

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER





## Reflection from Pastor John Denton

This past Fourth of July, we celebrated 250 years of independence. Like many of you, my family gathered with friends to celebrate. At least 30 of us came together for an evening of food and fireworks while the kids laughed and played. As I sat in the grass surrounded by friends, I reflected on the Fourth of July three years ago, when our family was new to the area. We celebrated with just the five of us.

Over the last three years, we have been blessed to make friends through church, our neighborhood, school, sports, and other parts of our community. Our social circle has grown dramatically.



I think it's sometimes hard for us to remember what it was like to be an outsider. Yet we are often reminded in God's Word that it wasn't long ago we were on the outside, and now we are insiders (read Ephesians 2).

There is a family of five that is BBQing alone this weekend. There is a family of five that doesn't have a church home but would love an invitation. There is a family of five that is praying that someday soon their children will build lasting friendships.

My One that I pray for daily is that family struggling to make connections or needing support and encouragement. And I truly believe that as our church's Great Commission engine begins to fire on all cylinders, we will reach that One for Jesus.

Now, I'm a bad mechanic, but I own some tools and am pretty decent at YouTube. I can tell you that as Sunday morning **worship** starts, then we build **groups**, and then we **give** together, the engine slowly begins to propel us forward—and it is all centered around our One.

As you drive by new homes, as you see families walk into our preschool for the first time, as you look at the long school drop-off line, as you notice the parent struggling in the grocery store, or as you watch your neighbor go through life alone, start asking yourself, *How can Grace Presbyterian Church make a difference in these people's lives?*

My guess is they are just waiting for you to extend the invitation.

The engine is turning.

## 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

## GIVING IT ALL

*"Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6:11*

Many of us are familiar with the concept of tithing. To tithe is to give the first 10 percent of our income back to the Lord. It's not just about writing a check every month. It's a reflection of how much we trust God for provision and whether or not we're willing to be obedient to scripture. Only a small percentage of Christians tithe regularly. There is either a lack of faith, a misunderstanding about the Lord, or both.

Tithing is not about how much we're required to give, but how much we need to live. The church could begin to advance in a way that the world hasn't seen since Acts if we embraced the idea that there is such a thing as "too much" and gave all of the excess, not to our 401k, but to the church. Did you know the world's basic needs – food, water and shelter – could be met for the amount Americans spend on ice cream every year? Accepting this idea requires a redefinition of wealth and a decision about what our priorities will be.

We are forced to ask ourselves: Where is my heart, If we truly believe God gives us all things, we must expand our concept of giving to include every aspect of our lives. All of our time, talent and income are gifts from the Lord. We are called to give the first 10 percent of our income to the church, but that doesn't mean God isn't interested in how we steward the remaining 90 percent. We are called to give our whole lives, and trust God's provision for our "daily bread." After all, it's what Jesus asked for.

# Backpack Drive

Collecting  
through  
August 2nd



\* #2 pencils  
\* colored pencils  
\* crayons  
\* erasers  
\* markers  
\* folders

We are collecting girl/boys backpacks for kids in need. Our goal is to collect 50 backpacks, grades K-5th. School supplies are also welcomed and appreciated.

Please drop-off on the table in Fellowship Hall or in the Church Office. ?'s Contact Maria

## New Grace Cookbook

The recipes are starting to come in, and we thank you for that. But we need LOTS more and hope to have at least one from every member. Please give your recipes to Peggy Paradis when you come to church on Sunday or send them to her at [pabparadis@gmail.com](mailto:pabparadis@gmail.com). Feel free to reach out to Peggy if you have any questions. And please don't forget to include your family grace with at least one recipe. Thanks!

## Save The Date: Women's Event

Save the Date!

# Women's Event

Saturday, September 12  
10 am to Noon in the Fellowship Hall  
Guest Speaker: Kimberly Sparkman  
"Believing and Trusting God...  
No Matter What!"

LIGHT BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED  
SIGN UPS BEGIN AUGUST 16



## Men's Breakfast

Join us on August 1<sup>st</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.



