



# JANUARY NEWSLETTER



## Reflection from Pastor John Denton

Do you remember your New Year's resolutions from last year? Did you plan on making a positive life change—saving money, losing weight, or reading your Bible every morning?

It's easy in January to feel excited about our goals. But by the time December rolls around, many of us can't even remember what they were.

In 2023, we set out as a church with a clear goal: to grow by 5% each year. That meant growth across all areas of our measurable metrics. When I look at the church I walked into in September 2022 and compare it to the church we are today, I see a different church. I see a church that has experienced real growth and renewal.

This past year alone, we had more than ten Sundays where over 100 children and adults gathered for worship. Our average worship attendance for the year was just over 90 people each Sunday. These are wins worth celebrating.

At the same time, there is another statistic that continually chases every church—and it has been very real for our church family this past year. Each year, roughly 30% of a congregation is no longer with the church for one reason or another. Because of this, yes—the church looks different today than it did in 2022. For us to remain healthy, our growth must outpace our loss.

When I look ahead to 2026, I am confident it will be a year of wins—a year focused on gains. Jesus has already done the work. We are living on the other side of His amazing grace. That said, now is not the time to slow down. This is not the moment to sink back into a comfortable spot on the couch and say, “Job well done.” Now is the time to stand up and live lives that truly reflect our belief that Jesus turns losses into wins.

I want to invite you to reflect on two questions:

- How did you experience growth in 2025?
- How did our church experience growth in 2025?

As we look toward 2026, I want to encourage each of you to make a Great Commission–based goal for your life. Jesus tells us:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Who are you going to point to Jesus in 2026? Who are you going to invite into your life—and into your church—this coming year?

Let's go and grow together in 2026.

Celebrating the wins,

Rev. John Denton



## Ways you can give your tithes, gifts and offerings:

- In person at the weekly worship service.
- Online at [www.gpcvista.org](http://www.gpcvista.org). Choose the "Donate" button and you can pay by credit or debit card or with a PayPal account or scan the QR code to the right.
- Mail or drop off to the church office (if office is closed, drop into the mail slot near the front door to the Fellowship Hall) at 1450 E. Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084



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## Stewardship Corner A New Year, New Beginnings

*"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13)*

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years. The start of the New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives. Although there is nothing in the Bible or notable in Christian tradition about New Year's resolutions, many take advantage of this time of year to become closer to the Lord by re-committing themselves to pray more, to read the Bible or to attend church more regularly. If you are looking for some help with your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

**Practice gratitude** – Every day, express thankfulness to the Lord and to others. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

**Encounter the Lord each day** – Find time to be with the Lord each day. Have a conversation with the Lord; give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them.

**Be present to others** – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in people's lives. What a blessing it is to share those times and not let others experience them alone.

**Resist overwork** – Activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. Be mindful that life requires balance, let go of unrealistic goals.

**Nurture friendships** – Friends are gifts from God who give us a greater appreciation of God's love for us. Friends need our time and love.

**Give more** – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gifts to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community that gathers around the Lord's Table. Consider what you are giving to the Lord's work and commit to an even greater contribution.

**Make a difference in your church community** – Your church can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others.

## Finance Committee Report continued

**Get Healthy** – Studies show that most people are accelerating their own decline due to poor diet and lack of physical activity. Be a good steward of your body through an overhaul of your diet and exercise habits.

**Don't give up**- People give up their New Year's resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. Take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time. Turn to the Lord for guidance, strength and perseverance in achieving your resolutions. If God is the center of our New Year's resolutions, they have a better chance for success.

Financial Statement  
As of November 30, 2025

	Nov. 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 47,681</b>	<b>\$ 540,526</b>	<b>\$ 697,125</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 50,925</b>	<b>\$ 535,555</b>	<b>\$ 687,943</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$- 3,244</b>	<b>\$ 4,971</b>	<b>\$ 9,182</b>

**Note:** Income includes 12-month distribution from the Legacy Fund; and unbudgeted \$45,249 from the government Employee Retention Credit program.

### Monday Evening Bible Study

Evening Bible Study

Mondays 6:30pm in Room 9

Starting Module 3:

*Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*

Monday, January 5, 2026



How do we read poetry in the Bible? Take a deep dive into Hebrew poetry and discover its most common conventions and how it communicates.

