



Grace Presbyterian Church

1415 Airport Road
Panama City, Florida
32405

Return Service Requested



*Come Experience Grace!
It is the purpose of Grace, to
share the gospel, to equip
the saints, and to serve
others so that all people
may experience the love and
joy of Jesus!*

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

1415 Airport Road
Panama City, FL. 32405
850-769-4000

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Eric Spoon
Youth & Children's Director: Jason Williams
Director of Grace Preschool: Susan Ackermann
Choir Director: Becky Bell
Church Secretary: Beverly Halley
Pianist: Carissa Hosea
Nursery Administrator: Leah Rudek

Grace Cares Ministry

**THURSDAY
ONLY
FOOD PANTRY**
8:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.
Hours have been
changed due to
COVID19

Regular Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.
1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.
Phone: 850-769-4000

Follow us online at:
www.gracechurchpc.com

On Facebook at:
Grace Presbyterian
Church
Panama City, Florida

*Where Everyone Is Welcome,
No One is Perfect, and
Anything is Possible!*

The Men of Grace invite everyone to join them on Sunday, December 20th, weather permitting, to go Christmas caroling for some of our members that are shut-in this Christmas season. Selected music will be provided to everyone participating. Due to Covid, it is recommended that each person provide their own transportation to each location and the caroling will be done outside of each family's home. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Wolff at 850-913-6189.



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be
December 24th at 5:00pm. Communion will be served during
this celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus
Christ. Please make plans to attend this beautiful service.*

From the Director's Desk,

It is hard to believe it is already December! These past few months have been busy but have gone very well. We have managed to keep illnesses under control and the children are doing a great job with the new drop off procedures. I am amazed at the confidence the children show as they give their moms and dads one final hug before entering the building. Thank you for helping to make this change run so smoothly!

As many of you may know, we have always hosted an annual Christmas program. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we will be unable to do this this year. Instead, the children will be learning some Christmas songs during music and we will be sending you a video link. Also, each class will host their own Christmas party and I know the teachers will be happy to share photos with you, but we will be unable to have parents join us this year.

We began a t-shirt fundraiser on Monday, November 16th that will end on Friday, December 4th. We have sample t-shirts and order forms in front of the preschool. The cost for each shirt will be \$20.00, cash or check. All proceeds will go to the teacher's Amazon wish lists. Thank you in advance for your support!

Christmas break will begin on Monday, December 21st and we will return to school on Monday, January 4th. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Susan Ackerman
School Director



Teacher Feature

Kaitlyn Ackermann



I would like to welcome back my daughter, Kaitlyn Ackermann. Kaitlyn has moved back to Panama City from Corona, California where she was the lead teacher in a two-year old class with 24 registered students. She completed her CDA while in California and is currently teaching a two-year-old class here at Grace on Monday and Tuesday morning and afternoons. In years past, she has worked summer camp and was a four-year-old teacher here at Grace upon reopening of Grace after Hurricane Michael. Kaitlyn will be substituting in our other classes as needed. Kaitlyn is also a Grace Preschool graduate! I am so glad to have her back (and not just because I am her mom!).

Megan Wallace



On November 7th, Ms. Megan Watson was married and is now Megan Wallace. Congratulations to Megan and Michael! Megan has been teaching at Grace for seven years. Megan completed her CDA last school year and is also the after-school care assistant director. Megan teaches five mornings in the two-year-old class and is also our morning care teacher. Megan and my daughter Kaitlyn have been best friends since the fifth grade, and it is great to see them working together again!



Tips for How to Stay Safe and Keep Others Safe When in Grace Presbyterian Church

Please note that you are attending worship at your own risk for sickness.

Please wear a mask when in the church.

Do not touch anyone and only touch what you absolutely must touch.

Please refrain from wandering to other parts of the church (such as Bell Hall) other than to the restroom currently.

Please note that greeters before and after worship may be limited during this time, but if you need assistance, you may see any Elder.

Be sure to pick up a bulletin or any other items needed for worship from the tables outside the Narthex prior to worship and read it for changes in our typical worship service.

Stay at least six feet away from people not in your immediate family.

Please allow at least two (2) empty pews between you and other congregants or sit at the opposite ends of a pew so no one has to sit alone. Feel free to sit anywhere in the pews in the sanctuary, including the balcony, as long as you are maintaining a safe distance from one another.

All singing will be done by the worship leaders until further notice.

Please allow others to come and leave on their own to not crowd the doorways or aisles.

Please drop your offering in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary, not before or during worship.

Please note there is no children's church during this time.

PLEASE NOTE: Established Guidelines are in effect until June 30, 2021 unless otherwise changed by the Session.

To My Church Family:

First, I want to say thank you to all those who turned in your pledge cards. Hearing about all the pledge cards that have been turned in is a clear sign to me that this church wants to move forward into the future with hope and are willing to take a step towards truly talking the talk and walking the walk. But know this, our journey to fulfillment is long but over – there is still so much to do and to be done. Until there is 100% faithful commitment in giving and serving, we may never reach or know our full potential. But there is still time to get things done but we may need to take a minute, step back, and reflect on our lives and the life of this church.

We are just beginning the Season of Advent. The year 2021 is only a month away, and if you are anything like me, at some point in the last eight months or so, you have hoped that 2020 will just go away and that 2021 will be something different – something better. We all wish we could predict the future and what is to come. Unfortunately, a must have lost my crystal ball in the move from Tennessee to Florida because I cannot predict the future, but I sure can believe that God's glory is something amazing and we must continue to live in it!

