

GRACE NOTES

March 2023

I'm going to assume that word has gotten around that I will be leaving Grace Presbyterian Church after Easter Sunday. I will be moving into intentional interim ministry, starting with an interim pastorate at First Presbyterian Church of Independence, Kansas.

A few things will need to happen between now and then. The Presbytery of Southern Kansas, where I am moving, has to petition the Presbytery of St. Augustine to transfer my membership there (pastors are members of presbyteries, not churches). The appropriate commission of this presbytery will have to reach out to GPC about the process of moving to what's next. And this congregation will at some point need to hold a congregational meeting to dissolve the relationship between the church and me officially as of April 9. After April 10, I'm just a guy (until May 1, when I will start there).



There are challenging official requirements of such a separation, the responsibility of which mostly fall on me. After April 9 it is my official responsibility to have nothing to do with the church. I am to have nothing to do with the business of the church after that time, and I'm not even supposed to attend a service here for a minimum of a year. (That I will be literally halfway across the continent will make that part easier, to be sure.) In short, I have to separate, no matter how much someone might want to tell me all about what's going on or who has done what. I can't do that. That doesn't mean, for example, that I have to unfriend people on Facebook, but you can't tell me about what's going on at the church, even before we officially move to Kansas.

There will be more details to come. There will be a lot of tears on my part. But I must also note that I am looking forward to a new work, and am at least happy that it takes us to a part of the country where we do have some friends and contacts at least within driving distance.

In the meantime, aside from March 5, I'll be here through all of Lent and Holy Week. (Rev. Larry Green, formerly of Westminster Presbyterian and now with the Gainesville Community Counseling Center at Highlands Regional Ministry Center, will be the guest preacher for March 5 and lead the Lord's Supper.) And there will be more details about Holy Week to come. Until then, let us worship and minister together.



The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2023 Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex. Fresh floral arrangements are \$40 and you may place your name on any selected date of your choosing. Please note that roses added to your arrangement are in addition to the \$40.00 and are \$5.00 each

Prayer Requests

Please join us in lifting up prayers for those who have immediate concerns: Carl Crane's brother, Michael; Donna Fidler; Janine Groner; Billie Jean Jones; the family and friends of Helen Weidhaas; and Fred Winters, Jay Winter Collins father.

Also pray for those with longer term needs: Margie Baker; Lois Butler's sister, Holly Durst; Jerry Butler; Pauline Kirk; Bob McAlpine; Gale Nevill; Laura Raizada; Libby Richardson; Sarah Robinson; Mabel Che-Tuma's niece, Shekina; Wayne Wagner; C. D. Weaver; Mary Williamson; our military; first responders; the people of the Ukraine and our church.

If there are other people or concerns that you would like to add or delete from this list, please contact Ivette by phone at 352-376-5654 or by email at office@gpconline.org



Session Meeting Highlights

February 13

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MODERATOR'S REPORT

Vacation

March 3-6 (House Hunting)

Larry Green will preach and lead communion on March 5

March 8-11

Charles will preach on March 12

FEBRUARY 4, 2023 WINTER PRESBYTERY MEETING

Moderator, Jerie Lukefahr, gave special thanks to Sandra Hedrick upon her retirement after ten years of dedicated service as Stated Clerk

Beverly Dempsey preached the sermon, entitled "May it be so" inspired by the Matthew 17:1-9 urging us to find unity in purpose and to pursue unity in service

Offering in excess of \$1,000 was dedicated to Mutual Mission

Team traveling to Cuba to serve the Matanzas Presbytery was commissioned

Evan "Charlie" Evans was elected as the new Stated Clerk

Welcomed new Communications Coordinator, Gabrielle Bellamy

Susan Rose was installed as our new moderator

CLERK OF SESSION

Annual Statistical Report Approved

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten study, *Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy; The Bible and Brahms's Requiem* begins February 21 via Zoom at 7:00 pm and will continue through Lent

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION

Meals were delivered to St Francis House on January 20 - Future dates are April 21, July 21, and October 20

Family Promise is holding a bed race on February 25 from 9-noon at Trinity United

Methodist Church Meal—we will donate \$100

\$1 Fund is going to Family Promise from January to March

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Property insurance has increased by \$6,296.00

WORSHIP & MUSIC

John-Peter Ford, organist candidate, will play during the February 26 and March 5 church services.

Working on pulpit supply after Charles leaves

Interim pastor committee will be formed

PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS

Water heater has been repaired

Mosaic for memorial garden is finished



Mission Report

One Great Hour of Sharing

During the Lenten season celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that strengthens Earth care ministries, disaster response, and hunger and poverty alleviation. Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

You can designate your offering to go to One Great Hour of Sharing in an offering envelope or on our Grace Presbyterian Church webpage. Please consider giving to this special offering at some time from February 22 through April 9, the Lenten season.

