

GRACE NOTES

June 2026

Grace Presbyterian Church

Where All People Are Welcome Around the Table of God.



June 2026

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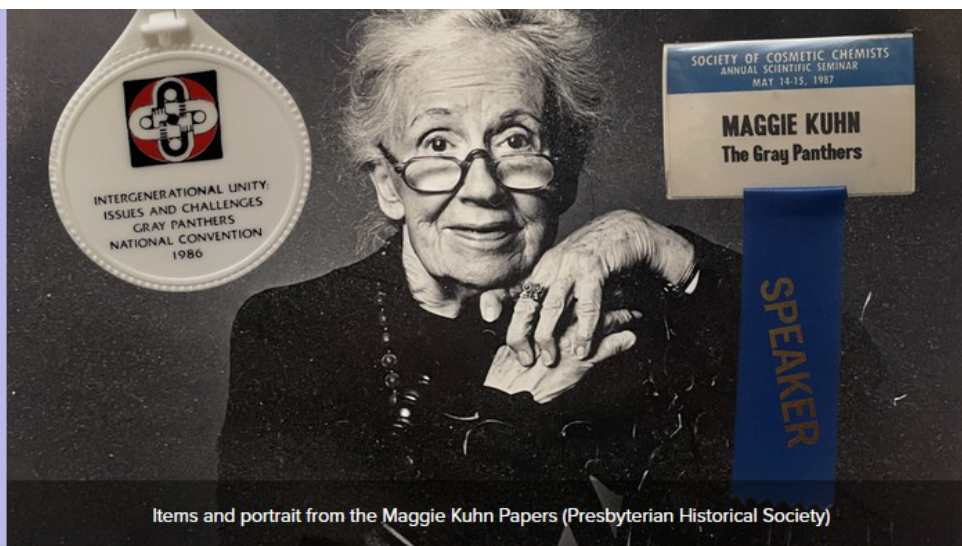
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Maggie Kuhn, the wrinkled radical

Older Americans Month is celebrated every May



Items and portrait from the Maggie Kuhn Papers (Presbyterian Historical Society)

May 13, 2026 McKenna Britton, Presbyterian Historical Society Presbyterian News Service

At the age of 65, Margaret Eliza Kuhn retired from the workforce.

This wasn't of her own accord—she was forced to do so by her employer, the UPCUSA. It was part of company policy. That same year, she and five other women who had been pressured into mandatory retirement gathered in Philadelphia and titled themselves the “Consultation of Older and Younger Adults.”

This name did not stick—the Consultation transformed into Kuhn's Gray Panthers, a name given to them by a *New York Times* reporter in 1972. An advocacy organization founded in the interest of eliminating mandatory retirement and protesting the war in Vietnam, the Gray Panthers dealt with issues that affected folks at all ages—though they are best remembered for the fiery, outspoken, energetic old woman at the helm, Maggie Kuhn.

Maggie didn't take up the mantle of activism in her golden years, as is often assumed. She was a lifelong activist who had spent decades fighting for human rights, social and economic justice, global peace, integration, urban renewal, and an improved understanding of mental health issues by the time the Gray Panthers came into being in 1970. She'd been affiliated with many service and advocacy groups, including the Memorial Society of Greater Philadelphia; Hospice, Inc.; the National Institute for the Seriously Ill and Dying; the National Senior Citizens Law Center in Washington, D.C.; the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy; the Bread and Roses Community Fund; and the National Policy Center on Employment and Retirement in Los Angeles.



Left: Kuhn, 1953. Photo from [Pearl Digital Collections](#). Right: Kuhn, circa 1980s. From Maggie Kuhn Papers, accession number [19 0430](#), Presbyterian Historical Society.



Maggie Kuhn and Harold Baldwin on "Your City in Action" (1955)

From Presbyterian Heritage Vol. 8 No. 2, Summer 1995; biannual newsletter of the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Reflecting on that time in 1977 for *Parade* magazine, Kuhn said even though she knew mandatory retirement was coming, it shocked her. "I suddenly felt wounded and angry at having been sent out to pasture to get lost. Then I figured there must be thousands of old people just like me, and so I decided the time was ripe for us to fight back."

