



***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

**Regular Office Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday**  
8:00am – 12:00pm  
1:00pm – 5:00pm  
**Friday**  
8:00am – 12:00pm  
Phone: 850-769-4000  
Follow us online at:  
[www.gracechurchpc.com](http://www.gracechurchpc.com)

On YouTube, Facebook & Instagram at:  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Panama City, Florida

**Ministry Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric Spoon  
**Children & Youth Director:** Lily Hoisington  
**Director of Grace Preschool:** Susan Ackermann  
**Asst. Director of Grace Preschool:** Jaden Duncan  
**Administrative Secretary:** Beverly Halley  
**Music Director & Pianist:** Deborah Collins  
**Nursery Administrator:** Cathy Baker-Ramsey  
**Editor in Chief:** Janet Pitts

**Grace Cares Ministry**

**FOOD PANTRY**  
**THURSDAY**  
8:15am – 11:30am

**FINANCIAL AID**  
**THURSDAY**  
9:00am  
(By phone only)

*“Small enough to feel like family...  
Big enough to make an impact!”*

To My Church Family:

***“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118: 24***

Have you ever considered that some of what we believe should be the easiest commands can be some of the most difficult commands to follow? Read through the 10 commandments for instance. The first commandment to not have any other gods before God sounds simple until we realize all the idols in life we create because of our wants and desires. We worship those gods before God all the time. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy – again another that should be a no brainer but, we as Christians cannot even fully agree on what day of the week the Sabbath is, how long it should last, and what we can do on that day to keep it holy. Another way that we fall short in our faith: how about the command seen in Psalm 118? God has made this day and all we must do is be happy about what God has done for us. But we cannot even do that because there is just too much around us that keeps us down. There is that issue or the fact that we take too much pride in what we do, compared to what God has done for us. What should we do for God’s glory to make the world a better place and enhance our faith?

Read the Psalms. The Psalms are full of ways that we can stay faithful to God. However, if we are not utilizing the Psalms as a prayer tool from the Lord, we will miss the full richness of the texts. When Jesus was at his worst, he was seen praying the Psalms in his faith life. On the cross Jesus prayed Psalm 22 and Psalm 31. When Jesus would go out on his own to pray, there is no doubt that he was praying the psalms to the Lord. Scripture, has a whole, is continually quoting the Psalms as a guide for how we should live. The psalms should become an important part of our faith journey, unfortunately, we fail to heed the command to be like Christ. What will it take?

In the months to come, I am challenging our congregation to grow in our faith like Christ. The easiest way to do this is to read the Psalms, pray the Psalms, live into the Psalms. This is what Christ did to help his daily life go forward in the most loving way possible. Keep an eye out for how the Psalms will show up around the church and in worship in the coming months to help us all along. And now that Easter is past, other than what we do at church, what will you do to keep your faith going strong?

Blessings in Peace,

*Rev. Eric Spoon*





Dear Preschool Families

As we wrap up another amazing school year, the preschool is staying busy and finishing strong! Our recent Preschool Prom was a huge success, with around 90 people in attendance. The kids had a blast dancing, and many parents expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to spend such a special time together as a family.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the calendar. On May 1, we will celebrate the National Day of Prayer, followed by Teacher Appreciation Week from May 5 - 9. To celebrate the end of the year, the kids will enjoy an ice cream truck on campus on May 6, thanks to Pastor Spoon & Grace Church!

We will be closed for Memorial Day on May 26, and our K4 graduation will take place on May 27 at 6:30 PM. The last day of school will be May 28, marking the end of a wonderful year.

Summer camp kicks off on June 4, and while there are still spots available, they're filling up quickly! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity for your child. Let's finish the school year strong and get ready for a fun-filled summer ahead!

Sincerely,  
Susan Ackermann, Director

## STEWARDSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE—MAY, 2025

### THE ARMOR OF GOD

We are now armored with the Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness. We are told to stand firm in the first verses of Ephesians 6:10-14. How do we stand firm? Ephesians 6:15 “and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

Readiness for the soldier meant full armor, but his shoes would be important to keep him balanced. A soldier's shoes would have spikes like cleats to dig in so he would not fall in battle. The rest of his armor wouldn't save him if he fell. We are called to be ready with the gospel of peace to share what we believe against Satan's evil, to use the cleats of God's Word, so to speak, that keep us firmly fixed in His Truth.

#### May 4 — 2 Thessalonians 2:15

“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”

Again, stand firm. Study the Bible, pray to be led by the Holy Spirit, for the words to offer when given the opportunity to share. Dig in to be ready with your feet shod in the gospel of peace.

#### May 11 — Romans 10:15

“And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news.” We are called to share the gospel of peace, the love of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice to save us.

We are to carry the message wherever we go, with our feet fitted with the readiness that comes through the voice of the Holy Spirit.

