

the SPIRE

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills

October 2026





“Storing Up Treasures in Heaven”

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Matthew 6:20a (NASB)

It's October and you know what season it is... Pumpkin Spice! Goodness me. It seems that there's Pumpkin Spice everywhere. There are even ads for Pumpkin Spice Motor Oil. I mean, I like Pumpkin Spice as much as the next person, but perhaps we're taking it a bit too far. But enough about Pumpkin Spice, it's Stewardship Season! During this time of year, we often hear the verse quoted above: *“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”* This verse is often followed by a phrase something like: *“Let's invest in the Kingdom of God.”* And – to the person saying that – it usually means, *“Let's give generously to the church.”* It's important for us to ask the question, *“What investments are eternal?”* And *“How is my giving to the church ‘storing up treasures in heaven?’”*

The story is told of a man who negotiated with God to bring his earthly wealth with him to heaven. When he died, he brought 5 tractor trailers filled with gold bars. St. Peter met him at the gates of heaven and asked, “What do you have there?” The man replied, “I negotiated with God and He said I could bring as much gold with me as I could carry.” St. Peter burst out laughing and exclaimed, “Pavement?!? You brought pavement?!?!?”

What we hold valuable here on earth is not so valuable in heaven. We need to ask ourselves what is of eternal value and how does the local church contribute to our eternal savings account. What lasts forever? The first investment that lasts forever is God. God is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; who is and who was and who is to come. God is eternal. God is infinite. The local church contributes to this investment by providing opportunities to know God the Father, to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our relationship with God begins here on earth and lasts for all eternity.

The second investment that lasts forever is God's word. In his first epistle, Peter quotes from Isaiah 40: *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God will stand forever.”* When tempted by the devil, Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy: “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” God's word lasts forever! For this reason, it's important to support a church that preaches and teaches God's word. As we learn God's word and as we teach God's word, we are investing in eternity.

A third investment that lasts forever is our good works (I know, I know, that's bad grammar; don't hate me). In Revelation 14:13 we read, *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."* In other words, our good deeds and acts of service follow us into heaven. The local church provides opportunities to serve our Lord, the church and the community. These good deeds and acts of service are eternal.

A fourth investment in eternity is people. I don't know about you, but when I am in heaven, I want everyone that I know and love with me in heaven. I can't imagine the idea of arriving in heaven only to find out that any of my close family and friends are not there. In Luke 16, Jesus tells the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. In it the rich man is calling from Hades to Abraham in heaven asking for some crumbs to eat and water to drink. But Abraham replies, *"Between us there is a great chasm"* that cannot be crossed. I don't want to be separated from my loved ones.

For this reason, it's important to invest in a church that regularly proclaims the gospel and encourages people to put their faith in Jesus Christ. Not everyone is comfortable to share the gospel. Many people feel like they're unprepared to share their faith and they feel like they don't know how to do it well enough. But everyone can invite friends and family to a church that proclaims the gospel. And so, your investment in First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills is an investment in the gospel of Jesus Christ and in the lives of those whom you love. It's important for us to know the mission of the church and to seek to fulfill that mission in our individual lives, in the life of our church family and in our local community. And when we support the work of the local church, we are, in fact, investing in eternity, *"where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in or steal."*

During the Sundays of October, I'll be doing a Stewardship Series based on a great little book titled, *"The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving."* I have a few copies of this book in my office, if you would like one. Just ask! I'm looking forward to this series. And I'm looking forward to seeing you in church!

I remain yours in Christ's Love & Service,

Lance

SUNDAYS

10.04 World Communion Sunday

Sermon Title: *"Racism in the Early Church"*

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7

Feature: Birthdays and Anniversaries; Flags
representing our members;

International Potluck following worship; Communion by
Distribution

10.18 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sermon Title: *"Just Passing Through"*

Scripture: Psalm 90:12; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Feature: Communion by Intinction

10.25 Reformation Sunday

Sermon Title: *"Roadblocks to Giving"*

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; Luke 12:15-21

2026 Stewardship Series

"Storing Up Treasure in Heaven"

10.11 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon Title: *"It All Belongs to God"*

Scripture: Psalm 24; James 1:16-18; Matthew
25:14-30

Report on the Name Change: Christ in the Valley

On August 10, 1947, Granada Hills Memorial Church (Community Presbyterian) was founded. There were 46 people in attendance that day. In 1954, the Rev. Dr. John P. Lee was called to pastor this church. In his first year the name of the church was changed. The session minutes read: *"It was moved, seconded and lost that the name in the By-laws be 'Granada Hills Presbyterian Church.' It was then moved, seconded and carried that the name of the church be 'First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills.'"* That name has remained for over 70 years.

