

MAY NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

Occasionally, I have these moments where I feel like God's kingdom is breaking through right in front of my eyes. It hits me with a burst of emotion—what I can only describe as sudden joy and warmth. Holy Week at Grace was full of those moments for me.

When the children processed into the sanctuary waving palm branches and singing "Hosanna," followed by the choir, and then the congregation—it's a Palm Sunday moment I'll remember for a long time. It was a triumphant entrance and the start of Holy Week, but also a proclamation from the church: we can do this. We are still actively working toward bringing about God's kingdom. We are still reaching families. We are still growing and building.



These shared dreams and visions—from my family's first days at Grace to Palm Sunday four years later—felt just as fresh, if not even closer to being realized. God is not done at Grace Presbyterian Church. God is not done working in North County San Diego. God is not done here. And for that, we celebrate and shout praise to the Lord.

Maundy Thursday was a communal feast and a reminder of God's love actively poured out. On Good Friday, we walked the path to the cross. And then came Easter Sunday.



Easter was another one of those moments for me—this year just felt different. I was overtaken with emotion as I stepped onto the chancel. Attendance was amazing (175), but that wasn't what moved me most. It was the reality that, together as one church, we have trusted God to lead us to this day.

We had three preschool families in attendance, grandparents who had just come to Family Chapel the week before, families worshiping together, longtime members walking through the doors, and neighbors visiting for the first time. The church was alive.

Looking back on Jesus' Holy Week, it was a hard—but that Easter Sunday was so good and marked the beginning of something new. God is at work at Grace Presbyterian Church. Something new is happening. Maybe you felt it too.

What was your Easter moment at Grace?

Celebrating the Resurrection,

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
 Using What God Provides

"Then the Lord said to [Moses], 'What is that in our hand.'" (Exodus 4:2)

The Brisbane City Hall in Australia was a dazzling 1920s project. White stairs boasted marble from the same quarry Michelangelo used for his David sculpture. The tower reflected Venice's St. Mark's Basilica, and the copper dome was the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The builders intended for a massive Angel of Peace to adorn the pinnacle, but there was a problem; no money left. Plumber Fred Johnson came to the rescue. He used a toilet cistern, an old lamp post, and bits of scrap metal to craft the iconic orb that's crowned the tower for one hundred years.

Much like Fred Johnson and his use of what he had, we can join God's work with whatever we have—large or small. When He asked Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses balked; "What if they do not...listen to me?" God answered with a simple question; "What is that in your hand?" Moses held a staff, a simple stick. God told him to throw the staff on the ground, "and it became a snake". Then He instructed Moses to pick up the snake, and it turned back into a staff. All Moses needed to do, God explained, was carry the staff and trust Him to do the rest. Remarkably, He would use that stick in Moses' hand to rescue Israel from the Egyptians.

What we have might not seem like much to us, but with God, whatever we have will be enough. He takes our ordinary resources and uses them for His work.

 Financial Statement
 As of March 31, 2026

	Mar 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2026 Budget
Income	\$ 58,776	\$ 163,392	\$ 194,105
Expense	\$ 57,610	\$ 163,564	\$ 193,939
Net Income	\$ 1,166	\$ 172	\$ 166

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

Children's Ministry

April has been jammed packed with planning and opportunities to guide children to Jesus beginning with Easter! It was beautiful to see so many in service praising His resurrection together! Sunday School was filled with joyous and engaging learning followed by a fun-filled Egg Hunt which we thank all who contributed eggs and or candy to the Egg Hunt! Children's would LOVE to thank those who generously donated a special Easter gift of Prayer Bears ensuring all children could hear prayers whenever they need, especially as they go to sleep, as not all children have families who pray together. Such a thoughtful and impactful gift, grateful!



