



# GRACE NOTES

## DECEMBER 2024

A friend from years ago, Rev. Carmen LaBerge, reached out to me recently and her musings fit the Christian season of Advent and Christmas. She called on Christians to not buy things but put ourselves into Christmas by making and sharing “Humble Pie”, a dish served warm, made with a ‘tender’ pie crust of fine flour sifted through our life, and gently mixed with the chilled sweet butter when we churn the milk of gratitude in conversation with God. Add a cup of cool water given to us, and roll out into 2 circles. Chill both and then fit one to conform to the shape of our pie shaped life. Fill it with the ripe fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control, taking care to remove any ‘stones and pits’. Once piled high with this superfruit, our top covering crust is cut and woven into basket weave top so everything inside can blend and expand without boiling over. A few left-over pieces of crust can be accent ‘leaves’, hearts and vines, so we leave nothing of ourselves out, and then sprinkle the sweetness and spice of God’s Word on top. All this then baked in a medium oven, timing it so the smell draws in those who were sure they didn’t need any dessert. Don’t put it aside for later, because every humble pie should be eaten with joy and grace and thanksgiving to God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.



### Postscript

Thank you all for your welcome and kindness. I am settling into my home on wheels, and have, with much prayer and assistance, worked out most of the kinks in this living arrangement. My dogs, Cutessa Button (Tessa) and Cutessa Button Too (Button) have taken to living in the coach with me, and when I get ready to head back to Gainesville, they “get to come with mom”. They are willing to rest in the office, or coach, and enjoy getting to meet new friends. Gabriel and Katie, who live two blocks away, Aba (who rides her bike at the church parking lot) and her dad and Bill, Jay, Lois, John-Peter and others. Come visit any time. Also, two people at the car wash introduced themselves, Debra and Sam. Everyone gets invited to church, since the possibility of God renewing them in their faith is what makes Advent and Christmas blessed.



The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2024 Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex. Fresh floral arrangements are \$35 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 \$35.00 and are \$5.00 each.



## Prayer Requests

Please join us in lifting up prayers for those who have immediate concerns:

The Crane family (on the death of Sherry)

Kathy Franks

Phyllis Manning

Faye Tripp

Wayne Wagner

Mary Williamson

Those effected by Hurricane Helene

Also pray for those with longer term needs:

Margie Baker

Jerry Butler

Michael Crane (Carl's brother)

Holly and John Durst (Lois Butler's sister and brother-in-law)

Donna Fidler

Janine Groner

Billie Jean Jones

Pauline Kirk

Laura Raizada

Libby Richardson

C D Weaver

Our Military

First responders

The people of the Ukraine, Israel, the Gaza Strip

Our Church.



If there are other people or concerns that you would like to add or delete from this list, please contact Lois Butler by phone at 352-262-5893 or by email at [treasurer@gpconline.org](mailto:treasurer@gpconline.org)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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12/6 - Varian Osteen

12/11 - Ruth Mize

12/18 - Wayne Wagner

12/23 - Mary Williamson



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★ Please call the church office at 352-376-5654, if your  
★ special day is **NOT** listed or is **NOT** correct.  
★  
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## Please don't forget our Special Offerings

### HEARTS & HANDS OFFERING

We invite every member of the congregation to prayerfully contribute to support and strengthen the mutual mission effort between church partners in Jamaica, Cuba, the presbytery, and many of our local congregations.

### GRACE - GIVING AND SHARING MISSION

Grace - Giving and Sharing Mission is a food and household item collection benefiting the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. For the month of December we are collecting canned meals.



### \$1 FUND OFFERING

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the month of December will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

# Session Meeting Highlights

## November 11

### **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP**

Approved 2025 Asking Budget  
Reviewed Stewardship Schedule

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION**

Family Promise – Trunk or Treat went well – Jay made coloring pages with church information on the back – handed out candy and cupcakes as well  
Angel Tree – will investigate gifts for one family with 2-3 children only  
St Francis House – done for this year – will set up 4 dates for 2025  
Fellowship Hour – people have been signing up to host  
Grace Giving Mission – November – Gift Cards. December – Canned Meals  
The committee donated 2 \$30 Thanksgiving Meals to Bread of the Mighty Food Bank from the Nunn Mission Fund  
Welcome Fellowship Hour for Pastor Cheryl Duke 10/27 – well attended  
Joy Gift Offering will be promoted during Lent – Bulletin inserts

