

GRACE NOTES

January 2026

Growing Together:

One of the questions I hear most often is, “How is the church doing?” Sometimes what we’re really asking is whether we are growing—whether more people are coming, whether ministries feel lively, whether there is energy and hope among us. These are good and honest questions. Growth matters. But as people of faith, we’re invited to think about growth in ways that go deeper than numbers alone.

In Scripture, growth is often described using the language of seeds, soil, and seasons. Seeds are planted quietly. Roots grow where no one can see them. Some seasons are about visible fruit, and others are about strengthening what lies beneath the surface. In the same way, church growth is not only about how many people sit in the pews on a Sunday morning, but also about how deeply we are learning to love God and one another.



I see signs of this kind of growth all around us. I see it when members show up for one another in times of illness or grief. I see it when volunteers give their time faithfully, often without recognition. I see it when someone asks a hard question about faith, or when a prayer is spoken honestly instead of perfectly. These moments may not make headlines, but they are evidence that God is at work among us.

At the same time, we do pray for and welcome numerical growth. Each new person who finds a spiritual home here is a reminder that God is still calling, still gathering, still drawing people into community. Hospitality, invitation, and openness are spiritual practices, not marketing strategies. When we make room for others, we are making room for Christ.



As we look ahead, my hope is that we will continue to grow in both ways: deeper in faith and wider in welcome. That kind of growth asks something of each of us. It invites us to be present, to serve where we are able, to speak words of invitation, and to trust that God brings the growth in God’s time.

May we be patient gardeners—tending the soil, watering faithfully, and rejoicing in every sign of life, whether it is a new face or a deeper love taking root among us.

A message from Rev. Larry Green

Session Meeting Highlights

November (Session did not meet in December, next meeting is end of January)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Financial update on page 3.

Christian Education

Next Meeting to be held Sunday, December meeting on 1/11/26

Nominating

Elder nomination will commence soon. Meeting TDA

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION

St. Francis House—next meal will be Friday, January 16th

Two Cents a Meal offering is now known as **Hearts and Hands Offering** and is taken the 1st Sunday of every month.

\$1.00 Fund January-March will be donated to **Family Promise**.

Grace Giving Mission for December will be canned meals (chicken & dumplings, stew, chili)

Made 8 new visitor bags.

Next meeting: January 8th, 2026 at 11am in Office Conference Room.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONEL

Hoping to hire a new nursery worker.

Choral Scholar job description has been updated.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Larry provided a Presbyterian website for Advent Candle lighting narratives . Family Advent activities are available at this website and shared with our church families .

A YouTube channel has been created for streaming services.

The Capella Nova Choir requested GPC host their concert in the sanctuary 4/18/25 at 4pm and rehearsal time prior to that date.

Jay Collins and John-Peter Ford are meeting to complete for Uderitz grant and research a new grant “Charles J Williams”.

Christmas Eve service to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The American Guild of Organists recital will be moved to March.

Next meeting: January, Sunday 1/18/26

PROPERTY & OPERATIONS

Kirk Meade completed work on Ramp’s rotting railing.

Crosier Roofing fixed part of the roof on old manse where chimney came out of furnace.

Jared cleaned off roofs of the fellowship hall, classrooms, and sanctuary.

Bill Preston fixed the urinal in the Men’s restroom attached to the Sanctuary.

Next Session Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2026 following Worship in the Church Office’s Conference Room.

Financial Update

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).

JANUARY 2026

Grace Presbyterian Church
3146 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG

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.

	November	Through 11/30
Income	\$ 3,556.20	\$ 87,198.00
Expenses	\$ 15,133.32	\$ 113,962.43
Pass Through Donations		
Hearts and Hands Offering	\$ 6.73	\$ 250.37
(Formerly Two Cents a Meal)		

Liturgy Passages for January 2025

Sunday, January 4th

Second Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147: 12-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1: (1-9), 10-18

Tuesday, January 6th

Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday, January 11th

Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42: 1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10: 13-17
Matthew 3: 13-17

January 18th

Isaiah 49: 1-7
 Psalm 40: 1-11
 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
 John 1: 29-42

January 25th

Isaiah 9: 1-4
 Psalm 27: 1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
 Matthew 4: 12-23



January BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays:

1/10– Katie Bauman

1/24– Nancy Niblack

1/29-Evelyn Caldwell

1/31-Emily Youngblood

Please email Hannah (kooiha01@gmail.com) if your

Prayer Requests

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

Kimberly Cundiff

Holly Durst, Lois Buttler's sister

Jerry Butler's Family

Our new friend Whitney with terrible back pain.

Karen Upton, Larry Green's mother

Hannah Luciano's Family on the passing of her brother, Timothy.

