

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

School is back in session! This year, I have a 3rd grader, a 4th grader, and a 9th grader! It's hard to imagine that my oldest is in high school. We also welcomed 21 students back to school at Grace Preschool!

As we send our children back to school and welcome kids to school here at Grace, we often think about classroom ratios. We might think about what state-mandated classroom ratios are and backtoschool. jpg what is best for the kids. In elementary school, it might be 1 teacher for every 30 students - a 1/30 ratio. When I was in youth ministry, I always tried to have 1 adult volunteer for every 5 students - a 1/5 ratio.

As youth ministry changed and developed over the years, students have been asked what matters to them. Students resoundingly responded: warm relationships with adults. Not adults who were cool, but adults who were warm. Adults who showed up in their lives. Asked questions about their day. Attended a soccer game. This has led to a shift from the 1/5 ratio to a 5/1 ratio. Children and youth need at least five adults in their lives who show up for them.

This past Sunday, we had 15 children and youth at church. Our children seem to get older each year! (Anyone else notice that?) One of our Sunday School teachers exclaimed that they barely fit in the kids' chairs and at the table in Sunday School. In just a few short years, the children in our church today will be teenagers - middle schoolers and high schoolers.

I started asking myself, do we need a youth group? A youth director? I don't think that's the answer. Instead we need to encourage our congregation to show up in the lives of our children and youth, being champions of the five-to-one ratio.

Can you name all of the children in our church? Have you asked a child at church how their school year is going? Do you have the time to attend a soccer game, choir recital, or school play?

I recently read about a church where parents share upcoming life events, sporting events, etc., with the church so other congregants can come and support their children. How cool (or warm) is that!?

With Gen Alpha, warm is the new cool. Are we ready?

Full of Hope,



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 GAME ON!

"...the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it'."

-Matt. 13: 45-46

You can tell true college football fans by the way they tailgate. They've got a tent larger than many homes. They've got a 60-inch LCD HDTV with a satellite dish and picture-in-picture capability. They've laid down carpet. They've got sofas and La-Z-Boys. They've got mini-fridges to store their drinks. They've got infrared grills loaded with chicken wings, ribs and steaks, and tables stacked with every side dish you can imagine.

When it comes to game day, time is meaningless. Money is no object. All our efforts are a joy. A true fan is all in.

When it comes to loving Jesus, we're meant to show that type of surrender. As Jesus points out in the story about the pearl merchant, he is worth more than everything we could ever own. Only a fool would refuse to trade it all in for more of Jesus, because Jesus is the source of all blessing.

We see how this works itself out in Acts 2 and Acts 4 when the early church is exploding, and the disciples are eyewitnesses to remarkable things happening through the power of the Holy Spirit. The disciples freely, eagerly and joyously sold possessions and belongings, laying the proceeds at the Apostles' feet. To them, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and helping His people was worth more than anything else. They trusted God that they would have all they needed.

If you bristle at the weekly challenge to give to the church, to fund ministry and to give back to God, ask yourself 'why?' Perhaps Jesus is testing your heart. In his mercy, He's showing you that He isn't your highest joy and building His kingdom isn't your deepest desire as it should be.

Financial Statement As of July 31, 2026

	July 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2026 Budget
Income	\$ 48,443	\$ 450,937	\$ 452,912
Expense	\$ 61,397	\$ 392,804	\$ 452,525
Net Income	\$ 12,954	\$ 58,133	\$ 387

Note: Income includes 12-month distribution from the Legacy Fund and the money collected for the Solar capital campaign

Christian Education

September is just around the corner! Even though the school bells ring in August, September still marks that classic "Back to School" feeling of fresh starts and new routines. Following our wonderful Back to School Sunday showcase, the Christian Education Committee is thrilled to officially welcome you into our vibrant Fall programs. No matter your age or your schedule, there is a seat—and a purpose—waiting for you here at Grace.

We have several ways for you to dive deeper into faith and friendship throughout the week:

- **Monday Bible Studies:** Start your week with deep scriptural reflection directly at Grace.
- **Wednesday Home Group Study:** Enjoy cozy fellowship and meaningful discussion hosted in community homes.
- **Thursday Bible Studies:** Midweek learning sessions held at Grace to recharge your spiritual battery in English and Spanish.

Our Sunday School program is bursting with energy! Each week, our dedicated teachers and helpers guide children through lessons that match the Sunday preaching lectionary. We mix deep truths with high energy, keeping kids engaged through hands-on crafts and fun games.

Education at Grace goes beyond our Sunday walls, and we need your unique gifts to help our community thrive:

- **After-School Tutoring:** Be a steady guide and help students succeed academically in our weekday tutoring program.
- **Preschool Support:** Shower our beloved Preschool program with love, resources, and volunteer assistance.
- **Sunday School Volunteers:** We are looking for friendly faces to serve as occasional volunteer teachers or helpers. You don't have to commit to every week to make a huge impact!

