



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” This is true in our personal lives and in our church. If we lived life with no vision, no plan, and no direction, we would wander aimlessly. It would be a challenge to accomplish the task if we didn’t even know what it was we were trying to do.

In the church, it is important that we have a vision for the future—a vision that not only builds God’s Kingdom, but also reminds us that God’s Kingdom is breaking into our world today.

If we don’t know where we are going, it’s hard to get there.

Every Sunday during the offertory, I make the proclamation that at Grace we *Worship, Group, and Give*. But what does that mean exactly?



We Worship. Every Sunday morning we gather at 10a.m. for joyful praise. The Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, and the congregation is activated to join with Jesus in ministry. Through worship, connections are made: first-time visitors are welcomed with a gift, invited to lunch, and encouraged to attend our Sunday morning “How to Read the Bible” class.

We Group. We are relational. We fellowship together. We have specific times and places where this happens, and people make deeper connections. We have small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday School. These groups are not just for a select few—they welcome everyone. There are open doors and open seats. We group in membership through our membership class, learning what it means not just to attend church but to be a follower of Jesus at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We Give. Giving our time, talent, and treasures is a sign of surrendered living. We serve not only within our congregation, but also outwardly in the city of Vista and throughout the world. All that we have and all that we do is a response to what Jesus is doing in our lives. This spirit of generosity leads to faithful stewardship. It is also through giving that many are called to serve as leaders in the church—as committee members, Deacons, or Elders.

We worship, we group, and we give—with that one person Jesus has placed on our hearts in mind. What step are you at in our engagement pathway? How have you seen this play out in the life of our church? Let’s keep living a life of vision together.

Blessings,

Ways you can give your tithes, gifts and offerings:

- In person at the weekly worship service.
- Online at 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



Stewardship Corner

The Joy of Giving

"Encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." 1 Thess. 5:12

It had been a dreary week. I had been feeling lethargic and listless, although I couldn't figure out why.

Near the end of the week, I found out that an aunt had kidney failure. I knew I had to visit her – but to be honest, I felt like postponing the visit. Still, I made my way to her place, where we had dinner, chatted, and prayed together. An hour later, I left her home feeling upbeat for the first time in days. Focusing on someone else rather than myself had somehow improved my mood.

Psychologists have found that the act of giving can produce satisfaction, which comes when the giver sees the recipient's gratitude. Some experts even believe that humans are wired to be generous!

Perhaps that's why Paul, when encouraging the church in Thessalonica to build up their faith community, urged them to "help the weak" (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Earlier, he had also cited Jesus's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). While this was said in the context of giving financially, it applies as well to the giving of time and effort.

When we give, we get an insight into how God feels. We understand why He's so delighted to give us His love, and we share in His joy and the satisfaction of blessing others. I think I'll be visiting my aunt more often.

Financial Statement As of August 31, 2025

	Aug 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
Income	\$ 55,227	\$ 406,188	\$ 507,000
Expense	\$ 58,028	\$ 377,059	\$ 500,322
Net Income	\$- 2,801	\$ 29,130	\$ 6,678

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

Men's Breakfast in October

Join us on October 4 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.



Christmas Advent Craft Faire at Grace

Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025
Time: 11 am - 1 pm
Christmas Advent Craft Faire



Join us for a very special Craft Faire where our members will offer a wonderful selection of unique handmade cards, wooden displays, quilted zipper bags, baked goodies, Christmas crafts & more! All proceeds are donated to Grace Presbyterian Church.

Grace Presbyterian Church,
 1450 E. Vista Way,
 Vista CA 92084
 Free to attend!

Questions? Please contact Sue Bouchard if you are interested in participating.

Women's Event- Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Women's Event on September 20th!

A very special THANK YOU to our Fellowship Committee for putting together such an amazing event and to Alice Nolf for sharing such an inspirational message!



Christian Education: Trunk or Treat

OCTOBER 2025

It's that Fall favorite returning to Grace, TRUNK or TREAT! This community event has grown from 30 attendees to over 100 last year!

We are looking for individuals to dress up their vehicles, pass out candy and spread some fall cheer. We are also in need of volunteers to help with the games.

Please be parked in the back Grace parking lot by 4:30pm on **Saturday, October 18th**. Trunk or Treat will be from 5-6:30pm!

Bring your candy, car and get ready for a FALL Favorite! Sign up on Sunday, September 28, October 5, or October 12 or contact the Church Office!



Trunk or Treat



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - Ron Nolf

The church campus never closes. The parking lot is accessible 24 hours a day, and our security patrol comes through in the middle of the night. Sometimes the alarm goes off at 2 a.m.—it might be a false alarm, or it might not. The sprinklers kick on every morning... and sometimes they don't. Sometimes they even leak!

You may ask, who responds to the campus during these times? Superman? Close—Ron Nolf!

Ron means so much to our church family at Grace.