Born in 1905, at the beginning of the 20th century, Maggie Kuhn lived through a time of tremendous change—in which she played a large part. After graduating from the College for Women of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1926, Maggie took a position with the

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in her college-town. In 1930, she transferred from the Cleveland YWCA to the office in Philadelphia's Germantown, where she served for over a decade. 1941 saw Maggie rising among the ranks, as she took a position with the National Board of the YWCA in New York. From then until 1947, she worked in the United Service Organizations Division (USO), before spending a quick year in Boston as program coordinator for the General Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women. Her career with the Presbyterian Church began the next year, in 1948.

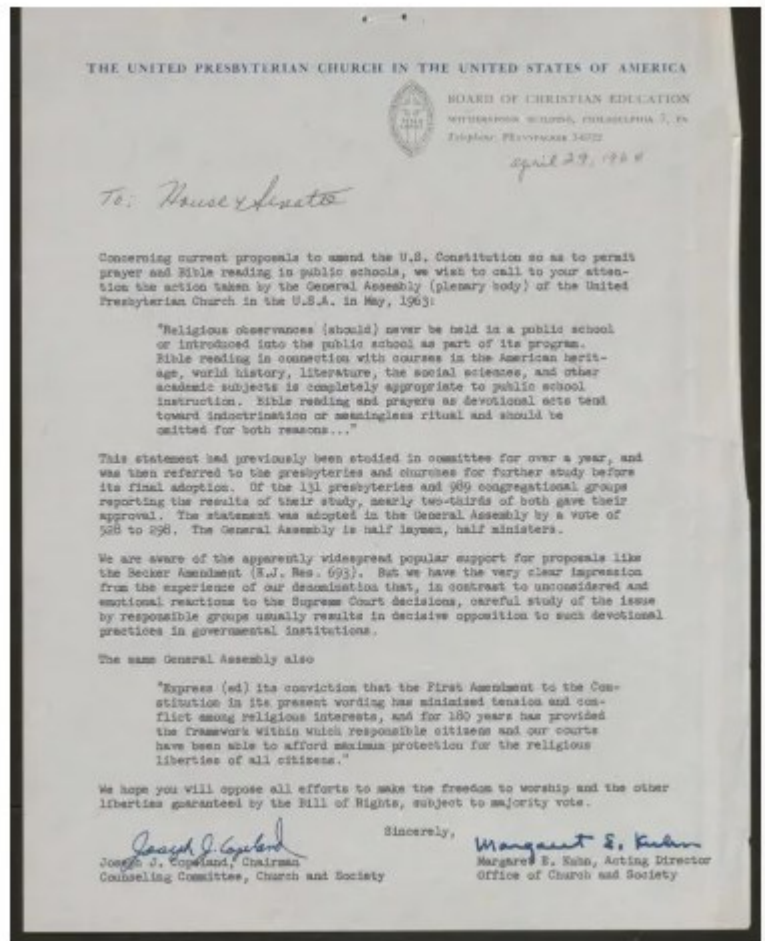
From 1948 until 1965, Maggie Kuhn served on the Board of Christian Education's Office of Church and Society, where she edited publications, oversaw social welfare programs, and consulted with women's groups. In January 1961, Kuhn participated in the first White House Conference on Aging as a consultant and member, gaining valuable insights that would serve her well in the Gray Panthers.

In 1965, she transferred to the Board of National Missions, where she served in the Division of Church and Race and worked closely with Gayraud Wilmore and J. Oscar McCloud, two highly influential Black theologians.

