

# Grace First Presbyterian Church

*Grace First Presbyterian together ... worshipping God,  
witnessing for Jesus, and working to meet human needs.*

**M A Y  
2 0 1 9**

## P A S T O R A S H L E Y ' S P E A C E

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We will celebrate

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

May 5



Hello Grace First! April was a great month of introductions, welcome, and celebration. Thank you all for the way you have welcomed me and Lance to this community of faith. We already feel like part of the family!

Over the past month I've had some repeat questions so I thought it might be helpful to address those in the newsletter. You'll see the questions with my responses below.

### What should I call you?

Feel free to call me Ashley or Pastor Ashley. I don't have a preference.

### Do you use both last names?

I do use both last names, especially on anything printed.

### What is your email address?

[adrakemertz@gracefirstpc.org](mailto:adrakemertz@gracefirstpc.org)

### How should I contact you?

If you have an emergency please call me. I am currently using the pastor's cell phone (817-565-6756) and can be reached at any time. If I do not answer please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have a pressing issue (not quite an emergency but something that requires my response within 12 hours (including on days off)) please text me on the pastor's cell phone.

If your question or concern does not require a quick response please email me.

I check my phone and email regularly when I am not with others and will do my best to respond to you quickly. On my days off (Friday and Saturday) I try to be less tied to my phone and email but I do still check them both throughout the day. Please use discretion in which form of communication you choose on Friday and Saturday. If you do not require a response before Sunday please email.

*Continued on page 2*

**What are your office hours?**

It is nearly impossible to say exactly when I will be in the office. On most days, Monday-Thursday, I will be at the church from 9:00-4:00. However, there will be times when I work away from the office: writing, reading, visiting with homebound members, meeting with church members, or attending community events. Just because I am not in the office doesn't mean you can't reach me. Please feel free to contact me on the pastor's cell phone if I am out of the office. Or, Lacey is always happy to get a message to me.

Other items of note:

- Please let me know if something is going on. I want to celebrate your joys with you and pray with you through your sorrows and concerns.
- If you have concerns, questions or suggestions about things happening at the church please come talk with me or the appropriate committee moderator. Parking lot conversations are not helpful and only work to divide.

Again, thank you all for making this first month an easy transition. I am looking forward to the ways we will serve God's people together!

**M A R I A L I C E ' S   M U S I C   N O T E S**

John Fields has retired from Sanctuary Handbells, and he will be greatly missed. John has been associated with the Handbell Choir for many years, playing bells from low to high on the scale. John will continue to be available as a substitute when needed.

Thank you, John, for your outstanding service to the Music Ministry and for sharing your love of music through the handbells.

The Cherub and Carol Choirs have finished their year. Many thanks go to the children who participated in choir activities this year. Thanks to Linda Young for her dedicated work with the Cherubs; thanks to Myrlan Coleman, Susan Henry and Christie Tull for their valuable assistance in the rehearsal rooms; thanks to Margaret Gilbert and V. A. Littleton for providing the wonderful snacks the children enjoyed; and many thanks to parents and grandparents who have encouraged participation and provided transportation to rehearsals and services.

Thanks to the Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Handbells for providing great music through Holy Week and Easter!

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Beware of any work for God which enables you to evade your concentration on Him. A great many Christian workers worship their work. The one concern of a worker should be concentration on God, and this will mean that all the other margins of life, mental, moral, and spiritual, are free with the freedom of a child, a worshipping child, not a wayward child. A worker without this solemn dominant note of concentration on God is apt to get his work on his neck; there is no margin of body, mind or spirit freed, consequently he becomes spent out and crushed. There is no freedom, no delight in life; nerves, mind and heart are so crushingly burdened that God's blessing cannot rest.

But the other side is just as true – when once the concentration is on God, all margins of life are free and under the dominance of God alone. There is no responsibility on you for the work; the only responsibility you have is to keep in living constant touch with God, and to see that you allow nothing to hinder your co-operation with Him. The freedom after sanctification is the freedom of a child, the things that used to keep the life pinned down are gone. But be careful to remember that you are freed for one thing only – to be absolutely devoted to your co-Worker.

We have no right to judge where we should be put, or to have preconceived notions as to what God is fitting us for. God engineers everything; wherever He puts us our one great aim is to pour out a whole-hearted devotion to Him in that particular work.

*Oswald Chambers*  
*My Utmost for His Highest*

What things, great or small, keep us from pouring out a whole-hearted devotion to God?



## FROM THE PERSONNEL MINISTRY

Do you ever find yourself with a question about the church and wonder, “Who should I talk with about this?” The following information should help you direct your question for a prompt response:

**Pastor Ashley** serves as the lead pastor and head of staff.

**Pastor David** manages programs for children, young adults, and families.

**Marialice** can help you with all things musical at the church including Sunday services, choir programs for children and adults, and music for special occasions.