In 2023, the Rev. Dr. Lance E. Allen was called to pastor this church. Within the first year of his ministry, the session elders began discussing a possible name change. While the elders appreciated the fact that the name was meaningful to the members of the church, they also recognized that it was confusing to the average person outside of the church. And there was great concern that church membership was in decline.

After months of conversations with church members and prayerful discussions with each other, the session voted in favor of a name change. We brainstormed on possible names. Nothing was off-the-table. At its peak, there were probably 50 possibilities on the list. Some were removed almost immediately because there were congregations close by that already had the name. The list went to about 35. And then the elders prayerfully discussed the pros and cons of each name. Over time the session voted to about 12. And then, at the beginning of this last summer, the session narrowed the field to three: Christ First Church, Harmony Christian Church and Christ in the Valley.

The elders voted to not make this decision a vote of the entire congregation because the entire congregation had not participated in all the discussions. Rather, the session voted to make the three names known to the congregation and then ask members to share their opinions with the elders. Interestingly, when the elders came back to the session meeting, there was a fairly even split between the three names.

At the September meeting of the session, the elders voted on the new name. This decision was not made lightly. We prayed that God's Spirit would lead us. We opened our hearts and minds to God's Spirit. We prayed for God's will to be done, not our own. And then we discussed each of the three names. Elders shared what they had heard. Elders shared their personal opinions. Concerns were raised about names.

At one point, one of the elders said something like, "I don't know where I heard it, but I like the idea that 'Christ in the Valley' represents our location, but it also represents the idea that Jesus is with us when we're in the valleys of our own lives." There was an audible gasp from another elder, "I hadn't thought of it like that before!" We talked a little more, prayed again, and then took a paper ballot vote.

The vote was nearly three quarters for "Christ in the Valley." After the vote, several who voted for another name, said, "Yeah, I'm good with that." Once the vote was taken, we prayed again, giving thanks to God for His guidance. Honestly, I had a different name in mind. But during the meeting, I began to feel confident that Christ in the Valley was the right choice. I feel good!

So, what's next?

This process will take some time. We hope to "make it official" on January 1, 2027.

We need to file a "DBA" (Doing Business As) with the State of California. That means our official, legal name will remain First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills, but we will be "doing business as" Christ in the Valley.

After making the changes with the State, we'll need to make similar changes with our banks. And don't worry! We'll accept checks written to either First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills or Christ in the Valley (but wait until January 1st for Christ in the Valley).

We'll need to change our sign out front, get a new logo, and change letterhead and business cards. We've already secured the domain name: christinthevalley.org. And now, we'll need to start building a new, updated website. We'll also need to secure new social media pages. So, it'll take a little time to do all of these things.

In the end, we're focusing ourselves on Jesus Christ and recognizing that He is with us in all seasons of our lives, including the valleys. And we will seek to be a light shining God's love and compassion to those in need here in the San Fernando Valley.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Nov. 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

To discuss concerns over decisions made by the PCUSA General Assembly

Following the last national meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly (GA) this summer, several members requested a meeting to discuss some of the decisions made. Rather than meet separately and say the same thing over and over again, I invited concerned members to meet with me as a group. On Wednesday, August 5, 2026, I met with these members and heard their concerns.

One of the concerns these members had was the belief that many members of our congregation are unaware of GA decisions. Several of them came to the September session meeting of elders and requested a Town Hall Meeting for our church family to discuss the decisions of GA and voice their opinions. The elders agreed with this idea and voted to hold a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

A quick synopsis of some of the resolutions can be found below. The Presbyterian Outlook breakdown of the GA is also included in The Spire. At the end of this article there are links to the GA website to read about the resolutions in detail. Just copy the link, go to your web search engine and paste the link and click on it.

Some of the resolutions of concern include **GEN-02**, which resolves that all individuals, including minors under the age of 18, who question their gender are to have access to “medically necessary, evidence-based, gender-affirming healthcare.” Several of our members who are teachers or retired teachers feel the idea of “gender-affirming healthcare,” which may or may not include surgeries for minors, is developmentally unsound. This resolution created the greatest amount of concern for many of our members.

GEN-08 resolves to produce a self-audit guide to be used across the PCUSA for adopting an intersectional worldview as to inclusion of LGBTQ+ theory and individuals in the religious life down to the congregational level. This resolution adopts a belief that all persons have multiple identities, including multiple gender identities. Our members are concerned that the GA focuses on culture rather than scripture as a defining truth.

RIW-10 affirms the Kairos Palestine II document declaring that a “genocide” is being conducted in Palestine and a call that all land in the territory of Israel should be returned to Palestinian control. This question, of course, is very complicated and probably deserves further study, but the idea that the GA took a side without further study seems reckless.

RUS-13 calls for lobbying the Congress of the USA and other public officials to check Executive actions by means up through impeachment of the President of the United States. The concern here is that church members across the United States have widely differing opinions when it comes to politics and politicians. For the denomination to take a stand on one side seems careless. The members gathered on August 5th were concerned that the denomination is focused on changing the government rather than proclaiming the gospel.

