



THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
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FEBRUARY 2024
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DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

This is the title of Paragraph G-2.02 in our *Book of Order*, describing the work of deacons in our denomination.

Because we have reduced our number of deacons to three this year, and are in the midst of reorganizing their responsibilities, I thought it would be a good time to review their purpose(s).

Paragraph G-2.0201 goes on to define deacons:

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

While a congregation is not required to have deacons, but may choose not to use deacons, if deacons are not used, their responsibilities fall upon the session!

I believe this congregation has always had deacons, and to that end, we have now chosen and installed Carolyn Armstrong, Margaret Boone, and Donna Causey to be our deacons.

Although they have already been doing some of the work commonly assigned to deacons, they may be contacting you in the future to establish a relationship and rapport with you, in case you need them at some point.

Of course, the first deacons were “invented” and chosen by the apostles out of a felt need (Acts 6:1-7). Therefore, the session defines the responsibilities of our deacons, and revises those responsibilities from time to time, as the session feels the need to do so.

If you see or feel a need that is not getting enough attention, please share your concern with me, your pastor, or with any of our deacons or elders, and we will look into that need, and decide upon appropriate action.

In the meantime, we, the congregation, have taken vows to “accept them as chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ,” and agreed to “encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church.”

-Rev. Pat Wadsworth



Sunday Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Refreshments

Church Office Hours

M-Thur. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours

M-Thur. 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

With the changing of the year, we would like to thank our Elders and Deacons that rotated off. Their ministry is so important and they are the spiritual leaders in your church. The Elders have had to address difficult issues and challenges each year.

New leaders were elected on January 14th & Installed during worship on January 21st.

Elder: Sandy Stewart

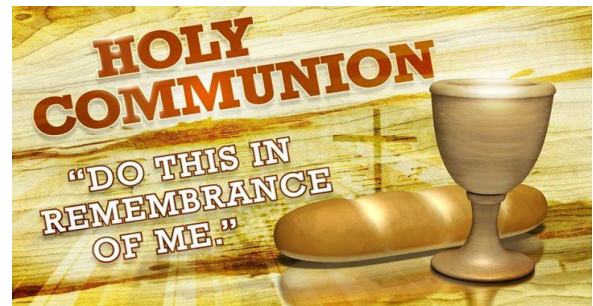
Deacons: Carolyn Armstrong, Margaret Boone & Donna Causey

Trustee: Margaret Boone

Nominating Committee for 2024: Carolyn Armstrong, Margaret Boone, Tim Conner, David Jones & Terry Wolford



The Presbyterian Women encourage the congregation to support **United Christian Outreach** by bringing non-perishable food items and paper products to worship monthly. Our next collection will be on the 2nd Sunday of February (Feb. 11th). Any monetary donations can be mailed to their P.O. Box. Please contact the church office for the mailing address. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support UCO.



COMMUNION - will be celebrated during our **10:30 a.m.** worship service **on Sunday, February 4th**. As usual, we invite those who watch our worship service online to gather your communion elements ahead of time so you will be able to take communion with us.



ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Catherine Sarwar
- 5 Wayne Elmore
- 5 Danny Jones
- 13 Denny Gaspard
- 27 Elizabeth Conner Balapitiya

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate, a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at Noon at Grace Presbyterian Church. This service normally lasts about 30 minutes.

Committee Meetings

SESSION – Our next Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m.** Please let Sandy Stewart know if you are an Elder and cannot attend this meeting.

MDO BOARD – Our next board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 12th 2:15 p.m.** Please let Tim Conner know if you are on the MDO Board and cannot attend this meeting.



If anyone would like to bring flowers to place in the front of the sanctuary on Sunday Mornings, please let Sarah in the Church Office or Margaret Boone know which Sunday you would like. Sarah can be reached at 337-984-6400 or Margaret Boone can be reached at 337-981-2475.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women meet monthly for Bible Study. The ladies meet in member's homes on the 2nd or 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is not expected to host.

Our current Bible Study is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" by Olive Mahabir.

PW CIRCLE MEETING – will be on **Monday, February 19th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Sandy Stewart. (111 Buffalo Run)** All women that attend Grace Church are invited to join us for Bible Study and Fellowship. Even if you are not a member at Grace, we welcome you to join us for Bible Study.

After Bible Study, anyone who wishes will go out to lunch. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Margaret Boone at marboone@yahoo.com or at (337) 981-2475.



MDO REGISTRATION & OPENINGS – we are currently taking registrations for our upcoming Summer 2024 and Fall 2024-2025 semesters. Email mdoatgrace@gmail.com or call (337) 984-6400 for more information. We also have openings in several of our classrooms currently.

