
OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER
GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflection from Pastor John Denton

I once heard it said, "Your dreams can't come true if you don't first dream." We each have this beautiful song within us that we have been waiting to belt out, and for whatever reason, over time, many people simply end up not singing at all.



My girls watched a lot of Disney movies over the years, and one song that always inspired me was "I've Got a Dream" from Disney's Tangled. All of the characters are gathered in a pub, singing about their dreams of being a florist, a designer, a baker, and so much more.

What is the song you have wanted to sing? What dreams have you dreamed?

Many people pass away without ever singing their song or realizing their dreams. They replace their dreams with the goal of being average or simply blending in.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

It's time to sing. It's time to dream. God is doing a new thing. The old is gone, and the new has come.

On Sunday mornings and throughout the week around our campus, it is exciting to see glimpses of God's kingdom breaking into our world. It is exciting to see new creation, God doing a new thing, new life, new energy, and new growth.

God has placed a song in each one of us. It would be my prayer for our church that we never stop singing that song. What is Grace Presbyterian Church's song? What are we singing as we enter into the fall? What dreams are we hoping to fully realize?

I want to encourage you to keep looking out into the pews and praying over who you hope will fill them. I want to encourage you to keep praying for your family, your neighbors, and those in our community. What are the dreams we have for these spaces? What is God calling us to imagine? And how can we faithfully work together to see those dreams become reality?

Friends, I believe Grace has a song to sing. So let's keep singing. Let's keep dreaming. Let's keep believing that God is doing a new thing among us.

Grace Church Sings a New Song.

Rev. John Denton

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

POURED OUT

"...There was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He (Jesus) was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's hose, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and she wiped then with the hair of her head and began kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume."
Luke 7:36-38

The woman in this story needed no one to remind her of her sin. Her mind replayed it again and again. Jesus was going to eat with a man in her town. In her sinful state, she realized the answer to her agony and made her way to that house. With her, she carried something valuable, an alabaster jar of perfume, which she poured on Jesus's feet. This was a generous gift, one of great monetary value. She set an example of giving generously to God through finances. But, if we look carefully, we see the perfume is not all she poured out.

The woman served Jesus generously. As she knelt behind Him, she cleaned His feet with her tears and hair. It was not a pleasant job. His feet were dirty from walking on dusty roads, but it was a sacrifice she chose to make because He was her answer. This woman generously poured out her affection on Jesus, kissing Him over and over. Kisses misused in the past were now focused where they should be. Her affection was directed to her healer.

She trusted in Jesus enough to know her gifts would not be wasted. In response to her faith, Jesus forgave all the sin she brought with her that day. Jesus, in the most generous act in history gave up heaven and gave up His life for our sins. Like this woman our first step in learning His kind of generosity is giving ourselves generously to Him. When we pour our possessions, time, strength and affection on Him, he will use us to give generously to others.

Financial Statement
As of August 31, 2026

	Aug 2026	YTD 2026		YTD 2026 Budget
Income	$ 59,292	$ 510,229		$ 517,168
Expense	$ 65,953	$ 458,751		$ 515,505
Net Income	$ 6,661	$ 51,478		$ 1,663

Note: Income includes 12-month distribution from the Legacy Fund and the money collected for the Solar capital campaign

Christian Education

As the evenings grow cooler and the leaves begin to turn, it's time for one of our favorite traditions: Trunk or Treat! **Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 24th from 5-6:30pm.**

Trunk or Treat at Grace is a cherished event for both our church family and the wider community. Last year, we welcomed over 100 guests for creative trunks, fun games, prizes, popcorn, cotton candy, and wonderful fellowship.

We would love your help to make this year's event a success. Please sign up on the patio after worship to decorate a trunk, donate a bag of candy, or help supervise a game for an hour. Contact Sue Weston or the Church Office for more information.









All Church Workday

Many Hands Workday on Saturday October 10, 8am until early afternoon. C'mon out to help clean up and fix up the campus for Advent season. There will be coffee and breakfast snacks and good times working together. Any questions— check with Scott Huston or any Buildings and Grounds member.

Special Men's Breakfast



Join us on Saturday, October 3rd at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall when the Fellowship Committee will be presenting a special breakfast, good fellowship and time in the Word and prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.

Christmas Advent Craft Faire



Nov. 15, 2026

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Christmas Advent Craft Faire



We are excited to announce our plans to 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.

Missions Sunday



Chess Club

Chess Club for students Grade 3 through age 17 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9am in room 9. Join us!

