

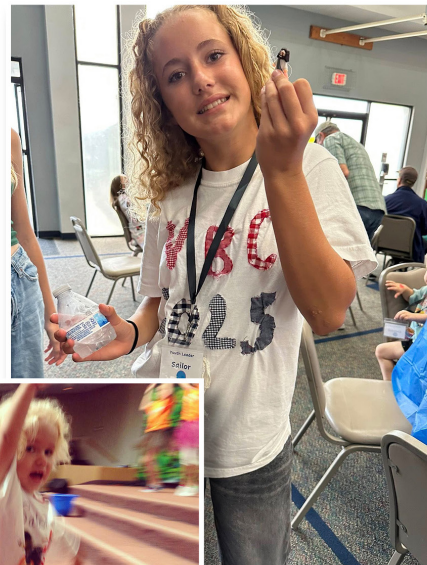
JULY NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

"This is my kids first time at Vacation Bible Camp!" "My grandchild came home singing Jesus loves me." "My son loves VBC, what else happens here?" These are just some of the things I have heard shared this week at Vacation Bible Camp. Here is my story, my daughter Sailor had her first week of Vacation Bible Camp at one years old. She was assigned to a youth leader named Brooke who spent that first week of Bible Camp with her. Sailor is now Brooke's age. A youth leader at camp. Assigned to working with preschoolers! They grow up fast!

As a parent I so appreciated that the church welcomed in my young child and that Brooke took the time to make sure Sailor was a part of the craft, Bible story and games. This week we have had over 20 preschoolers on campus for Vacation Bible Camp! That is a lot of preschoolers. The blessings overflow as we watch the kids learn about God's love. And I know first-hand that Sailor has made a big impact on a little camper's life this week.



Thank you to everyone who has made this week of Vacation Bible Camp possible. Thank you to every leader who has spent the week sharing Jesus with the campers. Thank you to those who have worked with the 20 preschoolers.

I had to smile as I heard a story shared amongst my girls about a camper who received free McDonalds when they shared Jesus with the fast-food worker. An outpouring of blessings and abundance. We are so blessed so we in turn bless others. As I told my kids, I am not sure if you will get free McDonalds or not, but that's not why we share the love of Jesus. Once we experience God's love we can't help but share it with others. Who can you share Jesus with this week? It might be there very first time hearing the Good News.

Joyfully praising God,

Rev. John Denton

No Men's Breakfast in July

Due to the Independence Day holiday weekend, we will not have a Men's Breakfast in July. Join us on August 2nd 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.



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

Time Out

"So, teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom" Psalm 90:12

When we hear the phrase "Time Out" we often think of a game in which there is a strategy to calm the team down so they can play effectively. Or we think of a child sitting in a corner contemplating his/her bad behavior. There are positive ways to look at "Time Out".

One aspect of stewardship that we tend to forget is our time. We think of stewardship in terms of our financial responsibility. Giving our time means giving part of ourselves. Giving time in service to others honors the God we profess to love. There are many opportunities to give our time. The church needs teachers in Sunday School and for the Extended Church, as well as babysitters for the small children. The choir would welcome new members; volunteer before you are asked to be on a committee, to be a greeter on Sunday, lead a Bible study, work in the kitchen or accept an invitation to be an Elder or Deacon. The community uses those who are willing to give time to food pantries, after school tutoring, soup kitchens, nursing homes and many other organizations.

These are only a small percentage of ways we can use our time to serve God and others. All that is required is a willingness to take "Time Out" of our busy lives, out from our routines to be of service in God's work.

Financial Statement As of May 31, 2025

	May 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
Income	\$ 34,408	\$ 198,783	\$ 316,875
Expense	\$ 52,602	\$ 215,146	\$ 312,701
Net Income	\$ 18,194	\$ 16,363	\$ 4,174

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

Save the Date: Women's Event

*The Next Women's Event is on Saturday, September 20th
10:00am to Noon.*

*"A Lifetime of Service" – Guest Speaker, Alice Nolf
More details to come.*



Christmas Advent Craft Fair

Grace Presbyterian Church

Nov. 2, 2025

11-1

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.

The Location:

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

Free to attend!

