

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.

The Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2025

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Church Fellowship News

Preparation for Worship

O God of light and peace, whose glory, still draws the nations to Yourself: dispel the darkness that hides our path. We come now to kneel before Christ in true worship. We would offer Him our hearts and souls, live as He has taught. Amen.

*Call to Worship

L: Bright Morning Star, Your light has come!

P: The birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy!

L: Like the magi of long ago, may we be drawn to You.

All: Guide us ever with Your light as we come to worship.

*Hymn #231 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. In Jesus, our light has come. But we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins. Remove the covering of darkness which clouds our lives. Help us to always recognize Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

Silent Time of Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: though our sins are many, Jesus shines the light of His love upon us.

P: Jesus, the Light of the world, leads us out of darkness. Through Him we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem

Jesus, Teach Me

Grove Choir

Prayer for Illumination

God of never-ending light, open our eyes as You illuminate our darkness with Your Holy Word. Give us courage to walk in Your light, where there is no darkness at all. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Pew Bible p. 1225

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pew Bible p. 1817

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

Pew Bible p. 1645

Sermon

Rejection

Rev. Dr. Hal Bennett

***Hymn #236** As With Gladness (verses 1 through 3)

***Call for the Offering**

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Dedication of the Offering**

***The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You are the Divine Spark who has entered our lives. You have broken into our hardened hearts with Your light of love. For that, we shall always be grateful. Be born in us today. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after the Lord's Supper

God of Light and Love, we cherish this table. Through this meal, You have warmed our hearts. May the comfort in our hearts create a welcoming place for our neighbors. With gratitude, we go forth to kindle Your love in a world wherever You lead us. Amen.

***Hymn #335** Christ, the Eternal Lord (verses 1, 2 and 4)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude Lead Me, Guide Me

Asterisk (*) indicates stand, if able



Liturgist: Helen Farmer

Ushers: 4

Attendance:

In-person last week: 29

186 Unique, in-person people in worship in 2024.

Average 2024 online views per worship service: **72**

PRAYER LIST

PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Bennett, health concern
Robin Brown (Etta's sister), health concerns
Bruce Gerdom, health concerns
Lisa Gray, health concerns
Richard Harrison, health concerns
Barbara Hindman, health concerns
Sam and Rose Preston, family concerns
Scott Schubert, health concerns
Tom Trimboli (Peg's brother), health concerns

ONGOING CONCERNS

Maxine Cialella
Jon and Mary-Lynne Livezey
Carole Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

»Grove is using a “hybrid” option for the **Lord's Supper** with both pre-packaged elements and “regular” bread and juice. The pre-packaged elements will be available when the bread is passed, for those desiring that option.

»There will be a **Congregational Meeting** following the worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2025 for the purpose of presenting the annual budget and ministry reports to the Congregation, to vote on the terms of call for Dr. Bennett, and any other business properly coming before the Congregation, by order of the Session, Gil Jones, Clerk, and the Rev. Dr. Harold J. Bennett II, Moderator.

»**Bible Study 2025 - February Lenten Study at Noon during the week!**

Pastor Hal is inviting everyone at Grove to call the office at 410-272-0896 and leave their preference for the day of the week (Monday through Thursday) they would be able to attend the study.

»**Pulpit Flowers in 2025:** A new pulpit flower chart has been posted in the Narthex on the wall behind the Children's Worship Bags. The suggested contribution remains at \$30 for a flower dedication.

»**Please note the following change for pulpit flowers in 2025:** during the months of January through March, artificial arrangements will be used when there is a flower dedication, unless the member of the congregation making the dedication purchases fresh flowers at their own expense and brings them in. The dramatic rise in costs for commercially-grown flowers (alongside poorer quality) has made this change necessary.

When artificial flowers are used in the colder months, contributions for flower dedications will go towards the general flower fund (used to purchase flowers at Easter, Christmas, etc.).

Locally-grown, fresh flowers will be procured by the Worship Committee for flower dedications during the months of April through November. The Worship Committee will provide poinsettias in December.

To sign up for a flower dedication, please use the chart in the Narthex to select one or more Sundays when you would like to have flowers dedicated in memory of a loved one or to recognize other special occasions. You can place the flower contribution in the offering plate - make sure "flower dedication" is noted on the envelope. Dave Yensan is the point of contact for any questions. Thank you.

»DEACONS: Remember today is the 1st Sunday and the loose plate collection will help support the missions of the Deacons!

Cupboard Needs: *Cereal, Peanut Butter and Jelly*

Emergency Winter Shelter

Harford County Hope for the Homeless Alliance
Providing meals to homeless families being housed in the
Days Inn, Aberdeen, during the Winter months!

Our Grove Presbyterian (through the Deacons) will be joining the Alliance –
Preparing, packing, and delivering dinners & additional foods
On Friday, January 31, 2025

You, the congregation, are invited to join in the effort to provide for this dire need in our community! Donations will be accepted (during January) to add to each bag being delivered to the individual family members on:

January 5, 12, 19, 26 - Bins in the Narthex!

Suggested items:

Individually wrapped snacks: Granola Bars, Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers, Trail Mix, Snacks, Cookies – etc!

Individual Servings: Applesauce, fruit, juices, raisins, Easy Macs, etc!

In advance, Many thanks for your help AND your prayers
during this cold Winter season!

What's Happening at Grove this week:

Monday, Jan. 6: Thrift Shop open, 10 until noon

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Thrift Shop open, 10 until noon

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Deacon's Food Cupboard, 7 to 8 p.m. (Monroe Building)

Thursday, Jan. 9: Choir Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Church Officers

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

Class of 2025 Sally Holmes, Dave Yensan

Class of 2026 Jim Hall, Sharon Moxley

Class of 2027 Gil Jones

Deacons: Moderator: Helen Farmer

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

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

Class of 2027 Stephenie Dunn, Steve Dunn, Eve Jacobs

Trustees: Chair: Lambert Rickey

Class of 2025 Dick Harrison, Bill Loper


Class of 2026 Lambert Rickey, Scott Schubert

Class of 2027 Carlla Jones

**HISTORICAL
TURNING POINT**
A Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service
Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County (UUFHC) at
2515 Churchville Rd, Churchville, MD 21028

The Progress of the Reconstruction Era

*U.S. Senator from Illinois,
Lyman Trumbull,
who introduced the
Civil Rights Act of 1866.*




When: Saturday, Jan. 11
Time: 11:30AM to 1:30PM
Refreshments included

**Format: Come in person or
Zoom in at UUFHC.net**

**Contact: Marla Posey-Moss
mpm_thinks@msn.com
410-746-2746**

*The first African-American
Congressmembers of the
41st and 42nd Congress*



**Family program where you
will learn about:**

- The Civil Rights Act of 1866**
- The African-American
Members of Congress**
- How Public Education
was Established**
- The Importance of
Birthright Citizenship**

THE FIRST COLORED SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES,
In the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States.