Faye Tripp's daughter, Holly

Hannah Luciano's friend and former pastor, Dr. Rev. Leanne Simmons recovering from a stem cell transplant.

Also pray for those with longer term needs:

April Riley

Mary Williamson

Patsy Bellis

Amanda Totillo

Annette McGee

Kathy Franks

Charlie Evens

Donna Fidler

Lonnie Stevens;

Donna Fidler

Janine Groner

Billie Jean Jones

Our Military

First responders

The safety & protection of those living in areas affected by war, may they be shielded from harm & violence; for the world leaders; and those dealing with natural disasters. In addition, pray for those in our church family and our church.



The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2025 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.



Little Church Doing Big Things: Lessons and Carols





Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of 2025, I want to personally thank you for being part of the Family Promise of Gainesville community.

I stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director just three months ago, and during that time, I've had the opportunity to listen, learn, and see this work through a new lens. What has stood out most to me is not just the level of need in our community, but the steady presence of people like you who continue to show up for families, year after year.

Every day, we meet parents who are doing their best to hold things together for their children. These are families who are working, budgeting carefully, and trying to plan for the future, yet one rent increase, medical bill, or missed paycheck can place them at risk of losing their housing. Many do not qualify for traditional assistance, and without intervention, they have very few options.

Because of your support, Family Promise of Gainesville is able to respond when families reach that breaking point. Whether it's helping a parent stabilize after a crisis, supporting them as they work toward permanent housing, or simply reminding them that they are not alone, your generosity makes those moments possible.

In 2025, we walked alongside more than 150 families as they worked toward stability. Each number represents a parent trying to protect their children, a child who can remain in their school, and a family given the chance to move forward with dignity.

As we look ahead to the new year, I invite you to continue walking with us. A year-end gift, in any amount, helps ensure we can respond quickly when families face crisis and be there at the moment they need support most. Your generosity directly impacts families right here in our community.

Thank you for believing in families. Thank you for trusting Family Promise of Gainesville. And thank you for helping ensure that when families face crisis, they don't face it alone.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachael Ryan'.

Rachael Ryan
Interim Executive Director
Family Promise of Gainesville



28 NOVEMBER, 2025

HOLIDAY NEWS BLAST

Family
Promise
of Gainesville

★ IGNITE THE LIGHT: HONORING RACHAEL RYAN'S LEADERSHIP

This holiday season, we celebrate the remarkable leadership of Rachael Ryan, whose journey from program participant to Interim Executive Director embodies the true light of Family Promise of Gainesville. Her lived experience reminds us that when one light shines, it sparks another, and together, those lights guide families toward safety, stability, and opportunity.

Your generosity strengthens our programs, and ensures more families can find their own light in the midst of crisis. This is the time of year when hearts are open, and your support can brighten an entire family's future.



DONATE



SCAN CODE ADOPT A CHILD

This Christmas will be more difficult than ever for families facing housing insecurity, and by adopting a child in our program, you can help ensure they still experience the joy, warmth, and magic of the season.



STATE OF FUNDING: A CRITICAL GAP IN PERMANENT HOUSING SUPPORT

Across Alachua County, the need for stable housing continues to rise. More families are experiencing evictions, doubling up with relatives, or living in cars and motels as rental costs climb beyond reach. The number of families reaching out for help has increased significantly, and many are facing longer periods of instability due to a growing shortage of affordable units.

At the same time, funding for Permanent Housing programs, the very programs that help families exit homelessness, has been reduced across multiple funding streams. These cuts limit our community's ability to move families from crisis to stability, leaving far too many without a clear path forward.

Family Promise of Gainesville is committed to bridging this gap, but we cannot do it alone. Community support is essential to keep housing programs strong, responsive, and accessible. Your holiday donation directly helps families secure safe, permanent homes and ensures local children do not remain stuck in cycles of housing insecurity.



<https://www.familypromisegvl.org/>



352-378-2030



P.O. Box 5189 Gainesville, FL



Equipped to Serve:

Presbytery Enrichment and Elder Training

Saturday, January 24, 2026
Registration begins at 8:30am

Join us for fellowship, leadership development, and spiritual growth.

Who should attend? All newly elected and currently serving ruling elders, teaching elders, clerks, personnel committee members, commissioners, small church members, big church members, communications directors, youth leaders, church volunteers, and any other interested members!

[Register Now!](#)

Order of the Day:

8:30 Registration & Continental breakfast opens

9:30 Meditation/Lectio Divina

10:00 Session 1A

11:15 Session 1B

12:20 Keynote

1:00 Lunch

1:50 Session 2A

3:00 Session 2B

4:00 Wrap-Up

Registration Cost

\$30 pre-registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well as workshops, keynote, and materials.