Children's Message and Sunday School has continued to be a special time of connecting children to Jesus through lessons during the Easter season. We are excited to walk alongside families on their children's faith journeys. We held our Sunday School meeting on Sunday, April 26, as we are expectant for all God has for us in the future together! Our gratitude for our wonderful Teachers and Helpers continues for how much they pour their hearts and resources into Grace Kids throughout the year.

Mother's Day is approaching and on Saturday, May 2nd Grace Presbyterian is thrilled to partner with my company Lighthouse Players on a not to miss Disney Mother's Day Tea with some of Lighthouse Youth performing as beloved Disney Characters. Mothers and Mother-figures will be honored for the Queens that



they are and both kids and adults will have a chance to meet the characters, learn their poses, take photos with them, and enjoy their Tea Show while sipping on tea and delighting a 3 course afternoon treat!

We are heading to the Rainforest Falls for Vacation Bible Camp! Registration is open on the church website! If you are interested in serving in VBC this year, please contact me in order to help guide you to the area that allows you to use your gifts and heart best. We are down volunteers this year as many step into new seasons of life or are traveling therefore

this may be the year to try something new or encourage others to join you in on the fun! Please see me if you have not gone through the Children's Volunteer process yet. Thank you, kindly!

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



Men's Breakfast in May

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.



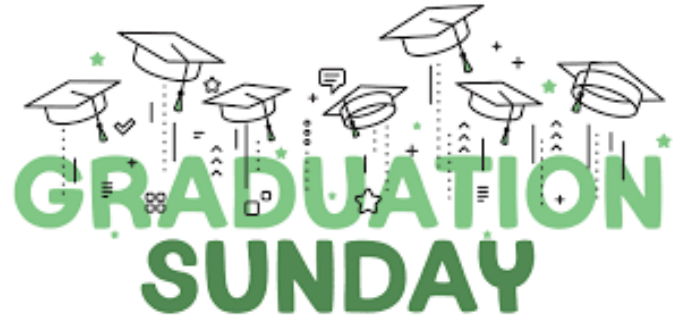
Graduation Sunday

We Want to Celebrate Our Graduates!

Join us on Sunday, June 7th for Graduation Sunday as we honor and celebrate all of our graduates!

Please submit your name or the name of your graduate, along with their grade level and school (if applicable).

All submissions are due by May 24, 2026 and can be sent to Graceadmin@gpcvista.org.



We'll be offering a special blessing for our graduates during worship, followed by cake to celebrate together!

Save the Date: Women's Event



Karen England will share how her herb gardening made her a better Christian. Please sign up on the patio Sunday morning or contact the Church Office.



Joseph Cleary

Serving alongside Joseph is a major blessing. Joseph has led in the audio/video ministry for several years, creating systems that make running our livestream more efficient while also equipping and training new team members.

He consistently makes himself available to troubleshoot and work through problems, which is such a gift. Joseph has also stepped up to teach Bible studies, walking through BibleProject content with Ron Ryan. Because of these classes, many people have been introduced to reading their Bibles.

*Thank you, Joseph, for all you do at Grace!
~Rev. John Denton*

It has been a great honor for me to work with Joseph for the past few years on the Audio-Video Team. Joseph volunteers for two Sundays a month running the video for our worship services and he frequently covers additional weeks and celebrations of life. We are so blessed by Joseph's skill and faithful service!

He was very helpful in implementing the live feed improvements that Pastor John brought in, including using his engineering background to write an excellent procedure for training other technicians.

Recently, we saw our Sanctuary projector suddenly degrade in visual output quality--- three weeks before Easter!! Joseph drafted his son, Levi, to jump in with the AV Team to help troubleshoot.. Levi investigated and cleverly found the cause. That lead us to correct the problem and achieve the best video quality we have ever had--- in time for Palm Sunday, praise God!

Thank you Joseph for your commendable devotion to our worship services. ~Scott Huston

I have the pleasure of working with Joseph Cleary since he works as part of our A-V team. As we have had glitches, Joseph has contributed his skills and suggestions to solve the problems, so we have been able to improve. He is always available to work to provide valuable service to keep our video accurate while providing for our live stream services.

