

# MARCH NEWSLETTER



## Reflection from Pastor John Denton

I have written often about church growth because I deeply believe we are called to be a growing church — a church that activates our congregation each week to go out and live as Jesus in their neighborhoods.

At Grace Presbyterian Church, we have been blessed with a beautiful campus. I believe we are called to maximize its use through kingdom-building initiatives that serve our community and glorify God. Growth is not about numbers alone; it is an outward expression of what God is doing in our hearts and in our church family.

Already this year, we have worshiped over 100 adults and children on two different Sundays. That is something to celebrate. As we set our sights on consistently breaking 100 in weekly worship attendance, we recognize that this goal takes all of us.



Invite a friend. Bring someone you live with. Bring your kids. Show up. Be part of what God is doing here at Grace — every Sunday.

This Lent at Grace, we invite you into a simple commitment: **Be in worship. Every Sunday.**

Every Sunday you have the opportunity to glorify God in worship.

Every Sunday you gather not alone, but as part of the body of Christ.

Every Sunday you bear witness to what God is doing in you and in the world.

Every Sunday you grow in your faith and help build up the faith of others.

Lent is a season of making space for what matters most.

Make worship a priority. Make space for grace.

**Every Sunday.**

**See you Sunday,**

**Rev. Denton**

## Welcome Noelle Marie Kerr, Director of Children's Ministry!

Please join us in welcoming Noelle Marie Kerr, our new Director of Children's Ministry!

With 30 years in ministry, missions, and arts education, having begun directing children as a teenager. She has taught and mentored performers of all levels, from beginners to seasoned professionals. A longtime Music and Theatre Educator, Noelle holds a B.A. in Visual & Performing Arts (Music, Theatre, Arts Education). Noelle is also the Co-Founder and Producing Executive Artistic Director of Lighthouse Players, spreading Jesus' love and light throughout the community through the arts.



We are thrilled to have Noelle join our Grace family and look forward to the passion, creativity, and heart for ministry she brings to our children and our church community.

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  
**Advice for Investors**

*"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed: life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:13-21)*

The rich man had it all! He had built a successful business and had made all the right investments. And, with this year's abundance in profits, he decided it was time to reap the benefits of his hard work. He said to himself, "You have plenty... laid up for many years. Take life easy: eat, drink and be merry."

It seems to make a lot of sense. When you've worked hard all your life and planned out your finances carefully, you should be able to look forward to a carefree retirement. You'd think the rich man in Jesus' parable would have been commended for his wise planning.

Instead, God calls him a fool. But that's not because he was rich or because he had planned for his retirement. It's because he had missed the most important thing in life. He had not been rich toward God. In all his careful planning and hard work he had left God out of the picture. He had stored up treasures on earth without storing treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21) And when his life came to an end, he stood before the Lord empty-handed.

That, says Jesus, is what will happen to anyone who lives without paying attention to the Lord and His kingdom. Today's parable leaves each of us with some important questions. How am I living my life? Am I being rich toward God? Am I investing in His kingdom?

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 Financial Statement  
 As of January 31, 2026

	Jan. 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 53,392</b>	<b>\$ 53,392</b>	<b>\$ 64,702</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 53,588</b>	<b>\$ 53,588</b>	<b>\$ 64,646</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 196</b>	<b>\$ 196</b>	<b>\$ 56</b>