Now if you know anything about me, I have always referred to myself as optimistically optimistic. No matter how bad a situation may look, I try to always look on the brighter side of life, realizing that there has to be something positive in every situation, even if we do not immediately see it. Now I will be honest, I realize that we are entering the month of December and it has taken me what feels like at least eight months to see the positive. But what I have realized is, there is a positive in all that has happened in 2020 and nothing that can happen (or not happen) in 2021 will take that positive away from us. In 2020, we have lived, we have loved, we have grown. We can never lose sight of this.

When you reflect on 2020, what do you see that happened in your life? And let's not think about only the negative, which we have a tendency as people to do. Let's think about the good! Believe it or not, in the church, we have seen church growth and faithful giving. In the community, we have seen continual rebounding from natural disasters and hearts coming together for the glory of God. In the world, we have seen people fighting to put each other first so that we can do more than survive, but rather thrive. And the truth is, the list of good in this world can go on and on, but we must remember to continually focus on the positive over the negative. That is how we know we will be and are making a difference for God's glory in our lives, in this church, and in this world.

From the Pastor continued....

Between now and the end of the year, I want to invite you to reflect on the positive that has happened this year. How has God blessed you? Reflect on those blessings of the Lord and then take that and use that how you can be a blessing in the world. What will you do in 2021? How will you be a blessing in 2021? We have truly been blessed as a church and as a people. Our ministries are going strong, our love is being shared, and God's glory is being proclaimed.

We cannot let this stop being our forever normal. Reflect on the past and prepare for the future and let us truly be a blessing as a church and a people for the world.

Blessings in Peace,
Rev. Eric Spoon

SERMON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER 2020

December 6, 2020 (2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion/Peace)
Sermon Scripture – Isaiah 40:1-11 / Mark 1: 1-8
Sermon Title – “Who Is Making Preparations?”

December 13, 2020 (3rd Sunday of Advent/Joy)
Sermon Scripture – Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11 / John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28
Sermon Title - “Has Anything Changed?”

December 20, 2020 (4th Sunday of Advent/Love)
Lessons in Carols

December 24, 2020 (Christmas Eve/Communion/Christ)
Sermon Scripture – Isaiah 9: 2 – 7 / Luke 2: 1 – 20
Sermon Title – “Christ Is Prepared, But Are We?”

December 27, 2020 (1st Sunday of Christmas)
Guest Preacher – The Rev. Dr. Jim Huffaker





Men of Grace: The Men of Grace will not be having a December meeting due to the holiday season. They will regroup sometime after the first of the year. Merry Christmas from the Men of Grace!

Gracevine Info for January: Due Friday, December 18th. Please submit any items you would like to appear in the January edition of the Gracevine by the deadline. Please send information to Janet Pitts at cookiegirl54@yahoo.com OR to the church at www.gracechurchpc@gmail.com.

Proverbs 31 Guild – Meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Bell Hall @ 11:00am. Contact Ronnie Wilson for more information.

YOGA BLISS – Faith and Fitness – Tuesdays at 4:30pm and Thursdays at 4:00pm – Bell Hall
Contact: JoAnn at 850-819-1246

SAINT ANDREWS BAY QUILTERS' GUILD - Meets here at Grace each month. If you enjoy quilting and fellowship visit their website <http://www.sabqg.org> for meeting times and membership information.

The Women's Club of PC, Environment Dept. meets the 4th Tuesday of each month in Room 202 at 10:00am. For more information, contact Almeda Huffaker or Cheryl Picken.

December Birthdays

- 1 Will Dent
- 4 Martha Edmiston
- 6 Edward Pipkin
- 8 Pam Howell
- 10 Susan McQuagge
- 10 Don Patterson
- 21 Marshall Mann
- 26 Barbara Smith
- 26 Carolella Trappe



Circles

Thursday, 12/3 – PWCT @ 2:00p.m. – Room 202
 Tuesday, 12/8 – 9:30a.m. – Room 202
 Thursday, 12/10 – 9:30a.m. – Parlor
 Monday, 12/14 – 5:15/6:30p.m. – Parlor

December Team

- Ivey Geren - Chair
- Laurie Combs
- Brenda Dye
- Elizabeth Dickson
- Jay Hall
- Cheryl Picken
- Carolella Trappe
- Jamie Williams

The amazing journey of a Shoebox Gift begins with you and results in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication.

Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes go to the ends of the earth. From densely populated inner cities to deserts and jungles, local churches are using these gifts to share the Gospel—even where the Name of Jesus has never been heard.

A multitude of THANK YOU's to the many who helped with Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes at Grace this year. You gave, you bought, you packed. Our goal was 200, our final total is 224!

THANK YOU!



Pastor Spoon will begin a book study series on Sunday, January 10th. The book is entitled, "Rehearsing Scripture, Discovering God's Word in Community" by Anna Carter Florence. If you are interested in attending the study, it is suggested you purchase a copy of the book. This study group will be held in Bell Hall and will begin at 9:15am and ending at 10:00am Sunday mornings. Hope to see you there!



GRACE IS A PRAYING CHURCH!!!

The Prayer Chain consists of many brothers and sisters at Grace willing to pray at a moment's notice. The Prayer Chain operates via email. When the church office or Pastor becomes aware of a concern for which an individual or family requests the prayers of Grace, you will receive an email from Jim McQuagge. When you receive the emailed request, start praying! That's all there is to it! If you would like to be one of our "Prayer Warriors" and serve on the "front lines" of the E-Prayer Chain Ministry at Grace, please email Jim McQuagge at jimmcjr@gmail.com.

Do we have your current email address?