

APRIL NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

For the first time ever, teenagers and young adults (ages 14–29) are attending church more than any other age group—averaging nearly twice a month. Even more exciting? They’re not simply returning to church... they’re attending for the very first time.

And the #1 reason they come?

A personal invitation.

Do you know someone in this age group—a friend, child, grandchild, neighbor, or relative? What if you invited them to church? Chances are, they would say yes.

Easter is the celebration of the resurrected Lord—Jesus’ victory over sin and death. It is the good news that no matter the pain, struggle, or brokenness we face, death does not have the final word. Jesus does.

And that is worth celebrating.


We don’t hesitate to invite people to weddings, birthdays, or big celebrations—because those moments matter to us. So let’s ask ourselves:

Does Easter matter to us? And if the answer is yes, who are we going to invite?

Over the next few Sundays, invitation cards will be available before and after worship. Take one, write a name on it, and personally invite someone to attend Sunday worship at Grace with you. There is no better Sunday than Easter.

Easter Sunday Worship

 April 5

 10:00 AM

Bring a flower for the flowering cross.

Bring your children and grandchildren for the egg hunt after worship.

Most importantly—bring someone with you.

Let’s make this Easter the biggest celebration yet.

Celebrating Easter,

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
 Refreshing Generosity

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Prov.11:24-31)

An auditorium full of medical students at Albert Einstein College of Medicine listened intently as ninety-year-old Ruth Gottsesman spoke. As she concluded, Ruth announced to the students' gasps, cheers, and pandemonium that she was donating \$1 billion so they could finish their education tuition free. This is the largest donation ever given to a medical school. Yet, in the interviews that followed, you would have thought that Gottesman was the one receiving the gift. She expressed joy, delight, and honor to be able to give her money away.

Proverbs tells us that this is how generosity works. The one who "gives freely," far from being left diminished or bereft, finds blessings they hadn't anticipated (11:24). When we open our hands to others, we're left with something more, not less. "Whoever refreshes," Scripture says, "will be refreshed" (11:25). We're often tempted to tightly grip whatever we have, fearful that we'll be taken advantage of or left with nothing. God's economy works differently, however, Jesus went a step further, stating that it's "more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35)

We can be generous with our lives and our resources, offering what we have to others in need. And then, in return we'll find that we end up receiving too. There's plenty for everyone in God's kingdom.

 Financial Statement
 As of February 28, 2026

	Feb 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2026 Budget
Income	\$ 49,582	\$ 102,974	\$ 129,403
Expense	\$ 51,562	\$ 105,883	\$ 129,293
Net Income	\$ 1,980	\$ 2,909	\$ 110

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

Children's Ministry

What a fun-filled first month it has been as Children's Ministry Director thus far! Thank you for welcoming me open heartedly with such enthusiasm! I am honored as well as expectant of all God has for us!

The Children's Message and Sunday School has been a special time of connecting children to Jesus through lessons during Lent. We are excited to walk alongside families on their children's faith journeys. What a blessing to have so many educators in one church, as well as those who feel led to help children grow and learn about Jesus in age specific ways. We are incredibly thankful to our wonderful Teachers and Helpers for how much they love on Grace Kids throughout the year.



We had a fabulously fun PJ Party for Parent's Night Out, where 28 kiddos, ages 3 to 10, had the "Best.Day.Ever"! Grateful for our 3 youth helpers and 5 adults pouring their hearts and energy into all of the kids who consisted of Grace Church, Grace Preschool, and a large amount from the community. What a fantastic way to bridge the community to the church and preschool with families raving and asking for more. Hearing kiddos break out into praise through song and dance was a highlight!! With additional volunteers on rotation we can continue to be this vital bridge. Would you love to join the party?

As a family in Christ, we celebrate our joys while we comfort when tears need to flow. Who better to be filled with empathy as "Jesus wept." Please lift up several of our families as they are grieving, which means our beautiful children need to know they can curl up in His loving arms and we are also with them.

What a beautiful start to Holy Week with the overflowing joy during our Palm Sunday processional honoring Jesus beautifully! Sharing such a special moment with the children singing and waving their palm branches as they made their way to the stage to sing with the Choir and then leading the whole Congregation in praise! Hosanna! We are especially grateful for all who took part, ensuring children are able to worship Jesus in all ways. How delightful Maundy Thursday and Easter will be celebrating Jesus' life and resurrection with our church family and to be a reflection of His love and light into our visitors as well.



We are heading to the Rainforest Falls for Vacation Bible Camp! If you are interested in serving in VBC this year please sign up at the VBC Interest List table on Easter and then join us for a VBC Interest Meeting on Sunday, April 12th after service.

Thank you once again for making the Children's Ministry a priority as we encourage all children to come to Jesus!

Joyful Blessings, Noelle Marie Kerr

No Men's Breakfast in April

Due to the first Saturday in April falling during Easter weekend we will not be meeting in April. Join us on May 2nd 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.



