

grace notes

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • APRIL 2026

In our **Easter** season and even more in the **Pentecost** season we will be thinking a lot about *discipleship*. Discipleship is sort of a strange word, isn't it? While you might think it is the condition of *BEING a student of or following Jesus*, since disciple means "learner" or "student," DISCIPLESHIP'S connotation is somewhat broader. Jesus, himself, told us in his **Great Commission** that following him (i.e. discipleship) included going out and **MAKING** disciples of the world! (Mt. 28:19). All in all, discipleship is about our living God's way in this world AND sharing that way with others.

It is not always easy to remember to do both parts of this definition, especially the "*sharing with others*" part. In a silly moment once, as I was contemplating the word, it occurred to me that this is because discipleship has nothing to do actually with being on a ship! Ha! **There is no disciple-ship!** In fact, what we need to avoid is operating as if we were unto ourselves, as if we were on a ship... isolated... at sea! We need to remember that we, the Church, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said in his book *Letters and Papers from Prison*, "are only the Church when we exist for others." He further said that the Church is the true Church when "it is serving and acting to change the status quo 'from below'."

Right! The Church is only the church when it exists for others. Now, one thing that I've learned since I've been at Grace Presbyterian, as your Interim Pastor and now your Session Moderator and consultant, is that this church in no way acts as if it is out to sea by itself. Grace Presbyterian knows it is called to be a gospel people, called to make disciples not only within its faith community but outside its walls. Through the GPC worship, ministries, programs, goals, budget... **all of it...** there is a quiet underlying reminder to reach out to share and care for others and in so doing, make disciples... disciples who will do the same. Even the sending song, sung each week, emphasizes it. "**By the grace of God in Christ Jesus, The Spirit is upon us, To magnify the name of the Lord, to make him disciples, to meet the needs of the least of these. So go in peace, go in joy, go in the Spirit of the Lord.**" (Allen) I believe with all my heart that you are doing a good job of this, and I pray that you keep the vision and energy to stay the course this season and forever. *It's discipleship.* And it has much to do

with how we together experience God's joy. When we realize that we are **blessed to be a blessing**, that our life together is not about us only, that the "*church is only the church when it exists for others,*" we will experience the joy that was known on that first Pentecost morning when the Spirit moved and the church was born so long ago.

See you in Church,
Rev. Naomi Ingram

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR *Holy Week*

			
Palm Sunday March 29th Worship 11 am	Maundy Thursday April 2nd Worship 7 pm	Good Friday April 3rd Worship 7 pm	Easter Sunday April 5th Worship 11 am

What's Happening at Grace

Parents Night Out

Friday, April 10th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Parent's Night Out is for children of church members or frequent attendees. (Infants 6 weeks through grade 5)

Childcare is provided by our GPC Nursery staff. Register for this PNO by Wednesday, April 8th via our Children's Ministry page on the GPC website.

"Children need to be fed before dropping them off. If you need to feed them dinner at church please use the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!"

Wednesday Night LOGOS

WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:30-7:00 PM WITH DINNER INCLUDED. THIS SPRING WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM.

JOIN US ON 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, & 4/29

NOTE: WE HAVE A YOUTH OFFERING FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING LOGOS TOO!

FIRST (SECOND) SUNDAY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

SUN. APRIL 12TH: 12 PM (DIRECTLY AFTER WORSHIP)

CLEM MIKESKA'S BAR-B-Q STEAKHOUSE

WE WILL MEET AT CLEM MIKESKA'S BAR-B-Q LOCATED AT 1217 S 57TH ST. IN TEMPLE

ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER GPC FAMILIES FOR LUNCH AND FUN! DUTCH TREAT.

VBS Director Needed!

Help us pour into our kids this summer! We're seeking a Vacation Bible School Director for July 10-12. Serve on your own or partner with a co-director! Let us know if you'd like to be part of this meaningful ministry... Contact Maddie at maddiebeadell@gmail.com

Thank you, Maddie!

A special farewell to our Director of Christian Education

Maddie Clark & Family
Matt • Sawyer • Natalie

Maddie and her family will soon be moving to **North Carolina**, and we want to send them off with **prayer, gratitude, and lots of love.**

In her time with us, Maddie brilliantly served our children and youth using her many gifts and talents. She has led our LOGOS program, taught youth Sunday school, and led numerous youth & children's events and mission projects.