Come Join Us!

Christian education is about learning, growing, and doing life together. There is a space specifically waiting for you this season.

For more details on locations, times, or how to sign up as a volunteer, please contact the church office or chat with a member of the Christian Education Committee.

See you there!



Men's Breakfast

There will not be a Men's Breakfast in September due to Labor Day holiday. Join us on October 3rd at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, as the Fellowship Committee will be preparing and serving breakfast, and we will also spend time in the Word and Prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Women's Event

Join Us!

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 UP ON THE PATIO THIS SUNDAY
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

Save The Date: Missions Sunday

Christmas Advent Craft Faire

Nov. 15, 2026

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Christmas Advent Craft Faire



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MISSIONS SUNDAY: OCT 4TH, 2026
COME CELEBRATE THE MISSIONS
OF OUR CHURCH, DURING SERVICE
AND AFTER, WITH A FREE CATERED
LUNCH. IF YOU CAN, BRING AN
INTERNATIONAL OR LOCAL
DESSERT/COOKIES TO SHARE!

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.

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

Free to attend!

Questions? Please contact Sue Bouchard if you are interested in participating.

Volunteer Spotlight: Tom O'Malley



† A few years back, the church van had an emissions sensor go out. I decided I had what it took to make the repair. Like any repair I do, it took much longer than expected.

Last week, I watched Tom repair the church van in a matter of minutes! Tom O'Malley makes quick work of any task, large or small. He offers his time, he shows up, and he gets the job done.

Thank you for your servant heart, Tom! Whether it's working on something around the church or serving with food distribution, it is a great joy to serve alongside you and your family at Grace. We are grateful for you, Tom! ~ Rev. John Denton

† This month we recognize Tom O'Malley for the incredible support he provides to Grace Preschool behind the scenes. Whether it's a maintenance emergency, an unexpected repair, or something that simply needs fixing, Tom is always quick to respond. He quietly takes care of the problem with efficiency and care—often before anyone even realizes he was here. The only sign of his visit is that everything is working again!

We are truly blessed to have Tom's dependable support and grateful for the many ways he helps keep our preschool safe, running smoothly, and ready for our students each day. Thank you, Tom, for all you do for the Grace Preschool family! ~ Frankie Zavala, Preschool Director

† Tom joins us with his wife Linda and grandkids Kaden & Sophia, lending his talents to help pickup kids for the after-school program, help with food distribution and maintenance of the church van and much more. Tom is a blessing and appreciated for his spirit of service. It is a joy to have him & his family at Grace. ~ Maria Haigh, Community Outreach Director

† Whether he's under the hood keeping our church van safe and road-ready, tackling campus projects, making sure kids have a blast at Vacation Bible Camp, or serving faithfully on the Missions Committee, Tom O'Malley's hands-on help keeps Grace Church's ministries moving forward.

Tom is a humble, gentle, and kind servant of Christ. His willingness to serve behind the scenes with such care and reliability is a true blessing to us all. Grace Church's outreach to our community and our mission to share the Gospel are deeply strengthened by Tom's dedication, faithful heart, and constant willingness to go above and beyond. We are so grateful to him. ~ Annie Kumar

† What a privilege to have Tom O'Malley volunteer on the *Buildings and Grounds Committee*. He is very generous with his time while sharing his superb gifts as a general handyman with many well-developed skills and a great collection of tools. He also serves on the *Missions Committee* and wherever he can help. We are very very blessed! Thanks be to God! ~ Scott Huston



August was a wonderful month at Grace Preschool! We were so excited to welcome two new students, and our students and families were thrilled to return from summer break. We have officially entered our third year here at Grace Preschool, and we are so blessed to continue growing and welcoming new children and families into our preschool community.



Each Tuesday, we gather for Chapel as we learn more about God's Word and grow in our faith. On the last Tuesday of each month, we have the special opportunity to welcome families into the sanctuary for Family Chapel and special music. We are so blessed to be a growing family of God's children, both young and old, and we love sharing these special moments together.



This September, we will be learning the Bible story of Noah's Ark and focusing on the character trait of obedience. Following

directions can be difficult—even for adults! As children, we often want to do things our own way and when we want to. Noah's story reminds us that listening to God and following His directions is important, even when we may not understand why. Throughout the month, we will practice obedience by learning to listen to our teachers, our parents, our friends, and most importantly, God's Word.

We would also love your help at the preschool! If you would like to volunteer, there are many ways to support us, including helping with Family Chapel, preparing meals for new families, or helping prepare classroom activities by cutting, laminating, and sorting

materials. All volunteers must complete MinistrySafe training and Live Scan clearance before volunteering with our students.