AUGUST 2026

## Special Event: Best Yet!



# BEST YET WINNING IN THE 4TH QUARTER

### 7-Hour Interactive Experience for All People Age 50+

Most football games are won or lost in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Life is no different. Discover that retirement and aging are not a negative... The game is not over... You still have some touchdowns to score... You have great value and significance in God's Kingdom! Learn how to have your BEST YET life!

Register at the table on Sunday mornings or contact the Church Office. Payment can be made by scanning the PayPal QR Code, please note "winning" in the memo line, or pay in person.



**Saturday, August 8th  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Grace Presbyterian  
Church, Vista**

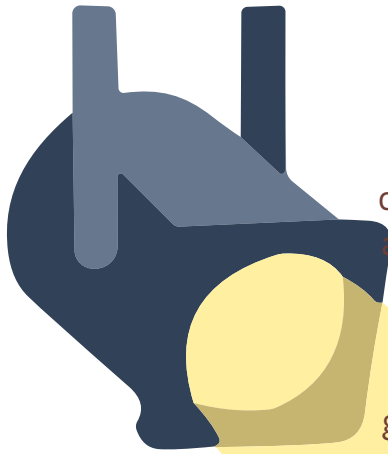
**Includes:  
Course Workbook  
Light Breakfast  
Lunch**

**\$30 Single  
\$40 Couple**

**Instructor and Guide:  
Dr. Charlie Bradshaw,  
former Executive  
Pastor of North Coast  
Church**

*This is not about  
retirement, but  
rather making the  
next 20 years of  
your life, the **BEST  
YET!***

## Volunteer Spotlight: Kim Sparkman



Yes! This word seems simple enough, yet sometimes it's hard to find people who are willing to say yes to serving. Kim Sparkman is one of those amazing servant leaders who always says yes.

When there was a need with our Tuesday morning food distribution, Kim said yes. When we had an opening to lead crafts at Vacation Bible Camp, Kim said yes! Wherever there has been a place to serve at Grace, Kim has stepped up and said yes. Kim graciously serves in so many ways, and we are incredibly thankful for her faithful leadership at Grace. I am especially grateful for her dedication to leading our Prayer Chain Ministry—sharing prayer requests at a moment's notice and helping our church remain actively engaged in prayer for our congregation, our families, and our community.

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

My dear friend, Kimberly, shows the true heart of Christ. I have been blessed to serve alongside her in Grace's ministry, Shepherd's Pantry. Each and every Tuesday this faithful servant is there by 7am to get the boxes of food into the hands of our neighbor families and individuals. Her quiet demeanor is backed by a love of Jesus and deep caring for his flock. With her late husband, Pastor Phil, Kimberly greeted friends and visitors to worship on Sundays. She is a Woman of God with deep knowledge and understanding of what it is to truly be a Christian. I am blessed to know this faithful servant as a dear friend. Thank you, Lord, for planting Kimberly here at Grace. ~ Glenna Spindelman

## Kim Sparkman



Kimberly is a blessing to all. Not only is she a great cook and baker, she is always mindful of the prayer needs of others. Her many hats include deacon, food distribution lead on Tuesdays, and prepping meals. In addition, she is a great encourager to many. I am blessed to call sister in Christ and friend. ~ Maria Haigh

Kim Sparkman is a wonderful blessing to Grace Presbyterian Church Vista who has served faithfully as a deacon for many years, and she is still in charge of the church prayer chain, keeping everyone up to date on the prayer needs of the congregation and their families. Additionally, she serves in the soup kitchen and with the food pantry ministry. ~ Denise Stockman



As summer comes to an end, we are excited to welcome both returning and new families to another wonderful year at Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool! We are thankful to begin the school year with 20 amazing students and look forward to all that God has planned for our school community. While we are off to a great start, we still have room to grow! If you know a family



looking for a loving, Christ-centered preschool, we would be honored if you would share our program with your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and anyone God places on your heart. With highly qualified teachers, low student-to-teacher ratios, and a nurturing, faith-filled environment, Grace Preschool is a special place where children are known, loved, and encouraged to thrive.