Deacons Meal Ministry



Our Deacons are seeking additional support for our Meal Ministry and invite you to prayerfully consider joining this special act of service. This ministry is a beautiful way we care for our church and preschool families as they walk through seasons of transition—welcoming a new baby, facing illness, grieving the loss of a loved one, or navigating times when preparing meals feels overwhelming.

As we are called to love and serve one another, providing a warm meal is a simple yet powerful way to be the hands and feet of Christ. Through this ministry, we are able to offer comfort, encouragement, and a tangible reminder that no one in our church family walks alone. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please reach out to Terry Jean Sawyer, any Deacon or contact the Church Office. Your willingness to serve is a true blessing and a reflection of God's love in action.

Thank you for continuing to uplift and care for one another in faith. Board of Deacons

Save the Date: Women's Event



Karen England will share how her gardening made her a better Christian.

Sign ups begin April 19



Annie Kumar

My dear friend Annie embodies serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. God has blessed her with a heart for service and Grace is blessed to have her in our family. Even in the midst of personal tragic trials and loss, Annie was here to serve. Praying and praising with her lifts me up as we worship and serve side-by-side. Our partnership in serving on the Mission Committee has blessed me beyond belief. When the need came up for cooks for Meals of Grace, she stepped up and has been faithful for many years. The food she prepares also includes meals for the women and families with children currently living at Operation Hope. As a liturgist, Annie illuminates scripture and prayer. Her beautiful voice brings it to life and comforts me at the same time. A true woman of God, I am blessed to call her my friend. Thank you, Lord, for planting Annie here. -Glenna Spindelman

Annie shares her spirit of service that mirrors the love of Jesus in so many ways. Annie has served with missions, choir, cooking, prepping meals for Operation Hope and serving on the session committee. Her laughter and zeal for God is contagious (in a good way.) We are incredibly blessed to serve alongside Annie. She brings out the best in all of us! - Maria Haigh, Community Outreach Director

A few Sundays ago, I walked into the sanctuary during praise band practice and heard a new voice coming from the chancel. I looked up and saw Annie singing praises to the Lord alongside Scott on the keys.

I already knew that Annie lives a life of daily praise, so I shouldn't have been surprised by her ability to lead the congregation in the same spirit of worship.

Annie serves in so many meaningful ways—leading our missions committee, preparing meals on Tuesdays, and lifting her voice in praise throughout the week.

It has been a true blessing to get to know Annie over the past three years. She always offers a warm greeting and carries a presence that radiates Christlike hospitality.

Thank you, Annie, for all you do at Grace! -Rev. Denton

Annie's heart for Missions and love of Jesus is infectious. Annie loves her neighbor (even those neighbors in other countries) and it shows; whether she is in the kitchen, prepping the Tuesday meal, or delivering food to Operation Hope, or maybe when she is leading our Missions committee. And guess what else? She sings and does it beautifully in our worship band! Thank you Annie for loving and serving others so well! - Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

March was a wonderful and exciting month in our preschool classroom! Our students explored many new topics and had lots of opportunities to learn, play, and grow together.

One of our big learning themes was animals that lay eggs. The students loved discovering different animals and the habitats they live in. We talked about how God created many kinds of animals, and that each one is a little different and special in its own way. This led us to an important discussion about how God made each of us unique too. Even though we may share some similarities, none of us are exactly the same—and that's something to celebrate! We talked about how our differences make our classroom a stronger and more loving community, and that we can care for and be kind to others even when they are different from us.



Our Bible focus this month was forgiveness. We learned that forgiving others can sometimes be hard, especially when our feelings get hurt, but everyone makes mistakes and we can choose kindness and grace. We talked about forgiveness through the Bible story of Joseph, the King of Dreams. Joseph's brothers treated him very unfairly, but later in the story Joseph chose to forgive them. This helped the children understand that forgiving others shows love and helps friendships grow.



We also practiced forgiveness in our classroom. One day during center time, two friends were building a tower with blocks. One friend accidentally knocked the tower over, which made the other friend very upset. We talked together about how accidents happen and how we can forgive our friends just like Joseph forgave his brothers. The friends worked it out, said "I'm sorry," and decided to build an even bigger tower together. It was a great example of how we can forgive and move forward with kindness.

March also brought some silly fun with our leprechaun hunt! The students worked hard to set traps around the classroom to catch the sneaky little leprechaun. Unfortunately, he escaped again this year! When we came into the classroom the next morning, we found that he had made quite a mess while escaping our traps. Even though we didn't catch him, he was kind enough to leave a small treat behind. Maybe next year will be the year we finally catch him!

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Our preschoolers also had a great time joining the church's Parents' Night Out, where they enjoyed spending the evening playing games and having fun together.



