



grace notes

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • AUGUST 2026

“Hold Onto What is Good”

The apostle Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians as a letter to his little church in Thessalonica which was trying to survive a difficult time. It was meant to be read as they were together in worship. *Notably*, vss. 5:10-24, which I refer to you (*please look it up* 😊), were meant as a benedictory prayer, a farewell blessing. You probably recognize some of the words because they have been used to make another beautiful benediction, one which I have frequently offered, now published in our Book of Common Worship. It is a good thing, I think, that now, as I officially leave my position as Session Moderator, and as you move from this time of transition to another time, under the leadership of a wonderful pastor, that we consider what thoughts Paul may have had as he wrote the blessing.

Paul certainly was wanting to leave his congregation “encouraged” ...encouraged to stay the course... to continue with the good work that they’d been doing, for it is through the work of the **CHURCH**, the **PEOPLE**, that the Kingdom will grow. Paul knew this, and he wanted them to know it. He wanted them to know that **THEY** needed to work, and to do so with uplifted spirits, rejoicing, for what they were doing was only being accomplished through the power of the risen Christ among them. Yes, the little Thessalonian church was called and empowered by Christ’s Spirit to do *Christ’s divine work in the world*.

And guess what! *This is the same with Grace Presbyterian Church.* **YOU**, too, have been called and empowered by the presence of Christ’s Spirit in your midst. **Be encouraged then!** Be encouraged to continue your good work.

And oh, how good it’s been. Did you know that just in the last 17 months, 14 people have joined this church? Five people have been baptized and 11 have been escorted from this life to the next. Many elders and deacons have been ordained or installed. The number of people who have been touched by GPC’s mission is simply incalculable. GPC has fed, clothed, cheered with cards, equipped with backpacks, snack bags, and emergency supplies people in need all around the world. For old and young, through your generous donations, you bravely stood up to wrongs and instead stood for justice. Two wonderful mission trips to help the poor and suffering have been accomplished by GPC youth and sponsors. And how this church has taught and nourished all ages in the Word through Sunday School, Bible Study classes, Men’s and Women’s groups and programs like VBS and Logos. Didn’t you love the Christmas pageant and Logos musicals? The youth group is now healthy and running well, evidence of the recent wise decision to invest in gifted Directors of Christian Education. What wonderful fellowship events have continued to nourish the life and soul of the congregation, allowing people to laugh, cry, not to mention to EAT together. The Friends as Family program was reborn during this transition time. Yay! The Church has never wavered in worshipping and praising God with song and wonderful music led by gifted leaders and musicians. Pulpit supply ministers have been engaged to faithfully preach the Word and welcome all people to Jesus and his church. Many thanks to the dedicated leadership of Rev. Dr. Bill Benner. And let’s not forget how GPC weathered the storms. There have been some difficult “property” issues during this time (*failed sewer line, boilers, the fire, etc.*) Yet through the brilliant and dedicated leadership of the Finance and Property committees, all was repaired well with minimal interruption.

Yes, GPC, you have been busy doing the work which brings the kingdom during the difficult time, and I encourage you stay the course as you head into a new, even better time. What you do is God’s work, and the risen Christ is in your midst. *It is God who called you, set you apart, and our God will not leave you.*

Another thing that motivated Paul to write the benedictory prayer is undoubtedly his love for his congregation and the love he felt from them. That’s the secret you know. **It’s love. It’s always love.** That’s the fuel that drives the Church and its ministry... love, tangibly felt and returned... through shaky and stable times. This love is born in us when we realize that we are loved first by a God who has come to be one **WITH** us and to be always and forever **FOR** us, and it is returned when we recognize the gift and are then empowered and compelled to respond by loving one another.

Brothers and sisters of Grace Presbyterian, I thank you for loving me (*and my family*) and allowing us to love you during this past 1 ½ yrs and the previous 11 ½ yrs. I am very excited for your future with a great staff, a fabulous Session, and a wonderful new pastor, Colton Hedrick. You are in good hands.

My prayer for you is taken from Paul’s words... *Go out into the world in peace. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, Amen!*

Rev. Naomi Ingram



With Great Joy

The Session of
Grace Presbyterian Church
is pleased to announce the call of

Colton Hedrick

as our new pastor.



ORDINATION & INSTALLATION



Sunday,
August 30, 2026



Morning Worship Service
11:00 a.m.



Ordination &
Installation Service
4:00 p.m.



Refreshments
to follow

Come and meet Colton and his wife, Caitlin. Together they bring warmth, authenticity, joy, and a deep love for community to Grace Presbyterian Church. Caitlin is a former member of First Presbyterian Church.



Colton attended the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and received his Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

*Join us as we celebrate this joyful
new chapter in the life of Grace Presbyterian Church.*





PENNIES FOR MOMS

First Sunday of Each Month (August 2)

PLEASE PLACE COINS IN THE OFFERING PLATE TO DONATE TO

Hope Mommies

a faith-based organization which helps bereaved mothers.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
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 or Bob



NURSERY CARE

Nursery care for infants – 2nd Grade is available during both our worship service & Sunday school



Do you have an ANNOUNCEMENT?

If you would like an announcement made, please send all information to the church office via email at office@gpctemple.org and Amy will include your announcement in church publications as needed.

We would like to streamline announcements so that our announcement time in worship is organized and efficient.

The liturgist of the day will be the **only person** who will make verbal announcements from the pulpit moving forward.

Thank you!