This year we are also excited to begin hosting Family Chapel on the last Tuesday of every month. This is a wonderful opportunity for our preschool families to gather in the sanctuary, worship together, and experience the love of our church family.

We are blessed to have two faithful volunteers who faithfully serve during Family Chapel, and we would love to build a small team of backup volunteers. Volunteers simply pick up coffee and pastries for the adults and greet families outside the sanctuary doors with a warm smile, a cup of coffee, and an invitation to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. It is such a meaningful way to connect with young families, build relationships, and help welcome them not only onto our campus but into Sunday morning worship. If you feel called to serve in this ministry, we would love to hear from you!

Our Bible focus for August is Daniel in the Lions' Den, reminding our students that God is always with us, even when we face something new or difficult. As children settle into new classrooms, meet new teachers, and make



new friends, we are encouraging them to remember that God made them brave. Our character trait this month is Bravery, and we are teaching our students that with God in their hearts, they can face new challenges with confidence, kindness, and courage. Together, we will remind them each day that they are never alone because God is always by their side.

Please continue to pray for our students, families, teachers, and volunteers as we begin another year of growing in faith, learning, and love. We are so grateful for the continued support of our church family and look forward to all God has in store for Grace Preschool this year!

-Grace Preschool Staff

## After School Program

After school program began in September and finished in May. A total of 28 tutoring sessions and six students. Our wonderful tutors invested their

creativity and fun tutelage all year long. We are grateful for Gloria R., Elizabeth B.

Alice N., Jenifer

L. And Jan H. for their time and dedication. We say goodbye to several of our students moving on to middle and high school.

We begin the 2026-2027 year in September. If you have any questions and would like to help, please reach out to Maria.



## Deacons Corner



### DEACONS CORNER

**Denise Stockman is the moderator of the deacon board at GPC and has been in charge for as long as the terms allow.**

***"...the moderator of the deacons is specific to the deacon body's governance. This role ensures that the deacons' work—often focused on compassion, witness, and service—is conducted in an orderly and faithful manner." ~ Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)***

**She is responsible for presiding over meetings, maintaining order, guiding decision-making, and ensuring that the deacons' ministry is carried out in accordance with the denomination's polity and bylaws.**

**Here is the roster of current Deacons: Anna Belle Beaman, Pastor Will Bynagte, Mary Becerra, Dorene Comerford, Pyong Dusang, Karen England, Linda Huston, Adriana Nolf, Peggy Paradis, Terry-Jeanne Sawyer, Glenna Spindelman, and Denise Stockman.**





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



When our grandchildren are born, we are ready to give them the world. We are ready to be their teacher about A, B, C's. and about right and wrong. At this stage in their lives, we feel that baby face can do no wrong. They will reach the stars, in just a matter of time, with our help, of course. But now as time passes we, as grandparents, begin to think a bit differently about our impact on our grandchildren. Consider these thoughts.

### This month's GP Hot Topic: **I CAN ... BUT I CAN'T**

- **GOD'S WORD:** "...having nothing, and yet possessing everything." 2 Corinthians 6:10b

As a grandparent there is understanding we can give to our grandchildren who want to follow the Lord:

**I CAN** take you to church ... but I can't make you believe. That's a decision you must make for yourself.

**I CAN** give you love ... but I can't force it upon you. Unconditional and Everlasting love you will have to discover for yourself.

**I CAN** buy you lovely clothes to make you look good on the outside ... but I cannot make you lovely on the inside. You will have to do that

**I CAN** advise you about friends ... but I cannot choose them for you. You must choose those who honor and respect what you do.

**I CAN** love you as a grandchild ... but I cannot place you in God's family. You must willingly accept the responsibilities that come with that membership.

**I CAN** pray for you ... but I cannot make you follow Him. He will show you the way.

**I CAN** warn you about sin ... but I cannot make your morals.

**I CAN** teach you about Jesus ... but I cannot make Him your Savior. You will have to decide to accept and follow His ways.