CLJ-02 resolves to disinvest in fossil fuel companies and support Green New Deal/Net Zero investment and advocacy. While all members care for our planet, there is concern about the environmental impact of renewable energy might cause: solar panels and electric batteries, for example.

The goal of our Town Hall Meeting is to educate ourselves to know what is happening in the governing bodies above the local congregation and to ask how well these decisions reflect the opinions of our congregation. We’d love to hear from you!

In Christ's love & service,

Rev. Dr. Lance E. Allen

GA 227 Select Resolutions of Potential Concern or Controversy:

Gen-02 - Find at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001421>

Gen-08 - Find at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001486>

RIW-10 - Find at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001607>

RUS-13 - Find at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001616>

CLJ-02 - Find at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001446>

All of these and other GA 227 Resolutions may be reviewed at: <https://myga.pc-biz.org/>

From the PCUSA General Assembly:

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also approved full, in-person assemblies, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a balanced \$188.4 million unified budget for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL & W) and the A Corporation for the 2027–2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and established PL&W and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the Israeli government has violated international law prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

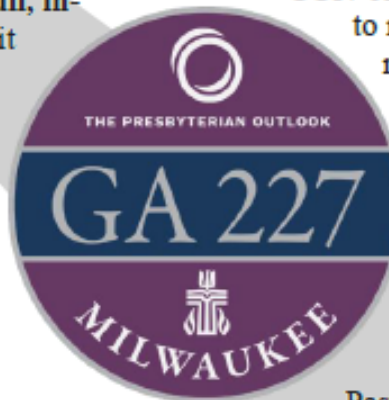
Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments, citing related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development



of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging," seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)'s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, "Changing Course for a Green Future," directing divestment from more than 50 companies by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies "a theological error" incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations strengthening the denomination's

anti-racism work, including RAC-04, "The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race," directing "PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ..."

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the "Resolution on Liberia Project 180," explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes modernizing preparation for ministry while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue considering a new confession. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):

Visit our website: pres-outlook.org

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Bluesky: [@presoutlook.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/presoutlook.bsky.social)



PICTURES FROM CONNECT SUNDAY



INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

October 4! Join us after the service in Lee Hall for our International Potluck! Bring a dish from your culture!

DINNERS OF 8

November 14! Sign up for lunch or dinner options on the patio or at fpcgh.org/family

FALL FAMILY FEST

Save the date! Friday, October 30!

Happy Fall Everyone,

Fall Family Festival is shaking things up this year, we are joining forces with Granada Preparatory School (GPS). There will be a Trick or Treat Lane, carnival type games, music, photo ops, and food. The event has flexibility to volunteer and enjoy. It will run from 3 to 7pm. One of our main features is a Dunk Tank. Pastor Lance and Mr. Mike Brown(Head of School) have graciously volunteered to be dunk-ees in the Dunk Tank.

Volunteering is flexible:

Right now:

Donate Candy!!!! Donate Candy!!!! Donate Candy!!!! Take advantage of sales and Big Box Store bags of individually wrapped candy. ANY kind will be greatly appreciated. Last year we used all of it and went to the store twice. We had 200 show up. We are reaching out to the community more and more.

Speaking of reaching the community: Please take a walk around your neighborhood with a stack of ½ sheet flyers and place them on doorsteps or doors just like a relator. Pass out 10, 20, or 30 of them. Depends on how long of a walk you want or how big your block or apartment complex is.

Day of the event: Choose a time slot or the whole time.

From 11 to 3:

Set-up kitchen, booths, glow room

From 3 to 7pm:

Trick or Treat Lane door sitter,

Carnival Booth attendant,

Kitchen has different positions: Themed Home baked goods, portion cuppers, organizers, runners, simple cooks, cafeteria style serving.

Glow Room has a drink station, a craft, games, and dance floor.

From 7 to 9pm: Clean-up.

After the event: Dates and time are flexible, let me know if you are available Juliana@fpcgh.org.

I'll need a few persons to sort, pack, and move everything back to the bins.

COME AND JOIN
GRANADA PREPARATORY SCHOOL & FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRANADA HILLS
FOR A NIGHT OF FOOD, GAMES, TRICK OR TREAT LANE AND COMMUNITY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 @3PM-7PM

SPONSORED BY:



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF GRANADA HILLS



Granada
Preparatory
School

FALL FAMILY FEST!

A COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORED BY GPS & FPCGH

10400 ZELZAH AVE PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Save the Date! Learn about the November Ballot Measures

Join us on October 18, 3:00 pm, Lee Hall, for a presentation on state and county measures on the November ballot. Community Concerns has arranged for the League of Women Voters to provide their **non-partisan** information about the measures along with the pro's and con's. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to get informed before you vote on Tuesday, November 3! Invite friends!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

So, Ladies, if you haven't signed up for Women's Retreat yet, you may still have time. Our final count and payment has to be in by Sunday October 4th. We will be emailing you with all the instructions by the end of that week!

The date is October 23-25 at the Poverello of Assisi Retreat House in San Fernando. Our guest speaker is Rev. Christina Chambers flying in from Washington DC and bringing us messages about "Faith Like a Child"-what that means and why that is encouraged by God. We'll be offering many different and fun activities (maybe some you haven't done since your childhood) as well as time for you to just meet with God in a serene setting.

We have a limited number of spaces so place your reservation with your \$50.00 deposit starting September 1st online and September 6th at the table on the patio. All remaining monies will be due by October 4th.

Cost is \$285.00 for a private room \$265.00 for a shared room (includes 5 meals and all linens), and \$120.00 for those coming only on Saturday (8:00-8:00 includes 3 meals)

Don't miss out on this incredible, wonderful weekend to meet God, slow down, and connect with other women.



Women's Fall Retreat
Faith like a Child
October 23 -October 25
with Rev. Christina Chambers
at the Poverello of Assisi Retreat
House in San Fernando

Spiritual Retreat

Pastor Niki Rodas

How Do You Care for Your Soul?

Self Care is big business these days. It is the idea that we need to take time and invest in caring for ourselves, our individual person. This usually focuses on physical health and mental health. Many, if not all of us, have participated in some form of self care over the years. We take care of our bodies, our physical selves, with fitness/exercise, annual physicals, healthy eating, massages, facials, and pedicures, etc. We also take care of our minds and our mental health by seeking counseling/therapy, practicing mindfulness, taking a break from stress whether in the form of vacation or just a mental health day, or simply doing something we enjoy. We assess our feelings and try to eliminate or at least reduce the stress in our lives. But how often do we consider our souls? Do we even remember that we have a soul?

Scripture tells us that it is an essential part of who we are as people. This is evidenced in Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your **soul**, and with all your might." So how do you care for your spiritual health, that part of you that is your soul? One way to do so is to attend a spiritual retreat. We will be having an Autumnal Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, November 7 from 9am to noon in Hampton Lounge. Our theme will be 'Caring for Our Souls'. If you are interested in attending, please contact me (Pastor Niki) via email, and I will sign you up for this soul refreshing experience. There will be a teaching time, a sharing time, and a time to reflect and contemplate with the Lord. I look forward to seeing you there.

SENIOR SINGLES

The Seniors will be meeting on October 7 at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats. We will thank Fadi for all that he does. In addition we will be writing holiday cards for our servicemen thanking them for their service.

On October 25 we will be celebrating Halloween with a potluck supper and holiday activities. Bring something to share and join in the fun.

For more information contact Linda Beaumaster at 818-363-0474.

FROM DR. GARY VENTIMIGLIA

I was reading and the author moved into a unique comparison of Jesus and Pilate. It moved me so much I decided to share it with you. It is from the book, "Postcards From Babylon: the Church in American Exile," by Brian Zahed:

"Pontus Pilate arrived in Jerusalem. Pilot ordinarily lived in the Roman city of Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast. But during the Passover, the governor of Judea needed to be in Jerusalem to keep order. Passover — a holiday commemorating Israel's liberation from a foreign empire — was the time when revolts against Roman rule could erupt, and frequently did... so the governor made the 75 mile journey to Jerusalem. Coming from Caesarea, Pilot entered the city from the west, riding a horse at the head of the imperial Calvary. The Roman governor's entrance into Jerusalem, was essentially a military parade... to intimidate any would be revolutionaries."

"that same week, Jesus approached Jerusalem from the east, coming up to the holy city from Jericho, accompanied by his 12 disciples and a crowd of Passover pilgrims from Galilee, who believed that Jesus was their long awaited Messiah. This year they came to Jerusalem, not only to keep the Passover, but with the anticipation that Jesus would be crowned king of the Jews, launching the revolution that would at last overthrow Rome and usher in the kingdom of God... He sent two disciples to obtain a donkey's colt... Jesus would ride a donkey into Jerusalem, deliberately acting out the ancient poem of Zachariah. Jesus enters into Jerusalem from the opposite direction and in the Opposite Manner that Pilate entered the city. Instead of riding on a powerful war-horse like Pilate, Jesus rides... a donkeys colt... a ridiculous sight as Jesus rides a donkey... so small that His feet drag the ground! Jesus's triumphal entry was the anti-military parade. It was a mockery of Rome's intimidating show of military power.... but this was a real triumphal entry — the arrival of Israel's true king. This is clearly how the Galilean pilgrims understood it."

Two ways of getting where you want to go!