We are so thankful for our wonderful preschool families, teachers, church family, and volunteers who make Grace Preschool such a special place. We look forward to another blessed month of learning, growing, and sharing God's love!

"Children are a gift from the Lord." — Psalm 127:3

-Grace Preschool Staff



Missions: World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October has traditionally been a time to celebrate World Communion Sunday. This is a time when Christians everywhere partake of the Lord's Supper. As we sit in our own churches - often times with people

just like us - do we really feel the "globalness" of this event? We talk about people of other nations and cultures, but can we really identify or feel "at one" with them? We are all children of God and siblings in Christ. We are one, as the hymn says:

In Christ there is no East or West,
In him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

The prophet Micah is clear: Our love of God moves us to faithful action through justice, kindness, and humble living. Participating in Churchwide Special Offerings is one way we show our love for God and help all God's children live into the fullness of Micah's prophecy. World Communion Offering will be collected on October 4th as part of Mission Sunday.

If we all do a little,
it adds up to a lot.



Deacons Corner

DEACON'S CORNER: Linda Huston, Treasurer



"Deacons ... ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation including assisting with the Lord's Supper and such as caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, ..." From the www.pcusa.org Book of Order 2026-2027

It is Linda's responsibility as treasurer, elected by the board of deacons, to manage the financial health of the Deacon's Fund by keeping orderly books and records and providing periodic financial reports. The fund is used to minister to the needs of the congregation throughout the year per the Presbyterian Book of Order and the Session. In addition to your regular giving, you can also donate directly to the Deacons by designating the money for the Deacon's Fund.

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



It's Grandparents' Day of Prayer

September 13, 2026



*Join us at worship to honor our grandparents.
Bring a grandkid or two or three as we focus our
thoughts and prayers on them.*

God will be glad you did.

- **GOD'S WORD:** *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded now lives in you."* 2 Timothy 1:5

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 9/3)
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 9:15am Preschool Chapel	2 12:30pm Personnel Com.	3	4	5
6	7 	8 9:15am Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Deacons	9 9am B & G 12:30pm Worship Com.	10	11	12 10am Women's Event
13 Grandparents@ Prayer Sunday	14	15 9:15am Preschool Chapel 4:30pm Fellowship Com.	16 12:30pm Finance Com.	17	18	19
20 11:15am Christian Ed. Comm.	21	22 9:15am Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Rare Fruit Growers 6:30pm Session	23 2:30pm After School Tutoring	24	25	26 10am PCSS
27	28	29 8am Preschool Chapel	30 2:30pm After School Tutoring			



1	Dorene Comerford	12	Pat Whisler
2	Mark Hiltbrand	14	Shirlee Sampsel
	Donna Hubner		Kimberly Sparkman
3	Ben Elliott	15	Norm Long
11	Peg Long	26	Cameron Russell
12	Anna Belle Beaman	29	Tom Krasovic

30 Earl & Valerie Allen (37 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in September 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)

Peg Long

Anna Belle Beaman's Mom

Luke
(Karen England's Family)

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Luther Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Brooke
(Paradis' Granddaughter)

Ron Nolf

Kathy Browning

O'Malley Family

Carley
(Maria's Haigh Niece)

Ed Paradis

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

Jayne Parker

Bob C.
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Maureen Russell

Dusenberry Family
(Kim Sparkman's Brother)

Steven Sailors

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Judi Salazar

Betty Haver

Tricia & Ken Sanger

Nancy Haigh

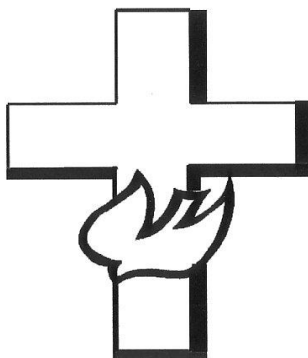
Sawyer Family

Savannah Haigh

Erin Stockman & Family

Keith & Corey
(The Long's Friends)

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)





GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1450 E. Vista Way
Vista, CA 92084

Phone: 760-724-0077

Fax: 760-724-2534

E-mail: info@gpcvista.org

www.gpcvista.org

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY
GROWS



facebook.com/GPCVista

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff
Director of Church Operations
Preschool Director
Preschool Teacher
Preschool Teacher
Preschool Teacher
Preschool Support Staff
Dir. of Community Relations
Interim Children's Ministry Director
Music Director
Organist
Praise Band Leader
Financial Specialist
Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton
Christie Elliott
Frankie Zavala
Miriam Mojica Santos
Abigail Beaman
Jade LaBarber
Denise Stockman
Maria Haigh
Sue Weston
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 true 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.