

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

What's better than one bounce house? Two bounce houses!

Growth can be measured in many ways—but I think bounce houses are always a good indicator of growth!

In 2022, we hosted our first Trunk or Treat after COVID. It was a wonderful evening in the church parking lot, filled with decorated trunks, candy, and laughter—though no bounce houses that year. That night sparked a larger conversation about what an incredible opportunity *Trunk or Treat* is for fellowship and for showing Christ-like hospitality to our neighbors. Looking back, that fall evening may have served as a catalyst for a fresh start to family ministry at Grace.



A few weeks ago, we hosted *Trunk or Treat* once again, and what a night it was! We had over 20 cars participating and—yes—two bounce houses! One for our younger children and another for our older kids. The event provided a wonderful time of fellowship and connection with our preschool families, as well as a chance to be good news to well over 100 of our neighbors.

Trunk or Treat reminds us of the great ministry that happens when we gather with our church friends and our community. When we come together as a church, good things happen. When we have fun as a church, good things happen.

As we look ahead to 2026, I'd love to ask you: **What fun things would you like to do together as a church next year?**

Yes—decorated trunks and bounce houses are a blast! But what about a Padres game? A bonfire? A Fourth of July celebration on the lawn?

As we move forward as a church family—post-pandemic and post-pastoral transition—it's time to remember what we love doing together. How do we have fun and grow together as the family of God? I'm excited for the many opportunities ahead to celebrate what God is doing in our lives and in our church.

Let's have fun!

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

Stewardship and Thanksgiving

*"Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done."
Psalm 105:1*

The first recorded Thanksgiving celebration was a harvest feast in 1621 between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe, where they gave thanks to God for his provision. It was officially established as a national holiday in an 1863 proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and was celebrated at different times by different states. In 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill that set the date for Thanksgiving as the 4th Thursday of November.

November is also Stewardship month at Grace Presbyterian Church when we celebrate God's provision during the year and pledge our financial giving for the coming year.

So, what does stewardship have to do with Thanksgiving?

- Stewardship is an act of Thanksgiving. Stewardship is the "privilege of responding to God's love with thanksgiving and gratitude," recognizing that everything is a gift from God to be managed wisely.
- Thanksgiving is the foundation of stewardship. The spirituality of stewardship is rooted in recognizing God's greatness and not grasping things selfishly. It starts with an attitude of thanksgiving which leads to the desire to use God's gifts to glorify Him.
- Giving in gratitude, we return a portion of what God has given us back to Him, not because we are returning what is ours, but because we are giving back what is His in a spirit of thankfulness.

In daily gratitude, regularly reflecting on and thanking God for the gifts received is a practice of daily stewardship that fosters a grateful heart.

Financial Statement As of September 30, 2025

	Sept 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
Income	\$ 44,556	\$ 450,742	\$ 570,375
Expense	\$ 48,183	\$ 425,242	\$ 562,862
Net Income	\$- 3,627	\$ 25,500	\$ 7,513

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 November

Join us on Saturday, November 1st 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.

Advent Dinner & Devotionals

"The word "advent" comes from the Latin for "arrival," and the season reflects on the first coming of Jesus Christ at his birth and anticipates his second coming. It is a time for spiritual preparation, reflection, and celebration

focused on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love."

Please join us as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas at a midweek dinner and devotion. This is a time to fellowship with a meal, reflection and activities for children. Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to join you.

Save the date for Wednesdays; December 3rd, 10th and 17th from 6-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Meals will be provided by the Christian Education Committee. Signups will be held in November. Our prayer is you will be deeply blessed by this time of fellowship.

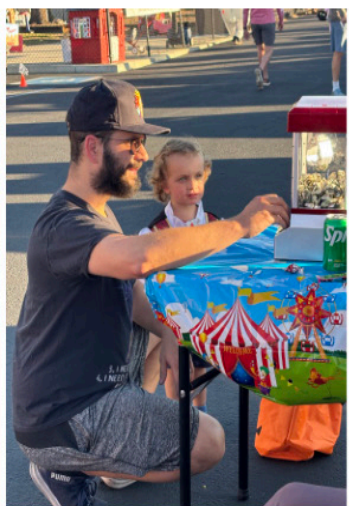


Carols, Cookies, & Christmas Sweaters



Trunk or Treat was a HOWLING success! We welcomed over 100 people to campus for fun, games, jump houses, treats and lots of candy! There were community members, preschool families and Grace members enjoying fellowship, cotton candy, popcorn and of course, CANDY!

