

# Blessed to Be a Blessing to the World Near and Far

SEPTEMBER 21-24

### THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Grace Presbyterian Church, September 21, 2025 @ 10:30 am
†The congregation should stand if able.

When the Gathering Music begins, please assume a quiet and reverent attitude of worship.

Please silence your cell phones.

**GATHERING MUSIC** Beth McEwen— "Shine into Our Night," "Shine, Jesus, Shine,"

"There Is a Higher Throne"

**PRELUDE / PROCESSIONAL** Judy Redeker—"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Diane Bish, arr.

**†CALL TO WORSHIP** 

Praise the Lord, all nations!

(Congregation reads bold print)

Extol Him, all peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

-Psalm 135:1-4

**†INVOCATION** Christian Brewer

**†HYMN OF PRAISE** "For All the Saints"

#### FOR ALL THE SAINTS



Words: William W. How

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. Mark Rice

# †PROFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Congregation reads bold print)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to hell.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic\* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(\*catholic = universal)

**†HYMN OF AFFIRMATION** 

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"



The Congregation will be seated.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 22: 9-18

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

(Congregation reads bold print)

The very stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Come now to Christ, that living stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious. Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be Your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ
to our lonely and confused world.

Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
isolated than involved, callous than compassionate,
obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.

Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Remove the obstacles preventing us
from being Your representatives to a broken world. Awaken
our hearts to the promised gift of Your indwelling Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

Silent Confession

**PASTORAL PRAYER** 

**Christian Brewer** 

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Congregation reads bold print)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL'S ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,
nor will He keep His anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

-Psalm 103:8-12

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** 

"The Solid Rock"

#### THE SOLID ROCK



READING AND PREACHING OF

**GOD'S WORD** 

Rev. Dan Iverson III — "Jesus on Mission for us, and with Us" (Luke 19:1-10)

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION** 

For Application of the Word

**†BENEDICTION / RESPONSE** 

(Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**†POSTLUDE** 

If you have questions about today's message, salvation through Jesus Christ, or our church, several of our Elders will be at the front of the Sanctuary following the Benediction.

#### **Bible Studies**

Men's — Each Thursday at 6:30 am at
Cabin Coffee and 10:00 am at Grace
Young Men's — Every Other Monday at 7 pm
at the Brewers' Home
Women's — 1st, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays of
each month at 10 am at Grace

#### **Member Care**

If you have special needs, contact your assigned elder. Last names beginning with A-B Williams; C-G Pedine; H-M Schoeffler; N-R Tallman; S-V Matthews; W-Z Saunders.

Deacons are Kurt Spangenberg, Leonard Celaya, Mike Fann, Nate Johnson, Steve Rothkopf, Jacob Wallace, Mike Ziegenbein.

#### **Assisted Hearing Devices**

Located on the table along the back wall of the Sanctuary

#### **Download the App**

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Sunday Morning Schedule
Adult Continuing Education (9:15 am)

Youth Sunday School (grades 6-12) (9:15 am)

Children and Nursery (9:15 am) Nursery (ages 3-24 months)

Childcare is provided in the nursery.

Pre-School (ages 2-4 years)

**Elementary School (ages 5-11)** 

**Wednesday Evening Schedule** 

Adult Bible Study — (6:00 pm)

Youth Bible Study — (6:00 pm)

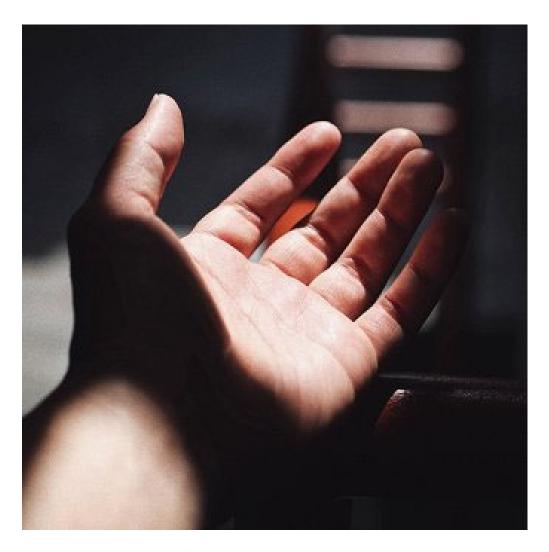
Covenant Kids (ages 5-11) — (6:00 pm) Sanctuary Choir — (6:00 pm)

#### **Sermon Archive**

All sermons and teachings are available at www.sermonaudio.com/solo/jonjacobs/sermons/

#### Coffee

Served prior to Sunday School and the Worship Service each week.



