



THE GRACEVINE

Grace Presbyterian Church
518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503
E-mail: gracpreb@lusfiber.net
Website: www.gracelafayette.org

JANUARY 2024

Facebook: [gracelafayette](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette)
Phone: 337-984-6400



CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make Advent and Christmas a joyful and meaningful time at Grace. From all those who donated gifts, provided music, set up Communion, worked our sound system.....THANKS for your time & gifts!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Thank you to **Everyone** who helped “hang the greens.” Special thanks to **David & Jysele Jones** for providing the meal that evening. The Church looked wonderful for the Christmas season.

The **Grace Staff** would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts, cards, and kind words during this Christmas Season. Special thank you to the **PW Women** for the wonderful luncheon put on for the Staff and to everyone that contributed food for the luncheon held in December.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the special offerings in the month of December for Staff Bonuses, Agape Fund, Good Samaritan Fund and the Joy Gift Offering.

Thank you to **Sarah Gaspard & Jysele Jones** for coordinating the Angel Tree Mission again this year. Also thank you to everyone that participated & thank you to our delivery drivers of the gifts.

Thank you to **Carolyn Armstrong** for setting up communion each Sunday and thank you to everyone that helped to serve communion this past year.

Thank you to all the **PW Ladies** for your gifts to the church staff and for continuing to collect food to be donated to United Christian Outreach during the holiday season.

Thank you to **Katharine Schendel & Nick Manzo** for your beautiful music you provided each Sunday during the Christmas Season. Special thank you to **Nick Manzo, Katharine Schendel and Valerie Hunter** for your music in our beautiful Christmas Eve Service. They were outstanding! We had a great turnout for our candlelight service and everyone did a great job.

Thank you to **Terry Wolford & Bob Hess** for streaming our Worship Services on Facebook during 2023. It is a big commitment these guys make to be able to work our sound system each Sunday along with streaming our services on Facebook for those who choose to watch virtually.

Thank you to all our Advent Readers and Candle Lighters during the Christmas Season. **Paul & Andrea Montgomery, Sarah & Lana Gaspard, Tim & Mary Conner & Family, and Danny & Caroline Jones & Family.** Also thank you to all the readers at our Christmas Eve Service.

Thanks to **Rev. Pat Wadsworth** for the wonderful sermons this Advent Season.



With the changing of the year, we would like to thank our Elders and Deacons that have will be rotating 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.

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.

Thanks to Elders: **Lynne Castle & Margaret Boone**

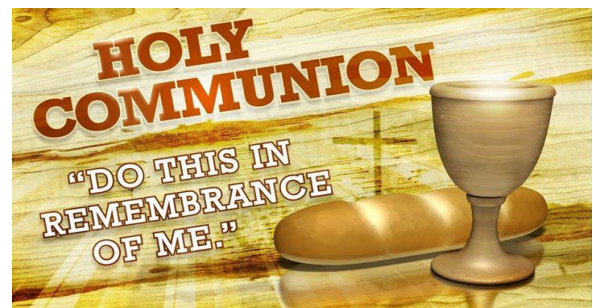
Thanks to Deacons: **Carolyn Armstrong, Elke Hitt, Jean McLain & Sandy Stewart**

Thanks to Trustee: **David Jones**

New leaders will be elected on **Sunday, January 14th** at our Congregational Meeting & once elected, they will be installed on **Sunday, January 21st**.



The Presbyterian Women encourage the congregation to support **United Christian Outreach** by bringing non-perishable food items and paper products to worship on the 1st Sunday of the month. **Our next collection will be on Sunday, January 7th.** 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, January 7th.** 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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Nick Manzo
- 18 Emily Foreman Babineaux
- 24 Andrea Montgomery
- 25 Randall Smith
- 28 Robert Hess, Jr.
- 29 Libby Gaspard
- 31 Lana Gaspard

Committee Meetings

SESSION – Our next Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 9th 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 **Thursday, January 18th at 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.

SWEET POTATO CRUNCH

- 2 - 28 oz cans sweet potatoes – drained and mashed (I use fresh baked sweet potatoes)
- 1 ¼ c. granulated sugar (I use brown sugar)
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ c. melted butter
- 1 c. milk (I use heavy cream)
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

Combine and place in buttered 13x9 inch dish.