Each Sunday morning he brings a big grin, a dad joke, and his strong voice to worship. When he's not singing in the choir loft, he's on campus making sure the church is cared for and secure. Ron serves in so many ways it would be hard to list them all, but with deep gratitude I want to thank him for answering all those late-night calls and for his faithful heart of service to the Lord. Thank you, Ron! - Rev. Denton



What can I say about Mr. Nolf?!? Well for starters, I will say "Awesome," and I don't mean just his sense of humor! ;) Not only does Ron make me smile but he makes my job easier. Ron is such a vital part of the ministry at Grace. Ron is the one to respond anytime we need to check something out on campus or the water is running, or we need a quote for that. Ron not only has been the Buildings and Grounds Chair, served on Session, sings in the Choir, tackled all sorts of B & G projects, but he is also an offering counter and check signer, and that's not all! Grace is so blessed by Ron; I am so blessed by Ron. Thank you, Mr. Nolf, for your servant's heart and dad jokes. - Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

When our congregation thinks of Ron Nolf, they might immediately think, "Great voice in the choir, and leader of the Nolf Family Singers." Well, that is absolutely true, but there is so much more to Ron than just a beautiful baritone voice. Another quality that might come to mind is a great sense of humor or his "terrible" jokes. Still, there is so much more. Ron isn't just at Grace on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings, he can be seen around campus throughout the week. He is in the "Counter" rotation – those great volunteers who come in on Tuesdays to help count and verify the week's offerings. He is also the one that is called if there is a problem with our irrigation system. After years of being a golf course superintendent, he knows lawns and irrigation. He's also here when no one else is. Since he lives nearby, if our security alarm goes off, he comes over to check to make sure everything is OK. This man with a heart of gold makes time for others, and steps in when he sees a need. Whether it's helping at the church or spending time with someone who needs a listening ear (or an uplifting joke), Ron makes himself available, all while being the patriarch of his close family. Ron LIVES his Christian faith and is a wonderful example of discipleship. -Jayne Parker, Music Director

Ron is not only a great golfer and blesses us through choir with his voice of song, but he is also a dedicated and faithful servant. Ron is always readily available to respond to calls regarding campus security and building alerts. In addition, he lends his sense of humor and shines his love for the Lord to all! Ron is an amazing blessing to all our lives at Grace. Thanks Ron for all your years of service! -Maria Haigh, Community Outreach Director

We thank God for volunteers like Ron Nolf, who faithfully serves our preschool—often seen battling the ever-elusive playground gopher with flares and a fearless spirit. While the gopher may test his patience, Ron's servant heart and commitment to keeping our children safe never wavers. We're blessed by his humor, hard work, and dedication! Blessings, Frankie Zavala, Preschool Director

Growing Our Grace Family

We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Krystle to our teaching team! Her warm spirit and deep love for early childhood education make her a perfect fit for our preschool family. With her arrival, we've been able to open more spots and welcome additional students into our classrooms. We are so grateful to see our program growing and thriving!

Tuesday Chapel: A Favorite Time of the Week

Each Tuesday, our preschoolers gather in the sanctuary for Weekly Chapel—a time filled with music, prayer, Bible stories, and joy. There is something truly special about watching little ones worship with open hearts and bright smiles. Our students love being in the sanctuary and learning about God's love in a space that feels sacred and welcoming.



Upcoming Event — Mark Your Calendar!

Trunk or Treat – October 18, A fun and safe Halloween tradition! Dress up, decorate your trunk, and enjoy sweet treats with our preschool families and church community. We can't wait to see everyone's creative costumes and cheerful smiles!



Character Corner: Obedience

Every month, we focus on a different Christ-like character trait, and September's trait is obedience. Our students are learning that obedience means listening to those who care for us—just like how we listen to God's word.

Here's a sweet story from this month:

On Tuesday morning, the preschoolers lined up after Chapel, hands folded and eyes wide. "Time to head back to class," said Ms. Lesley, smiling. "Remember, we're going to walk quietly and stay together."

The children nodded. As Ms. Lesley stepped forward, so did little Joseph, then Leon, then Ethan and Luka and the rest. Like a little parade, they followed their teacher down the hall.

"Look at you all being so obedient!" Ms. Lesley said.

Leon turned and whispered, "We're good listeners because God wants us to be."



"Yes!" said Joseph, "And because we don't want to get lost!"

It may have just been a short walk back to the classroom, but in those few steps, the children showed that learning obedience doesn't just happen during lessons—it happens in every little moment, too.

Thank you to our church family for your continued prayers and support. God is doing beautiful things at Grace Presbyterian Preschool, and we are so blessed to walk this journey with you!

With gratitude, **The Grace Presbyterian Preschool Staff**



Missions: Special Offering

Romans 14:19: "Pursue What Makes for Peace"

"All who follow Jesus, all around the world.

Yes, we are the church together!"