MARDI GRAS PARADE – MDO will have the annual Mardi Gras Parade on **Thursday, February 8th at 1:30 p.m.** on the Grace Tennis Court. Everyone is invited to join us for this fun event that the children look forward to each year. The kids are making floats out of shoe boxes and will be throwing Mardi Gras beads to everyone that attends the parade.

MARDI GRAS BREAK – the Grace MDO Program will be closed the week of Mardi Gras (**February 13th – 15th**) and will reopen on **Tuesday, February 20th**.



Please join us on Sunday Mornings after worship for Refreshments (and fellowship). **We need volunteers to bring snacks on Sunday Mornings! If you would like to volunteer to provide refreshments, please let the Church Office know which Sunday you would like.** Thank you in advance!

TOMATO BASIL SOUP

3 tbsp olive oil
1 large chopped onion
¼ cup all purpose flour
2 lbs ripe tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1 tsp dried thyme leaves or more fresh, chopped
½ cup chopped fresh basil
Creole seasoning to taste
2 tbsp sugar
2 cups chicken stock
½ cup tomato paste
Plain yogurt (optional)

Place onions and thyme in oil and saute until onions are soft, not brown. Add tomatoes and stir briefly. Add flour and stir about 3 minutes until fully incorporated into the mixture. Stir in sugar, chicken stock and tomato paste. Simmer, partially covered, for 30 min stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. Add ½ the basil after 15 min. Puree mixture in a food processor. You might want to cool before this step. Return to the pot. Season to taste. Add remainder of the basil just before serving. Top each serving with a dollop of yogurt, if desired.

This recipe is from **Margaret Boone** and was published in the 3rd Presbyterian Women Cookbook.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with the congregation, you can email a copy of the recipe to the church office at gracpreb@lusfiber.net.



For those who are not able to attend in-person worship or if you are homebound, we invite you to stream our **10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service** from home via Facebook Live. Our site is “[gracelafayette](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette)”. Please contact the church office if you have any questions on using Facebook to view our services.



2024 Phone Directory

We are in the final stages of making our 2024 directory which includes Members, Non-Members & Regular Visitors. If you have any corrections to make from last year or were not included in our directory and would like to be, please contact Sarah in the Church Office by **February 15th**. She can be reached by phone at (337) 984-6400 or by email at gracpreb@lusfiber.net. Many changes have been made since last years directory, so make sure to pick up a copy of our 2024 directory around mid to end of February. **If you are homebound and would like a directory snail mailed to you, please let the office know so that we can get a copy to you!**



<https://tacklehunger.org>

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”



Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need. Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God’s love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. **All food & monetary donations collected at Grace Presbyterian Church on Super Bowl Sunday (February 11th) will go directly to our Charity of Choice. We have chosen United Christian Outreach right here in Lafayette, LA.** Donating to UCO is a monthly mission at Grace Church, however, on Super Bowl Sunday we try to go above what we normally donate to them each month.

In 2021 to purchase a 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl the cost was \$6 million dollars. (that was up from 2020 by over \$400K according to USA Today) Research has shown that Americans spend \$15.5 billion dollars on snacks for Super Bowl Sunday and that 810 million people around the world are hungry. **What if everyone who bought food at the grocery store gave \$1 to hunger relief?**

Join us on Sunday, February 11th as we collect non-perishables, paper products and monetary donations to help feed the less fortunate right here in Lafayette by giving to United Christian Outreach. Please bring items with you to worship on February 11th. There will also be soup pots set up as you enter for worship where you have the chance to place a monetary donation for which team you wish to win the Super Bowl this year. This year’s teams are the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

FEBRUARY

| 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am - Refreshments | | 9am-2pm MDO | 9am-2pm MDO | 9am-2pm MDO 6:30pm – Al-anon | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 <i>Communion</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>10:30 a.m.</i> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 <i>MDO</i> <i>Mardi Gras</i> <i>Parade</i> <i>1:30 p.m.</i> <i>(Tennis Court)</i> | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Souper Bowl</i> <i>Of Caring</i> | 12 | 13  <i>Office Closed</i> <i>MDO Closed</i> | 14  <i>Valentine's</i> <i>Day</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Service</i> <i>At Noon</i> <i>MDO Closed</i> | 15 <i>MDO</i> <i>Closed</i> | 16 | 17 |
| 18 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:30 a.m.</i> | 19 <i>PW Women</i> <i>Circle Meeting</i> <i>10:00 a.m.</i> <i>(Sandy's House)</i> | 20 <i>Session</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>6:00 p.m.</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:30 a.m.</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

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