#### May 18 — 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction

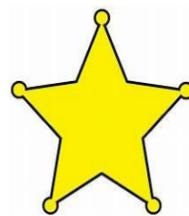
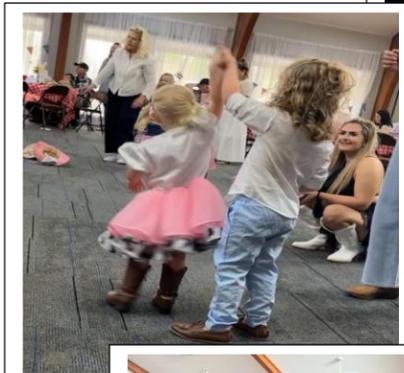
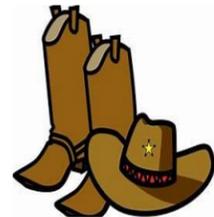
In season and out, whether we feel like it or not, live the word of God, be ready to share with love and patience. To do that, we must study the Bible, memorize, know what we believe. We are constantly in a battle against the evils of the world. We are to encourage one another, and those who don't believe to bring the lost to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

#### May, 25 — 1 Peter 3:15-16

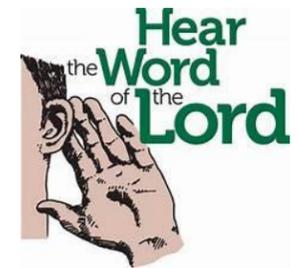
“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give and answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (16) keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

We stand firm in our shoes of readiness with the love of Christ in our hearts, prepared to answer anyone who asks about the joy and hope we show. But always with the gentleness of the Holy Spirit. Even though we are armored, we stand in defense to be firm yet not offensive to those who would attack. Remember “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PRESCHOOL PROM  
APRIL 5  
WESTERN THEME 2025**



**MAY SERMONS**



May 4, 2025 (3rd Sunday of Easter/Communion)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 61: 1 – 3/John 21: 1 – 19  
Sermon Title: “That Scary Four-Letter Word”

May 11, 2025 (4th Sunday of Easter)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 53: 1 – 6/John 10: 22 – 30  
Sermon Title: “Listening Ears”

May 18, 2025 (5th Sunday of Easter)  
Sermon Scripture: Leviticus 19: 9 – 18/John 13: 31 – 35  
Sermon Title: “Going Beyond”

May 25, 2025 (6th Sunday of Easter)  
Sermon Scripture: Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12/John 5: 1 – 9  
Sermon Title: “Physical Healings – What Are They Good For?”

**BOOMERS and BUDDIES**

Boomers & Buddies will meet at 11:45am @  
Longhorn Steakhouse on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
Thursday, May 15. Please notify the church  
office of your attendance and we will look for  
YOU!



For the 2025 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoebox program, all types of soap are no longer permitted in shoebox gifts. While bar soap was previously acceptable, it is now prohibited.

The ban is attributed to growing customs regulations and difficulties in getting soap across international borders in various countries.

Previously, soap was acceptable, but now it's on the "Do Not Pack" list.

**Last Wonderful Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, May 7**

Wonderful Wednesdays will be wrapping up on May 7 for the summer but will be back strong in the fall. In our final few weeks, we will complete our Bible Study on the Book of Revelation and then finish our Wonderful Wednesday year with a cookout and ice cream social. All are welcome!

The deadline for information to be included in the June 2025 Gracevine should be submitted by Friday, May 16, 2025. Thank you. Please contact Janet Pitts at [cookiegirl54@yahoo.com](mailto:cookiegirl54@yahoo.com).

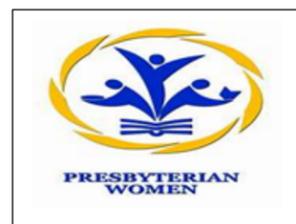
**COMMUNITY CHURCH GATHERING**

The Men of the Church will be hosting our area Presbyterian Churches, USA, gathering on Thursday, June 26. Dinner will start at 5:30pm. Our Guest speaker will be Mr. Ray Jones, from the office of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The final details are still being planned out but mark your calendar now for this special event here at Grace!

We hope to see everyone there!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Nancy Hofmeister
- 2 Abigail Speed
- 9 Almeda Huffaker
- 17 Gabriel Collins
- 21 Shirley Pipkin
- 22 Barbara Gray
- 31 Joseph Wilson
- 31 Robert Wilson



**PW MAY 2025 TEAM**

Ann Dent - Chair  
Linda Lee Fraser  
Barbara Gray  
Andrea Kemp  
Margaret Webster

May 1, Thursday PWCT @ 1:30pm

May 12, Monday LNO Circle @ 6:30pm

May 13, Tuesday and Thursday Circles Combined @ 9:30am

All women of the church are invited to come and be a part of the Circle Meetings.

**Summer Mission Week**

Our second annual Summer Mission Week is coming the first week of July (June 30 – July 3). Last year was a huge success but we need your help to make this year even better.

If you want to see over 100 adorable children serving the Lord here in the church, learning Bible stories, and sharing their faith, volunteer for the Summer Mission Week and come make a difference.

If you would like to participate, please contact Lily so she can help you figure out where you will best be utilized.

***Grace Is a Praying Church!!!!***

Have you ever thought, "What can I do to help?" Maybe you have thought, "I am too old," or "I am too young," or "I am too busy," or "No one has ever asked me to help." Every one of us has the power to pray. If you would like to pray for others, please email Jim McQuagge at [jimmcjr@gmail.com](mailto:jimmcjr@gmail.com) and he will add you to the email prayer list. But please make sure we do have a correct and current email address for you and just pray to the Lord! It is as simple as that. Just wait for an email and pray and let God take care of the rest. What are you waiting for, and remember, GP2 – Grace Prays at 2!

**EVERY TUESDAY STOP AND PRAY!**

**GP2**

**GRACE PRAYS AT 2!**