

Grace Presbyterian Gazette



November, 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

TERRY SIMM

I am looking forward to our time together over the next year or so in this time of for transition. I must say that I am impressed with Grace Presbyterian Church on numerous levels, from your sacred worship to your people of faith, from your commitment to serve, to your hospitality. I see nothing but good things ahead. My job as a transitional pastor is different than a called pastor, for a transitional pastor is usually a short term, between one and two years. We have a lot of work ahead of us as we prepare for your next called pastor. I believe my experience both as a pastor for 20+ years and as a lay person for that same amount of time give me adequate grounding for this position as a Certified Transitional Pastor (CTP). Having served as a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) I know the pains of sorting through PIF's and the struggles one has as you anticipate your next called pastor.

This church reminds me of the first church I served in the city of Dubuque, IA. The church there was unique in that several Professors and their families from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and local colleges attended. The core members were from the community and were lifetime members. The Dubuque Church of just under 100 members was making a transition to a full-time pastor after having a part-time pastor for twenty years.

We are fortunate to be in a denomination that is ahead of the game in making the CTP position a priority,

over a third of ECO's pastors will be retiring in the next 5 to 10 years. The training I have received both from ECO and Interim Ministry Network gives me some valuable tools to help access and give direction to the situation here at Grace Presbyterian Church. As a CTP I will be guiding and helping Grace Church evaluate your present situation and determine God's call in the future.

One way to look at the position of a CTP is like that of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus to come. At our last Presbytery meeting of the Upper Midwest, a CTP made this same comparison. He made it clear, no I am not saying I am John the Baptist, nor is your next pastor going to be Jesus. However, the job John the Baptist had in preparing the way for the One to come is similar. Also, at the given time John knew he would need to step down and the focus would then be on Jesus. In much the same way my job as a CTP will be completed, and God willing you will be ready for your next called pastor. Yes, it may take some time for Dawn and I to adjust to the ways of the south, but so far, we are finding Conway and Arkansas both very welcoming. I firmly believe God will bless our time together. *"Therefore, the Lord waits and longs to be gracious to you, and therefore he waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who long for Him."* (Isaiah 30: 18 AMP)

"THE DEACON'S POST"

Greetings from your Deacons. Can you believe that we are nearing the end of 2021? Our thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are just around the corner. We, your Deacons want to take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best this holiday season. We also want you to report that our work continues behind the scene so to speak serving our under-shepherd groups. Your Deacons continue to care for their under-shepherd groups and helping those who need assistance, and want you to know again that you have an avenue of help should you need it, so please don't hesitate to let your Deacon know if you have any issues.

As we near the end of the year, sadly this means we are nearing the end of service for two of our Deacons, Henry Hawk and Annette Sackhoff. While we don't know who God has in store to take their place, we know that he will provide us with what I know will be amazing leaders, as both Henry and Annette have been during their time of servitude.

While we will miss Henry and Annette serving the church, we want to thank them both for the love and care they have shown. Deacons are a vital part of the life of any congregation and ours has been blessed with both of them serving.

Joe Pruett, Moderator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Please join us for a **Called Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 7, 2021 immediately after worship
- ◆ The **3 N 1 gathering** is meeting again in person. Please join us Wednesday nights starting at 6:00 p.m. We have food, fellowship, singing and bible study all wrapped into a 1 hr. 15 min time allotment. If you wish to join us and eat, please notify Joe Pruett, 501 733 1650 or Larry Dunn, 501 329 4348 so we can make sure to order the right amount of food. Cost for each person is \$5 per plate. Come join us for an evening full of fun and fellowship.
- ◆ If you would like more information about the **Mission and Evangelism Team activities** or if you would like to join the team, please contact Ken Hunter or call the church for more information.



- ◆ Please call or email the office if you would like to help with **church cleanup**. 501-504-6899

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

- ◆ The committee approved participating in the "Angel Tree" program again this year. More information will be coming out on this opportunity as it becomes available.
- ◆ We participate in Conway's Adopt a Street Program and seven GPC Covenant Partners gathered at the Church Saturday morning, October 30th, to pick-up litter along six tenths of a mile of Prince Street from Hogan Lane to Reedy Road. Six bags of litter and 3 golf balls were collected.
- ◆ As part of our continuing support of the Conway Ministry Center we purchased supplies and packed 100 snack packs for their distribution daily to the homeless in our community. That represented a one week supply. The Ministry Center will continue passing out snack packs through November 19th. For the past several years the Ministry Center has operated a overnight "Winter Warming Center" in Conway. At this date this needed service is in doubt due to the lack of a facility. If anyone is aware of a facility that might be used for this purpose the Ministry Center would very much like to hear from you, or you can let a member of this committee know.