On Sunday, October 5th, we celebrate Missions Sunday and Worldwide Communion Day. In conjunction, we will be collecting the Special Offering for Peace & Global Witness

Presbyterians help transform lives through our work for peace, with the tools God has given us. Together, in the Spirit of God, we work to break the power of hate, and heal the wounds of violence and division. We join in the Peace & Global Witness Offering because it is the boundless peace God offers.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work together to share Christ's peace with one another. We seek peace in a chaotic world, finding strength in knowing that God is always near.

Your gifts will help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Let us offer peace of Christ at all times and all ways.

50% of this Peace & Global Witness Offering will stay with our community and our region for ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation.

50% of this offering will unite Presbyterians who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the globe.



THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING SEPTEMBER 7-OCTOBER 5, 2025



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



Our Thursday morning Bible Study is focusing on the Biblical Book of Daniel. We are using the book called "Be Resolute" by Warren Wiersbe. When we got to chapter 10 he wrote a section called The Invisible War. He referred to a heavenly war going on between the forces of evil and the forces of God. He even wrote of the angel Gabriel who was delayed in getting to Daniel to interpret his vision because of the evil deeds of the King of Persia.

GOD'S WORD: *Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* *Ephesians 6:13*

This month's GP Hot Topic: THE INVISIBLE WAR

Grandparents, are we involved in an Invisible War for the souls of our children and grandchildren. I say yes! Can these forces be hard to see. I say yes!

As we look at the lives of our children and grandchildren, can we ask 'how much time do they spend with the Lord'. In there you can find the Invisible War at work. Here are some things to look for to "see" the Invisible War.

- Listen to their language. Is it kind? Does it show a concern for others. Does it ever blaspheme the Lord?
- Do they read the Bible or anything that is faith related. The longer they are in school the more time they will spend reading. Make sure it is wholesome reading.
- Do they make time to worship. Yes, especially sports/band seem to have the priority these days. Can they find time outside of school work and sporting/musical events to worship?
- How do they relate around their peers? Are they an example or a follower?
- Do they reject ungodly behavior in others?
- Are they concerned about the world around us?

There are probably more but what can we, as grandparents, do to help our grandchildren fight this Invisible War?

We must be like the angel Gabriel who, although late, was able to win the battle against evil. I will mention that Gabriel got some help...the angel Michael was able to team up and help win the battle. Can we as grandparents team-up in prayer to help win the souls of our grandchildren for our Lord? The answer to that is easy. Yes, we can!

Put on the full armor of God and fight! (Read Ephesians 6). Remember we can be like God's angels. If we need help, ask!

- **Prayer:** *Dear Father, you have left us instructions on what to do to lead our children and grandchildren on your path. Please help us to know what you want us to do. Forgive us Lord when we don't do it. In your Son's name and in gratitude for what He has done. Amen.*
- **Action:** Keep your eyes open for evidence of the Invisible War going on in your grandchildren. Then do something!
- **A Thought and a Smile:** "Children are likely to live up to what you believe in them." – Lady Bird Johnson

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
 6:30pm AA Men's Group
 7pm Worship Band Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

9:15am Bible 101
 10am Bible Study
 7pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 12:30pm Personnel	2	3	4 8am Men's Breakfast
5 Missions Sunday	6	7	8 9am B & G	9	10	11 
12 11:15am Worship Committee	13	14 6:30pm Deacons	15 12:30pm Finance Com.	16	17	18 5pm Trunk or Treat 
19 11:15am Christian Ed. Meeting	20	21 4:30pm Fellowship Committee	22	23 8:30am PEO	24	25 10am PCSS Show
26	27	28 8am Preschool Family Chapel 6:30pm Session	29	30	31	



4	Skipper Denton	16	Christie Elliott
7	Carol Eldridge	25	Ken Sanger
10	Arlene Cratsa	28	Chris Nolf
	Frances Hummel		

20	Norm & Peg Long (53 years)
27	Chris & Adriana Nolf (8 years)

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

Rex Bassett

Annie Kumar

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Suzy Long

Bev Bush

Eliza Newton
(Sailor's friend)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Roger Corley

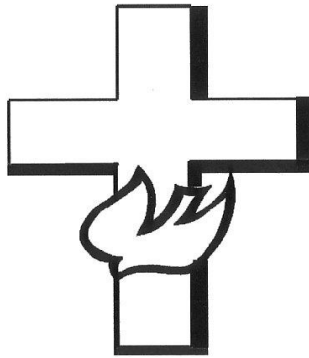
Barbie Nicholson

Hannah Dukes

Judi Salazar

John Earnest

Tricia Sanger



Michele Earnest

Robert Sawyer
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Gary Eldridge

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Helen Frederick

Arcilia Tauber

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Duane Weston

Betty Haver

Whisler Family

Chandy Jacob
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)

Krasovic Family

Woolsey Family



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WHERE GOD'S FAMILY
GROWS



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Church Staff

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

Rev. John Denton
Christie Elliott
Maria Haigh
Frankie Zavala
Lesley Stong
Miriam Mojica Santos
Denise Stockman
Savannah Haigh
Jayne Parker
Frances Hummel
Scott Huston
Albina Lumetta
Pat Sexton
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.