Register now! Day-of registration is \$35.

Optional Lodging

Want to extend your retreat? Skip the early morning drive and wake up refreshed and ready for a day of intentional fellowship and development. Call or text the office today at 352-473-4516 to reserve your accommodations. See the [Montgomery Center website](#) for more information on lodging options: Inn Rooms, Cabins, RV hook ups, and lodges for group stays.

Inn Rooms: \$60 shared, \$100 individual stays

Cabins: \$40 per person, shared or individual (max \$250 per cabin)

Lodges: \$40 per person (max \$300 Gregory Lodge; max \$600 Williams)

RV hook up: \$35

Tent Camping: \$10

For more information and to Register go to <https://www.montgomerycenter.org/equipped>

Mid-Week Bible Study



On the **3rd Thursday on January 15th** **from 6pm - 7:30pm.** We will meet via zoom. If you're interested in joining us, you will need the link. For security reasons we won't publish the link, so please contact Larry at (larry@gainesvillecounselingcenter.com) and he will send you the link. Mark off **February 5th** and **February 19th.** If you can't join, we will record the study so you can view it later.

Bible & Brew

Join Larry at Bible & Brew the 2nd and 4th Thursday in **from 7-8:30 pm** at the **University Club** (18 E. University Ave.). All are welcome to join us in an open conversation and relaxed environment. Topics will be decided closer to the date. Please contact Larry if you have any questions. So mark off **January 8th** and **January 22nd.**



\$1 FUND OFFERING

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the month of **January-March** will go to **Family Promise**.

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 **January** we will be collecting **Coffee, Tea and Boxed Milk**



ELDERS ON

Elders on Call
for January are:

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

Two elders volunteer to be on call to help church members and friends who may need assistance when the church office is closed.

Our Daily Bread booklets for January are available in the narthex. If you would like one mailed, please contact Hannah at 701-955-4497.



Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship

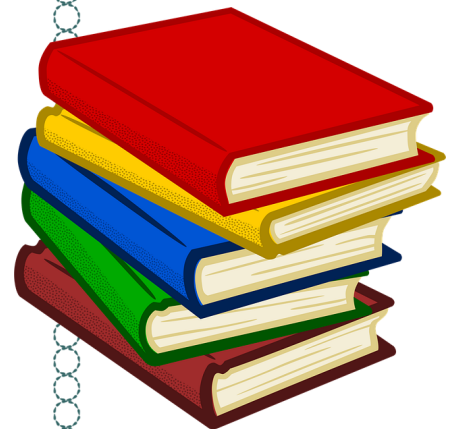


The men of the church are invited to meet each Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the library for fellowship. Please bring your own brown bag lunch, beverages will be provided.

Circle News

The Anna Circle will meet January 13th in the Library at Noon.

This session will be Parables by John Mac-Arther. Chapter 5 will be this month's discussion.



JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!!!	2	3
4 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship— Communion Sunday 7:00-ESWT(AA)	5 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	6 Epiphany: 6pm Soup & Sandwiches supper in Fel- lowship Hall	7 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	8 11:00 AM Con- gregational Life & Mission Committee 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at “University Club”	9	10
11 9:45-Choir 11:00 Worship Christian Ed Committee 2 pm-Girl Scouts 7:00-ESWT(AA)	12 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	13 12:00 pm— Anna Circle 7:00 pm— Barbergators	14 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	15 6:00 pm—Mid- Week Bible Study via Zoom (contact Larry for Link) Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Cho- rus	16	17
18 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Worship Com- mittee 7:00-ESWT(AA)	19 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	20 7:00 pm— Barbergators	21 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	22 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at “University Club” Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	23	24
25 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Session Meeting	26 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	27 7:00 pm— Barbergators	28 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous	29 Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship— Lessons & Carols Communion Sunday 7:00-ESWT(AA)	2 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	3 7:00 pm— Barbergators	4 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	5 11:00 AM Congrega- tional Life & Mission Committee 6:00 pm—Mid-Week Bible Study via Zoom Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville	6	7
8 9:45-Choir 11:00 Worship Christian Ed Committee after worship	9 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	10 12:00 pm— Anna Circle 7:00 pm— Barbergators	11 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous	12 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Har- mony Show Chorus	13	14
15 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Worship Com- mittee 7:00-ESWT(AA)	16 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	17 7:00 pm— Barbergators	18 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	19 6:00 pm—Mid-Week Bible Study via Zoom (contact Larry for Link) Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville	20	21
22 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Session Meeting 7:00-ESWT(AA)	23 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	24 7:00 pm— Barbergators	25 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch	26 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Har- mony Show Chorus	27	28