RACHEL DUNNE ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Looking Ahead!

Is it too early to be thinking about Christmas? Maybe.....but it's not too early to think about the Rachel Dunne Adopt-a-Family program! Deacons are again organizing this annual effort to provide gifts for families in our local communities who face a bleak Christmas. Families in need are identified through local schools and we need your help in making their Christmas brighter. Join with others in your small group, fellow workers, family, or other groups to adopt one child or an entire family. If it's easier you can just donate funds and we'll do the shopping. Look for our table on the patio after Sunday services. We'll be taking sign-ups beginning November 1 and will continue through the month of November. We will be receiving gifts through Sunday, December 6. Be a light for Jesus by helping those in need at Christmas time! For further information, contact Mary Lou Pennington at bopsbest@gmail.com or (818)383-7969.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come help decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 28

Music Ministry

Music Ministry is back in action! Last month, we got back to our regular rehearsals with Handbells and Choir, and our Fall Choir Retreat got us all together to sing praise in the hills. The Kids Chorus sang to celebrate their first day back, and now they're rehearsing each week with Sophia!

Now that we're back in session for the Fall season, we are looking forward to bringing musical appreciation and elucidation of God's work in worship. We've already begun preparing for our annual Christmas Concert on December 13th, and we hope to see all of you there. We'll celebrate the telling of the Christmas Story in full with musical interludes that culminate in a brand-new piece I am writing called "What Have We Learned?" that I hope will inspire all in attendance to take the joy and love we learned from Jesus and share it with the world.

If you weren't able to join the Choir Retreat, you can still come join us! Anyone in the congregation or the community is welcome to join the handbells and/or choir for one of our Thursday night rehearsals at 6 PM and 7 PM, respectively. We would love to show you the ropes and have you join the song 😊

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Fall and Winter events, and make a joyful noise!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Grace and Peace!

One in Christ had a wonderful September!

We explored a series called *Unbound: Experiencing Life & Freedom in Christ* by Matt McDermott, in which he describes the various ways we stay stuck in our grave clothes (sin) and how, through Jesus, we can shed those clothes for new ones that reflect His love and righteousness.

Next, we enjoyed a fun movie night in the youth room together. We watched *Soul Surfer* while enjoying a legit mini-AMC concession stand! It was a great time hanging out together.

This month, we will be returning to an activity that our Youth loved the first time we did it: escape rooms! On **October 18**, after church, we will all be meeting at **Escapology at 12pm NOON** for an hour escape room and after that, we will hop over to a restaurant in the Northridge Fashion Center plaza (probably Red Robin) to enjoy **lunch together!** The event ends at **2:30pm**. The escape room costs **\$49.99**. For this activity, Youth Ministries cannot provide scholarships but will be providing lunch for all students.

Homecoming Game Fundraiser

Friday, October 23/ 5:30pm – 8:00pm. Help raise money for student scholarships! **GHCHS's Homecoming Game** is coming up! For **\$10.00/spot**, we're selling parking spots to GHCHS students. This is a much smaller version of our Graduation PLF in May. **We will still need student volunteers.** Maggie can sign off on community service hours as well, if desired. Also, if you know any GHCHS students, please let them know about our parking for the game! We look forward to seeing our students there!

Winter Camp

Friday, January 15 – Sunday, January 17. Great news!!! We are returning to Camp Pondo, per many of our students' requests!!! Come with us to the Big Bear/Lake Arrowhead mountains to hear the word of God and a powerful, encouraging message. Grow closer to Jesus and rejuvenate your faith! Activities include zip-lining, an art shop, hiking, a giant swing and more! The cost is **\$299.00** per student. Scholarships available per request. Start praying for snow now 😊!

Looking Ahead

Sunday, October 18/ 12:00pm - 2:30pm. Escapology & Lunch

Friday, October 23/ 5:30pm – 7:30pm. GHCHS Homecoming Game Fundraiser

Sunday, December 6/ 11:30am – 2:00pm. Christmas Party

Friday, January 15 – Sunday, January 17. Camp Pondo Winter Camp

Adult & Young Adult Professionals Bible Study

Looking for a place to grow in faith, connect with others, and explore God's Word together?

Join our **Adult & Young Adult Professionals Bible Study**, meeting **online via Microsoft Teams**.

Tuesdays | 8:30–9:30 PM

Hosted by Andrew & Diane Uhri-Vashchenko

Whether you are new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, you are welcome to join us for fellowship, discussion, prayer, and encouragement.

Interested in joining?

Contact **Diane Uhri-Vashchenko**

Email: dnuhri80@gmail.com

Call/Text: 818-261-0112

Scouting at FPCGH

Adventure. Leadership. Service. Friendship.

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills proudly hosts **Cub Scout Pack 307** and **Scouts BSA Troop 307**, welcoming boys and girls to grow through outdoor adventure, leadership, service, skills, and fun.