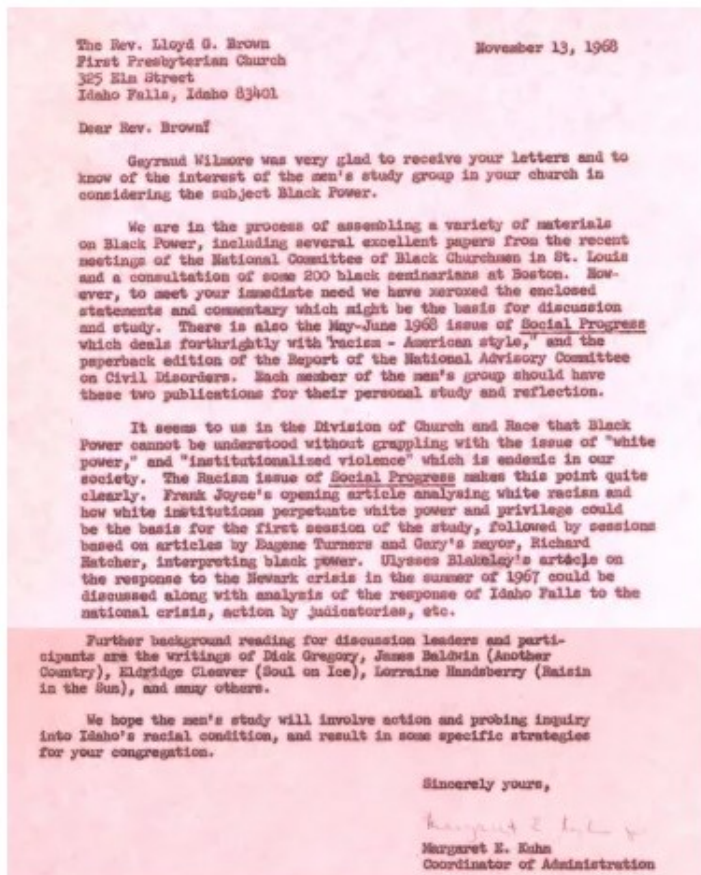
"It seems to us in the Division of Church and Race that Black Power cannot be understood without grappling with the issue of 'white power,' and 'institutionalized violence' which is endemic in our society," Kuhn wrote in a 1968 correspondence with an Idaho minister requesting resources for a men's study group on the subject. She then offered a short list of reading materials, beginning with the "Racism issue of Social Progress," the journal she edited on behalf of the church, before including suggestions for "further background reading"—namely Lorraine Handsberry's classic "Raisin in the Sun" and James Baldwin's "Another Country."

Then came her forced retirement and the founding of the Panthers—the rest was history. She founded her organization in Philadelphia, where she resided, and where folks would gather in the basement of a local church to strategize. In 1977, the group published “Nursing Homes: A Senior Citizen’s Action Guide.” The Gray Panthers’ influence grew and grew, until it stretched across 32 states and six countries.

After sustained pressure from the Gray Panthers in 1986, President Ronald Reagan abolished the law mandating forced retirement. Old age, Kuhn argued, ought to be seen as an accomplishment, not something to be pitied. She argued that, “The first myth is that old age is a disease, a terrible disease that you never admit you’ve got, so you lie about your age. Well, it’s not a disease, it’s a triumph. Because you’ve survived. Failure, disappointment, sickness, loss—you’re still here.”



Letter to U.S. Congress from the Board of Christian Education, April 29, 1964, signed by Margaret E. Kuhn. Photo from [Pearl Digital Collections](#).



COCAR general correspondence, 1967-1969. Photo from [Pearl Digital Collections](#).

Furthermore, when President Gerald Ford referred to her as a “young lady,” Kuhn offered the following retort: “Mr. President, I am an old woman.” She later explained her frustration by saying, “My wrinkles are a badge of distinction. I earned them. Don’t flush away my life by denying them.”

At the Presbyterian Historical Society, there are a plethora of materials related to Maggie Kuhn. The Maggie Kuhn Papers consists of over 27 cubic feet of correspondence, administrative documents, reports, books, photographs, and other materials documenting Kuhn's personal life and professional work. The Gray Panthers records are held by Temple University's Urban Archives in Philadelphia.