Thank you to everyone that brought a decorated trunk, donated candy and prayed for this event. It was a wonderful outreach event!



Volunteer Spotlight: Glenna Spindelman

Glenna Spindelman has a passion for living out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. If you stop by on any Tuesday morning at 8 a.m., you'll see Glenna and a wonderful team of volunteers ministering to those facing food insecurity during our weekly food distribution.

For decades, Glenna has been actively involved in the Mission Ministry of Grace—both locally and globally—faithfully working alongside others in kingdom-building initiatives and acts of service.

Each month, when Glenna leads our congregation in Liturgy, we are reminded of how good God is and how we can respond to that goodness in our daily lives.

Thank you, Glenna, for your faithful service and all that you do at Grace! ~ Rev. John Denton

Glenna's unwavering dedication to food outreach and the Missions Committee exemplifies her deep love for our community. Her selfless volunteerism enriches countless lives, showcasing her heartfelt commitment to serving others. *Gracias Glenna por tu fe y dedicación.* ~ Maria Haigh, Community Outreach Director

I am pretty sure that if you look up "Glenna" in the dictionary, you will see a heart for Missions and faithful servant of the Lord, as the definition. Glenna has been such a vital part of Grace for many years and she truly has a passion for Missions and a heart for service. Glenna has served as an Elder, a CRE, the Missions Committee Chair, served food to our friends and neighbors, tutored in our After School Program, helped keep things going in times of transition, and so so much more! I am grateful for Glenna's friendship, support, and for the integral part of Grace that she is! ~ Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

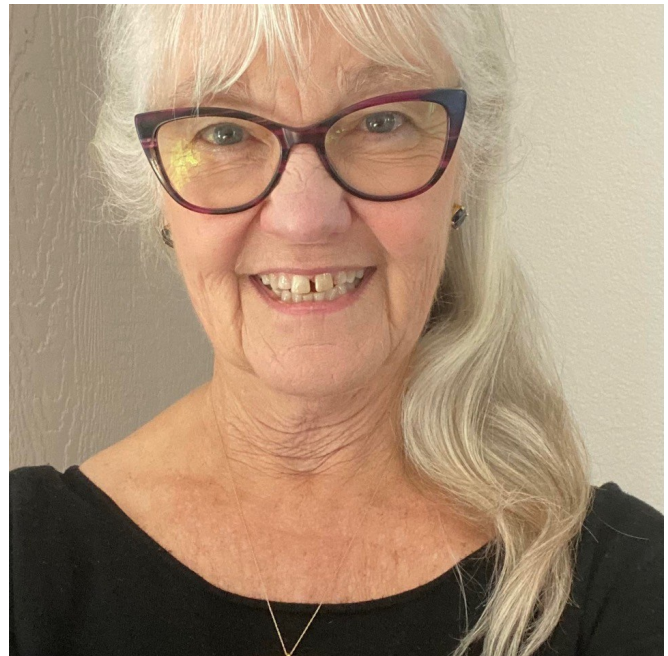
Through the Great Commission, Jesus asks his disciples to teach the gospel of Christ to everyone—everywhere. In Christian ministry, we often call this outreach: providing services to others and spreading the good news of Jesus.

Glenna's dedication to the Great Commission, is driven by her faith and her love for people and the community. As a long-time member of Grace Presbyterian church, Glenna has served in numerous ways to carry out the mission of the Church. She has served for many years, on Session, and continues to serve on the Missions Committee as well as volunteers in the food distribution program every week with dedication and charm.

Community outreach in the church, is a way she puts her faith, into action by serving others and showing the love of Christ, through practical help.

Through her creativity and great communication skills, she facilitated, and helped coordinate, volunteer efforts and resources from the church, to form community partnerships with local nonprofits, such as Operation Hope, North County, and Lifeline community resources, Vista. This collaborative effort moved the church beyond its walls to be an active participant in the neighborhood, building trust and strengthening community bond.

Always looking for a better way to do things, taking charge and willing to lead, Glenna always brings her best, as well as her great smile! We're so grateful and thankful for the leadership and heart she brings to our Church! ~ Annie Kumar



Volunteer Spotlight
Glenna Spindelman

If you're looking for someone who has a heart that beats with care and compassion for helping those in need you'll find it in Glenna. She serves on the Missions Committee, volunteers in our Food Pantry, and works with Operation Hope and Lifeline Services. When Glenna sees a need she rarely steps in, she JUMPS in with both feet.