VBS

Family Events

**Choir &
Musicals**

PNO

**JOIN OUR GPC
CHILDREN & YOUTH
Ministries**

LOGOS

**Sunday
School**

**Please scan to register/update your children's
information with our CE committee. 0-18 yrs old!**



**Worship
Childcare**

YOUTH GROUP

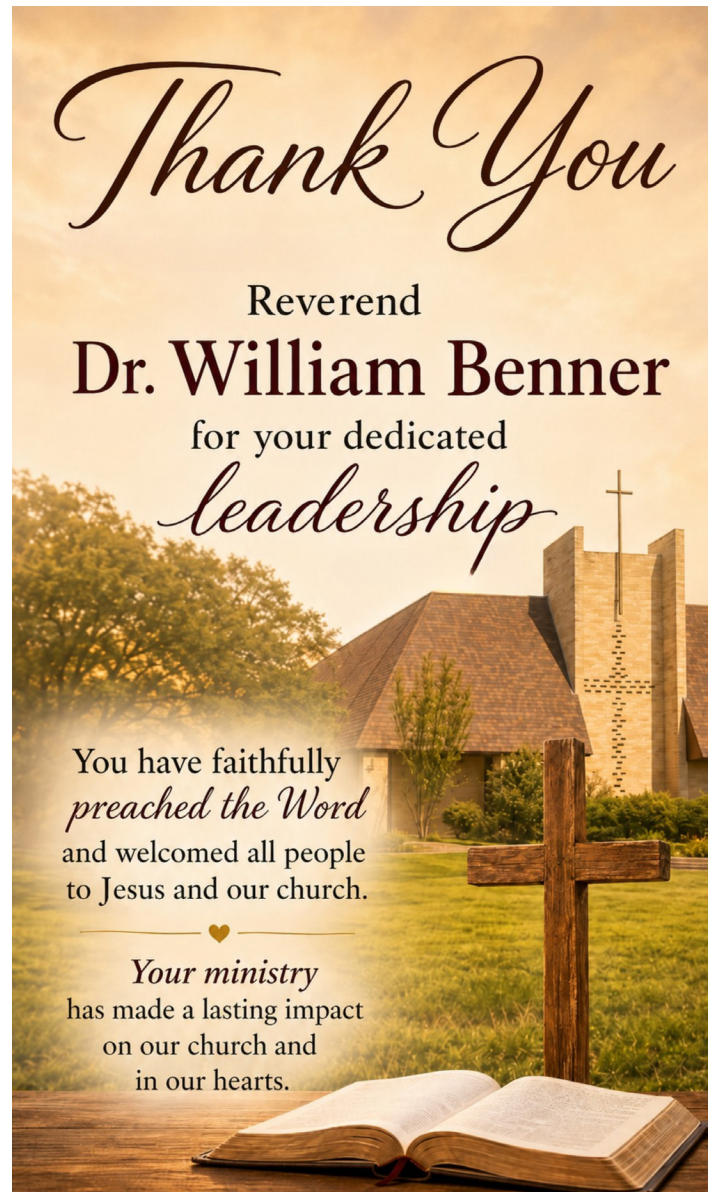


Prayer Ministry

Anyone with a prayer request can contact

Jan Salzman

jsalzman2@att.net



Thank You

Reverend
Dr. William Benner
for your dedicated
leadership

You have faithfully
preached the Word
and welcomed all people
to Jesus and our church.

Your ministry
has made a lasting impact
on our church and
in our hearts.



⚡ **No** ⚡
Children's or
Youth Bible Classes

July & August

WE'LL BE BACK IN SEPTEMBER

See you then! ♡

God is good ♡
• Be kind
• Work hard
• Pray daily
• Trust God

BE THE LIGHT
MATTHEW 5:16



FEED MY SHEEP
— TEMPLE, TEXAS —
JOHN 21:17

OPPORTUNITIES TO
Serve
SERVING THOSE EXPERIENCING
PHYSICAL HUNGER

BE THE HANDS
AND FEET OF
JESUS.

TUESDAY AUGUST 25		 1:30 PM <i>Make Casseroles</i>
TUESDAY AUGUST 25		 5:30 PM <i>Make Sack Lunches</i> (sandwiches & brown bag items)
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26		12:00 PM <i>Serve the Community</i> Share lunch and show God's love in action.

Every act of kindness matters.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING FEED AND CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.



Beginning this quarter,
giving statements will be
sent electronically.



Please help us ensure timely delivery
by verifying that the church has your
current email address.



If your email address has changed, or if
you need to update your contact
information, please contact the church
office at your earliest convenience.



Thank you for helping us keep our
records up to date.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Chilton 8/1	John Burrough 8/15
Pat Church 8/3	Natasha Slaughter 8/17
Naomi Ingram 8/4	Joyce Eberts 8/19
Rena Taylor 8/5	John Elwood 8/20
Tony Owen 8/8	Millie Henn 8/21
Jennie Miller 8/12	John Wurster 8/23
Katie Shull 8/12	Jeannie Milbery 8/25
Tommy Enloe 8/13	Gary Gosney 8/27
Emily Gary 8/13	Diana Mayes 8/27
Kelly Garcia 8/14	Donna Bowling 8/30
Lara Miller 8/15	
Betsy Smith 8/15	



Presbyterian Women Circles

There will be no meetings during the month of August.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please see the insert in the Sunday Worship Orders throughout the month of August to learn about exciting ways to serve in our Christian Education ministries.

Opportunities include:

- Sunday School Teachers (Grades K-5)
- Youth Ministry Volunteers
- Wednesday LOGOS Volunteers

Be a part of our fun fall programming!

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

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

As we
Go Back
to *School...*

Let's lift up in prayer all of our students, teachers, staff, and administrators as they begin a new season of learning, growth, and opportunity.



May they be filled with courage, kindness, patience, and joy. May their days be blessed with wisdom, strength, and peace.

*We're praying for
a blessed school year!*



The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden. ISAIAH 58:11



GPC STAFF

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Grace Presbyterian Church
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Current office hours:
Monday - Thursday
8 AM - 4 PM