### Sunday Prayer Group

**J**oin us in praying for our Church and Preschool, as well as reading a Psalm in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am on Sunday Mornings. Any questions, please contact Peggy or Ed Paradis.



## No Men's Breakfast in January

JANUARY 2026

There will be no Men's Breakfast in January due to the New Year holiday. Join us on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a full breakfast, good fellowship and time in the Word and in prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.



## Ephesians Study

### Ephesians

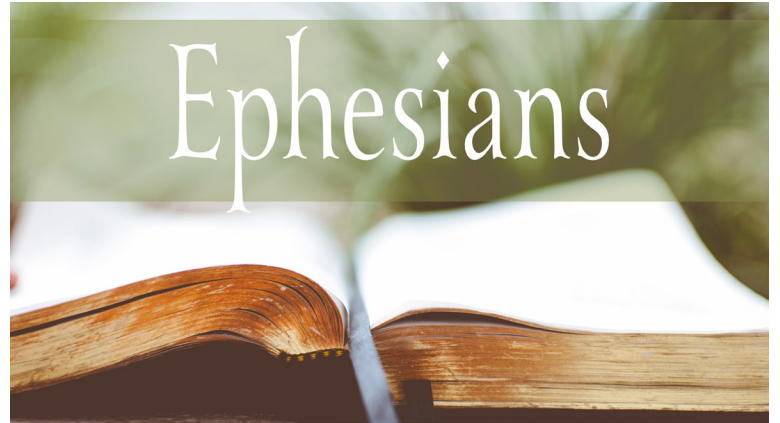
*In-Depth Expository Study*

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

January 14 – May 27, 2026

1586 Calle Las Moras, VISTA

Please email Patrick Ryan for more information at [brondalt@gmail.com](mailto:brondalt@gmail.com)



## Save the Date: Valentine Brunch

Thank you!



*Thank you to all who  
purchased Poinsettias to help  
beautify our Sanctuary  
for Christmas!*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Ron Rosol

If you're ever in need of a word of encouragement, go see Ron Rosol! Ron is consistently uplifting, always ready with a kind word, a pat on the back, or a firm handshake. I have been truly blessed to serve alongside Ron on the Personnel Committee and to witness firsthand how deeply he cares for our church and its staff. Ron's compassion doesn't stop there. He is a steady presence in our food distribution ministry, making sure that every person he meets is not only physically nourished but spiritually poured into as well. Ron cares deeply—both for the volunteers he serves with and for the community he serves. When Ron leads in worship, he brings his whole heart into the liturgy. Watching him greet each person in the pews, it becomes clear that for Ron, the ministry of Jesus extends far beyond the church walls and into everyday life.

Thank you, Ron, for faithfully living out Christ's love. ~ Rev. Denton

Ron is someone who truly embodies kindness & compassion.

He has such a warm and welcoming presence and is always willing to offer advice or simply take the time to listen.

Whether he is sharing words of wisdom or providing encouragement, he makes those around him feel valued and supported. Ron leads by example through his patience, humility and genuine care for others. His presence is truly a blessing to those around him. I am grateful to know Ron and learn from his example.

Jenifer Leon (volunteer - since 2018)



**Ron Rosol**

Ron is a blessing at Grace and to all who know him. He is not only involved on the personnel committee, and food distribution on Fridays.

But, also serves on the board for the Palomar counseling center. He always brings his sense of humor and upbeat attitude. He truly cares for others and their well being.

Maria Haigh, Community Outreach Director

Our Congregation is blessed by SO MANY loving and caring people, and Mr. Ron Rosol is definitely one of them. Ron's gentle demeanor and calming presence has been a blessing to me, particularly as a member of our Personnel Committee, and to our Friday morning Food Distribution volunteers and patrons. Ron has a heart of gold and I am so thankful that Ron and Judi are a part of the Grace family! Thank you Ron for pouring into Grace with such love and care!

Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

Ron has served on the Personnel Committee for the last 5 years. He is a tremendous asset to the committee and the church by utilizing his many skills and knowledge gained during his working career and volunteer services!

He is a man of faith which is demonstrated by his sincere care and concern for the welfare of all our employees! It is a pleasure to serve with Ron on the committee!