Questions? Please contact Sue Bouchard for free vendor opportunities.

sbsuebouchard@gmail.com or text/call 760-419-2334

True North, Trusting Jesus in a wild world... Our week was full of sharing that **JESUS** is the answer to everything. Our amazing volunteers stepped out in faith to welcome children (including our first group of preschoolers) and shared that children can always **“TRUST JESUS!”**

When we wonder, we can **“TRUST JESUS!”** When we feel alone, we can **“TRUST JESUS!”** When we feel powerless, we can **“TRUST JESUS!”** When we need help, we can **“TRUST JESUS!”** When we need hope, we can **“TRUST JESUS!”**

Imagine **“TRUST JESUS!”** being shouted out by 48 children and 25 leaders multiple times every day!
You get it, **“TRUST JESUS!”**

This week would not have been possible without your prayers, generous donations and encouragement. This week would not have been possible without families trusting us to care and raise up their children in faith. This week would not have been possible without an amazing Pastor who led us every day as our Climbing Guide. This week would not have been possible without volunteers who planned, decorated, created, laughed, (a little crying), hugged, sang, shared their gifts and faith and ultimately every day all **“TRUSTED JESUS!”**



Volunteer Spotlight ~ Arlene Cratsa



(Left) Sue Bouchard

(Middle) Arlene Cratsa

(Right) Maria Haigh

Arlene is such a blessing to all who know her. We really appreciate her leadership and guidance as she heads up the Fellowship Committee. She keeps us on track as we plan and successfully execute the many events designed to engage our congregation and visitors to share God's Love with each other. Her gift of singing always brings tears to my eyes. Her voice is amazing and her skills with the bells are so important to the GPC bell choir. Thank you Arlene for sharing all your talents with us here at Grace. ~ Sue Bouchard

Arlene Cratsa not only sings like an angel, she IS an angel. Everyone who is blessed to know her has his or her life enriched. She is absolutely selfless! Arlene is so free with her time, many talents, and her love, and Grace Presbyterian Church is blessed by all three.

Arlene had a career at Cal State San Marcos where she organized fundraising events for the university. Those gifts and experiences make her a perfect fit for our Fellowship Committee. Her organizational skills, creativity—and wonderful Greek cooking—have elevated our fellowship events.

Arlene is a gift to our children's ministry. She pours her heart and her love of Jesus into every children's message. She so wants children to know of Christ's love for them, so she looks for ways to bring understanding to the message of the day. The children can sense her true love for Jesus and for them. She captivates their attention—and that of the congregation, as well.

Of course, her musical talents immediately come to mind when you think of Arlene's gifts. Her voice is beautiful and sure, and she is always willing to use her talents to praise God – as a section leader, a featured soloist, or in a small ensemble. (Plus she is a dedicated “Ding-a-Ling” in our bell choir.) Arlene strengthens the entire choir, both musically and spiritually. She leads our weekly devotions and time of sharing our joys and concerns, leading us into prayer at the end of each rehearsal.

If you're lucky enough to get to know Arlene, you know what a treasured friend she is. Her love, concern, and prayers strengthen and encourage. Arlene is a true friend to Grace and a personal model for me and source of encouragement on my walk with Christ. I thank God for bringing Arlene to our church and into my life.

~ Jayne Parker

Arlene is a shining light! Arlene brings joy, laughter and a zeal for God that is contagious. I appreciate her gift of song and melody that blesses so many. ~ Maria Haigh

Arlene Cratsa not only blesses us with her beautiful voice but also with her radiant smile and heart for service at Grace. Arlene is such a vital asset to many ministries at Grace, but especially in leading the Fellowship Committee, where she pours her heart and soul into leading the A team to provide so many amazing Fellowship activities for the Grace family. Thank you Arlene, for your faithful service to the Lord's work at Grace, it is a joy to know you! ~ Christie Elliott

If you have ever attended one of our wonderful luncheons at Grace, you know that these are no small feat. So much goes into planning, organizing, and pulling off a successful event, and Arlene knows exactly what it takes! Arlene loves Jesus and loves welcoming others onto the church campus with Christ-like hospitality. She is an Elder and serves as the chair of the fellowship committee; she sings in the choir, she teaches Bible stories at VBC, and she loves to share the Children's Message. Thank you, Arlene, for all you do at Grace! ~ Pastor John Denton

This past month has been a beautiful time of reflection and celebration at Grace Presbyterian Preschool as we marked the end of our very first school year—and what a year it has been!

We joyfully celebrated our **first-ever preschool graduation**, a heartwarming milestone that allowed us to look back at all God has done in and through our little ones. It was a wonderful time of thanksgiving, filled with smiles, songs, and the sweet presence of the Lord. We are incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the spiritual growth we've seen blossom in each of them.

We were also thrilled to **host our Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)** on campus, welcoming preschool students into a week of fun, learning, and worship. What a joy it was to see 15 new preschool-aged children participating—children who did not have this opportunity last year. Their excitement and openness to learning about God's love was truly inspiring.

One of our highlights this season was our special event, **Bagels with Dad**. Students invited their daddies to join them for a morning of painting, laughter, and of course, delicious bagels. Each child proudly presented a handmade gift to their dad, and together they shared conversations about what they love most about one another. It was a touching reminder of the strength and beauty of family, and the joy of sharing these moments in a Christ-centered space.

