



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

— TEMPLE, TEXAS —



ARE YOU PENTECOSTAL? from Rev. Thom Lamb

As we approach the celebration of Pentecost, we will do so with a great church picnic, and wonderful worship together. About 10 years ago I preached a sermon on Pentecost in which I shared a story from Dr. Fred Craddock, one of the most profound preachers and teachers in our lifetime. As I thought about that story, I wanted to revisit the question that it posed...Are you Pentecostal? Here's the story:

"A few years ago when Craddock was on the west coast to speak at a seminary, just before the first lecture, one of the students stood up and said, "Before you speak, I need to know if you are Pentecostal?"

The room grew silent. He didn't know where the dean was! The student quizzed him in front of everybody. He was taken aback, so he said, "Do you mean if I belong to the Pentecostal church?"

He said, "No, I mean are you Pentecostal?"

I said, "Are you asking if I am charismatic?"

He said, "I am asking if you are Pentecostal?"

I said, "Do you want to know if I speak in tongues?"

He said, "I want to know if you are Pentecostal?"

I said, "I don't know what your question is."

He said, "Obviously you are not Pentecostal." He left."



It is a good question...a question for all of us...are we Pentecostal? We know the word "Pentecost" as a noun. It is first a Jewish holy day. In the Jewish tradition, the festival of Pentecost, seven times seven days plus one, the fiftieth day, symbolized the closure of the period of harvest rejoicing. Pentecost has come to mean something to us entirely different from the original Jewish festival. Pentecost for us is described in the second chapter of Acts. It is a transformational event. It is the very birth of the church as the body of Christ. We know the story of Pentecost. Jesus has ascended, the disciples are challenged to go down from the mountain into the city to await the coming of Jesus' promised blessing. The disciples all gathered together, the Spirit rushes in like a mighty wind, the disciples begin to speak in different known languages, something like tongues of fire dance above their heads, people are amazed, because they are hearing the good news of Jesus in their own languages...the Spirit that Jesus promised, the comforter, guide, advocate had arrived...Peter the one who denied Jesus, transformed stands and delivers the sermon to beat all sermons and some 3000 folks are baptized in the name of Jesus.

But the question posed to Craddock by the student begs for the word Pentecost to be more than the description of an event that took place 2000 years ago. Can our Pentecost celebration be more than a commemoration? Is it possible that it is for us an adjective, descriptive of who we are as the church of Jesus Christ...are we Pentecostal?

If so then it describes us as a people of the Holy Spirit...not simply people who are spiritual, but folks who embrace the guidance and power of God's spirit here and now...a Spirit that exudes the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. To be Pentecostal is to speak a language from the heart.

The Holy Spirit speaks through broken people to a broken world, using language every broken heart can hear and understand.

- Because we know what it is like to be broken by hatred, by the Spirit, we can speak of the healing love of Christ's sacrifice.
- Because we know what it is like to be broken by despair, by the Spirit, we can speak of the healing hope of Christ's forgiveness.
- Because we know what it is like to be broken by doubt, by the Spirit, we can speak of the healing faith in Christ's promises.
- Because we know what it is like to be broken by illness, by the Spirit, we can speak of the healing wholeness of Christ's resurrection.
- Because we know what it is like to break down doing church — program church, purpose-driven church, seeker-sensitive church, organic church, missional church, simple church, by the Spirit, we can stop doing church and start being Pentecostal.

This is the message of Pentecost. An event that changed everything 2000 years ago is so much more. For the that same wind that blew in on the disciples, is the same wind that rushes into our hearts and empowers us as a community of faith. •

2401 S 57TH STREET
TEMPLE, TX 76504
254.773.2134
MAY 2024

notes

GRACE

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Kimberly Lamb	5/2
Jane Aiken	5/4
Linda Lowe	5/6
Bill Stokes	5/6
Norma Swaim	5/7
Robby Ozment	5/8
Will Splittgerber	5/15
Margie McCloud	5/18
Shelly Geist	5/24
Carolyn VanWinkle	5/25
Joshua Essary	5/28
Raymond Syper	5/28
David McCauley	5/29



MISSED A SERVICE?