Topping:

- 2 c. chopped pecans
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 2/3 c. flour
- 2/3 c. melted butter

Place on top of sweet potato mixture and bake for 35 minutes.

This recipe is from **Kathy Boone**.

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.



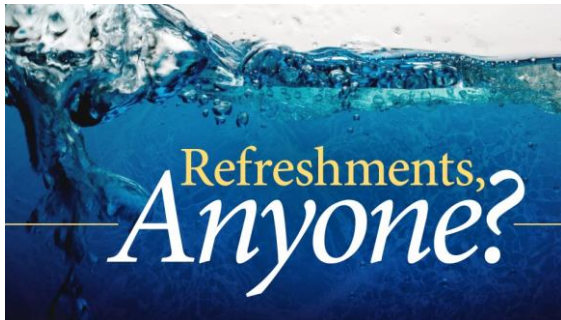
For those who are not able to attend in-person worship or if you are homebound, we invite you to stream our **10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service** from home via Facebook Live. Our site is "**gracelafayette**". Please contact the church office if you have any questions on using Facebook to view our services.



A Memorial Service was held at Grace Presbyterian Church on **Friday, December 29th** for **Ray Montgomery**. Graveside Services took place afterwards at Graceland Cemetery in Abbeville, LA. Ray passed away on December 22nd at the age of 91. He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Mary Lou Montgomery, his 2 sons, Paul & Steve and their families, 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Ray & Mary Lou were active members of Grace Presbyterian Church until recent illnesses and they are the last Charter Members of Grace. Please keep the family & friends of Ray Montgomery in your prayers during this difficult time. Ray will be missed by many at Grace Church.

On Sunday, December 17th, the **Cathedral-Carmel School Bell Choir & Junior High Band** performed during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service. Greig Ashurst is the band director at Cathedral-Carmel. A few years ago, Grace Church donated their handbells to Greig and in return, he and his students blessed us with some great Christmas music this year.



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.** What should you bring??? Something simple.....like cookies or fruit. Coffee, water and lemonade are available at the church to use. Thank you in advance!



2024 Phone Directory

With a new year beginning it is once again time for Phone Directory updates so that we can make our new 2024 directory which includes Grace Members, Non-Members & Regular Visitors. If you have any corrections to make from last year or are not included in our phone directory, please email gracpreb@lusfiber.net or call Sarah in the church office at 337-984-6400 with any updates or additions that you may have.

Although new directories will not be printed until early February, please let our secretary know by mid-January if you have changes/additions.

Mother's DAY OUT



MDO REGISTRATION – starting on **Wednesday, January 3rd**, MDO will begin taking registrations for their upcoming Summer 2024 and Fall 2024-25 semesters. Spots are offered to our current students first, then registration is opened up to any new families after the first 2 weeks of January. Email mdoatgrace@gmail.com or call 337-984-6400 for more information.

MDO SONGFEST – was held on **December 14th** in the Grace Fellowship Hall. The children sang Christmas songs for their families to enjoy. The kids also got to enjoy their individual class Christmas parties before starting Christmas Break.

MDO NURSERY CLASSROOM – is officially fully staffed with 2 teachers & 6 infants. MDO was forced to close their nursery classroom many months ago due to lack of teachers. They have now hired a 2nd teacher, **Traci Guidry**, and enrolled several more infants.

Our Mother's Day Staff:

Nursery Classroom

Nicole Trimble & Traci Guidry

Toddler 1 Classroom

Cindy LeBlanc & Kelly Dowling

Toddler 2 Classroom

Stacey Bravos & Cheryl Simpson

Preschool Classroom

Kim Menard & Michelle Packer

Pre-K Classroom

Donna Platt & Sue Comenski



MDO recently lost one of their past teachers due to cancer. **Shannon Burns** worked in the MDO Nursery class from 2012-2015. Shannon lost her battle to cancer at the age of 51 on December 21st. Shannon's memorial service will be held on January 6th in Abbeville. She was loved by many at Grace MDO.

January

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 <i>Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Office & MDO Closed</i>	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Communion</i> <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>UCO Collection</i>	8	9 <i>Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Congregational Meeting 11:30 a.m.</i>	15 <i>Office Closed (MLK)</i>	16	17	18 <i>MDO Board Meeting 2:15 p.m.</i>	19	20
21 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. (Installation)</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i>	29	30	31			

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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