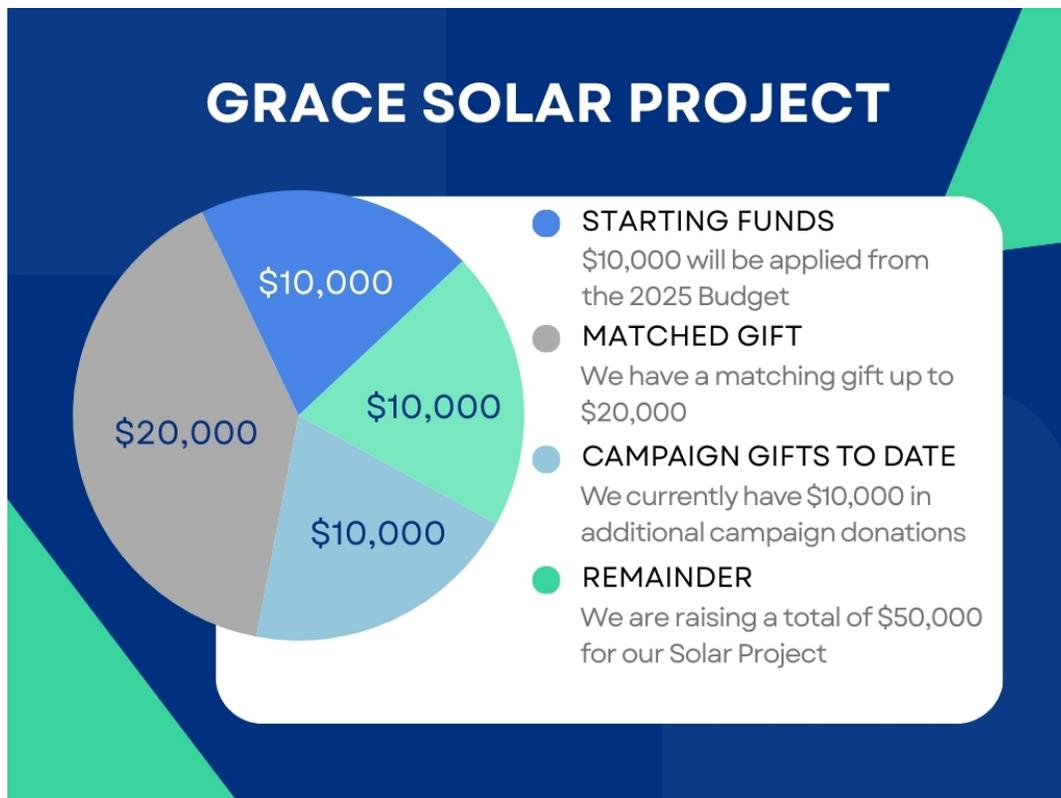
**Note: Income includes 6-month distribution from the Legacy Fund.**

## Solar Project

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, I was excited to introduce our Solar Project and the corresponding Solar Capital Campaign. Grace Presbyterian Church is seeking to reduce our reliance on electricity purchased from San Diego Gas & Electric by installing solar panels on our campus. By using renewable energy, we aim to be faithful stewards of both God's creation and the financial resources entrusted to us.

Reducing long-term energy costs will allow us to redirect more than \$20,000 each year toward Kingdom-building initiatives in our community. This project will also protect us from the rising costs associated with dependence on SDG&E.

Thanks to a friend of Grace, we have the opportunity to install solar at the contractor's cost. The project will include two solar arrays that together will generate more than 40,000 kWh annually. One array of over 30 panels will be installed on the sanctuary roof to serve both the sanctuary and preschool power meter. Another array of over 30 panels will be installed on the fellowship hall.



The campaign has kicked off strong with a matching gift of \$20,000! Combined with \$10,000 carried over from our 2025 budget, we are well positioned to complete the campaign. In the first few weeks alone, we have received \$10,000 in capital campaign gifts—an incredible start.

Our goal is to complete the project by the summer of 2026. We currently need \$10,000 to meet our goal. If you have been considering making a gift or have been praying about how you can help us save over \$20,000 annually in energy expenses, I would love to share more with you about this project.

All gifts may be made payable to Grace Presbyterian Church. Please write "Solar" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful stewardship.

In Christ,

Rev. Denton

## Men's Breakfast in March

MARCH 2026

Join us on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a full breakfast, good fellowship and time in the Word and prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.



## Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary with a flower arrangement? Sign up in the Narthex on Sundays or contact the Church Office and please make sure to specify what they are for and if you'd like to keep them after the service. Flower Arrangements are \$35 each. Thank you!



## Lent at Grace

# HOLY WEEK

## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Palm Sunday, March 29:**  
10 AM • Palm Procession

**Maundy Thursday, April 2:**  
6 PM • Light Meal and Worship

**Good Friday, April 3:**  
12 PM - 2 PM • Stations of the Cross

**Easter Sunday, April 5:**  
10 AM • Worship and Resurrection Cross  
(Egg Hunt to follow for the children)

**1450 E. VISTA WAY  
VISTA, CA 92084**

## Volunteer Spotlight: Patrick Ryan



From the Finance Committee to Vacation Bible Camp, Patrick Ryan is using his gifts to serve. Not only is Grace blessed with his incredible financial and stewardship knowledge, we are also blessed with his teaching ability. Whether he is teaching kids at Vacation Bible Camp in a Roman soldier costume or opening up his home and leading a Bible Study with his wife Sonia on Wednesday evenings, you are sure to learn about Jesus and what it means to truly have a relationship with Him. Patrick is caring, passionate, and truly has a servant's heart! Thank you Patrick!

- Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

# Patrick Ryan



I am blessed to call Patrick Ryan a friend. Patrick was one of the very first people I met at Grace through the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Each time we met, he was excited about the future of the church—and even more excited to see the gospel message continue to spread in Vista.

The church needs all kinds of people: people to teach, people to lead, people to serve on committees, and people to wash dishes. Patrick does all of these things at Grace. He has a deep passion for Christian education—hosting a weekly small group in his home, teaching kids at Bible Camp, and making sure every child in Sunday school has a Bible in hand.

It has been a true blessing to watch those early conversations and dreams become a reality over the past few years of ministry. So much of that is thanks to faithful servants like Patrick. Thank you, Patrick!

- Rev. John Denton

Patrick is an important member of the Grace community, and he shows a love of God's word and for people that has been a blessing to many.

Patrick is an excellent teacher, and he shows great enthusiasm when communicating about God's word. His knowledge of scripture is comprehensive, and his dedication to helping others learn more about the Bible can be seen in the way he prepares so completely for each Wednesday evening Bible study lesson. Patrick helps to make the Bible passages more meaningful through his thoughtful and thorough study.

In Vacation Bible Camp, his love for children and faithfulness to God's word is obvious. The VBC kids have enjoyed his exciting presentations and have been enthralled by the dramatic way he delivers each message. His efforts have certainly created wonderful memories for all the kids who have experienced one of Patrick's lessons.

Patrick's vital contributions to Grace are also evident in his participation on the Finance and Christian Education Committees. His significant knowledge regarding financial and legal issues adds much to the discussions that take place and the decisions made at Finance Committee meetings.

We are so grateful that Patrick is a faithful servant in serving all of us with the spiritual gifts that God has given him. - Ken and Tricia Sanger

The mere mention of Patrick Ryan's name brings a big smile to my face! For the past three years I've had the privilege of teaching alongside Patrick at Vacation Bible Camp. We take turns sharing the Bible story of the day. He has the unique ability to make the Bible come alive, and the children love it! Patrick is joyful and such a good sport as he wears a Roman costume to truly get into character, becoming a mean Roman soldier. He deserved an Academy Award last summer! I sit back in amazement as he has his part memorized and sincerely wants the children to learn who Jesus is and how Jesus wants to become a part of their daily lives.

I've gotten to know Patrick better over the past three years. I had no idea one of his grandparents was Greek ...no wonder he's so likable! He truly is a blessing to Vacation Bible Camp, to all those around him, and especially to Grace. - Arlene Cratsa

February was a joyful and love-filled month at Grace Preschool! Our focus was on the character trait of **kindness**, and our students truly embraced what it means to care for others. We celebrated Valentine's Day with friendship cards, creative crafts, and fun science activities. The classrooms were filled with excitement, learning, and lots of smiles!

Our Bible story was The Good Samaritan. In this story, Jesus teaches us that a man who was hurt and left on the side of the road was ignored by others, but a Samaritan stopped to help him. He cared for the man, made sure he was safe, and showed true kindness. Through this story, our students learned that being kind means helping others — even when it's not convenient — and loving our neighbors as God calls us to do.



Our teachers discussed what kindness looks like at this age: inviting a friend to play, cleaning up and caring for the environment God created for us, using good manners, and speaking kind words to make others feel happy and included.

We also introduced the students to the excitement of the Winter Olympics! They participated in their own "winter" sports on the playground, including "skiing," slalom hops, slide luge, biathlon,

and broomstick hockey. It was a wonderful way to build gross motor skills while having lots of fun together.