Watch our worship service **LIVE** on Grace Presbyterian's Facebook page ([@gpctemple](#)) or [YouTube](#). Need help in finding us? Contact us at 254.773.2134 or see a staff member, Elder, or Rev. Thom Lamb. Share with your friends that cannot make it so that they can worship with us!

MAY CARD SHOWER!

Ruby McConnell

Let's shower some love to Ruby! Cards can be mailed to her: Ruby McConnell, 3302 Azalea Drive, Temple, TX 76502. Don't have a card? We have one for you in the narthex! Fill it out and drop it in the office and we will mail it for you!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join us for our May lesson. This one focuses on Lydia, a First Century woman who came to Christ through Baptism after a conversational meeting and lesson with the Apostle Paul. Lydia may be seen as a representative of many other women who, like her, nurtured and furthered the infant church by providing aid and support for the many brave individuals who daily risked their lives to bring the Good News of Christ to people throughout the known world. Join the circle of your choice as we delve into her unique story and explore the true purpose and meaning of Christian Baptism. Our three circles meet in the GPC Conference Room, with the following schedule:

- Evening Circle: First Tuesday each month, 6PM; Julie Benner
- Morning Circle: Second Tuesday each month, 9:30AM; Pat Wurster
- Jennie Shull Circle: Third Thursday each month, noon; Patti Smith

BACKPACK BUDDIES! As Presbyterian Women's only annual fund-raising campaign, the Backpack Buddies program exists for one simple purpose: providing every disadvantaged child in our local community with a new, high quality backpack fill with the proper supplies for the student's grade level. Moreover, thanks to the program's excellent leadership and some judicious shopping, the cost of each backpack is holding steady at just \$40. As before, we at GPC have pledged to provide 80 backpacks, each of which means there will be one less child feeling embarrassed, uncertain, or painfully "different" on their first day of classes. All that remains is for you to make your check out to GPC, with the following on the memo line: Backpack Buddies.



MEN OF GRACE

All men are encouraged to attend a men's breakfast, if you can. **Mark your calendar to join us for our next get-together will be Saturday, May 18 at 9AM.** If you have any questions please contact Stan Simons (stanb4simons@gmail.com) or Bob Schull (bshull612@gmail.com). Also if you have any joys or concerns, let us know and we will add them to our prayers. We will help with set up for the *Homecoming Picnic* following our breakfast.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday's • 9:30-10:30AM

- K-5th Grade - Room 204 (Located in the nursery wing – last room); Teachers: Cathi Simons, Elizabeth Seeger, A'Lisa Ozment and Beth Gerdes
 - Youth 6-12th grade - Youth Room 104
- **Nursery Care for infants – Kindergarten children is available during both worship services and Sunday School.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, May 3, 2024 • 5:30-8:30PM

Parent's Night Out is the **first Friday of each month** and is for families who are members of the church or frequent attendees and for their children (Infants (6 weeks) through 5th Grade). Childcare is provided by our GPC Nursery staff. Register for PNO by the Wednesday of the week of PNO via our Children's Ministry page on the GPC website (**Wed, May 1**).



MUSIC MINISTRY

Special Music in Worship during May!

Sunday, May 12

Handbell Choir will play in worship for Mother's Day

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost Sunday

Gospel and Bluegrass Music Sunday in Worship



Have you sung in choirs in your past? Have you always wanted to try singing with a choir but weren't sure about it? Are you ready to try something new? Come and join our GPC **June Summer Choir!** We will meet Sunday mornings in June at 10:00 am before worship to put together a song to

sing that morning in church. Invite friends to join us! This is a great way for folks to experience our wonderful choir here at GPC.

