

# Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

July 2025

## Faith and Politics

*For there is no authority except from God, and those  
that exist have been instituted by God – Rom. 13:1*

Should faithful Christians run for political office? Some people say, “No,” and claim the so-called “separation of church and state” works against such an arrangement. Yet the history of our nation disproves such a notion. Since its founding, there have been many faithful Christians who have served our country in a variety of governmental positions, including the president of the United States. William McKinley Jr. was one such man.

William McKinley Jr. was born on January 29, 1843 to devout Methodist parents in Niles, Ohio. When he turned sixteen, he became a full-fledged member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and remained an active member his entire life. His mother had hoped he would become a gospel minister but God had other plans for his life.

When McKinley was eighteen, he joined the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and by the end of the Civil War he had earned the rank of major. Considering the possibility that he could be killed in battle, he wrote in his diary: “Fall in a good cause and hope to fall in the arms of my blessed Redeemer. This record I want left behind, that I not only fell as a soldier for my Country, but also as a Soldier of Jesus. [McKinley’s friends and relatives could be comforted with solace] that if we never meet again on earth, we will meet around God’s throne in heaven. Let my fate be what it may, I want to be ready and prepared.”

After the war McKinley became a successful lawyer in Canton, Ohio, where he married Ida Saxton. After the deaths of their two young children, Ida was stricken with a nervous disorder that left her a semi-invalid. Ever the devoted husband, William McKinley Jr. remained faithful to Ida and cared for her the rest of his life.

Over the years McKinley held various offices within local, state, and federal government. In 1896 he successfully ran as the Republican candidate for president and was inaugurated as the twenty-fifth president of the United States. During his inaugural address, he kissed his Bible and declared that he would be “relying on the support of my countrymen and invoking the guidance of Almighty God. For our faith teaches there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers, who has so singularly favored the American people in every national trial, and who will not forsake us so long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in His footsteps.”

Continued on page 2

McKinley's Christian faith was often seen in his policies. When America took control of the Philippine Islands from Spain in 1898 and it was unclear what to do next, McKinley prayed to God for guidance. He was eventually led to annex the islands to the United States, promising to educate and evangelize the Filipinos who, he said, were "our fellow men for whom Christ also died."

On September 6, 1901, McKinley was shot by an assassin, whom he publicly forgave. For one week McKinley bravely held on to life. But as the infection from the gunshot spread within his body his condition steadily worsened. Realizing the end was near, McKinley told his doctors, "It is useless gentlemen. I think we ought to have prayer." He said goodbye to his wife and friends and then said weakly, "It is God's way. His will, not ours, be done." After he whispered his last words, lines from his favorite hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee," William McKinley Jr., age 58, took his final breath on earth and his first breath in glory.

William McKinley Jr. was a faithful Christian. He was also a good politician who did not hide his faith or compromise his Christian convictions. Instead, he relied on God to direct his decisions and guide his policies for the benefit of others. May God bless us with men like McKinley to lead our nation today.

**THE SAME AS ...** Can you identify the word that has a similar meaning (synonym)?

1. COERCE: reduce, mislead, improve, pressure.
2. EFFICACY: effectiveness, effortlessly, emergency, morality.
3. EBULLIENT: daring, violent, lively, ready.
4. CATAclysm: wonder, disaster, miracle, session.
5. ALTRUISTIC: greedy, humanistic, selfish, inconsiderate.
6. FACILITATE: worsen, hurt, block, expedite.
7. ENIGMA: undefinable, appease, clarify, enlighten
8. CONSENSUS: agreement, denial, refusal, opposition.
9. DOCILE: observant, obedient, headstrong, resistant.
10. EMPHATIC: weak, insistent, remorseful, trite.

THE SAME AS — 1. Pressure; 2. Effectiveness; 3. Lively;  
4. Disaster; 5. Humanistic; 6. Expedite; 7. Undefinable;  
8. Agreement; 9. Obedient; 10. Insistent.

GOD shed  
★ HIS  
grace  
\*\*\*\*\*  
ON THEE



**Praying for our Nation...**

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

*"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way."*

*(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)*



Blessed  
is the NATION  
whose  
GOD  
is the LORD.  
Psalm 33:12

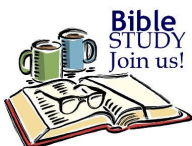
Please pray for the following physical concerns and spiritual needs of each, individual.

***The Lord's Supper***

will be observed on July 6 at the morning worship service.

Everyone is encouraged to be in prayer and repentance in preparation to partake in this holy sacrament.

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."*  
**Jeremiah 29: 12**



**Please Join us every Wednesday**

**Time: 10:30**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**  
**Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book**  
**"Survey of the New Testament"**  
**By**  
**Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**

WELCOME to 2025 ! This past year we have been studying the books Of Jonah and Habakkuk.

In 2025 we will be using a book by Marci Ogrosky called "Looking to Christ.....Hebrews".

Marci is a pastors wife, Mom, and has a degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Special Education. She is a down to earth writer that we have enjoyed learning from.

Hebrews has 13 chapters, and encouragement is the heart of the books purpose. Jesus sanctifies us for the true worship of God,so that we draw nearer to heaven.

Please join us on the second Tuesday every month at 10am at Grace. I think you will enjoy Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with loving Christian women. Bring a friend if you like.

If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.



### **Pennies for Missions**

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

### ***Calendar of Activities for the Month***

**WIC Circle Meeting:** Tuesday, July 8, 10:00 am  
**Session Meeting:** Sunday, July 13 12:00 pm  
**Prayer for our Nation:** Wednesdays at 10:00 am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am



### **Men of the Covenant**

Men of the Covenant will be in recess for the summer months, but will resume meeting in the month of September.



The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, July 13 at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.

### ***Verse to Remember***

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

*James 1:5 ESV*

# JULY 2025



Blessed is the Nation  
Whose God is the Lord,  
And the people whom  
he has  
chosen as his own  
inheritance.

Psalms 33:12



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	3	4 Happy Fourth of July!	5
6 Communion	7	8 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	9 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Session Meeting	14	15	16 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	17	18	19
20 July Celebration	21	22	23 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	31		

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service



*Grace Presbyterian Church*  
Presbyterian Church in America  
9526 Joor Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

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*July 2025*



## *“July Celebration”*



Sunday, July 20th after morning worship services

There will be a picnic style lunch with hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill.

Please plan to attend and invite your family and friends for food, fun, and fellowship.

The church will provide the meat and fixings.

If you would like to bring something please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.