In the month of June, we also welcomed **two new students**, and what a blessing it has been to witness their growth already. They are growing in confidence each day—not only in their abilities but also in their awareness of God's presence in every moment.

One particularly sweet moment this month reminded us why we do what we do. A student was missing her mommy and when a teacher asked, "What should we do?" the child answered with faith: "We should pray." The class joined together in a heartfelt prayer asking for God to keep her mommy safe and to help us be brave. This simple moment blossomed into a wave of prayer requests from other students,

each eager to lift up someone they love. It was a powerful picture of how the seeds we plant—through daily prayer and spiritual modeling—take root in the hearts of our children.

As we continue into our **summer camp program**, we look forward to more fun, more learning, and more moments of growing together in God's love. We are deeply thankful for this community and the opportunity to nurture faith in our youngest disciples.

God is good. All the time.

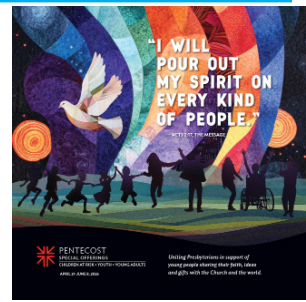
— Grace Presbyterian Preschool Team



Special Offering: Pentecost

"Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift" - 2 Corinthians 9:15

\$342 was received for the **Pentecost Offering**. As promised, 40% - **\$136.80** will stay here at Grace to support programs for our children and youth. Let us celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to us through the coming of the Holy spirit by building our young people toward a brighter, faith-filled future.



Worldwide Missions: Ross & Mary Hunter

Thank you for checking out our new prayer-blog created to provide more frequent updates, stories, and prayer requests to encourage a deeper connection to our ongoing ministry in Ecuador and the expanding Latin American region.

Late last week my WhatsApp buzzed with a new message; "Hermano David (Ross' Spanish name), I am finding it very difficult to teach what I learned at Bible school in Guatemala to my indigenous community in Ecuador. Can you help me? Mariano (not his real name), echoed what many of our students have been struggling with. How does one make the abstract concepts of formal theology more understandable and reproduceable to their indigenous context? One answer is to integrate Orality concepts and methods into our teaching and discipleship that help our indigenous students learn God's Word more deeply, while providing a model they can teach in their churches.



What is Orality? Simply put, Orality is a method of communication that speaks to cultures who process information in non-literate expressions that are connected to the daily life of their community. In oral cultures, abstract concepts are communicated through more traditional venues such as story, symbols, rituals, art, song or drama that reflect the patterns of thinking they grew up in. Even students who have broadened their thinking and have excelled in formal education, like Mariano in the story above, struggle to take that knowledge and communicate it to their family back home.

Check out this summary from Dr. Tom Steffen who explains the value of the use of Orality in teaching theology to indigenous groups in his presentation to our Indigenous Research Center last year. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEqMqzeCI0E&t=3s>

Please join us in Prayer for:

Mary's visit with her mom (93), who is living with her sister in North Carolina. Please pray for Mary's health where she is struggling with torn rotator cuffs in both of her arms as well as some other health issues she is trying to figure out. Mary returns to Ohio next week and will prepare to join me in Ecuador the second week of July. Pray for Mary as she looks to integrate her recent training in Member Care and Somatic Experiencing into her ministry this summer (see our January to April prayer update for more details).

*Pray for Ross' PhD research on designing a contextual approach to theological education for the Quichua of Ecuador. On Tuesday, June 17th, Dr. Tom Steffen presented a workshop on his recent book, Character Theology, (CT) to our Indigenous Research Center. CT introduces orality as an approach to theological study "that engages God through the 'reading' of biblical characters in the context of story." More on this in future updates.

*Pray for Miguel, one of our students who is serving as a Quichua pastor in the city of Guayaquil. Miguel's son-in-law was abducted a week ago Wed. and discovered without life by his family two days later. Pray for Miguel, his wife, and especially for his daughter and her three young children who are struggling with their sudden loss of a husband and father.

*Pray for our financial support, that God would burden hearts to help us meet our financial needs that enable us to minister in Ecuador.

Thank you for your prayers and interest in our ministry. Please subscribe on our blog page if you would like to receive email notifications of future posts, or check out our website from time to time for updates. For a larger over-view of our work, click on our prayer update link on the top right corner our webpage.

"Holding fast to the word of life..." (Phil 2:16),

in gratitude and prayer,

Ross &/for Mary

rmhunter83@evministry.org www.evministry.org



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



Our country's birthday is July 4th. It brings to mind patriotism and loyalty. Of course, one of the big symbols we have to show our loyalty is the USA flag. In our day loyalty is being challenged. I recall in school days (yes, I can remember that far back) and saying the Pledge of Allegiance everyday with my hand over my heart. I also remember protests about making kids do that. So, I took a mini-survey of some friends of mine who have kids or grandkids in school to see if the Pledge is still said. To my happiness, everyone I talked to says their children say the Pledge at school each day, especially elementary. The older they get, it becomes somewhat optional or teacher-choice.