Ken Bouchard, Personnel Committee Chair

*Celebrating Gratitude, Community, and the Joy of the Season*

This fall has been a beautiful time of connection and celebration at Grace Presbyterian Preschool. In November, we gathered for our very first Preschool Thanksgiving Feast—an event that filled our campus with warmth,



gratitude, and fellowship. Hosted by the Christian Education Committee, the feast brought together all of our preschool families for a delicious Thanksgiving meal complete with all the fixings. Families had the opportunity to sit together, enjoy meaningful conversation, and participate in a gratitude activity where they shared the blessings they are thankful for. It was a special time not only for reflection, but also for building relationships and meeting fellow preschool families. The atmosphere was filled

with joy, community, and love—truly a day to remember.

December continued this spirit of togetherness with another milestone for our students: their first-ever performance at the church. The children lifted their voices in a sweet rendition of *Away in a Manger*, bringing smiles to everyone in attendance. Following the performance, church members and preschool



families joined together to decorate Christmas cookies, enjoy fellowship, and continue getting to know one another. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome our preschool families more deeply into the life and warmth of the church.



Throughout this season, our students have been learning about peace, love, joy, and the anticipation of Christ's birth. In the classrooms, they have explored what it means to be kind, compassionate, and full of love—values we are grateful to nurture daily. Their curiosity, growth, and tender hearts remind us of the simple and pro-



found meaning of this time of year.

We are excited to continue strengthening the connection between Grace Presbyterian Church and our preschool families. If you feel called to be part of this ministry—to



share fellowship, volunteer, or help build relationships with the families in our program—please reach out to Frankie at [preschool@gpcvista.org](mailto:preschool@gpcvista.org). There are many ways to get connected, and your presence can make a meaningful difference in our growing community.



The Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool Staff

## Per Capita- What is it?

In our offering envelope boxes there is an envelope for a Per Capita gift. Some of you may not use offering envelopes but this still applies to you as well. What is that? Let's start by recognizing that Grace Presbyterian Church – Vista is part of the San Diego Presbytery which is part of a larger body known as the Synod and that is part of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). Each of those bodies provides services and materials to support the local church. One example: the San Diego Presbytery provides supervision and training of our Pastors and our Session. This is one of many ways in which they support our church.

All of these bodies are financially supported by the member churches. Grace pays a monthly "membership fee" based on the number of members in our congregation. For 2026 that amount will be \$46.79 per person. This comes out of our operating budget. We then ask those who are able to consider giving this amount - in addition to your regular giving - so we do not need to dedicate money that would otherwise be used for programs and ministries of our congregation. So, please consider contributing to this expense.

The 2026 Per Capita of \$46.79 per member can be placed in the designated offering envelope for Per Capita or write it in the memo on your check or in the note section online. Please note that the Presbytery has just updated the amount of Per Capita, so if you have already paid it, please contact the office for a refund of the difference.

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## Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you 70 ½ or older and being pushed into a higher income tax bracket by required minimum distributions from your IRA? If so, a Qualified Charitable Distribution might be the right philanthropic tool for you. (Please consult your tax adviser to discuss your particular situation). Here's how it works:

- Direct a transfer from your IRA to Grace Presbyterian Church – Vista
- Count the gift toward your required minimum distribution
- Exclude the gift amount from your adjusted gross income for federal tax purposes
- Make an immediate impact on the programs and ministries of Grace

Join our  
**Grandparents@Prayer**  
via email monthly.

## Generation G: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy (or Hot Topics on Grandparenting) -by Gramma Pat Whisler



When my children were young, my mother, their grandmother, had a cute little saying while touching each part of their face. It went like this: They would put their head on her lap and she would say (while pointing) Fore Knocker, eye winker, hair puller, nosey wosey, chin chopper. Then it was made up things until “gitchy, gitchy, goo” which was tickling. They still remember that.

**GOD’S WORD:** *Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.* 1 Corinthians 2:16

### This month’s GP Hot Topic: **BODY PRAYING**

I came across an article that reminded me of what my mom used to say to Marna and Kara. If your grandchild is young, it will be easy to point to each part and say the prayer. Do it often enough then they will remember to pray for themselves and for who and what they are. You can do one part at a time if best suited.



**Point and Pray:** Say to your grandchild while pointing to each part.

**Toes:** I pray you will always walk in God’s path and not stray.

**Knees:** Let’s honor God with words fit for a King and bend our knees to obey God.

**Tummy:** Thank God for all the food we eat.

**Hands:** I pray to God for ways to serve family, friends and neighbors even animals.

**Ears:** I pray to hear God’s voice above all others.

**Mouth:** I pray that the words I say will help and encourage others.

**Eyes:** I pray to seek God always and see the needs of others.

**Head:** I pray to have the “mind of Christ”, think pure thoughts and not be afraid.

Jack, holding a baby alligator. May need a prayer.