We are looking forward to the month of April as we prepare to celebrate Easter and continue learning about God's love.



Disney

MOTHER'S DAY TEA

MAY 2 | 2 PM

Lighthouse Players/Youth

partnered with Grace Pres



Suggested Donation:
General \$30 | Youth \$10
3 Course Afternoon Tea
Youth Performers
Meet & Greet
Autographs
Coloring Sheets
Photo Op

Reservations by: April 25 | lighthouseplayers.org/tickets

Grace Presbyterian Church: 1450 E. Vista Way, Vista CA 92084

Join our
Grandparents@Prayer
via email monthly.

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



When we see our grandchildren on a visit, what are some of the things we say. “O, I like your outfit. Is it new?” “You got a haircut. I really like it.” “What did you do in school today?” “What is your favorite subject?” “Do you know how to dance to ‘The Fate of Ophelia?’”

GOD’S WORD: ...*GOD judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart.*” *1 Samuel: 16:7b msg bible*

This month’s GP Hot Topic: **INNER & OUTER PACKAGES**

Don’t worry about that last question. I did ask that to my 17-yr-old granddaughter but I just wanted to show her I was ‘up with the times’. She did ask me how I knew about that! But Taylor Swift songs are not the focus of this article.

Yes, we can and should ask or comment to our grandchildren about what’s going on in their lives. It’s important to ask questions because it shows we are interested in them. It shows we care and communicates what is important to us. These things we might call their ‘outer package’.



What’s in their ‘outer package’?

As grandparents we also have to ask about their ‘inner package’. These questions may be a bit more challenging to come up with but it shows that we also place importance on the inner package. Could we ask “Did you see God at work in school today?” “Do you ever say a prayer through the day?” “Is there anyone you feel needs forgiveness?” “Do you pray while running?” “What are you thankful for?” These questions can encourage them and focus on growing in faith, character and spiritual maturity.

Do we ask them about how they feel? Do we question them about sadness or happiness? What makes them happy? Why are they sad? We can explain to them how knowing the Lord makes us happy. It would be wonderful if our grandchildren always remembered how we talked about their spiritual lives. Let’s think about the words we use. Our questions can shape their hearts and point them toward Jesus.

- **Prayer:** Holy Father, we thank you each day for our families, especially our grandchildren. We want to be a lasting influence of you on them. Make us aware of the questions we ask and help us to insert spiritual questions in our conversations. We so want them to know you and live a Christlike life. Perhaps our talks with them will help create that life. In Jesus’ name. *Amen.*



What’s in their ‘inner package’?

- **Action:** Next time we are with our grandkids, let’s ask them things that focus on their heart. May our comments be spiritual.
- Thanks to Christian Grandparenting Network for the idea for this article.



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 4/1)
 6:30pm AA Men's Group
 7pm Worship Band Reh.

THURSDAYS




9:15am Bible 101: Spanish (no 4/2)
 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 12:30pm Personnel Comm.	2 6pm Service  MAUNDY Thursday	3 PRESCHOOL CLOSED 11-1pm Stations of the Cross  GOOD FRIDAY	4
5  HE LIVES!	6 PRESCHOOL CLOSED- PDD	7	8 9am B & G 12:30pm Worship Comm.	9 8:30am PEO	10	11
12 11:15am VBC Interest Meeting	13	14 6:30pm Deacons	15 12:30pm Finance Comm.	16	17	18 8am
19 11:15am Christian Ed. Comm.	20	21 4:30pm Fellowship Comm.	22	23	24	25 10am PCSS
26	27	28 8am Preschool Family Chapel 6:30pm Session	29	30		



6	Spencer Smith	19	Edmond McKearney
7	Betty Haver	25	Jayne Parker
13	Sunny Denton	26	Joseph Cleary
17	Margo Smalley		

2	Ed & Peggy Paradis (21 years)
20	Ron & Judi Rosol (53 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in April 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

Long Family

Bassett Family

Larry Luther

Anna Belle Beaman's Mom

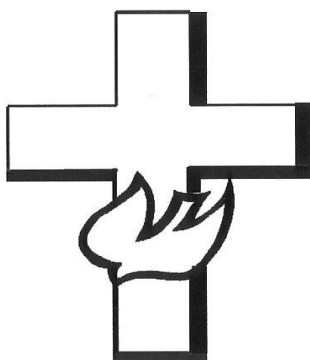
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Alice Nolf

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Ed Paradis

Browning Family



Jeff Parker

Bev Bush

Maureen Russell

Bob C.
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Sailors Family

Roger Corley

Judi Salazar

John Earnest

Tricia Sanger

Michele Earnest

Robert Sawyer
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Gary Eldridge

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Kim Sparkman & Family

Betty Haver

Arcilia Tauber

Ann Henry Family

Russ Whisler

Jay Hoover
(Donna Hubner's Family)

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY
GROWS



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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.