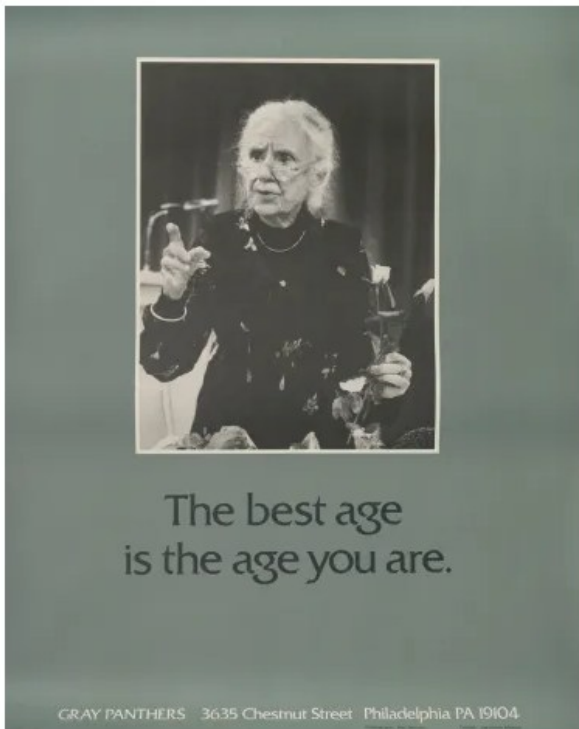
The Maggie Kuhn Papers are particularly rich in their documentation of Kuhn's work with the UP-CUSA. The history of Maggie Kuhn lives at PHS—letters she wrote, notes she took, recognitions and plaques awarded her from cities and universities and the national government, posters and programs and participation ribbons—the list goes on.

A lifelong American activist, Kuhn spent her time on this earth fighting for human rights, social and economic justice, global peace, integration, elders' rights, and more. She fought for herself, and she fought for her fellow humans. Maggie asked that her gravestone be inscribed with the words, "Here lies Maggie Kuhn under the only stone she left unturned." This is also the title of her 1991 autobiography,

"No Stone Unturned: The Life and Times of Maggie Kuhn."

She forever altered the perception of senior citizens; she and her Gray Panther Growl will be remembered for decades to come.

When asked to comment on what had inspired a life such as hers, she quoted a favorite Bible passage, from chapter 6 of the Book of Micah: "But what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with



Gray Panthers poster, "The best age is the age you are," undated. From the Maggie Kuhn Papers, accession number 19 0430, Presbyterian Historical Society.

your God." Kuhn died in her sleep in 1995 at the age of 89, but her vision of what society could be—and should be—continues to serve as inspiration for old and young alike.

Source:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/5/13/maggie-kuhn->



"Maggie Kuhn: The Wrinkled Radical," poster advertising a speaking event. From the Maggie Kuhn Papers, Presbyterian Historical Society.

Session Meeting Highlights

April 2026

Session did not meet in May 2026 but will reconvene on June 28, 2026

Christian Ed

Plans are being made to update Nursery and Sunday School room with Bill Preston leading the project.

Nominating

Elder nomination will commence soon. Meeting TDA

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION

St. Francis House—will be closing in April 2026.

Family Promise—no updates.

Rural Women's Health Project, - continuing to collect baby items in Narthex

Next meeting: May 12th at 11am in Office Conference Room.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONEL

GPC is seeking a nursery worker. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please contact Jay Collins.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pentecost is May 24th

Well attended Capella Nova concert on April 18th was a delight . Tons of accolades for the choir, John- Peter and Gabriel.

Sanctuary piano was tuned.

We will open front large doors of narthex for a more welcoming look for church service on Sundays .

Members and friends of Grace are encouraged to submit a list of their favorite hymns (with page numbers from the hymnal) for inclusion in the worship services this summer.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 17th after worship

PROPERTY & OPERATIONS

The sidewalk in the front of the Sanctuary has been pressure washed.

Easter Lilies were planted in the memorial garden.

The Fellowship Hall was given a deep clean by Peyton Wells of Sonshine Housecleaning LLC on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week before the choral concert, to mostly good results.

Monday March 23 a homeless lean-to/fort was removed from the front lawn of the church and the inhabitants were trespassed by Officer Armstrong of the GPD.

Next Session Meeting will be Sunday, May 24th after the Worship Service.