### **ADMINISTRATION & Personnel**

Kirk Meade accepted the position of caretaker and he and his wife have moved into the manse

### **WORSHIP & MUSIC - Karen Russ**

Details were discussed for the Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and Message at Covenant on 11/27/24 at 6 PM. Pastor Duke will bring the message. Covenant will provide the meal

Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for 11/30/24 at 10 AM in church sanctuary  
Advent begins 12/1/24 and communion will be served

Advent candles ordered and arrived

Lessons and Carols will be presented on 12/8/24 during the 11AM worship hour  
Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on 12/8/24 by Jay Collins

### **PROPERTY & OPERATIONS**

Working with our insurance claim for damages to the property during Hurricane Helene - manse roof and interior walls, damage to Sanctuary roof and Fellowship Hall roof

Jared Davis replaced the ductwork and got the A/C in the manse

The water heater at the manse is damaged and will need to be replaced

Juan Riviera, our custodian, found a young kitten and has adopted her (Grace)

Linda Z. at Art Studios of Grace has been getting great attendance at her Tuesday and Thursday night open studios

Our Daily Bread booklets for December, January and February are available in the narthex



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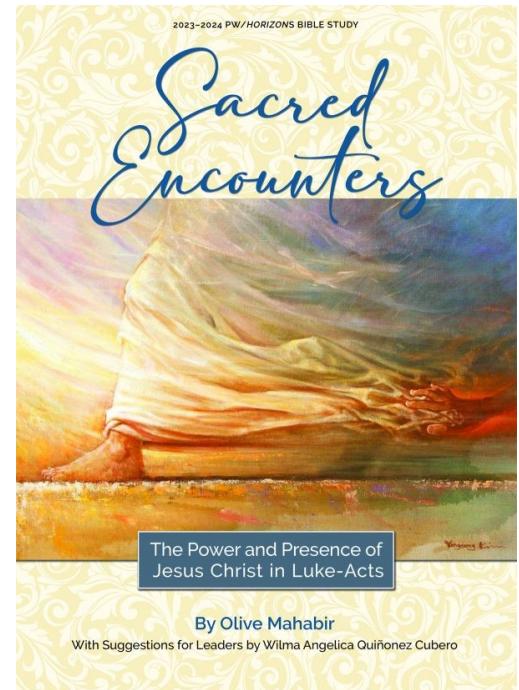
## Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



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, December 10 at 12:00 noon in the library. Diane Millican will lead our study of Lesson 4 "Mary and Martha Encounters Jesus" in *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. Please bring your study book, Bible and your own brown bag lunch and beverage. All women are welcome. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.



# Liturgy Passages for December

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## 12/1 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

## 12/8 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

## 12/15 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

## 12/22 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

## 12/24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96:1-13  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

## 12/25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

*Dawn:*  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97:1-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

*Day:*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98:1-9  
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

## 12/29 1st Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

## Elders on Call

Elders on Call  
for December 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 the church office is closed, these elders are on call to help.

## DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:45 – Choir Practice 11:00 – Worship Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00 am – <b>Congregational Life &amp; Mission</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group	<b>4</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>5</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)	<b>6</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:45 – Choir Practice 11:00 – Worship Service <b>Lesson and Carols Pledge Dedication Sunday</b> 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group <b>12:00 – Anna Circle</b>	<b>11</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>12</b> Girl Scouts 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:45 – Choir Practice 11:00 – Worship Service <b>Worship Committee</b> 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>18</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)	<b>19</b> Girl Scouts 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45 – Choir Practice 11:00 – Worship Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Grace with Covenant & Westminster	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Grace Notes Articles Due</b> Girl Scouts	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:45 – Choir Practice 11:00 – Worship Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group 				

DECEMBER  
2024

Grace Presbyterian Church  
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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**[WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG)**

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.
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](mailto:treasurer@gpconline.org).

	October	Through 10/31
Income	\$ 6,562.23	\$ 88,007.47
Expenses	\$ 8,069.87	\$ 87,777.58
Pass Through Donations		
Hearts and Hands Offering	\$ 23.98	\$ 187.03