderful church. If you notice anyone new on a Sunday morning, this is a great place to direct them for more information about our church. Please let us know if you have an interest in volunteering at the desk!



HONEST TO
GOODNESS
FUNDRAISING
WITH FOLKS WHO CARE

Youth Fundraiser at Jason's Deli!

Sunday, Nov. 16th
(Location: 7114 S Fry Rd)

Enjoy lunch, dinner (or both) anytime between 11:00am - 9:00pm and our youth ministry receives 20% of the proceeds!

Be sure to bring a flyer in and say your there for GLPC Youth or you can order online with code: FUND20



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 near the volunteer desk!

STEWARDSHIP

Christianna Toler
Finance@grandlakespc.org

Stewardship 2026 - A Hard Conversation?

What? Me nervous? Nervous to talk about money and finances? NEVER! Conventional wisdom is that it is hard to ask for money. I assure you nothing can be further from the truth. Here is why...

Our congregation seems to always be on the lookout for new opportunities to connect with each other and our community. We cherish spending time worshiping and studying God's word together. We look forward to going *Beyond These Doors* to serve when we shop at HEB for KCM, participate in the Love & Serve Sundays, or tend the garden at Alexander Elementary. Trunk-or-Treat and the Acorn Art Festival highlight connecting with our community where we can open our doors and welcome our neighbors in. I am certain you can think of many more examples of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church's unstoppable light as we continue to carry out God's Great Commission and Commandment.

When I ponder this, I find it is not difficult at all to ask each of you to contribute to these ministries and support Pastor Henderson and our GLPC staff and each other. Your Session continues to strive to be the best stewards of your gifts and look for ways to make the most of God's gifts.

Thanks to your continued generosity we are 84% through the fiscal year and expect to meet all commitments. We are already setting our 2026 budget goals and hope that you will prayerfully consider your part in being the light that is Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church.

BUDGET IN BRIEF as of 10/31/25:

INCOME:

Contributions –	\$596,458
Other Income –	<u>36,453</u>
Total All Income –	\$632,911

EXPENSES:

Op. Expenses –	<u>\$(672,194)</u>
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NET TOTAL:	\$(39,283)
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Committing Ourselves to the Lord in 2026:

“Every Hand United!”

The church is the body of Christ, and individually we are members of it. We are called to come together, EVERY HAND UNITED, to do the work God has called us to. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to renew your commitment to the Lord through your time, talents, work, and wealth.

“So they put their hands to the good work.” - Neh. 2:18

2 Ways to Give

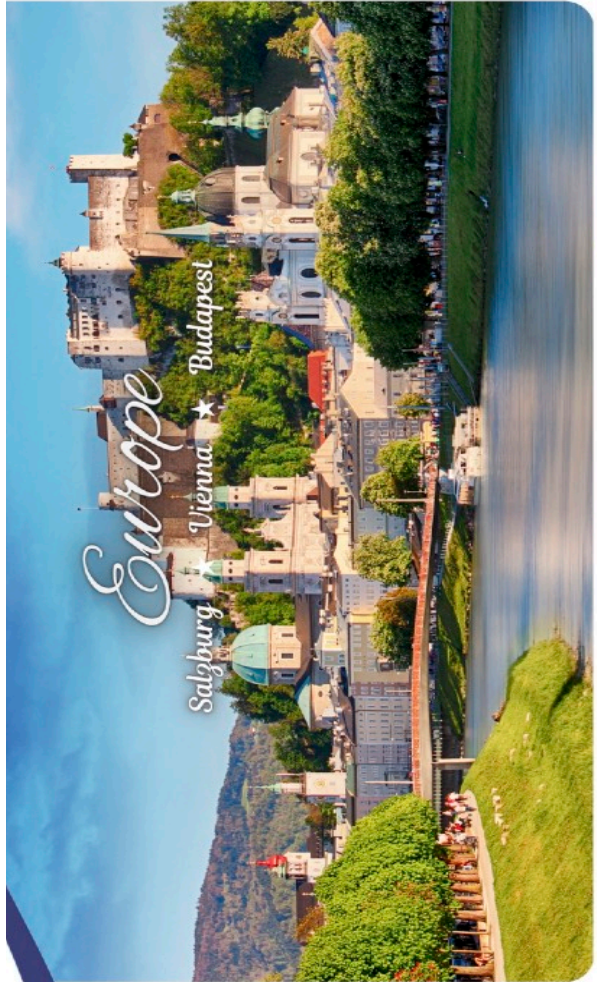
- 1 Online
via GLPC app or www.grandlakespc.org
- 2 Checks or Cash
given in worship or by mail

*“God's people faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes, and dedicated gifts.”
2 Chronicles 31:12*

Other ways to give....