We need helpers!

Please contact Sue Weston or Mark Hiltbrand. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - Peggy Paradis



Peggy is a devoted servant of our Lord who loves to model Christlike hospitality and welcome to those around her. She so often shares her gifts of service through cooking, praying before church, welcoming the congregation in fellowship on the patio after worship, serving through the Deacons, and now, her newest gift to the congregation, the cookbook.

Grace has been so blessed by Ed and Peggy, and it has been amazing to see their ministry to our congregation take shape over the last few years.
Thank you, Peggy, for all you do at Grace! -Rev. Denton

† *There would be a tremendous void at Grace if not for Peggy. Not only does she lead the prayer team that prays every Sunday at 9:30 am, but she also plays a vital role on the Fellowship Committee. Her editorial skills are amazing! I send her the minutes after each meeting to review, and she always finds something that I missed or reformats/rewrites to make the minutes concise. Peggy is also a talented cook and baker. She comes up with creative menu ideas for our ladies' events that she executes with the help of the committee. I love how Peggy calms me down when I'm stressed out right before an event. She reminds me to breathe! Peggy is doing a fantastic job heading up the cookbook that will be for sale at the Advent Faire in November. It has been a huge undertaking that she has put her heart and soul into, which has been a true labor of love. Peggy you are such a blessing to me and all those around you! -Arlene Cratsa*

† Peggy Paradis is the epitome of a volunteer in service to Christ. She uses her creativity and culinary skills in the Fellowship Committee, whether she's making chilaquiles for our annual Valentine's brunch, cooking for the ladies' fellowship events, steering a committee to gather recipes for a Grace cookbook, or even using her skills to bring a delicious dinner to someone who has just had surgery. Thank you, Peggy. Peggy is also someone who sees a need and acts upon it. She doesn't say, "*Gee, someone should really …*;" she jumps in and works to fill the need. Together, she and Ed started a Sunday morning prayer group that meets before the service to offer up prayers for the church and its people. Our congregation takes advantage of that time of devotion and prayer. Many Sundays the choir comes into the sanctuary, looks out into the congregation and notices a small turnout of worshipers. Then the folks from the prayer group come in, and the pews start filling. What a ministry the prayer group is! Thank you, Peggy, for using your servant's heart and your many talents to strengthen our church and to build Christ's kingdom right here in Vista. -Jayne Parker

† *I have had the pleasure of working alongside Peggy this past year through the Deacon ministry. She is a dedicated server who has brought new ideas to our meetings. Her love of serving others has been a great asset to the Deacons, and therefore also to the congregation and the community. I am looking forward to the gifts she'll share with our church this next year.*
-Denise Stockman

† Peggy is an absolute blessing and one who accepts a challenge and executes it with perseverance and love. During the Wednesday night Bible study in the book of Philippians back in 2023, Peggy was challenged and encouraged by Paul's admonition in Philippians 2:12-13 to "*continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.*" The next week she announced to the Bible study group she and Ed were going to start leading a Sunday morning prayer meeting to pray over the church and the Sunday worship service and the meeting would be centered on the book of Psalms. Peggy and Ed are now in Psalms 100, representing 100 faithful weeks of praying for the church. She shines like stars in the sky and we are blessed by her leadership and commitment to this important task. Praise the Lord for faithful servants like Peggy who run the race of life to glorify God and make themselves available to Him so that He may fulfill His good purpose! -Patrick Ryan

As we head into October, we are excited to continue growing, learning, and discovering together at Grace Preschool! This month, we are diving deep into the story of David and Goliath and focusing on the character trait of trust.



For our little ones, trust is a big concept. We are helping children understand that they can trust God to keep them safe, trust their teachers to guide, and care for them, and trust their parents to support them, teach them right from wrong, and help them grow. We are also learning what it means to trust our friends by sharing, taking turns, helping one another, and treating each other with kindness.

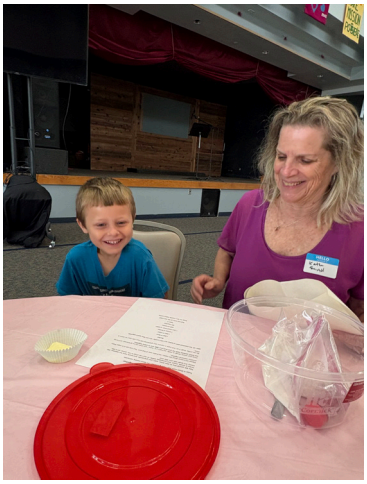


The world can feel very big to a young child, and there are many things that are outside of their control. Through the story of David and Goliath, we remind our children that they do not have to face those big things alone. When we trust in God and the loving adults He has placed in our lives, we can face challenges with courage and confidence. We are excited to help our children discover that being brave doesn't mean we aren't afraid—it means we can trust God even when something feels big or difficult.