I have also been attending his Bible study on Monday night where we have been learning so much about how God's word is presented in the Hebrew Bible. Not only do we learn from the lessons, but we also have great discussions that stem from the presentation.

Grace is fortunate to have such a dedicated "techie" and servant of our Lord. ~Jayne Parker

Joseph Cleary, organizes and leads our Monday night Bible class at Grace. When he saw the need for another in-depth Bible study he volunteered to do the work to make it happen. He is a diligent, dedicated leader who contributes significantly to the life of our church. Gratefully, ~Ron Ryan

April truly sprang by at Grace Preschool! Throughout the month, our students joyfully learned about the resurrection of Christ, celebrating this special season with Easter egg hunts, sweet treats, and time spent with friends. One of the greatest blessings was seeing so many of our preschool families join us for Easter Sunday at church. It fills our hearts with joy to see our students not only in chapel each week, but also worshipping alongside their families on Sundays.

As we step into May, we have many exciting events ahead!

Our Ice Cream Fundraiser will take place on **May 28th from 4:00–7:00pm at Handel's in Vista**. Come celebrate our preschool and honor our graduating students while enjoying a sweet treat with friends and family. We hope to see you there!

On May 29th, we will host our Preschool Graduation Ceremony. Students heading to kindergarten will proudly wear caps and gowns, and all students will receive a personalized award recognizing their achievements this year. We are so proud of each and every one of them!

During the month of May, our Bible focus will be the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den, with an emphasis on the character trait of bravery. As our students prepare for transitions—whether moving up to new classrooms or heading off to kindergarten—these changes can feel exciting but also a little intimidating. We remind our students that God is always with them. They are safe, loved, and never alone, no matter where they go.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our summer program beginning in June! For the second year in a row, our preschool will participate in VBC, and students are already sharing memories of the stories they heard “when going to church.”

We are also thrilled to share that our playground is being transformed into an outdoor classroom! This space will include:

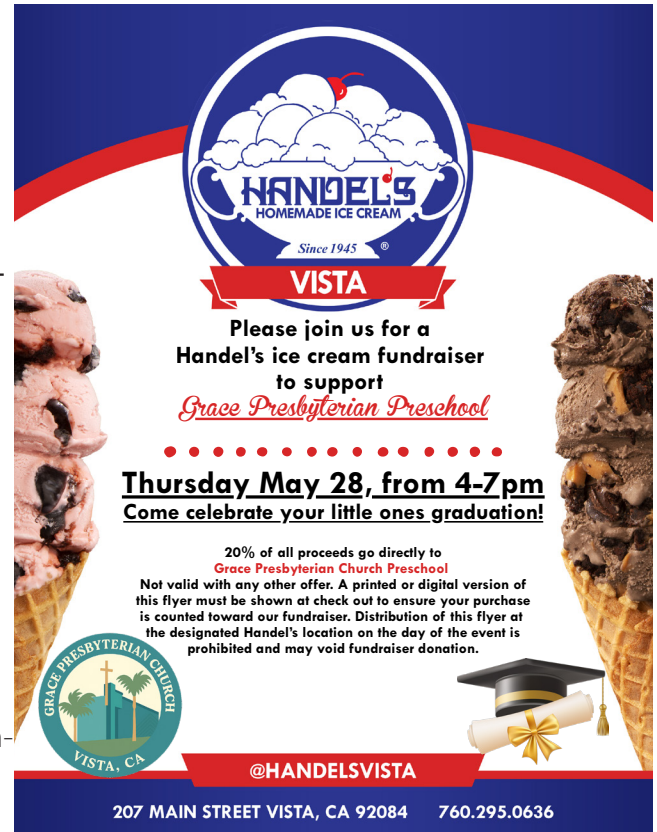
- An Imagination Station for art and creativity
- Dramatic play areas where children can “visit” homes, run a food truck, or cook in the Grace Mud Kitchen
- Roadways for cars and a “beach” (sandbox) where students can search for buried treasure

To help bring this vision to life, we are collecting donations of:

- Used pots and pans (safe and suitable for hanging on a fence for a future music wall)
- Sand toys
- Cooking utensils such as spatulas and stirrers

If you have items to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support!

