

Grace Presbyterian Church

December 21, 2025

Advent 4

9:30 am



May God
bless you with
courage
as you seek the
YES
within you.

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf



We Gather

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,
races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
beliefs,
and those who are cognitively
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,
**each one engaged in ministry,
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,
and embodying God's love for the world.**

PRELUDE

Call to Worship (inspired by Isaiah 5, Psalm 80)

Long ago a vineyard was planted.

The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.

**But the vines grew wild,
the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.**

What happened in that place of promise?

People forgot the One who planted the vineyard.

They chose their own ways and failed.

Let us turn again to the Lord,

who plants, prunes, and causes us to grow in
faithfulness.

**Let us open our hearts to God,
trusting in God's ways and God's word.**

~ from the Worship Connection page of the Ministry Matters website.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We light four candles for the four corners of the earth:
Everything to the north, and the south,
Everything to the east, and the west.

We light these candles remembering that love creates
and transforms.

We light four candles to say YES to the invitation to love,
To care for the good earth without which we cannot
survive, to till the earth and protect it, and work to bear
good fruit.

Lord God,

**Like Joseph, give us tender and open hearts,
ready to do your will,**

**to care for those drawn into our lives by promises
and circumstances.**

**Help us to see where our hopes and dreams fit with
your plans,**

**where love can transform sorrow into joy and
despair into peace, our longing into fulfillment**

Amen.

*Hymn #107 "Awake! Awake, and Great the New Morn"

Call to Confession

Let us prepare our hearts and lives to welcome the One
who brings forgiveness and love. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

**When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God,
our lives reflect your kingdom values
of justice and righteousness,**

**but sometimes our lives become so entangled with
the values of the world,
that your values take second place.**

**Forgive us, O God,
and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit,
source of power and life.**

**Merciful God,
strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents
our lives being firmly rooted in you.
May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you,
as we watch and wait for your breaking into our
world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our
Lord and Saviour.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Behold and believe in the wondrous power of God's love
to restore the earth and its people!

Let us live as people restored to the right relationship
with God, and all creation through Jesus Christ.

**We rejoice in the good news,
of God's plan for our salvation,
and the restoration of all creation.**

Song of Response to the Good News of Forgiveness
#95 "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (3X, remain seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Faithful God,

As you chose Joseph, a righteous man,
to accompany Mary,
to shelter and protect Jesus.
Now fill us with grace and courage,
that with him,
we may understand your ways,
rejoice in your salvation,
and embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading from the Isaiah 11:1-5

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

*Hymn #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs 1,4,6,7

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

God of every good gift,

We offer what we have back to you,
knowing that your son
is the greatest gift we will ever receive.
Grant us glad and generous hearts,
ever and always, Amen.

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent

Hymn #100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

*Charge and Benediction

God is soaked
in our world.
God's Spirit
lives and breathes
in and through
all that is.

We are lost
only when we
do not understand
that God
is already with

and in
each one of us.

Our task is recognition
of God's initiative
to be at home in us—
acceptance
of God-With-Us.

Then we cannot but
be glad.

~ written by Edwina Gateley in There Was No Path So I Trod One (1996, 2013).

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)

POSTLUDE

***Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594

The Week Ahead at Grace Presbyterian Church: Dec. 21-Dec. 28

For additional information, call the church office or ask an usher!

Sun. Dec. 21	9:30 am Sunday Service/Advent 4 10:30 am Fellowship
Mon. Dec. 22	9:00 am Jazzercise 7:00 pm Yoga
Tues. Dec. 23	9:30 am Iyengar Yoga 6:00 pm Jazzercise
Wed. Dec. 24	9:00 am Jazzercise 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thur. Dec. 25	9:30 am Christmas Day Service-Communion
Fri. Dec. 26	9:30 am Restorative Yoga Church Office Closed
Sat. Dec. 27	8:30 am Jazzercise 8:45 am Iyengar Yoga
Sun. Dec. 28	9:30 am Sunday Service - Pageant 10:30 am Fellowship

Vision Statement

We are an open and affirming congregation. We genuinely welcome people of all ages, race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose, each one engaged in ministry, seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship, and embodying God's love for the world.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent 4 (December 21) “Joseph Said Yes” Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve 7pm (December 24) “Shepherds Said Yes”

Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day 9:30am (December 25) Communion “God Says Yes”

John 1:1-1

Christmas 1 (December 28) “Do It Yourself Pageant “

Epiphany (January 4, 2026) “The Wise Ones Said Yes” Matthew

2:1-12 communion

Baptism of the Lord (January 11, 2026) “Jesus says Yes!” Matthew

3:13-17

Women’s Bible Study

Mark Your Calendar:

January 7, 2026 - 12:00 pm - First Wednesday of the Month

We will be studying and discussing:

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Pick up a book from Pastor Debbie

South Brunswick Food Bank Items Needed:

Ground coffee - Jelly - Chef Boyardee, or any canned pasta
Crushed tomatoes - Pancake mix - Syrup Spaghetti, and any boxed pasta
Paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, Boxed milk such as Parmalat -
Canned tuna. Please bring the item(s) to the church and put it in the cart by the
front door. If you have any questions contact Lee - mrsp52@comcast.net



Come join us this holy season to remember and celebrate.