# Blessed to Be a Blessing

Psalm 67 begins as a prayer to God for blessing. It is not a selfish prayer. It is a missions prayer.

"God be gracious to us and bless us That your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations."

We are so blessed! Our many blessings are not to be hoarded for ourselves. The blessings of our children, grandchildren, money, homes, healthy churches, gifts, knowledge... and especially the gospel, are given for a great purpose. As Psalm 67 teaches us, they are given for God's glory, particularly that the whole world might know the Lord, glorify Him, worship Him, and enjoy Him forever! In our missions conference we will seek to know more of God's great blessings to us, and learn more about how we can be blessings to this lost world, to those near us, and to those far away.

### **REV. DAN IVERSON III**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dan and Carol Iverson have served as PCA Mission to the World (MTW) church planting missionaries in the Tokyo/Chiba area of Japan since 1986. The Iversons have 9 children and 38 grandchildren.

Japan is the world's second largest unreached people group (UPG), rich in material possessions, education, and technology, but desperately "poor" in terms of the Gospel.

The vision and goal for MTW Japan is a biblical, indigenous Church Planting Movement (CPM) throughout Japan and the world. This basically means evangelizing and making disciples (Matt 28:19-20), and gathering people into healthy, reproducing biblical (Presbyterian), gospel-centered churches with Japanese leadership that continue the same healthy reproduction.

Dan has had three main roles overlapping during his 36 years in Japan. Dan served as Church Planter and Lead Pastor for 28 years of the Oyumino Presbyterian Church in Chiba (East Tokyo) until 2018. He has also served for over 30 years as the PCA-MTW Tokyo/Chiba Mission Team Leader. For the last 15 years, until 2022, Dan has also served as our PCA-MTW Japan Country Director for our 9 Japan teams. Carol has served for many years as principal for the bilingual hybrid Christian school started by the MTW Chiba team. She continues to teach in the school, serves on the MTW Asia member care team, and mentors younger missionary and Japanese wives.

# **VICKI TAYLOR**





Vicki Taylor is the U.S. Ambassador for Community House Damaris, a nonprofit in Athens, Greece, that empowers women and their children who have been exploited through sexual trafficking. Since the ministry's initial planning in 2011, she has volunteered annually, and when Damaris opened its doors in 2016, she began teaching in the Recovery Program. In 2024, Vicki stepped into her current full-time missions role, where she develops relationships

with churches, major donors, and grant organizations to build long-term sustainability for the mission. Twice a year, she also travels to Athens to serve as an adjunct teacher in the Recovery Program, investing directly in the lives of the women.

With a background spanning more than three decades in education, ministry, and public speaking, Vicki has taught, directed, and inspired students, congregations, and women's groups across the United States. She is also an accomplished artist, specializing in original mandalas and Ottoman florals through her studio, Suzani Dreams.

Her passion for ministry, teaching, and the arts converge in her work with Damaris, where she continues to invest her gifts in recovery, restoration, and reintegration for survivors.

### **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

## SUNDAY, SEPT 21 » Adult Continuing Education Joint Class: Rev. Dan Iverson 9:15AM Luke 15 - Loving & Seeking the Lost in Japan » Youth Sunday School Class: Vicki Taylor of House Damaris » Children's Sunday School: Carole MacDiarmid CEF Mission Story "Jesus on Mission for Us, and with Us" - Luke 19: 1-10 | Rev. Dan Iverson 10:30AM Homemade Cookies and Brownie Social 5:30PM 6:00PM "Mission Success: Its Certainty, Scope, and Means" - Gen 22:9-18 | Rev. Dan Iverson **MONDAY, SEPT 22** 11:30AM Women's Luncheon at Copper Top: Vicki Taylor of House Damaris **TUESDAY, SEPT 23** 8:30AM Men's Breakfast at Blairsville Restaurant: Grits & Greens: Joel Iverson of Atlanta 6:30PM Home Fellowship Groups: » Dan and Bill Iverson at the home of Dr. Keith and Karen Matthews » Vicki Taylor at the home of Dr. Andre and Piba Schoeffler WEDNESDAY, SEPT 24 5:30PM Ice Cream Social 6:00PM "In Christ: Loved, Made New, on Mission" - 2 Cor 5:14-21 | Rev. Dan Iverson