-Grace Preschool Staff



The flyer features the Handel's logo at the top, which includes a cloud with a red ribbon and the text 'HANDEL'S HOMEMADE ICE CREAM Since 1945'. Below the logo is a red banner with 'VISTA' in white. The main text reads: 'Please join us for a Handel's ice cream fundraiser to support Grace Presbyterian Preschool'. The event details are: 'Thursday May 28, from 4-7pm Come celebrate your little ones graduation!'. A note states: '20% of all proceeds go directly to Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool. Not valid with any other offer. A printed or digital version of this flyer must be shown at check out to ensure your purchase is counted toward our fundraiser. Distribution of this flyer at the designated Handel's location on the day of the event is prohibited and may void fundraiser donation.' The flyer also includes the Grace Presbyterian Church logo, a graduation cap, and the contact information: '@HANDELSVISTA', '207 MAIN STREET VISTA, CA 92084', and '760.295.0636'.

National Day of Prayer

The theme for 2026 Day of Prayer is:

"Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations."

Join us on Thursday, May 7 as we join together to pray for our country. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary between 11am - 1pm. Sign up on the Patio after service or contact the office if you would like to participate.

"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."

1 Chronicles 16:24



Deacons Corner

What Exactly Is A Deacon?

According to *THE PRESBYTERIAN DEACON An Essential Guide* by E. S. Johnson, Jr.,

"For those who love people and want to follow in the ministry of Jesus Christ, there is no better office to assume than that of deacon in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As the Book of Order puts it, 'The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.'"

Meet Longtime GPC Deacon Terry-Jeanne Sawyer



As a deacon Terry-Jeanne has previously served as the Memorial Reception Coordinator and is now serving as the Meal Ministry Coordinator. Terry-Jeanne and the Deacons are seeking your support for our Meal Ministry and invite you to prayerfully consider joining in this special act of service. This ministry is a beautiful way to care for our church and preschool families at times when preparing their own meals can feel overwhelming. By volunteering to provide a needed meal, which can be homecooked or purchased, this is a simple yet powerful way to be the hands and feet of Christ. Volunteers do not need to deliver the food; the Deacons can coordinate delivery.

If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please reach out to Terry-Jeanne or any Deacon (see list below). Your willingness to serve is a true blessing and a reflection of God's love in action.

In addition to Terry-Jeanne, here is the roster of current Deacons:

Pastor Will Bynagte, Denise Stockman, Anna Belle Beaman, Linda Huston, Mary Becerra, Pyong Dusang, Dorene Comerford, Peggy Paradis, Glenna Spindelman, Karen England and Adriana Nolf

Join our
Grandparents@Prayer
via email monthly.

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



The commercials on TV or in magazines deal a lot with our weight and how to lose it. Rarely, if ever do we find instructions on how to gain weight. I guess we can do that without help. Did you ever think of gaining Spiritual weight and passing that on to future generations?

This month's GP Hot Topic: **THE CHRISTIAN DIET**

GOD'S WORD: *What is required of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your Lord.*"
Micah 6:8



Pick the right cookbook: **THE BIBLE**. It has many good recipes. Find a favorite or try a new one. Let's try GALATIANS.

What type of recipe are we wanting to make? Let's try Fruit Salad. Our cookbook says this type is found in CHAPTER 5.