It's because of her that one Sunday I made a visit to Grace and for the past 35 years I've been blessed to have her as a friend and to call Grace my home. THANK YOU GLENNA ~ Denise Stockman

As we move into this beautiful season of thankfulness, we at Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool are reflecting on the many ways God has blessed our school this fall. November is always a time to pause, give thanks, and celebrate all that the Lord is doing in the hearts and lives of our little ones—and this month has been overflowing with joy, growth, and gratitude!

A Wonderful Workday of Blessing



We are so grateful for the helping hands that came together for our recent Preschool Workday! With the love and effort of many dedicated volunteers, we were able to make some wonderful improvements to our playgrounds. Thanks to your support, we added new shade sails to provide extra comfort and protection for our children as they play, and we installed a new storage shed to help keep our toys and outdoor equipment safe and organized. These upgrades have not only made our playgrounds more beautiful but have also reminded us of what can be accomplished when God's people work together

in love and service.



Learning to Trust in God

Our Bible focus this month has been the story of *David and Goliath*—a timeless reminder that with faith, even the smallest can do mighty things! The children have been learning that when David faced Goliath, he didn't rely on his own strength but trusted completely in God's power and protection. This message has been especially meaningful as we talk about how we can trust God when we feel scared, unsure, or even when we miss our parents during the school day. What a wonderful gift it is to reassure our children that God is always with them, helping them to be brave and reminding them that they are never alone.



Growing and Celebrating Together

Our classrooms have been buzzing with creativity and excitement! We recently completed painting and updating another classroom, making it bright, welcoming, and ready for learning and laughter. The children were so proud to welcome their families to our Open House this month, where they shared their artwork, projects, and all the new things they've been learning. It was such a joy to see their faces light up as they showed their parents their classrooms, their friends, and all their hard work. Moments like these remind us of the beautiful partnership between home, school, and

church as we nurture our children in both faith and learning.

As we give thanks this month, we are reminded of the fact that We are thankful for our families, our teachers, our church community, and most of all, for the children whose laughter and faith inspire us daily.

May we continue to trust in God's goodness, just as David did, and to see His hand at work in all that we do here at Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool.

— With love and gratitude,

The Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool Staff



Community Resources: Volunteer Appreciation

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held in October, 2025 was a special event filled with gratitude and recognition for the dedicated individuals who give their time and effort to support the Vista commu-



nity. Among the 31 volunteers in attendance; Andrea Fresca, Cameron Russell, James Jupiter, Jenifer Leon, Linda Huston, Donna Hubner, Katherine MacClever, Margo Smalley, Terry Bassett and Steven Sailors were honored as volunteers of the year.

Special speakers, Ron Rosol shared heartfelt stories of his experiences

volunteering and Glenda Garcia (Community Liaison) shared the valuable partnership Foothill Oak Elementary has formed with the GPC After School



Program. The volunteers were treated to a delicious brunch and had the chance to win door prizes as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Overall, it was a heartwarming and inspiring event celebrating the selflessness and generosity of these remarkable individuals.



Children's Ministry: Thank you!

We are so blessed to have such wonderful, dedicated Sunday School teachers at Grace. They invest so much in our children's spiritual foundation, and we are forever grateful and thankful for Susan Hiltbrand, Linda Huston, Maria Haigh, Sue Weston and Stephanie Denton.

Thank you to Alice Nolf, Jayne Parker, Arlene Cratsa and Peggy Paradis for stepping forward and being helpers in Sunday School class these past few weeks. Your patience, love, and energy in teaching Sunday school was a blessing to the children and families of our church. We are so thankful for your dedication!



Join our
Grandparents@Prayer
via email monthly.

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



It's November and it's just a slide to December. Our minds begin to plan. I have heard that more families join together for Thanksgiving than Christmas. Let's take a look at those holidays to see how we can make them holy days: To please our Lord ...and still keep our grandkids interest. I've included a few of my "through-the-years" Thanksgiving pictures. Life may change but thankfulness shouldn't.