**Lacey**—Can answer questions regarding pastors’ schedules, the newsletter, Church Matters, scheduling of church use including room requests, and the church calendar. She can also forward questions to the appropriate ministry moderator or staff member as needed.

**Alycia**—Can help you with questions about your financial records.

Other questions can be directed by Lacey or Alycia to church officers: Treasurer, Cathy Devlin; Clerk of Session, Ed Moss; Moderator of the Deacons, Mac Smith; or Moderator of Session, Pastor Ashley Drake Mertz.

GFPC is blessed with caring and knowledgeable staff members and ministry leaders, so please call or email your questions. Contact information, including email addresses are available on the church website.

Linda Crownover,  
Personnel Ministry Moderator

## PNC REPORT

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been honored to bring Pastor Ashley Drake Mertz to GFPC and the Weatherford community. We hope you will celebrate with us by attending her installation service at Grace First on Sunday, June 9 at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the church parlor. Pastor Ashley will also be welcomed into Grace Presbytery during the next regular presbytery meeting scheduled for June 1 at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. GFPC members may attend that portion of the meeting if you wish. More information will be available as these dates draw near.

## NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Many thanks go to this year's Church Officer Nominating Committee for their work in securing a full slate of new officers. Janice Smith, Ed Zellers, Janet Duncan, Donna Allen, Jill Bray, Seth Goeldner and Dave Kaiser met faithfully over the last several weeks to present their recommendation to the congregation.

The following persons have graciously agreed to serve and were elected during a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 28:

Elders, Class of 2022 – Dave Deison, Leslie Goeldner and Marion Harris

Deacons, Class of 2022—Sue Jones, Christie Tull and Richard Varnon

Scholarship Committee, Class of 2020 - Stephanie Eidson

Following a period of training and being examined by the Session, the ordination and/or installation of New Officers will take place during worship on Sunday, June 2.

Be sure to express your appreciation to the following out-going officers for their dedication in serving the last three years:

Elders – David Rothrock, Janice Smith and Ed Zellers

Deacons – Sally Arnold, Janet Duncan and Myrna Fields

**T H A T ' S A W R A P !**

Great fun was had by all who participated in LOGOS. A special thanks to Leslie Goeldner, Pastor David and all of the volunteers who make this great program run smoothly!

*See ya'll In the Fall!*

## MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

### MINISTRY MEETINGS

#### Session

Thurs. May 16, 6:15 p.m.

#### Personnel

Tues. May 7, 6:15 p.m.

#### Worship & Music

Thurs. May 9, 5:00 p.m.

#### Mission & Outreach

Thurs. May 2, 6:00 p.m.

#### Property

Sat. May 4, 9:00 a.m.

#### Trustees

Wed. May 1, 9:30 a.m.

#### Christian Education

Sun. May 5, 12:00 p.m.

#### Communications

Tues. May 21, 11:30 a.m.

#### Board of Deacons

Sun. May 5, 12:00 p.m.

#### In-Touch

Thurs. May 16, 5:30 p.m.

#### Congregational Life

Thurs. May 9, 6:15 p.m.



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, May 2, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, May 14, 12:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, May 20, 6:00 pm

### MANNA UPDATE

#### EMPHASIS FOR MAY

**Any and all canned goods, including canned fruits, vegetables, soups, and 1lb bags of rice and pinto beans, 1 lb. boxes of spaghetti**

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the Narthex each Sunday or bring by the church office during the week.

**Sunday, May, 5—No Youth**  
**Sunday, May 12—No Youth**  
**Sunday, May 19—Youth**  
**Sunday, May 26—Youth**



Grace Presbytery Meeting  
on June 1, 2019 at  
First Pres. In Ft. Worth

The *Feasting on the Word* adult Sunday School class meets in Room 14 each week at 9:15 a.m. You are invited to join us as we discuss and share ideas on the following topics:

May 5— God Changes a Life

Acts 9:1-20

May 12— I Shall Not Want

Psalm 23

May 19— A New Heaven and a New Earth

Revelation 21:1-6

May 26— Paul and Lydia

Acts 16:9-15

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS &amp; CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

**A P R I L**

Megan Arnold  
 Kaitlin & Jacob Burns  
 Meriwether, Andy  
 & Margo Evans  
 Chris Gerber  
 Heather, William, Olivia  
 & Virginia Henckell  
 Kristen & Kolby Janzen  
 Sid & Carla Johnson  
 Nona Maxwell  
 Kate, Sean, Max & Jack Milligan  
 Amanda, Will & Ben Ott  
 Paige Park  
 Eric & Leighton Reed  
 The Rivas Family  
 Peter Salemme  
 Nancy Wester