Cub Scout Pack 307

Elementary-age youth

Den Meetings: **2nd & 3rd Mondays at 6:15 PM**

Pack Meeting: **4th Monday at 6:15 PM**

Contact: **Lauri Sherbon, Pack Leadership**

Scouts BSA Troop 307

Older youth

Meetings: **Tuesdays at 7:15 PM**

Contact: **Eric Yamabe, Troop Leadership**

<https://sites.google.com/view/troop307/>

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills

Families are invited to visit a meeting, meet our Scouts and leaders, and learn about upcoming campouts, service projects, outings, and activities.

No previous Scouting experience is necessary — come see what Pack 307 and Troop 307 are all about!

Cub Scout

For the Cub Scout Pack: We are enjoying getting back together and starting off on our Adventure Advancements for this year, and would love to have you join us! We will have Den meetings on October 5th and 19th and our Halloween Carnival Pack & Pizza Meeting on October 26th, all in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:15PM. We are also planning a Family Campout and to attend the Fall Festival on Friday evening, October 30th! For more information, contact Lauri Sherbon at ghcubscoutpack307@gmail.com or text to 818-631-6070.

Community Concerns Ministry

Autumn Hunger Bank Drive – October 18, 2026

On Sunday, October 18, we will once again be collecting coins, currency, checks payable to FPCGH with a notation for Hunger Banks, and donations through the QR button on the church's giving page at FPCGH.org.

We prepare monthly desserts as a special treat for adults and children at the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission in Northridge. Monthly, we prepare approximately 65 boxed lunches for food insecure individuals, many homeless, for distribution by the North Valley Caring Services staff. Monthly, our volunteers prepare 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwich bags that include the sandwiches, fruit, a cookie, a granola bar and other goodies. The bags are distributed by L.A. Family Housing. The winter holidays will soon be here, so we will help out by providing funds for meals for homeless individuals as our funds permit. Again, we will be supporting food insecure people right here in the San Fernando Valley.

Your support makes these donations possible. We feel these community connections help us demonstrate Christ's love in a tangible way to food insecure individuals. We hope you will join us for this semi-annual hunger bank collection. For further information, contact, Sharon Rose, Elder for the Community Concerns ministry at srose48419@aol.com.



Monthly Meet the Missionaries We Support!

KENYA AND SUDAN

For the month of October, we present Elisha and Crystal Stock with SIM (Serving in Mission) who bring the message of Jesus to the people of Kenya and Sudan. Elisha is a bush pilot who crosses borders of Kenya and Uganda to help transport people and supplies by plane and Crystal ministers to local people. SIM has been providing cross-cultural mission work for 130 years.

In 2026, Elisha helped build a Christian radio station from the ground up in South Sudan by transporting equipment by plane and working on the station himself. The radio station will be a beacon of hope bringing Christ's message to a largely unreached people in Sudan.

2026 also brought someone new into their family. A baby boy named Valor Ayiko Stock was born in February. His middle name Ayiko means joy in Lugbara language. He was born with the possibility of some medical issues, but so far is healthy. His big brother is named Zion. Please pray for their family and newborn as they continue to work for the Lord.

Elisha and Crystal keep in contact with our Mission Committee and church through emails. Each email begins with:

We Strive

To know Him intimately, so we can be equipped.

To share Him freely that He may be worshipped among all people groups.

To live life with and not separate from the people He has called to us.



FINANCE

QR Code

We have made online giving, per capita payments, and Special Event payments even easier!

Just scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Once scanned, your browser will be directed to our online giving page.



September Tithes & Offerings:	\$47,982
Budget:	\$78,328
Difference:	- \$30,436

YTD Tithes & Offerings:	\$631,685
Budget:	\$683,171
Difference:	-\$ 51,486

YTD Overall:	\$ 989,125
Budget:	\$1,050,008
Difference:	-\$ 60,883

Job Opportunity: Director of Communications

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills

www.fpcgh.org

This is a three-quarter time position around 30 hours a week.