**I CAN** tell you how to live ... but I cannot give you eternal life. The Savior you believe in will grant you that.

The best grandparents can do is live the lives we want our grandchildren to have. We can be honest with them and everyone with whom we contact. We can follow the seven fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, gentleness and self-control. If the children see that in us as we live the life Jesus wants us to then the choice will be theirs as to follow or not.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord we want so much to be a Christian influencer for our grandchildren. We ask that you us the strength to live like your Son and help our grandchildren to understand why we act and talk the way we do.

**Action:** Live like Jesus.

**A Thought and a Smile:** Thank you to Margo for giving me these ideas that came from Lee Ezell Ministries. These were only a few that I received. You may see more again sometime.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

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.  
10:30am Staff Meeting  
2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9:15am Bible 101: Spanish (no 8/6)  
10am Women's Bible Study

FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

| SUN                                     | MON | TUE                                                           | WED                                        | THUR | FRI | SAT                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------|-----|-------------------------------------|
|                                         |     |                                                               |                                            |      |     | 1<br>8am Men's Breakfast            |
| 2                                       | 3   | 4                                                             | 5<br>12:30pm<br>Personnel Com.             | 6    | 7   | 8<br>8am Best Yet!<br>Workshop      |
| 9                                       | 10  | 11<br>6:30pm Deacons                                          | 12<br>9am B & G<br>12:30pm<br>Worship Com. | 13   | 14  | 15<br>11am Larry Luther<br>Memorial |
| 16<br>11:15am<br>Christian Ed.<br>Comm. | 17  | 18<br>9:15am Preschool<br>Chapel<br>4:30pm<br>Fellowship Com. | 19<br>12:30pm<br>Finance Com.              | 20   | 21  | 22<br>10am PCSS                     |
| 23<br>Back to School<br>Sunday          | 24  | 25<br>9:15am Preschool<br>Chapel                              | 26                                         | 27   | 28  | 29                                  |
| 30                                      | 31  | 6:30pm Session                                                |                                            |      |     |                                     |



2 Ron Rosol  
5 Glenna Spindelman  
7 Pyong Dusang-West  
13 Mary Bryan  
14 Jim Aliaga  
23 Duane Weston  
27 Abigail Beaman



13 Bill & Carol Eldridge (49 years)  
17 Mark & Susan Hiltbrand (41 years)  
18 Ben & Christie Elliott (25 years)  
31 Duane & Sue Weston (41 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in August 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)

Luke  
(Karen England's Family)

Anna Belle Beaman's Mom

Luther Family

Apollo Bostian  
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

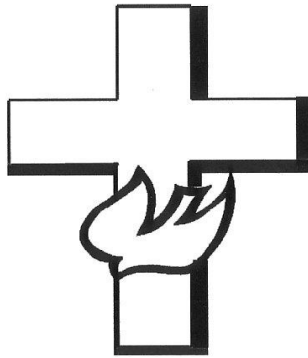
Ron Nolf

Kathy Browning

O'Malley Family

Barbara Coley  
(Kim Sparkman's Sister-in-law)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



Ed Paradis

Bob C.  
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Jayne Parker

Dusenberry Family  
(Kim Sparkman's Brother)

Maureen Russell

Laurie Gilmore  
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Steven Sailors

Betty Haver

Judi Salazar

Nancy Haigh

Tricia & Ken Sanger

Savannah Haigh

Randy Sawyer

Hiltbrand Family

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Keith & Corey  
(The Long's Friends)

Erin Stockman & Family

Peg Long

Mary Wilhem  
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)



## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 Teacher  
Preschool Teacher  
Preschool Support Staff  
Dir. of Community Relations  
Music Director  
Organist  
Praise Band Leader  
Financial Specialist  
Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton  
Christie Elliott  
Frankie Zavala  
Miriam Mojica Santos  
Abigail Beaman  
Samantha Smith  
Jade LaBarber  
Denise Stockman  
Maria 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.