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To the following GFPC members:

**M A Y**

Glen Bell	1	Linda Crownover	24
Kaye Martino	2	Wendy Coleman	25
Michael Furst	8	Colin Rosché	26
Stan Baggett	11	Mandy Overturff	27
Townes Gonzales	18	Ed Zellers	27
Bel Wise	20	Emersyn Thiem	29
Cash Davis	21	Greg Rosché	30

**National Teacher  
 Appreciation Week is  
 May 6-10.**

**This is a special time to  
 honor and show  
 appreciation for our  
 teachers.**

**Take a few minutes and  
 thank the teachers for  
 all they do and for  
 all their dedication and  
 hard work.**

Dr. Mark and Sarah Eidson are so very proud to announce the birth of

**HENRY GEORGE EIDSON**

Born April 9, 2019  
 8 lbs. and 13oz of joy!

Proud parents are Weston and  
 Katie Eidson



Kasey Bray is graduating from the University of Kentucky with a Ph.D. in applied mathematics. Following graduation, she will be moving to Nashville, TN to teach at Montgomery Bell Academy, a private college prep school for boys.

Join us in congratulating our graduating High School seniors Brittany Dixon and Eryn Williams who will be recognized during worship on Sunday, May 19.



## GIFTS OF HOPE 2019 ~ FATHER'S DAY CARDS

Father's Day, June 16, is right around the corner.

NOW IS THE TIME – **GIVE** A **GIFT** OF **HOPE** TODAY!

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus,  
**“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**  
(ACTS 20:35)

Tired of giving the same old tie for Father's Day? Try GFPC's Mission and Outreach cards! What father, mentor or special friend wouldn't be honored with a card knowing that a donation was made in his honor to support the church's mission work in assisting needy men and families locally and internationally?

Our children and youth of Grace First did their part by creating the wonderful designs for the fronts of the Father's Day cards that you can choose from. Inside will list the names of the 3 charitable organizations that we are supporting which are:

### **Rainwater Catchment System**

Rainwater is a precious resource when collected, stored, and filtered properly. This project will help communities collect usable water for irrigation and washing.

The **Fishing boat and accessories** project is helping local fishermen in the Philippines and the Caribbean where increasingly severe weather has destroyed their livelihoods. This project will restore or replace equipment allowing fishermen to provide for their families.

The **GFPC Compassion Fund** supports our Parker County community in need with assistance toward utility bills, groceries, prescription meds, and gas for doctor appointments. Manna Storehouse distributes this Fund for the church.

Your donation will be split evenly between the three organizations unless you indicate a preference when you purchase the card. We'll leave it to you to circle that organization on your cards. Please prayerfully consider giving a \$10 donation, but any amount will be greatly appreciated. The sum total of all contributions will make a huge difference to boys, men and families in need.

Both projects can be found at the Presbyterian On-line Giving Catalog:  
[www.presbyteriangifts.org](http://www.presbyteriangifts.org) or by calling 800.872.3283.

You can purchase Father's Day cards in the Narthex on Sundays  
or in the church office during the week of May 26 - June 16.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING SALAD SUPPER

Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall

Men and women are invited to join us for a dedication service, supper, and brief program.

**Please bring a salad to share.** Drinks and birthday cake will be provided.

Our guest speaker this year will be Kathy Dodson, the Senior Development Officer (Fort Worth and West Texas) for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Through their many programs, PCHAS provides Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need. Come learn more about this important mission agency.

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings received annually. It gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. In 2019, four projects received funding through Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow PW to provide funding to the Disaster Response Team; Effingham Child Development Center; Presbyterian Homes, and Services of Kentucky, Inc.; and Wings of Refuge.

Don't miss this opportunity to have fellowship with your church family and learn more about Presbyterian Women and the Birthday Offering.

*Childcare will be available.*

## GIFTS OF HOPE 2019 ~ MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

Mother's Day, May 12, 2019

Mother's Day cards will be available to purchase **April 28– May 12** in the Narthex on Sundays, or in the church office. This year we are supporting the following charitable organizations:

The **Educate a Child** project, **The family of chickens** project of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and The **GFPC Compassion Fund**

## MAY EVENTS

### BOOK TALK

**7**

Everyone is invited to a book talk on Tuesday, May 7 at 12 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring a sack lunch for a review and discussion of Mary Pipher's *Women Rowing North*.

**8**

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY OFFERING SALAD SUPPER

Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Childcare will be provided.

**12**

### MOTHER'S DAY

Don't forget to honor your mothers on Sunday, May 12.

Try GFPC's Mission and Outreach cards!

**19**

### SENIOR BREAKFAST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

The seniors of GFPC will be honored with a family breakfast. They will be recognized in the morning worship service.

*Kate Rieves and Caroline Dickson Scholarships* will be awarded.