She leads with **love, humility, kindness, and organization.**

We are so grateful for **Maddie, Matt, Sawyer, and Natalie.** They will be **deeply missed**, and we trust God has wonderful plans for their next chapter!

With love, and MANY blessings,
Your Grace Presbyterian Church Family

A note from Maddie...

When we moved to Texas, we knew it would be hard to find a church to be a part of. Turns out it was extremely hard and we missed so much time that could have been spent at this church in the four years we were here. In the past year and a half since finding, attending, and working for GPC I have felt so much love from each and every one of you. We are so thankful that this church was a part of our time here in Texas and we will miss it dearly. We cannot thank you enough for all your love and support during our time together!

Dear JACK, Dear LOUISE

Join your GPC Friends for Opening Night of

Friday, April 17th
Temple Civic Theatre
6:30 PM Drinks & Appetizers for Season Ticket Holders
Curtain rises at 7:30 PM

See the Signup Poster in the Narthex for more info.

Whether or not you're already a member of one of our three Bible study circles, we hope you will attend one or more of our April meetings.

"Finding Our Identity in Christ"

Schedule for Circle Meetings:

- Evening Circle** meets first Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm, Julie Benner's house, contact Julie at bjbenneratt.net
- Morning Circle** meets second Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am GPC Conference Room, contact Pat Wurster at pjgwurster@gmail.com
- Jennie Shull Circle** meets third Thursday of the month, 12:00 noon GPC Conference Room, contact Patti Smith at pcsmithburtlake@gmail.com

Come check us out, you'll be glad you did!

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm

For information or questions, contact: Chelsea Stern, Minister of Music
C.Stern@gpc temple.org

Handbell Ensemble

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm

For information or questions, contact: Joshua Essary, Director of Handbell Ensemble
J.Essary@gpc temple.org

PENNIES FOR MOMS

First Sunday of Each Month (APRIL 5)

Please place coins in the offering plate to donate to **Hope Mommies**
a faith-based organization which helps bereaved mothers.

Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 5 • 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate Easter with your friends at Grace Presbyterian Church

Join us for a potluck brunch in the Fellowship Hall. The Deacons will provide drinks and take care of setup & cleanup—just bring something to share!

Last names beginning with A through I, please bring fruit.
J through P, please bring breakfast entrees.
Q through Z are encouraged to bring breads and pastries.

Feel free to bring something different if you prefer. Labels on dishes and utensils are appreciated!

Make plans now to celebrate our risen Lord together.

Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 @ 9 AM

THE "MEN OF GRACE" MEET THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR BREAKFAST AND A SPEAKER IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. BRING A FRIEND!

QUESTIONS?
Email Stan (stank4simons@gmail.com)
Bob (bshull612@gmail.com)

"Extra Love" Member for April

is **Lea Ann Bettis**
915 "A" S. 27th Street
Temple, Texas 76504

Lea Ann is currently recovering from several different and difficult surgeries. Let's shower her with cards, notes, and all kinds of well wishes to show her how much she means to all of us here at GPC!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ann Edmondson, 2 Mark Gaddy
- 4 A'Lisa Ozment, 7 Suzanne McCauley
- 9 Debbie Stephens, 10 JoAnna Langthorn
- 12 Julie Benner, 15 Patti Smith
- 15 Garrett Conner, 20 Elizabeth Seeger
- 21 Richard Tolleson, 22 Sally Tietje
- 25 Jan Fall, 27 Debby Bolton
- 27 Mike Jordan, 29 Chris Stern
- 30 Keaton Stephens

Feed My Sheep

April 21st & 22nd

GPC supports this mission by helping cook casseroles on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, making sandwiches & packing cold lunches at 5:30 pm, donating cookies-brownies, or serving lunch on Wednesdays at FMS. Donations and volunteers are needed for this mission.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FEED MY SHEEP!

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2401 S. 57th Street

Temple, TX 76504



IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP:

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

11 AM WORSHIP

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



PLACE LABEL HERE

Watch our services on YouTube, Facebook or our website.

Click the links above or visit us:

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



GPC STAFF

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Current office hours:
Mon - Thursdays
8AM - 4PM