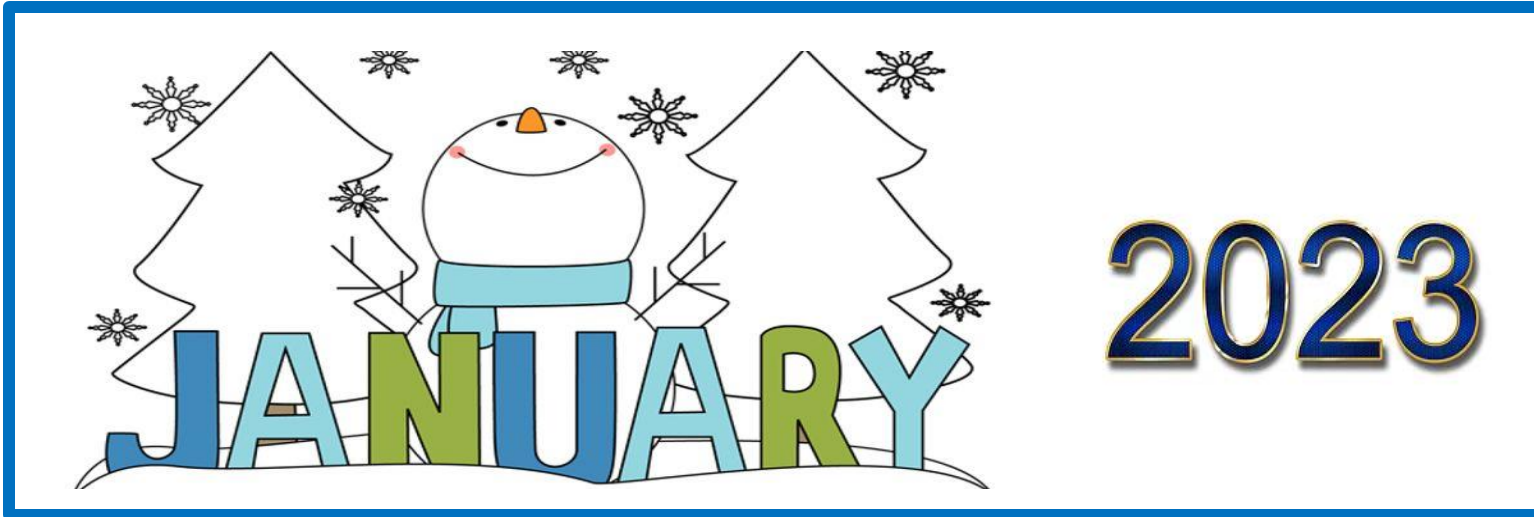




## Grace Presbyterian Church

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

#### 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  
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Huffaker  
Youth & Children’s Director: Jason Williams  
Director of Grace Preschool: Susan Ackermann  
Administrative Secretary: Beverly Halley  
Pianist: Deborah Collins  
Nursery Administrator: Leah Rudek  
Nursery Administrator: Tabitha Speed

#### 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!”*

### Session Highlights Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

Your Session met in their Stated meeting for December, all were in attendance plus the three Elders Elect.

The following MOTIONS were approved:

1. Minutes of Oct. 16, 2022.
2. Annual Congregation meeting is set for Sunday, February 19, 2023, and afterwards the annual meeting of the corporate officers and trustees (directors).
3. Communion dates for 2023 were set.
4. Stated Session meeting dates were set for 2023.
5. The Parrish Associate agreement for renewal was approved, signed by all necessary and will be mailed to the Presbytery for their approval.
6. Session approved the funeral service for Gayle Walker for Saturday, Dec. 17 in our sanctuary.
7. The year-end Membership Roll was reviewed, and two names were removed.
8. The 2023 Budget Plan was reviewed, discussed, and approved.
9. Agreed to Pastor vacation days of Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, March 19.

Besides these,

1. Refurbishing the cross was discussed.
2. Ministry assignments were made for 2023.
3. Our Session records for the years 2019 and 2020 were reviewed by the Presbytery on Oct. 25 at their meeting in Quincy, FL.
4. Session members were assigned dates for each to give a devotion at our Stated meetings in 2023.
5. First reading of changes to our Manual of Operations, from the Finance Ministry.
6. Written Commissioner report for Presbytery meeting held on Oct. 25 was presented for review.
7. Good-byes were presented to the three Elders rotating off the Session soon.
8. Hank Picken and John Fortner presented a “special” gift to Elder Bright, who will be rotating off soon after five years of continuous service on the Session

Our next Stated meeting will be Sunday, January 15.