September at Grace Preschool

September was filled with special memories, learning, and lots of fun! One of our favorite moments was celebrating our Grandparents. We welcomed grandparents and special family members into our preschool to bake cookies together. Our fellowship hall was filled with laughter, stories, sweet treats, and some very special moments between generations. We are so thankful for the opportunity to help our children create memories with the people who love them so dearly.



We were also excited to welcome one new little toddler to our preschool family this month! We are thankful for every family God brings through our doors and are prayerfully looking forward to welcoming even more little ones into our community in the coming months.

Learning Through Exploration

Our September classrooms were busy exploring a variety of exciting themes!

We learned all about our five senses, giving children opportunities to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch their way through hands-on activities. We explored how our senses help us understand and experience the world around us.



Our Construction theme encouraged children to build, create, problem-solve, and work together. Blocks, building materials, and open-ended activities gave our little engineers plenty of opportunities to use their imaginations while developing important fine-motor and cognitive skills.



We are grateful for the continued support of our church family and for the opportunity to care for and teach these precious children. We pray that Grace Preschool will continue to grow—not only as a preschool, but as a church family where children know they are loved, supported, and part of God's family

-Grace Preschool Staff

Missions: World Communion Sunday



The first Sunday in October has traditionally been a time to celebrate World Communion Sunday. This is a time when Christians everywhere partake of the Lord's Supper. As we sit in our own churches - often times with people just like us - do we really feel the "globalness" of this event? We talk about people of other nations and cultures, but can we really identify or feel "at one" with them? We are all children of God and siblings in Christ. We are one, as the hymn says:

> In Christ there is no East or West,
> In him no South or North,
> But one great fellowship of love
> Throughout the whole wide earth.

The prophet Micah is clear: Our love of God moves us to faithful action through justice, kindness, and humble living. Participating in Churchwide Special Offerings is one way we show our love for God and help all God's children live into the fullness of Micah's prophecy. World Communion Offering will be collected on October 4th as part of Mission Sunday.

> If we all do a little,
> it adds up to a lot.

DEACON'S CORNER – Anna Belle Beaman - Secretary



Anna Belle is the deacon secretary. In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), ruling elders and deacons are called to ministry in partnership with teaching elders. Teaching elders show gifts for teaching, ruling elders and deacons show gifts unique to their roles in the life of their congregation. Ruling elders have responsibilities in leadership and deacons embody acts of care, compassion, and service.

Because the central ministry of Presbyterian deacons revolves around compassion, care, and practical service, the secretary's work ensures these ministries are organized and properly communicated to the church leadership. The secretary manages the internal records and paperwork specifically for the **Board of Deacons** and its ministries of mercy.

In addition to Anna Belle, the other deacons are Denise Stockman, Will Bynagte, Linda Huston, Glenna Spindelman, Peggy Paradis, Terry Jeanne Sawyer, Mary Becerra, Dorene Comerford, Pyong Dusang, and Karen England. To contact a deacon, please reach out to the church office.

Join our
Grandparents@Prayer
via email monthly.

Generation G: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

(or Hot Topics on Grandparenting)

-by Gramma P*at Whisler*

When I was in third grade we all got polio shots. Of course, it was a tender spot and we were told not to touch ours or others. Some boy (name unknown) in my class hit my arm and I was petrified that my shot wouldn't work. Told my teacher. Then I remember in fifth grade, my friends and I were walking home in the snow. All of a sudden, I was hit in the head with a snowball. It really hurt. Some of the boys in our group chased after the culprit but he was never found. No teacher around this time. Have you ever noticed, some kids can be cruel. So, what's a grandparent to do?

GOD'S WORD: " But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **KINDNESS**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."Galatians 5: 22-23

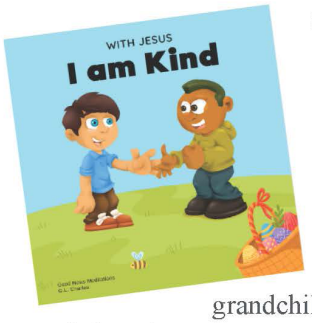
This month's GP Hot Topic: K I N D N E S S

You may have your own personal examples of kids being unkind. So, we as grandparents need to follow a two-step method of teaching our grandchildren about kindness. (1) how to be kind and (2) how to respond to un-kindliness.



