

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

January 2026

Valiant for Truth

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith – 2 Tim. 4:7*

Most Christians, even those who identify as Reformed, have little to no knowledge of Dr. J. Gresham Machen. This is unfortunate. Eighty-nine years ago, January 1, 1937, Machen died and the church lost one of its most courageous and articulate defenders of biblical Christianity. Though he passed away at only 55 years old, what he was able to accomplish in his short life has had a lasting influence upon the church.

J. Gresham Machen was born on July 28, 1881 in Baltimore, Maryland. Raised in a Christian home, his academic journey took him through John Hopkins University, Princeton Theological Seminary, and further studies in Germany. Though he was a brilliant scholar who was fluent in Greek and a master of New Testament studies, theology was never just an academic exercise. It was doctrine for life and truth worth defending.

Machen taught New Testament at Princeton Seminary from 1909 until 1929. When liberal theology gained a stronghold in Princeton and began eroding the seminary's historic commitments to biblical truth, Machen left Princeton and helped found Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He served at Westminster Seminary until his death.

J. Gresham Machen is best remembered for his unwavering stand against the theological modernism of his day that sought to undermine biblical Christianity by removing the supernatural and redefining core doctrines of the Christian faith. Machen rightly understood that if the church surrendered the authority of Scripture, it would lose the gospel itself.

In 1923, to combat the encroaching influence of liberal theology in the church, he wrote the book *Christianity and Liberalism* that, to this day, is one of the clearest explanations of why the church must hold fast to the faith once delivered to the saints. Machen argued that liberalism was not another form of Christianity but a different religion altogether.

His firm stand for biblical truth eventually led the Presbyterian Church USA, the denomination in which he held his ordination, to remove him from ministry. Their liberalism could no longer tolerate a man like J. Gresham Machen who refused to compromise biblical truth. This led Machen, and other likeminded believers, to form a new denomination called the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) on June 11, 1936.

In December of 1936, J. Gresham Machen, who at this point was physically exhausted from all of his spiritual battles, traveled to North Dakota to support a small struggling congregation who had joined with the OPC. There, in the bitter cold, he contracted pneumonia. On January 1, 1937 he breathed his last and entered the presence of the Lord he had so faithfully served.

Shortly before he died, he sent a telegram to a colleague at Westminster Theological Seminary that simply read: "I'm so thankful for the active obedience of Christ. No hope without it." It was a fitting summary of his life's message: salvation is entirely the work of Christ.

J. Gresham Machen lived only 55 years but his stand for biblical truth continues to this day through the work of Westminster Theological Seminary, he helped to found, through the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, he and others started, and through his many books that remain in print and continue to edify and instruct those who read them.

J. Gresham Machen was a man valiant for the truth. He would not tolerate liberalism in the church even when it cost him personally to stand for Christ and the gospel. For liberalism is not another form of Christianity, it is an altogether different religion that has no power to save.

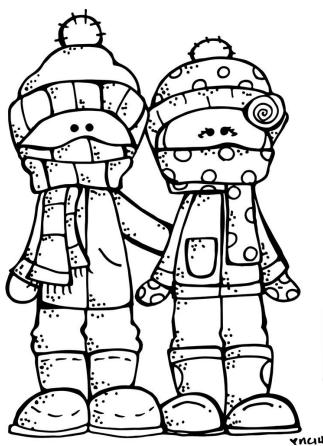
Though Machen is no longer with us today, his legacy is still deeply relevant. For the church of Christ continues to face pressure, both from within and without, to conform to cultural expectations and not the Bible. Let us, therefore, like him, resist all pressure to compromise biblical truth and stand fast in the faith given once for all, even if we must stand alone.

2026 Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes for 2026 are available in the foyer at church. Please pick yours up and begin using them for the first Sunday in January in 2026.

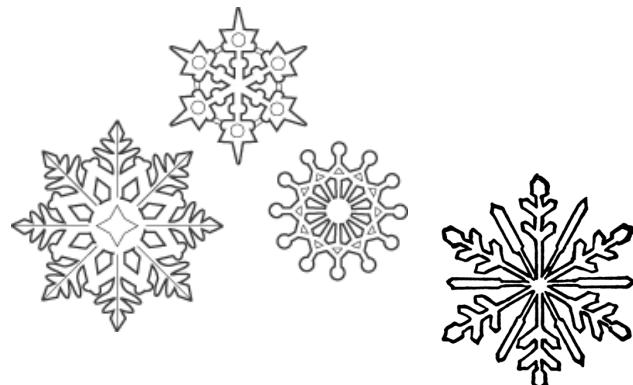
Tax Statements...

Will be ready mid-January and available in the foyer at church. If you need yours to be mailed or emailed to you, please call the church office.



**We will celebrate the
“100th Anniversary” of
Monte Sano/Grace Presbyterian
Church
On Sunday
April 19, 2026**

**Anyone wishing to help with the
planning of this event please
contact
Mary Ann Bennett**



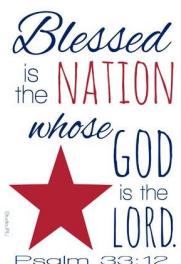
Praying for our Nation...

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.”

(I Timothy 2: 1-2)



The Lord’s Supper



will be observed on January 4 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.”



**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.**



“Looking to Christ: The Book of Hebrews”
by Marci Ogrosky

Marci is a pastor's 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 book's 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

Session Meeting: Sunday, January 11 at 12pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 10am
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant Will resume on February 5

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant. The monthly meetings are on every first Thursday of the month.

We will have a time of fellowship, food, and a devotion from the Word of God.

The men gather around 1:00 p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 1:30 p.m.

*“As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27: 17*

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, January 11 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.



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

2 PETER 3:18

January 2026



*“Remember not
the former things,
nor consider
the things of old.*

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

Grace Notes

Christ-like Humility for the New Year

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2: 3-11



January 2026

I HAVE COME

...that they may...
HAVE *life*

& HAVE IT TO THE FULL

.....

★ JOHN 10: 10 ★