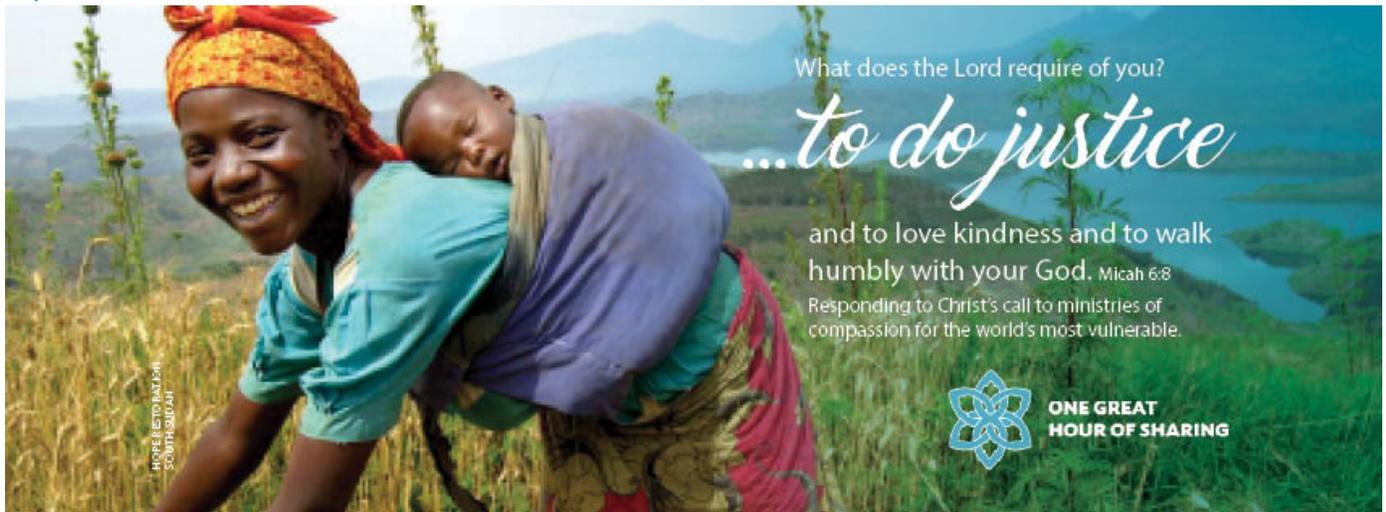
In February, we were blessed to welcome three new students to our program — two toddlers and one preschooler. We are thankful for these new families and look forward to continuing to grow our Grace community.

As we move into March, our students are excited to learn about Joseph, the King of Dreams, with a special focus on the character trait of **respect**. We look forward to another month of growing in faith, learning, and love together.

The Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool Staff



## Special Offering: Once Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the four Special Offerings we participate in each year. This offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, although you may give at any time. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our around-the-world neighbors in need by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Through this longstanding, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God's love through ministries that provide such relief and support of those communities.

- 32% of the funds collected go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance restoring hope by working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters. Last year your giving provided immediate and longer term help to those affected by Southern California wildfires.
- 36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program that supports initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so all may be fed. Last year your giving supported programs in Haiti, South Sudan, Alabama, and Florida.
- 32% helps provide resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from. Last year your giving provided support in Panama, South Dakota, and Ohio.

Watch for the inserts and special giving envelopes in your weekly church bulletins. If you choose to give online, please check the box that indicates the gift is being given from a congregation and enter Grace Presbyterian Church, Vista. Enter this same information on Step 3. Thank you for joining with Presbyterians worldwide in answering God's Call. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

### Save the Date: VBC is Coming!

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Vacation Bible Camp! We will be welcoming children, families and volunteers to Grace, **June 22-26** for a week of **Rainforest Falls**. Please start praying for all that will be attending that week and be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions please reach out to Noelle Kerr, [childrensministry@gpcvista.org](mailto:childrensministry@gpcvista.org).



Join our  
Grandparents@Prayer  
via email monthly.

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



There is much talk about Legacy when speaking about grandparenting. Legacy - the lasting impact, we leave behind, shaping future generations through our influence, after we're gone. We, as grandparents, want to be remembered as we pass over to our Lord's arms. We have to do this intentionally with special impact upon our family, especially grandchildren. Our Lord has left the tool for this to happen. It's memory. My niece, JoAnn, went to live with our Lord on Dec 16, 2025. Her granddaughter, Miranda, posted a tribute to her grandmother on Dec 23, JoAnn's funeral day. She and the rest of her grandchildren call her Baby Jo.

**GOD'S WORD:** *He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.* *1 Peter 3:18*

### This month's GP Hot Topic: **DEATH US DO NOT PART**



*Baby Jo and Miranda creating a memory.*

#### **She was strong in family.**

"I've been kind of quiet about the last few days just trying to wrap my mind around the loss of grandma, Baby Jo... She was the glue that held our family together, ...a true matriarch."