- **Stocks:** Did you know that you can avoid capital gains tax by transferring appreciated stock to the church as part of your giving? Upon transfer, the church liquidates the stocks and applies the cash to the operating budget.
- **IRA Giving:** For those old enough to withdraw from an IRA account, have your financial institution transfer cash to the church's account at Fidelity Investments.

Please contact Steve Utterback, the Church's Treasurer, for further information.



Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church

June 5 to June 14, 2026

- ★ Embark on a spectacular journey through the heart of Europe, where history, music, and breathtaking landscapes come together for an unforgettable experience. From Salzburg's rich musical heritage to Vienna's imperial grandeur and Budapest's vibrant charm, this tour offers a perfect blend of culture, history, and performance opportunities.
- ★ Explore the birthplace of Mozart, stroll through the picturesque Old Town, and enjoy a concert in this city renowned for its musical heritage.
- ★ Experience the grandeur of Schönbrunn Palace, savor a dinner with live music, and attend a concert in the stunning St. Peter's Basilica.
- ★ Discover the city's architectural beauty, shop for local treasures, and experience Hungary's rich equestrian traditions with a folklore show and horse performance.



10-Day Tour Includes:

- Roundtrip international airfare
- 8 Nights' accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome Dinner
- Motorcoach and Tour
- Manager as per program
- Meals, activities and admissions as per itinerary
- Performances for the group

Tour Cost

\$4,579	\$5,205
per person in DBL	per person in SGL

Based on 50 participants



Scan this QR code for more information or contact
Christian De la Cruz at msuic@grandlakespc.org

DAY 1

FRIDAY, JUNE 05, 2026: DEPARTURE FROM THE US

DAY 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 06, 2026: MUNICH – NEUSCHWANSTEIN – SALZBURG (D)

- Arrive in Munich.
- Neuschwanstein Castle - Discover the fairy-tale masterpiece that inspired Disney's castles, perched high in the Bavarian Alps.
- Overnight in Salzburg.

DAY 3

SUNDAY, JUNE 07, 2026: SALZBURG, PERFORMANCE I (B, D)

- City tour of Salzburg.
- Potential performance opportunity in Salzburg.
- Mozart Geburtshaus - Step into the birthplace of Mozart and uncover the life of a musical genius.

DAY 4

MONDAY, JUNE 08, 2026: SALZBURG – BERCHTESGADEN – SALZBURG (B)

- Berchtesgaden - Excursion into Bavaria's breathtaking alpine landscapes.
- Boat Trip - Enjoy a scenic glide across crystal-clear waters.
- Salt Mine - Venture underground for a fascinating tour of centuries-old mining traditions.

DAY 5

TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026: SALZBURG – VIENNA (B, D)

- Check out of the hotel.
- Melk Benedictine Monastery - Marvel at this stunning Baroque masterpiece overlooking the Danube.
- Monsee - Visit the iconic Wedding Church, famed for its role in The Sound of Music.
- Dinner and overnight in Vienna.

DAY 6

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026: VIENNA, PERFORMANCE II (B, D)

- City tour of Vienna.
- Potential performance in St. Peter's Basilica.
- Schönbrunn Palace - Walk the opulent halls of this former Habsburg summer residence.
- Dinner with live music in the evening.
- Overnight in Vienna.

DAY 7

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026: VIENNA (B)

- House of Music - Dive into Vienna's musical heritage with interactive exhibits and sound experiences.
- Volksoper Performance - Enjoy a world-class opera or operetta in this renowned Viennese theater.
- Overnight in Vienna.

DAY 8

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026: VIENNA – BUDAPEST, PERFORMANCE III (B, D)

- Budapest - Discover the city's rich history and stunning architecture on a guided tour.
- Potential performance in Budapest.
- Dinner and overnight in Budapest.

DAY 9

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026: BUDAPEST (B, L)

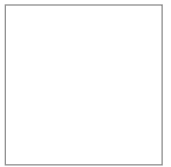
- Shopping Tour
- Horse-drawn carriage ride.
- Tanya Csarda Excursion - Experience Hungary's rural charm with a traditional countryside visit.
- Lunch with live gypsy music and a Hungarian folklore show.
- Welcome Drink upon arrival.
- Horse Show

DAY 10

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026: RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES (B)



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



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SCAN ME



Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church

Available in App Stores



Roku



Visit us online:



grandlakespc.org

Follow us on:



GLPC Highlights

SUNDAYS

Disciple Groups:
9:30am

Worship:
10:30am

Live-Streaming On:
GLPC APP
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Find out more
inside this
issue of
Connections!