- **Prayer:** *Holy God, thank you for being with us and showing us the pure love that comes from grandparenting. It is you we follow with all our heart, mind and soul. Lord, may our grandchildren follow you in the ways Jesus taught. Amen.*
- **Action:** Try something similar when you next see your grandchild.
- Thanks to the Grandparenting Network for the ideas above.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9am How to Read the Bible Class  
 9:30am Prayer Group  
 10am In Person Worship (Sanctuary)  
 10am Online Worship

MONDAYS

6:30pm Evening Bible Study  
 7pm AA

TUESDAYS

8am Food Pantry Distrib.  
 9:15am Preschool Chapel  
 10:30am Staff Meeting  
 2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS

2:30pm ASP Tutoring (no 1/7)  
 6:30pm AA Men's Group  
 7pm Worship Band Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

9:15am Bible 101 (no 1/1 & 1/8)  
 10am Women's Bible Study (no 1/1)  
 7pm Choir Rehearsal (no 1/1)



FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

# JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 	2	3
				Preschool Closed		
4 11:15 Worship Committee	5	6	7 12:30pm Personnel Comm.	8 8:30am PEO	9	10 2pm Abby O'Malley Memorial
11	12	13 6:30pm Deacons	14 9am B & G	15	16	17
18 11:15am Christian Ed. Meeting	19 	20 4:30pm Fellowship Comm.	21 12:30pm Finance Comm.	22 8:30am PEO	23	24 10am PCSS
25	26	27 8am Preschool Family Chapel 6:30pm Session	28	29	30	31



1	Adriana Nolf	13	Patrick Ryan
5	Deborah Barrie	22	John Earnest
	Lou Bartley	23	Jeremiah Elliott
6	Scott Huston		Samuel Elliott
7	Bob Deatherage		Denise Stockman
9	Pierre Domercq	25	Albina Lumetta
10	Bill Eldridge	26	Maria Haigh



7	Ken & Tricia Sanger (40 years)
25	Ken & Sue Bouchard (34 years)
25	Randy & Terry-Jeanne Sawyer (47 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in January and your name does not appear above, please contact the church office at 760-724-0077 to update our records. Thank you!

John Adams

Krasovic Family

Judy Ambrose

Annie Kumar

Rex Bassett

Suzy Long

Apollo Bostian  
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Eliza Newton  
(Sailor's friend)

Browning Family

O'Malley Family

Bev Bush

Maureen Russell

Roger Corley

Christine Sailors

John Earnest

Judi Salazar

Michele Earnest

Tricia Sanger

Gary Eldridge

Robert Sawyer  
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Helen Frederick

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Laurie Gilmore  
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Kim Sparkman & Family

Nancy Haigh

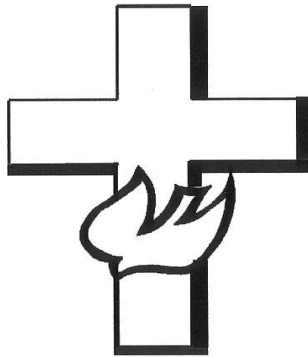
Arcilia Tauber

Betty Haver

Whisler Family

Chandy Jacob  
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Mary Wilhem  
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)





## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.gpcvista.org](http://www.gpcvista.org)

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY  
GROWS



[facebook.com/GPCVista](https://facebook.com/GPCVista)

## Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Director of Church Operations  
Preschool Director  
Preschool Teacher  
Preschool Teacher  
Preschool Support Staff  
Dir. of Community Relations  
Custodian  
Music Director  
Organist  
Praise Band Leader  
Financial Specialist  
Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton  
Christie Elliott  
Frankie Zavala  
Miriam Mojica Santos  
Emily Smith  
Denise Stockman  
Maria Haigh  
Savannah Haigh  
Jayne Parker  
Frances Hummel  
Scott Huston  
Albina Lumetta  
Chris Nolf



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A CONFESSING CHURCH,  
and we believe:

That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way of salvation.

That Holy Scripture is the triune God's revealed Word,  
the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.

That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life.