GOD'S WORD: *Let your conversations be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone* **Colossians 4:6 NLT**

This month's GP Hot Topic: **MAKING HOLIDAYS HOLY DAYS**



2006: a few of us

Let's consider being at the table as that is often where the family will actually be together. Of course, there are lots of conversations going on but the one time when it stops...momentarily is blessing the meal: saying "Grace". Who is chosen to say Grace? Is it an adult who prays easily or is one of the children asked to say it, usually shorter. Often when we eat at my daughter's house, it is my granddaughter, Lily who says the Grace.

(You met her on Grandparents Day of Prayer in September.) It really doesn't matter who says the Grace. Some families pray around the table for things they are thankful for. This is a great idea, and can even be highlighted separately from blessing of the food.



2014: a few friends – no kids

Maybe Grace can be carried through the entire day. How?

- When talking to anyone be courteous, humble and Christlike. Our speech should be truthful. We should always make the person (especially our grandchildren) feel good after you finish talking.
- Listen to what our grandchildren have to say if we want them to listen to us. Our focus here is our grandchildren but this applies to everyone we talk to during the holiday.
- Take every opportunity to share your faith. When Grace is said and you are moved by the words, especially if a child has prayed or anyone, mention what was said and how it touched you.



2023 – a bunch of family and friends.

BRING YOUR FAITH TO THE TABLE!

- If there is sadness in the gathering, mention the hope we have in our Lord.
- Use joy (either yours or for another).

Whether Thanksgiving or Christmas, these are times to be Christlike. Try to dismiss the hecticness and materialism on these special days to make them what they are intended to be: a Christlike celebration (yes, even the pilgrims.)

- **Prayer:** *Our Lord, we are thankful for the many blessings that you shower on us day to day. We are grateful for you, our Father. We, as grandparents, look to you for guidance as we portray your blessings in grace-filled behavior. For you we are thankful. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.*
- **Action:** Bring happiness on Thanksgiving Day...along with turkey, stuffing, green beans, etc....
- **A Thought and a Smile:** *There's always something to be thankful for.*

November

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 (no 11/11)
 10:30am Staff Meeting (no 11/11)
 2:00pm Meals of Grace (no 11/11)

WEDNESDAYS

2:30pm ASP Tutoring (no 11/19 or 26)
 6:30pm AA Men's Group
 7pm Worship Band Rehearsal

THURSDAYS


9:15am Bible 101 (no 11/27)
 10am Women's Bible Study (no 11/27)
 7pm Choir Rehearsal (no 11/27)

FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution (no 11/28)

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 8am Men's Breakfast
2  11:15am Christmas Advent Craft Faire	3	4	5 12:30pm Personnel	6	7	8
9	10 Preschool Closed- PDD	11  Office Closed	12 9am B & G	13 8:30am PEO	14	15
16 11:15am Christian Ed. Meeting	17	18 6:30pm Session	19 12:30pm Finance Com.	20	21	22 10am PCSS
23 Thanksgiving/ Stewardship Sunday	24	25 8am Preschool Family Chapel	26 7pm Choir Rehearsal	27 Preschool Closed 	28	29 9am Advent Decorating
30		Office Closed				



9	Wayne Campbell	21	Laurie Allen
11	Mary Beaman	24	Karen Campbell
	Anna Nash		Steven Stockman
12	Gary Eldridge	29	Ian Barrie
17	Kathy Spindelman		Ron Nolf

9 Scott & Linda Huston (45 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in November 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

Maureen Russell

Hannah Dukes

Judi Salazar

John Earnest

Tricia Sanger

Michele Earnest

Robert Sawyer
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Gary Eldridge

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Helen Frederick

Kim & Jonathan Sparkman

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Arcilia Tauber

Nancy Haigh

Whisler Family

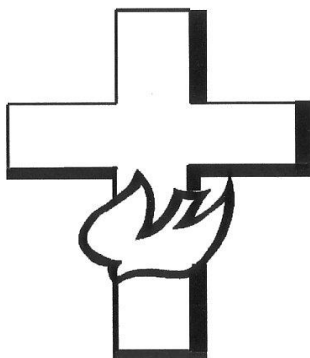
Betty Haver

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)

Chandy Jacob
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Woolsey Family

Krasovic Family





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

Rev. John Denton
Christie Elliott
Frankie Zavala
Lesley Stong
Miriam Mojica Santos
Krystle Alcazar
Denise Stockman
Maria Haigh
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.