Handbell Rehearsal 6-7PM ; Choir Rehearsal 7-8PM

Handbell Ensemble is directed by Josh Essary

(joshuaessary@gmail.com)

Chancel Choir is directed by Chelsea Stern, Music Minister

(chelsea@gpctemple.org)

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REMEMBERING OUR WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. -Psalm 98:1a

This is one of my favorite psalms, reminding us of God's salvation and God's neverending faithfulness. 'He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness' (v. 3a). My heart sings with these words. God has and will do marvelous things.

As we move toward Sunday and communal worship, it is always appropriate to worship and praise God, giving thanks for all things. Worshiping God helps us remain tightly bound to God and God's love. Sharing this love becomes part of who we are. As we abide in God's love, that love spreads to others. Knowing the Holy Spirit also works in others' lives relieves me of worrying about another's salvation. The psalmist joyfully announces God's redemption of all the earth. Such joyful news cannot and should not be stopped. Let us worship God!

Faithful God, lead me in praise this day so that I may better love and be loved. Amen.

(Kirkconnell, Findlay, OH; from THESE DAYS)

MEMBERSHIP



Homecoming Picnic at the Pavilion (noon). For you and anyone you choose to bring! **JUST BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE....Last name A thru H: vegetable; I thru S: salad; T thru Z: dessert.**

Of all the food-centric gatherings that occur in the south, church potlucks are some of the most cherished events. We'd be lying if we said there wasn't a hint of competition at every southern potluck, even the ones that follow Sunday service.

What is it? Exactly what it sounds like: old church members who've moved away visit the church to share in worship and fellowship with current church members over a traditional meal. Like most southern potlucks, these dinners are filled with casseroles, "salads" that don't contain a speck of green, and overflowing dessert tables. So bring your timeless recipes to share. Dress comfortably....this is a picnic! Entertainment will be provided by **The Setting Sons**.

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Get to know our church leaders!

Below are those serving as our Elders and Deacons. Send them a card letting them know that you are praying for them as they serve!

Elders:

John Bowling, Kevin Cushman, Robby Ozment, Elizabeth Seeger, Marianne Stringfellow, Margaret Buchanan, Mike Milbery, Josh Essary, Bill Stanley, Sarah Nickerson, A'Liza Ozment, Tom Stringfellow, Richard Tolleson

Deacons:

Al Lowe, Linda Lowe, Bob Shull, Sara Shull, Dan Gatlin, Lynn Grant, Bob Ritchie, Marilyn Ritchie, Andrine Kagu, Kenny Lange, Becky Northen, Norman Northen

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

-- Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2401 S. 57TH STREET

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WWW.GPCTEMPLE.ORG

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP:

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

11 AM WORSHIP

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



Watch our services on YouTube, Facebook or our website.

Click the links above or visit us:

Facebook: @gpctemple • Online: www.gpctemple.org

PLACE LABEL HERE

grace prayer ministry

Did you know that we have a prayer ministry? If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain to receive updates and prayer requests, please let the church office know by emailing us. If you have a prayer request that you would like to be prayed over, please email the church office at office@gpctemple.org.

A CINEMATIC PIANO EXPERIENCE

Please join pianist Emily Gary and fellow pianist Jonathan Gary, violinist John Mark Gary, cellist Nathan Keefer, oboist Leanne Blaha, and percussionist Peter Millican for an evening of music from movies and TV. The concert is free and will feature works by film composers Hans Zimmer, John Williams, and Ennio Morricone, to name a few. A media presentation will be offered during the concert as well. The event will take place on Thursday evening, May 23, at 6:30PM at Grace Presbyterian Church.

GPC STAFF

Rev. Thom Lamb
Pastor

thom@gpctemple.org

Chelsea Stern
Director of Music
chelsea@gpctemple.org

Emily Gary
Pianist/Accompanist

Dr. Jonathan Gary
Organist

Josh Essary
Handbell Choir Director
joshuaessary@gmail.com

Sharon Ellis
Office Administrator
office@gpctemple.org

Jane Nance
Child Care Coordinator
jananance@gmail.com

Adele Parker
Sexton

Grace Presbyterian Church
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Current office hours:
Mon- Thursdays
8AM- 4PM