#### **She helped when needed.**

"This is the woman who took me, my former husband and our 5 animals in without hesitation when we found ourselves in a pickle at the fall-through of a house sale. She never complained once and often reminded us that we were welcome to stay as long as we wanted even if that meant forever. That time gave us so many opportunities to have long talks in her hot tub, countless family dinners, and memories that I will now hold near and dear to my heart. This is just one of the many examples of how Baby Jo supported me in one of my hardest moments."

#### **JoAnn wore her faith on her shirtsleeve.**

"She was a woman of God, a true faithful servant to the Catholic faith.

She was a family woman through and through. If you knew her, she loved you unconditionally. She would welcome you in with open arms no matter your life story."

#### **She left a legacy and minds full of memories.**

"The point is, there will never quite be another woman like my Baby Jo. Though there is a void in so many of our hearts without her, I am so grateful to be a recipient of her love for the last 30 years"

My niece has left memories for all of us who knew her. We, as grandparents, need to intentionally do this while we still walk on this earth. We need to create memories that will last longer than we do. Talk, pass on an ancestral item, write you feelings down and make sure they read it, help them if needed and let them know you love the Lord. There are many more opportunities that life will create. And what is best of all is our Lord has provided memory so our loved one will stay with us.

- **Prayer:** Father God, Thank you for the memories; for building that into us. Yes, some of us have memories better than others but they can lie within our soul. Death often saddens us but because you have created our minds to remember, they have not left us alone. Lord, we love you for all the wonderful things you bestow in our life. It is good. In Jesus name, we pray. *Amen.*
- **Action:** Reflect on your legacy. How do you want to be remembered, Grandma, Grandpa. Is God in your legacy? Make your mark on the world.
- Thanks to Miranda Kays for praising Baby Jo and posting it for all to read and feel.



**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 Reh.

**THURSDAYS**

9:15am Bible 101: Spanish (no 3/5)  
 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	4 12:30pm Personnel Comm.	5	6	7 8am Men's Breakfast
8 	9	10 6:30pm Deacons	11 9am B & G 12:30pm Worship Comm.	12 8:30am PEO	13	14
15 11:15am Christian Ed. Comm.	16	17 4:30pm Fellowship Comm. 	18 12:30pm Finance Comm.	19	20	21 8am 
22	23	24 6:30pm Session	25	26	27	28 10am PCSS
29 	30	31 8am Preschool Family Chapel				



4	Russ Whisler	19	Judith Rosol
6	Pat Sexton	21	Bev Bush
11	Linda Huston		Sue Bouchard
12	Gloria Ryan		Tricia Sanger
17	Elizabeth Bostian	22	Alice Nolf
	Peggy Paradis	23	Roger Corley
18	Amy Cleary		

27 Wayne & Karen Campbell (44 years)

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

John Adams

Chandy Jacob  
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Judy Ambrose

Annie Kumar

Rex Bassett

Suzy Long

Anna Belle Beaman's Mom

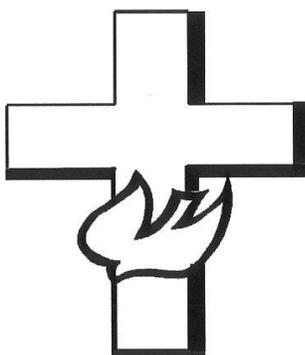
**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

O'Malley Family

Apollo Bostian  
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Ed Paradis

Browning Family



Maureen Russell

Bev Bush

Christine Sailors

Bob C.  
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Judi Salazar

Roger Corley

Tricia Sanger

John Earnest

Robert Sawyer  
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Michele Earnest

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Gary Eldridge

Kim Sparkman & Family

Laurie Gilmore  
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Arcilia Tauber

Nancy Haigh

Russ Whisler

Betty Haver

Mary Wilhem  
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)

Jay Hoover  
(Donna Hubner's Family)



## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Vista, CA 92084

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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  
Dir. of Children's Ministry  
Custodian  
Music Director  
Organist  
Praise Band Leader  
Financial Specialist  
Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton  
Christie Elliott  
Frankie Zavala  
Miriam Mojica Santos  
Abigail Beaman  
Denise Stockman  
Maria Haigh  
Noelle Marie Kerr  
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.