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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | NOV 2025

One of the most engaging books I have read in the last year was Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer’s magisterial work “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants.” I am not a botanist, but Dr. Kimmerer’s engaging style made her work accessible and taught me more than just simple knowledge concerning ecological processes. She taught me a great deal about what she describes as “sacred reciprocity.” It’s the concept that we are bound together, not simply human to human, but humans with everything else. We must take care of each other and treat each other with respect if we, as humanity, are to thrive. Dr. Kimmerer writes,

Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them. Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life. Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer. Never take the first. Never take the last. Take only what you need. Take only that which is given. Never take more than half. Leave some for others. Harvest in a way that minimizes harm. Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken. Share. Give thanks for what you have been given. Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken. Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.

Dr. Kimmerer’s words ring loudly in my head as we approach the Thanksgiving season. One of the prevailing themes of Thanksgiving sermons is how do we embody a spirit of Thanksgiving all year long. I think the answer lies in this notion of sacred reciprocity. If we break the cycle of taking and bind ourselves in the mutuality of intentionally giving and receiving, of recognizing those people and things that take care of us and seek their welfare as well, and ensure our consumption is only what we need so that it is available to others, then I believe we are living a life in keeping with faithful discipleship. This, to me, is the lesson we see repeatedly taught by Jesus, whether it be in the healing of the ten lepers, the command to love others as we love ourselves, or the necessity of serving the least of these.

Beloved, our call is not to continuously take, but to be responsible in our receiving *and* giving. It is to give concerted care for everything that God has blessed us to have, and to those people and things we encounter. It is to live lives such that there is something for those who follow in our footsteps. Truly, if we do this, we are practicing “sacred reciprocity” that enables us to embody the spirit of Thanksgiving all year long.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays Mon., Wed., Thurs.	5:00 p.m.	Family Night Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday Wednesdays	7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study Isaiah Facebook Prayer Meeting Zoom Prayer Meeting Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Saturday, Nov. 1	4:30 p.m.	Fall Festival
Sunday, Nov. 2 Sunday, Nov. 2	6:00 p.m.	Time Change Deacon Fellowship
Tuesday, Nov. 4		Election Day
Wednesday, Nov. 5	12:00 p.m.	ROMEOS at Southbound Sandwich Shop
Sunday, Nov. 9	6:00 p.n.	Quarterly Church Conference and Budget Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 11		Veteran’s Day
Sunday, Nov. 16	11:00 a.m.	Budget Vote Following Service
Sunday, Nov. 23		Thanksgiving Meal for Church and Alternative Christmas Market
Monday, Nov. 24	5:30 p.m.	Operation Big Thing Distribution
Tuesday, Nov. 25	11:00 a.m.	Operation Big Thing Distribution
Thursday, Nov. 27		Thanksgiving Office Closed
Sunday, Nov. 30	10:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent

“You will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.
- Jeremiah 29:12–14a (NIVUK)

Prayer is one of the two most important things we do. (Worship is the other, but that’s a topic for a different day.) I firmly believe that. Prayer is our connection to the living God. It is our opportunity to talk personally with the Creator of the universe, and as Jeremiah tells us above, to know that He listens to us. Of course, we must make sure that, as we pray, we are listening to Him as well. If our prayers are only talking and never listening, we are missing out on the full power of prayer. True prayer involves us talking and listening with the God who talks and listens with us. That kind of prayer has power!

On Tuesday, November 11, at 11:30 AM, we are going to begin a new prayer ministry at Grove Park. We will meet weekly in the Fellowship Hall for a time of in-person, focused prayer. We will pray for ourselves, our families and friends, our neighbors, and for people we don’t know. We will pray for Grove Park and for ministries around the world. We will pray for our community and our country and for communities and countries around the world. We will share our hearts with God and will seek to find His heart as well.

Please pray for this new prayer ministry, and please consider joining with us in person. We are excited to see what God will do as we seek Him with all our hearts!

Dale

This month our Hope Box request is for washcloths or poufs. Poufs and washcloths can be purchased in bulk on Amazon for cheap.
<https://a.co/d/7guKOxK>
<https://a.co/d/0WTtg7j>

The Women’s Shelter is in need of 2026 calendars for their clients. This enables them to keep up with appointments, etc. If you have any that you will not be using, please drop them by the church office.

We would like to welcome our new members:
Warren Parks
Emily Flack
Jim and Joyce Davidson

Please contact Irene Britton if you would like to help decorate the Church for Christmas.
Our tentative date for decorating is Monday, November 24th.



Operation Christmas Child boxes are in the Missions Room if you would like to participate. All boxes must be returned by November 13th .



Operation Big Thing will have two distribution days this year. Monday, November 24th from 5:30pm-7:30pm and Tuesday, November 25th from 11am-2pm. If you are able to volunteer during these times please sign up on the bulletin board.

Alamance Chorale
Grove Park is pleased to host two Christmas Concerts by the Alamance Chorale to be held December 11 at 6:30pm and December 13 at 2:30pm. The concerts will be followed by a reception. We are in need of greeters and would appreciate the help. Contact the office if you are available.



MINISTERS ON CALL FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
NOVEMBER 6-9 MIKE BOULDIN
NOVEMBER 13-16 DAVID MCMILLAN
NOVEMBER 20-23 MATTHEW BYRD
NOVEMBER 27-30 MARIAN BREWER

<u>NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY</u>	
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
BILL PINSON	NOVEMBER 01
JULIE TURNER	NOVEMBER 01
ALLEN MCKINNEY	NOVEMBER 05
CAROL WILLIAMSON	NOVEMBER 07
TUCKER WILLIAMSON	NOVEMBER 08
NANCY MURCHISON	NOVEMBER 16
NANCY BECK	NOVEMBER 21
MJ FLACK	NOVEMBER 21
SUE ELLEN MCKINNEY	NOVEMBER 25
LINDA WOOD	NOVEMBER 26
BEN BOULDIN	NOVEMBER 27
MILLER DUNN	NOVEMBER 28
SUE ETHERIDGE	NOVEMBER 29
PAT SIZEMORE	NOVEMBER 30

Advent Devotionals
The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th. Once again, we will have a book of daily devotionals available for reflection during the Advent season. These will be available on or before November 30th. If you would like to write one please contact Dale.