

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, November 19th, 2023 Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Church Fellowship News

Preparation for Worship

Awesome God, You created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with Your love. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from You. Open our hearts and spirits and let Your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to Your power and love, as we use the gifts with which You have blessed us. For we offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: How shall we enter the house of the Lord?

People: With songs of great praise and rejoicing!

Leader: How shall we prepare ourselves to receive His blessings?

People: With hearts, minds, and spirits that are open.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.

People: Let us offer our praise to God, who has redeemed us.

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

*Hymn #81 We Gather Together

Prayer of Confession (unison)

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

All: O God, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. Christ calls us stewards, but we squander Your gifts. He gives us tasks to perform, yet we do as we please. He sends us to minister on behalf of those suffering, but we are slow to respond until our own needs are met. He expects us to praise You in all that we do. Instead, we take all the credit for those things we do well. Forgive us and help us to be more obedient to Your calling. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Leader: Paul reminds us: “Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Therein lies our assurance of pardon.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Hymn #733** Gloria Patri

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

On the doorstep of Thanksgiving Day, let us make space for saying thank you to one another and to God. As we pass the peace this morning, find someone you would like to thank for their words or deeds or presence. Let us share this joy of fellowship with all those around us. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem Lord, Be Glorified Grove Choir

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

All: Holy Spirit, Your wisdom guides us deep into the mystery of Your truth. Speak to us today, that we might understand Your will and walk in Your ways. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Psalm 123 Pew Bible p. 966

New Testament Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Pew Bible p. 1840

Sermon A Saga Thief Rev. Dr. Hal Bennett

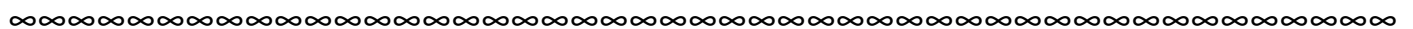
***Hymn #318** Jesus Comes With Clouds Descending

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn #721** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

***Charge and Benediction**

Asterisk (*) indicates stand, if able



Sanctuary Flowers: To the Glory of God’s blessings and thanks to those who generously give their time and service to Grove.

Liturgist: Dave Yensan

Ushers: 5

Attendance:

In-person last week: 55

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

Average 2023 online views per worship service: **34**

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

The Family of Bill Loper (the elder) upon his recent passing.

Pastor Hal's Aunt Ida Bryant - health concerns

Phyllis Matheson (Stephenie Dunn's mother), health concerns

Bev Pffingsten, health concerns

Scott Schubert, health concerns

June and Gene Soud, health concerns

Tom Trimboli (Peg's brother), health concerns

Denise Wenger, health concerns

ONGOING CONCERNS

Maxine Cialella

Carole Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

» Card shower for Phyllis Matheson (Stephenie Dunn's mother): please send a word of cheer or encouragement to Phyllis Matheson c/o The Dunn Family, 311 Edmund Street, Aberdeen MD 21001

» Save the date! Sounds of the Season will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m. You don't want to miss this celebration of Christmas joy!

» The 11th Annual Havre De Grace Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023 at the Havre de Grace Community Center at 100 Lagaret Lane. This year, the dinner will be served in-house (from 11:30 to 2 p.m.) and also available for delivery (from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.) or self pick-up (from 12 to 12:30 p.m.). The dinner is free for everyone. For additional information, to schedule a home delivery or to volunteer for this event, contact Don Osman at 410-939-5412 or 443-243-7593.

» The Thrift Shop will be closed on Wednesday, November 22, in preparation of Thanksgiving. It will reopen on Saturday, November 25.

»The Thrift Shop is extending opening holiday shopping hours to include Saturdays – Nov 25, Dec 2, 9 & 16 from 10a.m.–12p.m. The shop will be closed from Dec 21 and will reopen on January 8, 2024.

»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: Deacon Meeting on November 20 @ 6:00 in the Lounge!

Cupboard Visitors - November 15th: 30 Families - 33 bags - feeding 84 people

Cupboard Needs: Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables and Plastic Bags

*thank
you*

From the Deacons:

Many, many thanks to everyone who made the 2023 In-Gathering such a booming success!

Whether you....

Provided all the decorations, & centerpieces

Helped decorate and make kitchen preparations

Made the beautiful cutlery/napkin holders & provided the plates

Cut the pies and prepared them to serve

Made the meal preparations in the kitchen

Picked up the pies, chicken, potato salad and coleslaw

Served the meal

Decorated the Stage

Arranged the ENTIRE Talent Show

Delivered the carts of food across the parking lot

Performed in the Talent Show

Helped with the Clean-Up (ugh....what a job!)

Photographed the festivities....

Please know what a wonderful part you played in making the day such an enormous success!

Many thanks, much appreciation and lots of love to you all! What joy and pride in Grove Church!

Blessings to all!



Christmas Stockings



It's only November and we are busy thinking about our In-Gathering and the Thanksgiving Basket program; however, we all know Christmas is just around the corner!

Now is also the time for Grove's annual Christmas Stocking program to support the families in Harford Family House! What a generous gift from our congregation to these families in our neighborhood. Perhaps your family, friends, circle, or group would like to adopt an entire family or a child or two.

On Sunday, **November 26**, stockings and children's names will be available for pick-up in the narthex before or after church. Filled stockings will be collected in the narthex before church on **December 10**. As in the past, we ask that you spend no more than \$25.00 per stocking and limit to what will fit inside the stocking as this is to be "just a little extra" - NOT a whole Christmas for the children. As in the past, gift suggestions will be attached to each stocking. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Dempsey (703-725-5859) or Eve Jacobs at (410-688-2106).

Once again, we look forward to the fun and enthusiasm generated by the way we know our congregation will respond to this wonderful project!

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 Gerdorn, 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