

Grove Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Dr. Harold J. Bennett II, Pastor

Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole, Pastor Emeritus



Grove Presbyterian Church is a Christian fellowship brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship and serve God, to share our belief in Jesus Christ, and to reach out with love and understanding to all people.

Sunday, September 17th, 2023 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Church Fellowship News

Preparation for Worship

Loving God, as summer rapidly rolls into fall, busy schedules give us little space to pause and contemplate the eternal. We quiet ourselves now to enter Your presence, to open our minds and hearts, to breathe the air You provide, to feel our hearts' beat, and to give thanks for Your many blessings. Amen.

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

People: Bless God's holy name.

Leader: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

People: Bless God's holy name.

All: Let us worship God!

***Hymn #81** We Gather Together

Prayer of Confession (unison)

(Time for reflection: let us offer our own prayers of confession first, in silence.)

All: Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive. We struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen. We rush to make excuses. We expect others to pardon our faults, without realizing our own need to repent. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another. Help us to receive the love and wisdom from You that we need, to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. We can know that we are forgiven by His grace and can be at peace with God, with ourselves and with each other.

People: What a joy to receive forgiveness! Alleluia! Amen!

***Hymn #733**

Gloria Patri

***Passing of the Peace (responsive)**

Leader: Romans 14:7 tells us, “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.” We are in covenant with God and joined in community with one another. Let us share God’s abundant grace to us as we pass the peace to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem

Jesus Teach Me

Grove Choir

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

All: God of wisdom, let the sun of Your Gospel never go down out of our hearts. Through the reading of Your holy Word, help our unbelief, increase our faith, and give us hearts to consider Your many gifts to us. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Pew Bible p.110

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Pew Bible p.1765

Sermon

Discernment or Judgmental Faith

Rev. Dr. Hal Bennett

***Hymn #393**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

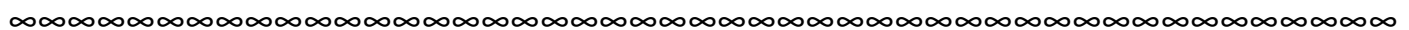
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn #501**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***Charge and Benediction**

Asterisk (*) indicates stand, if able



Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given today to the Glory of God’s blessings and the beginning of autumn.

Liturgist: Edith Dillon

Ushers: 2

Attendance:

In-person last week: 40

204 Unique, in-person people in worship in 2023.

Average 2023 online views per worship service: 35

PRAYER LIST

PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Bennett, health concerns
Jack Dempsey, recovery from recent surgery
Bruce Gerdom, health concerns
Marsha Gerdom's daughter Tammy, health concerns
Mary Lee James, health concerns
Bill Loper (the elder), health concerns
Bev Pflingsten, health concerns
Scott Schubert, health concerns
The Family of Vivian Brown Stancil (Etta's sister) upon her recent passing.
Tom Trimboli (Peg's brother), health concerns

ONGOING CONCERNS

Maxine Cialella
Carole Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

»Thanks for continuing to support Grove Church through your tithes and offerings, which, as a reminder, are collected in the collection plate by the side door.

»Share the good things going on at Grove! Send the link to the new website to your friends, family and contacts: <https://grovepc.org>.

»DEACONS: *Deacons' meeting Monday, September 18th – 6 p.m.*

Cupboard Visitors - September 13th: 21 Families - 26 bags - feeding 71 people

Cupboard Needs: Cereal, Canned Fruit and Canned Vegetables

Church Officers

Session: Moderator: Rev. Dr. Harold J. Bennett II (*contact #410-273-5320*) Clerk: Gil Jones

Class of 2024 Nancy Bounds, Carroll Fitzgerald, Gil Jones, Carol Troy

Class of 2025 Dave Yensan

Class of 2026 Sharon Moxley

Deacons: Moderator: Helen Farmer

Class of 2024 Steve Dunn, Marsha Gerdom, Eve Jacobs, Bill H. Loper

Class of 2025 BethAnn Cameron, Linda Dempsey, Helen Farmer, Rosi Yensan

Class of 2026 Sue Bissett, Yvonne Phillips, Peg Trimboli, Betty Umbarger

Trustees: Chair: Jim Farley

Class of 2024 Jim Farley, John Vecchio

Class of 2025 Dick Harrison, Mary Ann Magee

Class of 2026 Lambert Rickey, Scott Schubert