Family Promise



We will prepare and serve dinner and overnight host for Family Promise at Covenant on March 8 and 15. On March 23 we will be helping Westminster with dinner and overnight host.

\$1 Fund Offering

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the months of January through March will go to Family Promise.

Please don't forget our Special Offerings

Two Cents a Meal

We invite every member of the congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal. This offering is held the first Sunday of each month, but feel free to contribute on any Sunday to help alleviate hunger and poverty.



Elders on Call

**Elders on Call
for March are:**

**Jay Collins 352-870-2843
Faye Tripp 904-307-4082**

Two elders volunteer to be available to church members and friends who may need assistance. When Reverend Freeman is unavailable or the church office is closed, these elders are on call to help.

For it is in Giving That We Receive

Ways to Support Grace Presbyterian Church:

1. Mail a check to the church office.
2. Use your bank's online bill pay system.
3. Use the electronic funds transfer from your savings or checking account, or
4. Use a debit/credit card at the link on our website under the giving tab (there is also an image that you can click).

The finance committee would like to keep the congregation informed about our General Fund income and expenses and our pass through donations. If you have any questions, contact Lois Butler at 352-262-5893 or treasurer@gpconline.org.

	January	Through 1/31
Income	\$ 25,147.49	\$ 25,147.49
Expenses	\$ 9,418.14	\$ 9,418.14
Pass Through Donations		
Two Cents a Meal	\$ 54.01	\$ 54.01

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/3 - Billie Jean Jones

3/20 - Hazel Williamson

Kevin Youngblood

3/22 - Laura Raizada

3/25 - Vernon Mize

3/29 - Cammarron Hoping



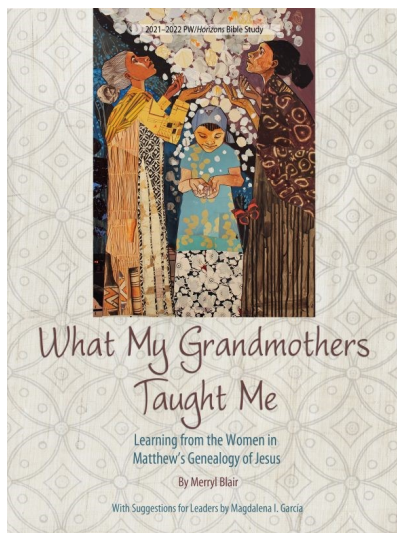
Please call the church office at 352-376-5654, if your special day is **NOT** listed or is **NOT** correct.

Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



The men of the church are invited to meet each Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the library for fellowship. Please bring your own brown bag lunch, beverages will be provided.

Circle News




The Anna circle will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 12:00 noon in the library. Diane Millican will lead our study of Lesson 7 "Mary" in *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* by Merryl Blair. Please study the lesson and Matthew 1:18–2:23. Bring your study book, Bible and your own brown bag lunch and beverage. All women are welcome. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

GRACE - GIVING AND SHARING MISSION



This project is a food and household item collection. All items collected are donated to Gainesville Community Ministry. For the month of March we will be collecting pasta.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	2 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	3 <div>Rev. Freeman House Hunting Trip</div> 6:00 Korean Bible Study	4
5 11:00 – Worship Service Communion Guest Pastor - Larry Green 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	6 7:00 pm – Square Dance Group	7 2:00pm – Congregational & Life Committee Meeting 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 7:00 pm – Barbergators 7:00 pm – Advent Study via Zoom	8 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch Family Promise at Covenant 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	9 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	10 Rev. Freeman's Vacation	11
12 11:00 – Worship Service 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA) 	13 6:00 pm – Session Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm – Square Dance Group	14 12:00 noon – Anna Circle 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 7:00 pm – Barbergators 7:00 pm – Advent Study via Zoom	15 Family Promise at Covenant 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	16 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	17 Rev. Freeman's 6:00 Korean Bible Study	18 Rev. Freeman's Days Off
19 11:00 – Worship Worship & Music Committee Meeting 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	20 7:00 pm – Square Dance Group	21 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 7:00 pm – Barbergators 7:00 pm – Advent Study via Zoom	22 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	23 Grace Notes Articles Due Family Promise at Westminster 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	24 Rev. Freeman's 6:00 Korean Bible Study	25 Rev. Freeman's Days Off
26 11:00 – Worship 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	27 7:00 pm – Square Dance Group	28 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 7:00 pm – Barbergators 7:00 pm – Advent Study via Zoom	29 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	30 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	31 Rev. Freeman's Day Off 6:00 Korean Bible Study	

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**MARCH
2023**

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Gainesville, FL 32609**

**Phone: 352-376-5654
Email: office@gpconline.org**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG**

Liturgy Passages for March

3/5 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

3/12 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

3/19 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

3/26 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45