So our main course will be FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT in Galatians Chapter 5. Of course we have to set out our ingredients:

Let's make our LIFE'S SALAD. Time to pick, add and stir:

- Start with **LOVE**. This is one of our life's main ingredients. It is the main fruit in our life's salad. It will affect the tastes of all the other ingredients.
- **JOY** is our next major component— sometimes this is hard to find and we may have to make an extra trip to get it.
- **PEACE** – as long as we have the above components, peace will be in the nearest cabinet.
- **PATIENCE** – If we have trouble finding the above main staples for our life's salad, patience may be in that cabinet, way in the back. Don't try to do two things at once. Find it. It is important.
- Add **KINDNESS** – it is usually easy to find in our kitchen. Use it liberally.
- Taste the **GOODNESS** of what we have made so far. If it is lacking something add a bit more of some of the first listed ingredients.
- **FAITHFULNESS** – will make our salad combine well with the other contents. It will make it smooth and taste good together.
- **GENTLENESS** – it is important to be gentle with all our ingredients as too much enthusiasm can ruin our life's salad. (Too less can ruin it too.)
- **SELF-CONTROL** goes along with Gentleness and Goodness as it is important to pick, add and stir thoughtfully. Then we SERVE it to our grandchild or go with them to serve it to someone else in need of spiritual food.
- **Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the ingredients for a recipe for Spiritual life. You give us many ingredients and with your help we can mix it and serve it to our grandchildren or anyone else we share our life with. But please Lord in all we do may our Life's Salad be pleasing to you. In your Son's name, Jesus. *Amen.*

Recipe notes:

- Care about what you cook.
- In reading your recipe, feel free to add a God-directed ingredient. (i.e. truth, right, pure, etc.)
- Make sure the recipe is nourishing and pleasing to its author.



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 5/22, 5/27)
 6:30pm AA Men's Group
 7pm Worship Band Reh.

THURSDAYS

9:15am Bible 101: Spanish (no 5/7)
 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 8am Men's Breakfast 2pm Mother's Day Tea
3	4	5	6 12:30pm Personnel Comm	7 11am National Day of Prayer	8	9 10am Women's Event
10 <i>Happy Mothers Day</i>	11	12 6:30pm Deacons	13 9am B & G 12:30pm Worship Comm.	14 8:30am PEO	15	16 9am New Member's Class
17 11:15am Christian Ed. Comm.	18	19 4:30pm Fellowship Comm.	20 12:30pm Finance Comm.	21	22 PRESCHOOL CLOSED-PDD	23
24	25 PRESCHOOL CLOSED	26 8am Preschool Family Chapel	27	28 4-7pm Preschool Ice Cream Night at Handel's	29 11am Preschool Graduation	30
31	<i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	6:30pm Session				



1	Gil Gordon	18	Beverly Alexander
	Larry Luther		John Earnest
6	Susan Hiltbrand	23	Stephanie Denton
13	Andrea Fresca	28	Michele Earnest
14	Karen England	30	Terry-Jeane Sawyer
15	Judi Salazar	31	Frankie Zavala
17	Lois Cavalier		

27 Tom & Mary Bryan (43 years)

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

Ana
(Maria Haigh's Friend)

Jay Hoover
(Donna Hubner's Family)

John Adams

Chandy Jacob
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Judy Ambrose

Long Family

Bassett Family

Larry Luther

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

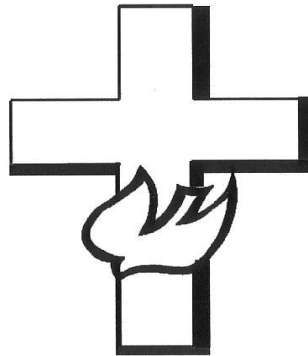
Anna Belle Beaman's Mom

Alice Nolf

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Ed Paradis

Browning Family



Maureen Russell

Bev Bush

Sailors Family

Bob C.
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Judi Salazar

Roger Corley

Tricia Sanger

John Earnest

Randy Sawyer

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

Savannah Haigh

Russ Whisler

Ann Henry Family

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)

Hiltbrand Family

Zymin Family



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
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
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.