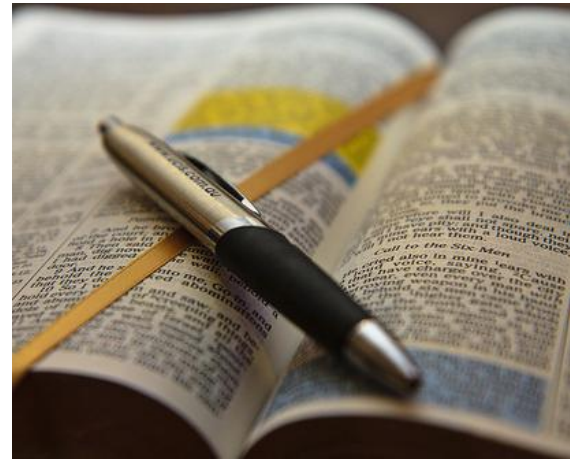
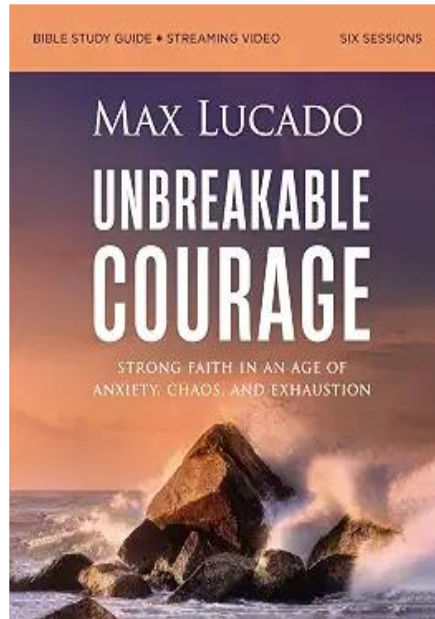
RESPONSIBILITIES: Working with the senior pastor and the staff, the ideal candidate is responsible for all communications of the church, both in-house and to the community; print communications as well as email communications; development and upkeep of website and social media platforms; development of flyers and signage around the church.

QUALIFICATIONS: The ideal candidate would have a strong, personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; have strong computer skills; be creative and tech savvy; able to do numerous tasks at once; work well with many different people; a BA in some form of communications is preferred.

Salary is commensurate with education, experience and expertise.

Contact: Pastor Lance Allen Lance@fpcgh.org (818) 360-1831

BIBLE STUDIES



Sundays

Co-ed multi-generational from 11:30-12:30 pm

We meet weekly on Sundays and conduct varied studies, based on majority decisions, for topics. Studies range from 1 week to 8 weeks, depending upon the study format and topic. We meet in the church library. Anyone interested is invited to join us at any time to try us out. Please contact Erik Brannon at 310.806.0284 or by email at brannon@apollointeractive.com if you have any questions.

Women's Sunday morning from 11:30-12:30 pm

We meet in Hampton Lounge to discuss the sermon, and how it applies to our lives today. For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Cindi Treloar at 661.618.7652 or email her at: cindi6906@gmail.com.

Co-ed multi-generational from 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Our Bible study by Max Lucado will begin on Sunday, **Sept. 20th** and we will meet twice a month to gather and learn from the dynamic prophet Elijah. He may be the perfect hero for our times. The struggles he faced are all too familiar: standing firm for God in a world determined to turn away from Him, feeling outnumbered and overwhelmed, and wrestling with moments of loneliness, anxiety, and discouragement. And yet, despite impossible opposition, Elijah chose to trust God when the road ahead looked uncertain.

The six-session **Unbreakable Courage** Bible study invites you to deepen your faith by drawing from Elijah's story of hope and resilience. Each session provides practical application from the highs and lows of his life.

If interested in joining us, please contact Sue O'Connor at: taffie1@verizon.net. We would love to have you!

Mondays

Men's Monday night Bible study at 7:00 pm

Meets in the Church Library. We watch a faith-based video and provide an opportunity for discussion afterwards. There is no age limit.

For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Rick Spence at 818.419.7780 or email him at: rjspence1@msn.com.

BIBLE STUDIES

Mondays *Continued*

Professional Adult Small Group & Friends

With Support from Trinity Schoolcraft Classical Academy (BridgesUS) non-profit and Synalima non-profit.

Meets Every Monday| 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Virtually on Microsoft Teams)

Study Plan

We will begin our journey with: Over the course of a year read through the New Testament chronologically, covering a few chapters each week and sharing in group discussion.

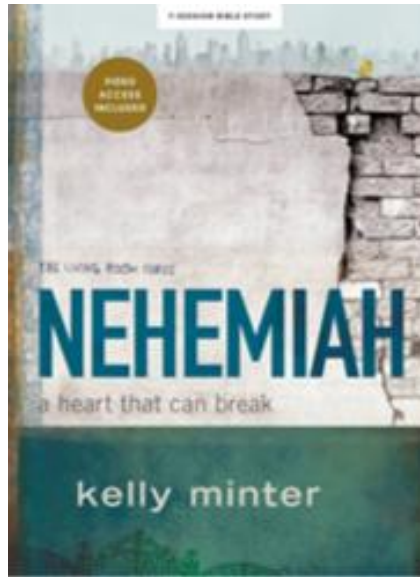
Our Purpose

This small group exists to help us grow deeper in our walk with Christ together. Life is busy—between family, work, kids, and responsibilities—but this 1 1/2 hr of fellowship is a chance to pause, study God's Word, and encourage one another as Christians and friends.