## Preschool News

From the Director's Desk:

Happy New Year! I hope it's been a fun and relaxing Christmas break for everyone! We are excited to see what 2023 has in store! Preschool and after school care will start back on January 9.

This month the students will be learning about Martin Luther King Jr, winter weather, arctic animals, and transportation. Our Bible stories will include Jonah and the Whale, Elijah Prays for Rain, and the Wise Man and the Foolish Man.

Preschool and Afterschool care will be closed Monday, January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Preschool registration will begin on Monday, February 6 at 8:00 a.m. for current students, their siblings, and church members. Open registration will begin on Monday, February 27. Please contact us at 850 769-0446 for more information.

Wishing you all a Blessed Year!

Susan Ackermann  
Director



Dear Grace Family,

Bill and I wish to thank our wonderful Grace Church family for all the prayers, concerns, visits, cards, and love you have showered us with during this extended time of Bill's illness. We have felt the prayers of hope for wellness and encouragement daily. Bill remains in good spirits with all of the setbacks and is ready to be back home. I thank you all for the food that kept me going when I was too tired to cook. We are blessed to have such a caring church family during our difficult times.

In Christ's Love,

Bill and Ellen Rumph

## January Sermons

January 1, 2023 - (2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Christmas/Communion)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 63: 7 – 9/Matthew 2: 13 - 23  
Sermon Title: "The Path of Faith"

January 8, 2023 (Baptism of the Lord)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 42: 1 – 9/Matthew 3: 13 - 17  
Sermon Title: "Who is Right?"

January 15, 2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 49: 1 - 7/John 1: 29 - 42  
Sermon Title: "Rabbi"

January 22, 2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)  
Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 9: 1 - 4/Matthew 4: 12 - 23  
Sermon Title: "The Start of Something Great"

January 29, 2023 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)  
Sermon Scripture: Micah 6: 1 – 8/Matthew 5: 1 - 12  
Sermon Title: "Blessed Are Who?"



### BOOMERS AND BEYOND

#### Let's Meet and Eat!

Boomers and Beyond will meet on Thursday, January 19, 12:00pm @ Big Mama's, 620 W Beach Dr, downtown Panama City. Please let Beverly know if you plan to attend by Monday, January 16! Will look forward to seeing everyone there!

### GRACEVINE DECEMBER DEADLINE

Please send any information you would like included in the February Gracevine to Janet Pitts at [cookiegirl54@yahoo.com](mailto:cookiegirl54@yahoo.com). The deadline is Monday, January 16.



To My Church Family:

*Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12: 3*

I do not know about you, but I am super excited that we made it into 2023! This does not mean that 2022 was a bad year but it definitely was not an easy year either. Just like everyone else, we, as a church, felt the effects of increasing electricity prices. Just like everyone else, we, as a church, felt the effects of inflation. Just like everyone else, we, as a church, felt the effects of the up and down emotions of wanting to be in church versus wanting to simply stay home. But in my three years at Grace, there is one thing I can say about Grace that I have definitely noticed, we are not just like everyone else!

At a conference on the post pandemic church that I recently attended, the speaker asked the group, “How many churches are growing?” I was the only one who raised their hand. The speaker asked how giving was going in churches and I was the only one who said I felt good about how the church is continuing to give. And this was just the tip of the iceberg on questions where Grace seemed to shine in what we are doing. In a world where we are called to be humble, it felt good to know that Grace was moving in the exact right direction that the experts say we should be going. We have been doing things a little bit differently and it has been working to glorify God. Like I already wrote, “We are not just like everyone else!”

In 2023, it is my hope and prayer that we continue being “not like everyone else.” Where other churches are in decline, this our chance to grow. Where other churches are spending solely on themselves, this is our chance to give to others. Where other churches are looking at how to cling to the past, this is our chance to merge the past with the present and the present with the future. This is the time for this church to stretch its arms as the hands and feet of the Lord.