GOD'S WORD: *For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.*
James 1:12b (Message Bible)

This month's GP Hot Topic: **OUR CHRISTIAN FLAG**

Our religion recognizes a Christian flag. It is a symbol of loyalty... allegiance to our faith and our God. It has the colors red, white and blue familiar to us Americans. The red cross stands for sacrifice and the significance of the blood shed by Jesus Christ on the cross to offer salvation and everlasting life to the world. Blue stands for faithfulness and loyalty that we owe to our triune God. White stands for purity and peace that our living Jesus taught us while he was here on earth and left for us with the Holy Spirit.

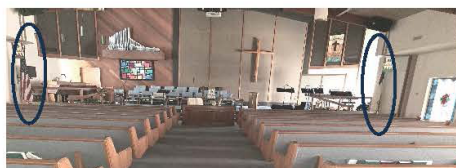
There is a pledge to the Christian flag. Actually, there are several versions but the one mentioned below is the most common:



"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all Christians in service and in love."

Grace Church displays both the American flag (on the left) and the Christian flag (on the right). Take a look next time you are in the sanctuary and pause a moment to reflect on the meaning of having both flags in our church. Make sure to point them out the next time your grandkids are with you in church.

- **Prayer:** *Most gracious Father, we pledge our loyalty, our everlasting allegiance to you. As we worship and see the flag created by man, we realize the dedication we must have as a follower and believer in You. Thank you for the life you sent, the life you have given and the life promised. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.*
- **Action:** Ask your grandchild to say the pledge of allegiance that they say in school. Then talk to them about the Christian flag. If old enough talk about the meaning of the Christian pledge and comparing it to the American pledge.
- **A Thought and a Smile** *Loyalty means standing by with confetti to celebrate the highs and tissues to get through the lows.*



The American and Christian flags at Grace Presbyterian Church



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9am How to Read the Bible Class
 9:30am Prayer Group
 10am In Person Worship (Sanctuary)
 10am Online Worship

MONDAYS

7pm AA

TUESDAYS

8am Food Pantry Distrib.
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm AA Men's Group
 7pm Worship Band Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

10am Bible Study

FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution (no 7/4)

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 12:30pm Personnel	3	4 	5 8am Men's Breakfast
6 11:15am Worship Committee	7	8	9 9am B & G	10 9:15am Bible 101	11	12
13	14	15 5pm Fellowship Committee	16 1pm Finance	17 9:15am Bible 101	18	19
20 11:15am Christian Ed. Meeting	21	22 6:30pm Session	23	24	25	26 10am PCSS
27	28	29	30	31		



1	Mary Becerra	13	Sailor Denton
4	Lucy Dickson	25	Annie Kumar
	Kim Robison	28	Judy Black
6	Caralei Elliott	29	Larry Parker
10	Douglas Barrie		

5	John & Michele Earnest (45 years)
16	Jayne & Larry Parker (48 years)
20	Juan & Judi Salazar (29 years)
24	Rex & Terri Bassett (31 years)
27	Will & Jackie Bynagte (51 years)
31	Russ & Pat Whisler (54 years)

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

John Adams

Suzy Long

Baker Family

Eliza Newton
(Sailor's friend)

Rex Bassett

Barbie Nicholson

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Parker Family

Bev Bush

Judi Salazar

Chambers Family

Tricia Sanger

Hannah Dukes

Santiago
(Maria Haigh's Brother)

John Earnest

Robert Sawyer
(Terry-Jeanne's Son)

Gary Eldridge

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Helen Frederick

Sparkman Family

Gunderson Family

Arcilia Tauber

Hatch/Bouchard Family

Whisler Family

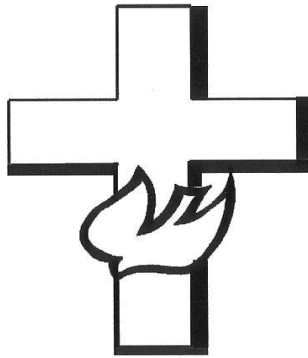
Betty Haver

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)

Chandy Jacob
(Annie Kumar's Brother)

Judy Woolsey

Annie Kumar





GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.gpcvista.org

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY
GROWS



facebook.com/GPCVista

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff
Director of Church Operations
Dir. of Community Relations & Sunday School Coord.
Preschool Director
Preschool Teacher
Toddler Teacher
Custodian
Music Director
Organist
Praise Band Leader
Financial Specialist
Hand Bell Choir Director
Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton
Christie Elliott
Maria Haigh
Frankie Zavala
Lesley Stong
Miriam Mojica Santos
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.