Next Steps:

Interested? Email
Diane N Uhri Vashchenko at
duhri80@gmail.com

Bring your Bible and a heart ready for prayer, conversation and reflection!



Wednesday

Co-ed Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 pm

We will be studying Nehemiah by Kelly Minter.

Questions? Please call or text
Carol Morain at 661-373-5875



Thursday

Men's Thursday morning Bible study at 7:00 am

We are on break. For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Gary Ventimiglia at:
harvestgv@earthlink.net.

Women's Thursday morning Bible study from 9:00-11:00 am

On break for the summer!
Please contact Pastor Niki if you are interested in attending and for additional details.

Prayer Requests

Ally Treptow Please pray for recovery and healing.

Nancy Bloch Had a heart catheterization September 8th. Prayers for healing and recovery.

Rose Lyons has been experiencing pain in her arm and shoulder. We ask for healing prayers.

Joyce Herbst is being moved to a care facility. Please pray for healing and recovery.

Holly Ziman had knee replacement surgery on September 2nd. Praying for recovery. She's at home and recovering. If interested in helping to provide meals please contact Cindi Treloar.

Dana Gomez-Peterman Please hold Dana Peterman in your prayers. She continues to fight an aggressive cancer. Pray for healing, for strength, for faith, for hope, and for peace. Pray also for her entire family.

Shasta Elgin for recovery for knee surgery, prayers for a successful surgery and a quick recovery.

Suhanthi Arupalam had knee replacement surgery on August 26th, prayers for recovery.

Betty Harper had another fall, rebreaking her arm and also 2 toes. Keep her in prayer for recovery.

Sham Buda, Please continue to keep our church administrator in your prayers! She had a successful surgery. Pray for a speedy recovery! Quick note - Sham will be out on disability until released by her doctor.

Michele Morse Please pray for Michele and her son. He was laid off and needs a new job ASAP.

Our love and sympathy to the family and friends of George Dunne. A memorial will be held on October 16 at CSUN.



Coffee with Pastor Lance

Have you heard about Pastor Lance's morning devotional on Facebook? Every weekday morning around 8:15 am Pastor Lance gives a brief, live devotional on a passage in Scripture.

That livestream is then posted and available on Facebook.com.

You can also go to fpcgh.org, where a link will be on the homepage.

Ongoing Concerns

Jill Ralke, Maureen Boyer,
Marina Collins, Kenny Thomason,
Cathy Wright, Jean Herweg,
Bert Fairbanks, Michael Diehl,
Mae Stephenson, Fran Shankle,
Lonnie & John Thompson,
Charlotte Dingue, Dana Peterman,
Juliana Price, Gloria Horowitz



Words of Inspiration

Our weekly devotional written by Vreni Schiess is available at fpcgh.org/blog, and does appear "live" on Mondays on our Church Community Group Page. Her passion for God's "living" Word is infectious and makes for a "fun and invigorating" read, as one pastor recently observed. Feel free to reach out to her at vrenischiess@verizon.net for further conversation.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir 7:00 pm Children's Ministry Meeting	2 10:30 am Monthly Community Concerns	3 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
4 World Communion Sunday 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Potluck 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry	5 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	6 8:30 am MomCo 1:30 pm Korean Ministry 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Meeting	7 10:00 am Senior Singles 5:00 pm Community Concerns Meeting 5:00 pm Monthly Fellowship Meeting 6:00 pm Co-Ed Bible Study	8 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Monthly Worship Meeting 3:45 pm Membership Meeting 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	9	10 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
11 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Kid's Chorus 11:30 am Youth Ministry	12 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Monthly Adult Discipleship Meeting	13 1:30 pm Korean Ministry 4:00 pm Monthly Personnel Meeting 5:30 pm Women's Ministry Meeting 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Session Meeting	14 10:30 am Community Concerns Meeting 12:00 pm Community Concerns Making Meals 6:00 pm Co-Ed Bible Study	15 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 1:30 pm Knitty Knitters 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	16	17 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
18 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry 11:30 am Kid's Chorus 3:00 pm League of Women Voters	19 11:00 a.m. Community Concerns 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	20 1:30 pm Korean Ministry 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Session	21 11:00 am Monthly Mission Ministry 6:00 pm Co-Ed Bible Study 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting	22 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	23	24 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
25 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry 11:30 am Kid's Chorus 4:30 pm Senior Singles	26 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	27 1:30 pm Korean Ministry 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	28 6:00 pm Co-Ed Bible Study	29 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	30 Fall Family Festival	31 9:00 am Yoga by Karine



10400 Zelzah Avenue
Porter Ranch, CA 91326

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THE SPIRE (USPS 510-740) is a monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills, Northridge, CA 91326-3510. Periodicals postage paid at Northridge, CA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills, 10400 Zelzah Ave., Porter Ranch, CA 91326-3510.



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