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).

MAY 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.

	February	March	Through 3/31/26
Income	\$17,029.22	\$34,591.06	\$58,263.06
Expenses	\$15,560.47	\$11,017.27	\$41,646.92
Pass Through Donations			
Hearts and Hands Offering	\$ 6.43	\$ 4.44	\$ 64.21
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 100.49	\$ 46.36	\$ 148.81

Liturgy Passages for June 2026

June

Sunday, June 7 (Proper 5)

Semicontinuous

Genesis 12:1–9

Psalm 33:1–12

Romans 4:13–25

Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

Complementary

Hosea 5:15–6:6

Psalm 50:7–15

Romans 4:13–25

Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

Sunday, June 14 (Proper 6)

Semicontinuous

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19

Romans 5:1–8

Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9–23)

Complementary

Exodus 19:2–8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1–8

Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9–23)

Sunday, June 21 (Proper 7)

Semicontinuous

Genesis 21:8–21

Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17

Romans 6:1b–11

Matthew 10:24–39

Complementary

Jeremiah 20:7–13

Psalm 69:7–10 [11–15] 16–18

Romans 6:1b–11

Matthew 10:24–39

Sunday, June 28 (Proper 8)

Semicontinuous

Genesis 22:1–14

Psalm 13

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:40–42

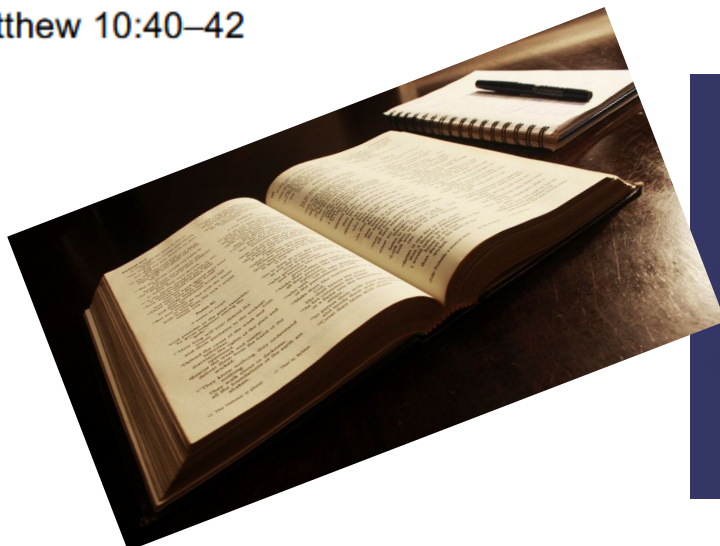
Complementary

Jeremiah 28:5–9

Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:40–42



Prayer Requests

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

Leroy Kooiker, Hannah Luciano's grandpa
Mrs. Earlene Jone's family on her passing.
Kimberly Cundiff
Jennifer Hemphill's family for passing of her Uncle Victor Upchurch
John-Peter Ford's family and friends effected by the winter storm in Mississippi
Kimberly Cundiff
Holly Durst, Lois Buttler's sister
Karen Upton, Larry Green's mother
Faye Tripp's daughter, Holly

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.

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 rickloang@yahoo.com or Hannah Luciano by email at kooiha01@gmail.com



The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2026 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.



June & July BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

6/1—Faye Tripp

6/2—Hannah Luciano

6/5—Josh Bush

6/10—Cameron Williams

6/11—Stephen Weaver

6/22—June Torres

6/24—Ann Preston

7/3—Keith Harris

7/4—Cade Roberson

7/11—Bill Hemphill

7/17—Janet Hunter

7/18—Lois Butler

7/27—Mary Chesnut

7/27—Russ Rumenik

7/29—Lois Ferguson

7/31—Kimbery Cundiff

Anniversaries:

6/10 — Jennifer & Bill Hemphill

6/14—Kaity & Josh Bush

6/15—Vairan & Josh Osteen

6/20– Lisa & Stephen Weaver

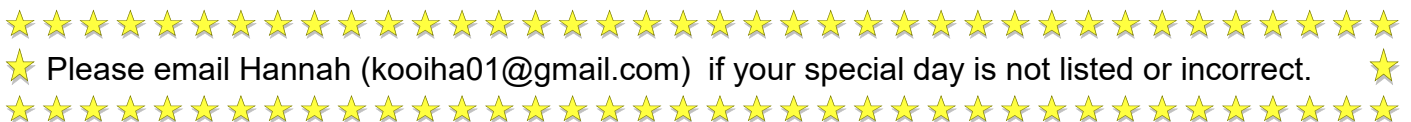
6/21—Kathy & Kevin Youngblood

6/27—Kathy & Larry Green

7/4— Faye Tripp & Russ Rumenik



A large, stylized blue text "CELEBRATE!" with a thick black outline, surrounded by colorful confetti and streamers. The text is the central focus, with a playful, bubbly font. The background is white, and the confetti consists of small triangles and streamers in red, yellow, green, and purple, creating a festive atmosphere.



\$1 FUND OFFERING

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the month of **April—June** will go to the **Good Samaritan Fund**.

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 **June** we will be collecting Pea-
nut Butter & Jelly



ELDERS ON

Elders on Call
for June are:

Karen Russ – 352-262-5419

Jay Collins – 352-870-2843

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 May are available in the narthex. If you would like one mailed, please contact Hannah at 701-955-4497.



Bible & Brew

Bible and Brew is taking a breather for Summer.

Keep you eyes open for our next Bible and Brew Date this coming Fall!



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 is breaking for the summer but may get together for lunch in up coming weeks. Keep a look out for an email for details!





The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary of Grace Presbyterian Church is an important and largely undocumented example of Mid-Century Modern ecclesiastical architecture in North Central Florida. Completed in 1959 and designed by architect Gordonn Dirkes with construction by Brown Construction Company, the building reflects a moment in postwar American church design when Protestant congregations began moving away from traditional revival styles and toward architecture that expressed openness, light, simplicity, and structural honesty.

The sanctuary embodies several defining characteristics of Mid-Century Modern religious architecture. Most striking is the dramatic exposed timber roof structure, which dominates the interior space through a soaring series of angular wooden trusses and beams. Rather than concealing the structural system behind ornament or plaster vaulting, the architecture celebrates the construction itself. This emphasis on exposed structure was central to Mid-Century Modern design philosophy and reflected broader architectural influences from Scandinavian Modernism, Organic Architecture, and the work of architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Eero Saarinen. The sanctuary's sharply pitched A-frame geometry creates both monumentality and intimacy, directing the eye upward while maintaining a warm, human scale through the extensive use of natural wood.

The interior photograph reveals a sanctuary planned around light, volume, and simplicity rather than historical decoration. The restrained palette of pale walls, honey-colored timber, and blue liturgical accents reflects the modernist preference for clean surfaces and limited ornamentation. The suspended pendant lighting, open chancel arrangement, and minimal visual barriers between congregation and worship leaders all reflect changing liturgical ideas of the 1950s, when many Protestant churches sought to foster a greater sense of communal participation in worship. The broad central aisle and fan-like visual orientation toward the chancel reinforce this democratic spatial arrangement.

Architecturally, the building belongs to a broader movement of postwar church construction that transformed religious architecture across Florida during the population boom of the 1950s and 1960s. In Florida particularly, Mid-Century Modern churches often adapted modernist forms to regional conditions through steep rooflines, deep overhangs, natural ventilation strategies, and extensive use of wood and light-colored materials suited to the subtropical climate. The sanctuary at Grace Presbyterian shares characteristics with other notable Florida modernist churches of the era, including the use of expressive roof geometry, exposed structural rhythm, and a strong relationship between structure and spiritual symbolism. Comparable churches from the period have increasingly been recognized for their architectural significance, including Gainesville's own University Evangelical Lutheran Church, a nationally recognized example of Mid-Century Modern and Organic church architecture.