When trying to impress kindness upon our grandchildren, we first and foremost have to show kindness. We have to show kindness even when we're not in the mood. Let's consider the way we talk. Do we use friendly words and tones with those words to reflect kindness? Our grandchildren hear what we say and may even repeat it when we're not around. Kindness must come from the heart and action. Even if we don't talk it, are the things we DO kind? What is the last kind action we have done towards a person? Were our grandchildren with us? Did they notice or comment: "Gee grandma (Grandpa) that was nice of you to take dinner to your neighbor." If they weren't around, tell them what you did and why. "I took dinner to my neighbor because she is ill and it's hard for her to make her own meals. It's something I know Jesus wanted me to do." Also show them how contagious a smile can be and how that can be a gift of kindness to others (especially grandchildren). That will make God smile!

Philippians 2:13: …*for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose*. God's Spirit must work in us so we may be kind to others.



We need to talk to them about Random Acts of Kindness. Have you ever been kind to someone you didn't know or to someone who didn't know the kindness came from you. It will make you feel good even if you don't receive credit. (No thank you's) God knows what you did and that's all who needs to know, yet also pass it on to the grandkids. They will remember.

Our grandchild may find it hard to be kind to someone who has been unkind to them. What do you tell them? Tell them Jesus requires us to be kind to everyone. Also, it will make the child feel better to respond kindly or not at all

When grandparents have a situation where someone has been unkind to them, tell your grandchildren the situation. No one feels good after dishing out unkindliness to others. Tell them by your story, they can see Jesus' kindness through what you have done.

Ephesians 4: [32] *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.*

Prayer: Father, please grow your spirit within us so we can fulfill your command to love one another. Lord, love is shown in kindness. Help us to show kindness because we can then show it to our grandchildren. You are with us Father and with your presence we can be loving and kind. In your Son's name we pray.

Action: Do a Random Act of Kindness and then tell your grandchild (only).

A Thought and a Smile: Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish a lot…. By Blaise Pascal

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
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.
10:30am Staff Meeting
2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS
2:30pm After School Program
6:30pm AA Men's Group
7pm Worship Band Reh.

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

FRIDAYS
8am Food Distribution

SATURDAYS
9:30am Soul Line Dance Class



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



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

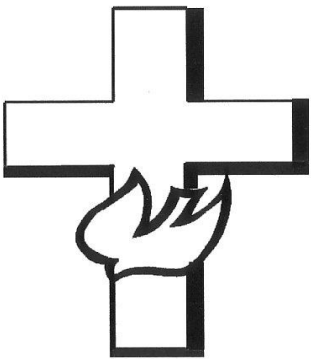


20	Norm & Peg Long (54 years)
27	Chris & Adriana Nolf (9 years)

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!

Prayer Requests

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



Weston Baucke

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Brooke
(Paradis' Granddaughter)

Cathy Browning

Carley
(Maria's Haigh Niece)

Barbara Coley
(Kim Sparkman's Sister-in-law)

Bob C.
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Robert Deatherage

Dusenberry Family
(Kim Sparkman's Brother)

Connie Ethridge
(Kim Sparkman's Sister)

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Betty Haver

Nancy Haigh

Keith & Corey
(The Long's Friends)

Peg Long

Luke
(Karen England's Family)

Luther Family

Ron Nolf

O'Malley Family

Ed Paradis

Jayne Parker

Maureen Russell

Steven Sailors

Judi Salazar

Tricia & Ken Sanger

Sawyer Family

Erin Stockman & Family

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1450 E. Vista Way
Vista, CA 92084

Phone: 760-724-0077
Fax: 760-724-2534
E-mail: info@gpcvista.org
www.gpcvista.org

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY GROWS

facebook.com/GPCVista

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. John Denton
Director of Church Operations	Christie Elliott
Preschool Director	Frankie Zavala
Preschool Teacher	Miriam Mojica Santos
Preschool Teacher	Abigail Beaman
Preschool Teacher	Jade LaBarber
Preschool Support Staff	Denise Stockman
Dir. of Community Relations	Maria Haigh
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Sue Weston
Music Director	Jayne Parker
Organist	Frances Hummel
Praise Band Leader	Scott Huston
Financial Specialist	Albina Lumetta
Choir Section Leader	Chris Nolf

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
& PRESCHOOL

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.