But what we do, must be done with patience and perseverance. Just because you do not see a change or project happen right away that you are expecting to take place, this does not mean that the wheels are not turning in the background to make it happen. There are lots of irons in the fire right now and we are waiting for just the right time to pull that iron out. Things are happening at Grace because we are just a little bit different. Let’s continue this glorious journey of being different and make 2023 shine with a great brightness, and difference, like never before!

Blessings in Peace,  
Rev. Eric Spoon

**2023**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**On Tuesday, November 29 several of our OCC shoeboxes were shipped to Burkina Faso. Located in West Africa, Burkina Faso is home to a large rural population that is known to be honest. This fits well since the country’s name means “Land of Incorruptible People.” Shoeboxes were also shipped to the hurting, needy children of Ukraine, children seeking refuge in the midst of war and conflict and suffering all around them.**

**Please don’t stop praying for the boy or girl that you first lifted up when you packed your shoebox. Continue to ask God to open his or her heart to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that he or she will follow Him all the days of their life. Pray also for families and entire communities to be transformed as God’s love is shared through your gift.**

**A side note: the following is a comment from one of the processing centers; “I made it a practice to ask people on their way out to tell me about their favorite item in a box. Hands down it was the handwritten notes, drawings on lids, and personal touches. So, keep it up, shoebox packers!”**

**Once again, we request your used Christmas cards to be used as personal notes in our 2023 Operation Christmas Child boxes. Please leave your cards in the basket located on the credenza in the foyer. And remember ‘After Christmas Sales’ are a wonderful time to pick up stuffed animals at super prices for 2023 boxes. And, if you have too many of these or other bargains to store, bring them to the church office, we will find a spot for them!!**

**MEN OF GRACE MEETINGS**

The Men of Grace will meet on Thursday, January 26. Please check the upcoming church bulletins for more information. Thank you.

**MEETING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER**

**PROVERBS 31 GUILD** – Meets the second Monday of each month in Bell Hall at 11:00am. Contact Ronnie Wilson for more information.

**YOGA BLISS** – Faith and Fitness – Tuesdays at 4:30pm and Thursdays at 3:30pm in Bell Hall. Contact JoAnn at 850-819-1249.

**SAINT ANDREWS BAY QUILTER’S GUILD** – Meets at Grace each month. If you enjoy quilting and fellowship, visit their website at <http://www.sabqg.org> for meeting times and membership information.

**DOORWAYS OF NWFL** – Will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in Bell Hall beginning at 10:00am.

**Wonderful Wednesdays Are Back!!!**

Wonderful Wednesday returns on Wednesday, January 18. That night the menu will be home-made meatloaf, green beans, baked potatoes, and dessert. After dinner we hope to have a “song night,” so be thinking about your favorite hymns that you would like to sing!

Wednesday, January 25 the menu is American Goulash, fresh green salad, rolls, and dessert. A study of the Book of Acts will begin that evening after dinner.

Wednesday, February 1 the meal will be a potluck dinner with Jambalaya, Lasagna, Chicken Enchiladas, and dessert. The study on the Book of Acts will continue.

Make plans to join us for food for the body and food for the soul!



***January Birthdays***

- 3 George Henderson***
- 8 Cari Trappe***
- 10 James Johnson***
- 11 Karen Williams***
- 20 Deborah Collins***
- 21 Carissa Hosea***
- 23 Jamie Williams***
- 24 Hillary Smith***
- 29 Stan Trappe***
- 30 Jeff Ball***



**CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR JANUARY**

- Thurs., Jan. 5 – PWCT @ 2:00pm
- Mon., Jan. 9 – Monday, LNO Circle @ 6:30pm\*
- Tues., Jan. 10 – Tuesday Circle @ 9:30am
- Thurs., Jan. 12 – Thursday Circle @ 9:30am

**JANUARY TEAM**

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><i>Patti Jo Johnson</i></b>  | <b><i>Mary Brown</i></b>      |
| <b><i>Deborah Collins</i></b>   | <b><i>Ellen Seay</i></b>      |
| <b><i>Claudia Henderson</i></b> | <b><i>Almeda Huffaker</i></b> |

***\*The Monday LNO (Ladies’ Night Out) Circle meets at a chosen restaurant at 5:15pm and then at the church at 6:30pm.***

***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!**