The sanctuary also represents an important cultural moment in Gainesville's development. Completed in 1959, the church emerged during a period of rapid growth associated with the expansion of the University of Florida and the broader postwar transformation of North Central Florida. Churches built during this era often served not only as religious centers but also as civic gathering spaces for expanding suburban communities. Grace Presbyterian's architecture reflects the optimism of that period: modern, forward-looking, and confident in the ability of contemporary design to express spiritual ideals.

Historically, the building is significant because it demonstrates how Mid-Century Modernism was interpreted in smaller regional commissions outside major metropolitan centers. While many celebrated examples of modern religious architecture were designed by nationally known architects, buildings such as Grace Presbyterian reveal how local architects and builders translated those ideas into deeply functional and enduring community landmarks. Gordon Dirkes' design appears to balance ambitious spatial drama with economical construction methods, allowing the sanctuary to achieve architectural distinction without excessive ornament or monumental materials.

The sanctuary's preservation is especially important because many Mid-Century Modern religious buildings are now vulnerable to alteration or demolition before their historical value is fully recognized. Yet structures like Grace Presbyterian increasingly represent a rare surviving record of postwar ecclesiastical design, regional craftsmanship, and evolving Protestant worship traditions. Its exposed wood construction, soaring geometric ceiling, and carefully proportioned interior remain remarkably intact examples of the architectural ideals of the late 1950s.

In architectural terms, Grace Presbyterian Church stands as a significant Mid-Century Modern sacred space in Gainesville: a building whose power derives not from historical imitation, but from structure, light, proportion, and material honesty

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 11:00 AM Congregational Life & Mission Committee	<i>3</i> 12:00 pm– Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm– OE Anonymous 7:00 pm– ESWT (AA)	<i>4</i> Girl Scouts 6:30pm– Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Communion Sunday 11:00 Worship 2 pm-Girl Scouts 7:00-ESWT(AA)	<i>8</i> 4:00 pm– Square Dancing Group	<i>9</i> 7:00 pm– Barbergators	<i>10</i> 12:00 pm– Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm– OE Anonymous	<i>11</i> Girl Scouts 6:30pm– Gainesville Harmony Show	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 11:00- Worship	<i>15</i> 4:00 pm– Square Dancing Group	<i>16</i> 7:00 pm– Barbergators	<i>17</i> 12:00 pm– Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm– OE Anonymous 7:00 pm– ESWT	<i>18</i> Girl Scouts 6:30pm– Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 11:00- Worship Worship Committee 7:00-ESWT(AA)	<i>22</i> 4:00 pm– Square Dancing Group	<i>23</i> 7:00 pm– Barbergators	<i>24</i> 12:00 pm– Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm– OE Anonymous 7:00 pm– ESWT	<i>25</i> Girl Scouts 6:30pm– Gainesville Harmony Show	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 11:00- Worship Session Meeting 7:00-ESWT(AA)	<i>29</i> 4:00 pm– Square Dancing Group	<i>30</i> 7:00 pm– Barbergators				

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>250th Independence Day</i> 
5 Communion Sunday 11:00 Worship 2 pm-Girl Scouts 7:00-	6 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	7 11:00 AM Con- gregational Life & Mission Com- mittee 7:00 pm- Barbergators	8 12:00 pm- Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm- OE Anonymous 7:00 pm- ESWT (AA)	9 Girl Scouts 6:30pm- Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	10	11
12 11:00- Worship 7:00- ESWT(AA)	13 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	14 7:00 pm- Barbergators	15 12:00 pm- Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm- OE Anonymous 7:00 pm- ESWT (AA)	16 Girl Scouts 6:30pm- Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	17	18
19 11:00- Worship Worship Committee 7:00ESWT(A A)	20 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	21 7:00 pm- Barbergators	22 12:00 pm- Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm- OE Anonymous 7:00 pm- ESWT (AA)	23 Girl Scouts 6:30pm- Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	24	25
26 11:00Worship Session Meeting 7:00pm- ESWT(AA)	27 4:00 pm- Square Dancing Group	28 7:00 pm- Barbergators	29 12:00 pm- Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm- OE Anonymous 7:00 pm- ESWT (AA)	30 Girl Scouts 6:30pm- Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	31	