Dear Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Partners -

We are so excited that it is time to pack as many shoeboxes as we can to spread the Good News and the Great Joy of Jesus Christ to precious children and their families around the world!!! A simple gift of a shoebox opens the door for those who have never heard of God's saving grace and His love for them!!

Packing shoeboxes is so fun for families to do together in their home, with friends, with their church groups or community groups! If you want ideas for what to pack, want to do "follow your box" labels or want more information, go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box>. If you ordered supplies and don't receive them, give us a call and we may possibly have what you need.



- **CONWAY - Fellowship Bible Church** - 1051 Hogan Lane - Mon-11/15 (10a-2p), Tues-11/16 (10a-2p), Wed-11/17 (10a-2p & 7p-9p), Thurs-11/18 (10a-2p), Fri-11/19 (10a-2p), Sat-11/20 (10a-12p), Sun-11/21 (1p-6p), Mon-11/22 (9a-12p)

It's beginning to feel like winter!

Temperatures are expected to get as low as 28 degrees this week, which means families and individuals living outside are now struggling to stay protected. You can help our homeless neighbors stay safe during such dangerous temperatures by providing winter weather gear such as:

- * Sleeping bags
- * Tents
- * Gloves
- * Hats
- * Hands/Feet warmers

You can drop any of these items off at our new location: 225 E Robins St. Every bit of your support makes a difference.

– Spring Hunter, Executive Director



CONWAY
MINISTRY
CENTER

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

Attendance:

October 3, 2021 38
October 10, 2021 27
October 17, 2021 38
October 24, 2021 47

Communion:

November 7, 2021

Preaching Schedule:

Rev. Terry Simm—November

Liturgist:

Joe Pruett

Worship Minutes Summary:

Motion was made to install two TV monitors in the sanctuary and was not passed. All Saints Day will be observed on October 31, 2021 with the ringing of a bell in remembrance of our members and family members who have passed away during the past year. Hanging of the greens will be at 4:00 PM on November 27, 2021 with your favorite chili afterwards for everyone to enjoy. The Christmas choir presentation will be Thursday December 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM with a reception to follow. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 PM December 24, 2021. Our committee has requested a sign be added to our current sign indicating that we deliver a traditional service of worship. A special thanks goes to Rosanne who decorated the table for World Communion Sunday.

BIRTHDAYS:

11/06 - Jeff Sackoff, 11/07 - Beth Hays, 11/08 - Carolyn Mebane, 11/11 - Dyann Rankin, 11/14 - Pat Rice, 11/16 - Michael Frazier, 11/27 - Jane Hawk.

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (11/5/2021):

Prayer Concerns: Heather Beczo, daughter-in-law of Tibor and Ilona Beczo; Tibor Beczo; Ron Carter, brother of Jean Brown with cancer; Bill Conner; Joe Dablock; Virginia Driggers, friend of the church; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Charles and Trudy Jordan; Julie Olson; Vivian Sackhoff, mother of Jeff Sackhoff; Connie Staal, friend of Larry and Lavon Dunn; Phil and Cheryl White, father of Nancy Davis' daughter-in-law with heart trouble; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

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OUR DENOMINATION:



ECO
A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians

ELDERS:

John Davis
Ken Hunter
Pat Rice

Ralph Scott
Barbara Watkins

DEACONS:

Jenny Harrison: 417.459.2550
Karen Griffin: 501.269.2485
Annette Sackhoff: 501.472.3783
Henry Hawk: 501.730.4173

STAFF:

Admin. Assistant: Erin Tucker, ph. 501.504.6899
Transitional Pastor: Terry Simm, ph. 501.504.6899
Lay Pastor: Jim Hays, ph. 501.499.2885
Lay Pastor: Joe Pruett, ph. 501.733.1650
Organist: Lyle Rupert
Choir Director/Pianist: Eloise Stowe

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