We will give recognition of outstanding teachers for their commitment to our children.

Following Worship Congregational Life will host Third Sunday Lunch!!

Please bring a dish to share!

**27**

### MEMORIAL DAY

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 27.



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

### Members and Their Families

Kakie Williams  
 Melvin Dale  
 Romeo Escobedo  
 Kathy Coats, Sister of Dawn Kahlden  
 Gerald Perry, Father of Marion Harris

### Friends

Belinda Shipman, Friend of Jim & Myrlan Coleman  
 Taylor Pegram, Daughter of Kevin Goeldner's Co-worker  
 Lee Ann Vogt & Brent Buggar, Friends of Ashley Garcia  
 Diana Britt, Friend of the Furst Family  
 Sara Casey, Sister of Gary Sheffield  
 Bill & Joann Stolfutz, Friends of Gene & Martha Dawson  
 Aubry Wesnitzer, Friend of Brittany Dixon  
 Ann Burdett, Co-worker of Roberta Furman  
 Jack Nixon, Friend of the Moss's  
 Tom Shopoff and Jim Watkins, Friends of the Moss's  
 Frankie Werner, Friend of Sue Jones  
 Kati Hamilton, Daughter of Linda Tingle  
 Autumn Reed, Friend of Deb Kaiser

### Continuing Concerns

John Bell, Son of Glen & Jean  
 Carol Gomez, Sister of Dawn Kahlden  
 Daniel Garza, Brother of Edna Garza Escobedo  
 Gavin Sheppard, Alycia Nelson's Nephew  
 Grainger Weston, Father of Sarah Eidson  
 Nona, Mother of Deb Kaiser  
 Greg, Father of Shanteé Siebuhr  
 Don Jones, Cousin of Roberta Furman  
 David Wenzel, Son-in-law of Peggy Boardman  
 Chloe-Marion Perry, Mother of Marion Harris

### Homebound and Nursing Home Members

Christene Donnell, College Park  
 Ginger Goeldner Clear Fork Assisted Living Memory Care  
 Frank & Arda Morgan, Elmcroft of Graham TX  
 Paul & Kaye Martino, Martin Crest  
 Dannie Woodard, Home  
 Bel Wise, Home

## MAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Deacon Assignments:

Mac Smith & Greg Rosché

### Lay Leaders:

May 5—Judy Rawlins  
 May 12—Linda Snow  
 May 19—Jeff Kahlden  
 May 26—Jane Moss

### Greeters:

May 5—Kevin & Leslie Goeldner  
 May 12—Seth Goeldner & Wendy Bates  
 May 19—Karen Lail & Susie Bossert  
 May 26—Janelle Currin & Bonnie Evans

### Guest Station:

May 5—Margaret Martin  
 May 12—Melissa O'Hern  
 May 19—Judy Rawlins  
 May 26—Wendy Bates

### Nursery Help:

May 19—Emily Gonzales

**Communion Elders:** Kelly Baggett, Cathy Devlin,  
 Mac Smith & Dave Douglass

### Communion Set and Clean Up :

Melanie Curtin, Dawn Kahlden Sally Arnold and Jill  
 Bray



Date	Elder	Elder	Elder	Elder
05-05-19	Kelly Baggett	Cathy Devlin	Mac Smith	Dave Douglass
06-02-19	Stephanie Eidson	Jeff Kahlden	Karen Lail	Margaret Martin
07-07-19	Kevin Goeldner	Randy Riall	David Rothrock	Claire Varnon
08-04-19	Linda Crownover	Jill Bray	Leslie Goeldner	Nancy Deison

Date	Set- Up	Set- Up	Clean - Up	Clean - Up
05/05/19	Melanie Curtin	Dawn Kahlden	Sally Arnold	Jill Bray
06/02/19	Karen Lail	Linda Snow	Leslie Goeldner	Melissa O'Hern
07/07/19	Jill Bray	Janet Duncan	Melissa O'Hern	Melanie Curtin
08/04/19	Melissa O'Hern	Jean Thomason	Christie Tull	Dawn Kahlden

**GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
606 MOCKINGBIRD LANE, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

**SUNDAY  
MORNING  
SCHEDULE**

Sunday School Classes —9:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship—10:25 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.

**S T A F F**

Pastor, *The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz*  
Associate Pastor, *The Rev. David A. Slyter*  
Ministers, *The Congregation*  
Dir. of Music & Organist, *Marialice Parish, M. M.*  
Office Coordinator, *Lacey VanPay*  
Financial Administrator, *Alycia Nelson*



**P H O N E   N U M B E R S**

817-594-2744 Office  
817-565-6756 Pastor Cell

**W E B S I T E**

[WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG)

**E M A I L  
A D D R E S S E S**

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