Christmas Eve 7pm (December 24) "Shepherds Said Yes"
A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Day 9:30am (December 25) "God Says Yes" John 1:1-1
Morning worship with communion.

Christmas 1 (December 28) "Do It Yourself Pageant "
Everyone is invited to participate in retelling the Christmas story.

Epiphany (January 4, 2026) "The Wise Ones Said Yes" Matthew 2:1-12
Receive a star with a word to focus on in the new year.

Baptism of the Lord (January 11, 2026) "Jesus says Yes!"
Matthew 3:13-17, Renewal of Baptism

Grace Presbyterian Church
57 Sand Hills Rd., Kendall Park, NJ
732-297-9182

Grace Presbyterian Church

presents



GRACE FOR DINNER

A **FREE MEAL** for anyone facing food insecurity. If you are a neighbor in need, please come to our table. All are welcome. Guests can also **choose 2 bags of groceries**. *Doors open at 4:00pm*

Saturday, January 10th from 4:00-5:30pm

57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Park, NJ

732-297-9182

Email: office@gracepcsb.org Website: gracepcsb.org

Order meals by Monday Jan. 5th

Call or email with name, phone number, number of meals needed and number of children under 18.

One meal per person- Choice of:

1: Spaghetti and Meatballs

2: Eggplant Parmagiana

Meals prepared by **Confectionately Yours**, Franklin Park

Let us know if you have transportation limits; we may be able to arrange delivery. If you are unable to pre-order, any remaining meals will be given out starting at 5:15pm.

Look Who's Serving

	December 21	December 28	January 4	January 11
Liturgist	Lee Piotrowski	Amy Miller	Carol Thomson	Lee Piotrowski
Usher	Evelyn Savage	Laura Taff	Amy Miller	Judianne Brown
Zoom	Maryann Rappa	Janice Royer	Gabi Quaely	Peter Godinez
Worship Leader	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton
Advent Wreath	Wellness Center			
Coffee Hour	Sandy Chmielewski	Gabi Quaely	Sandy Chmielewski	Janice Royer
Children's Corner	The Elieffs			
Counters	Fran Trischetta Carol Thomson	Laura Taff Lee Piotrowski	Mike Royer Dottie Pickell	Fran Trischetta Carol Thomson
Musician	Ray Nugent	Ray Nugent	Spenser Gallo	Vince DiMura
Open/Close	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor Debbie - Debbie is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. Works off site on Friday. She can best be reached by email pastordebpaton@gmail.com or cell phone 630-886-6785. Please honor Monday as her sabbath by only calling if it is an emergency.

Vince Di Mura - Music Director

Church Office - The church office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 4. If you have an emergency contact Pastor Debbie - 630-886-6785.

NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT?

- ❖ Questions about donations - Contact **Al Goddard**
- ❖ Questions about the children's ministry - contact **Nancy Varga**
nmvarga2011@comcast.net
- ❖ Questions about the Deacons - contact **Kathie Scott**
kathiemscott@icloud.com
- ❖ Have a prayer request? - contact **Tami Aug** tamaraaug@gmail.com
- ❖ Put an announcement in the bulletin? tell the **church office by Wednesday.**
office@gracepcsb.org
- ❖ Put an article in the newsletter? Maryann Rappa office@gracepcsb.org
- ❖ Want to get involved? **Contact an elder.**

Questions about **Finance or Personnel** - Rob Aug; **Hospitality** - Janice Royer, **Outreach** - Donna Keller; **Preschool** - Nancy Varga, Carol Thomson; **Property** - Jim Elieff, Mike Royer; **Worship** -Dottie Pickell; **Stewardship** - Rob Aug; **Christian Ed.** - Nancy Varga; **Wellness** Irene Carman; **Clerk of Session** - Peter Godinez

Elders - Rob Aug, Irene Carman, Jim Elieff, Peter Godinez, Donna Keller, Dottie Pickell, Janice Royer, Mike Royer, Nancy Varga

Deacons - Tami Aug, Gloria Bernard, Judianne Brown, Vilija Casey, Barbara Elieff, Amy Miller, Gabi Quaely, Kathie Scott

USERS' GUIDE

- **Welcome!** If you are visiting, please sign our guest book on the table in the hall before entering the worship space.
- If you have a **prayer request**, fill out a blue *prayer request card* (the other side of the welcome card) and put it on the offering plate.
- **Restrooms** are on the fellowship hall side of the sanctuary.

More information?

Grace Presbyterian Church- 57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Pk, NJ 08824 Phone number- 732-297-9182 email us at - office@gracepcsb.org - Visit our website: www.gracepcsb.org - Or check us out on Facebook!