

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

March 2026

No Chance Encounters

*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord
establishes his steps – Prov. 16:9.*

There are no chance encounters in life. For if God, as the Bible teaches, providentially orchestrates our circumstances so that, in the words found in chapter 5.1 of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, he “upholds, directs, uses and governs all creatures, actions and things, from the greatest to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible fore-knowledge and the free and unchangeable counsel of His own will,” we can know the people we daily encounter are the people God determines we meet. I was wonderfully reminded of this truth when reading the story of James McQuilkin who lived in Ulster, Ireland, in the 19th century.

The story begins in the spring of 1856, when a Mrs. Colville from Gateshead, England, came to Ulster because, in her words, she had “time and money to spend on God.” In Ulster, she began a house-to-house visitation program with the intent of sharing the gospel and winning souls for Christ. At one of the homes she visited, James McQuilkin was enjoying an afternoon tea party with several other people. After a young woman described the nature of her Christian experience to Mrs. Colville, she responded, “My dear, I don’t believe you have ever known the Lord Jesus,” and she went on to share the true gospel with her. McQuilkin, who heard the conversation, later wrote, “I knew that Mrs. Colville spoke what was true of me. I felt as if the ground were about to open beneath me and let me sink to hell. As soon as I could, I left the tea party. For two weeks I had no peace, day or night. At the end of that time, I found peace by trusting the Lord Jesus.”

The following year, in September of 1857, McQuilkin was burdened to pray for his neighbors and he asked three friends to join him. Once a week the four men gathered at a local schoolhouse in the town of Ahogill, County Antrim, Ulster, to pray for the people in their community. In December of 1857 McQuilkin’s prayer group saw the first conversion in Ahogill and they thanked God for answered prayer. But the widespread spiritual awakening they were praying for had not yet come. So, they continued to fervently petition God to save the unconverted.

Nineteen months later, on March 14, 1859, McQuilkin and his three friends invited Christians in the surrounding area to an evening church service at the Ahogill Presbyterian Church. On this rainy night the church was so crowded they moved the meeting outside. There on the street, as the gospel was preached, hundreds of people knelt in the mud and pouring rain, confessing their sins and praising God. These were the first of the one hundred thousand plus people God called to himself in 1859 in what became known as the Ulster Revival.

The revival in Ulster was an answer to prayer. And it all began at a tea party, three years prior, when God determined that James McQuilkin would meet Mrs. Colville, so he may hear the gospel presentation she gave to a young lady and, two weeks later, profess faith in Christ. Truly, as William Cowper writes, “God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.”

Without a doubt there are no chance encounters. The people we meet are the people God ordains we meet. While we will never know all the reasons why God arranges these meetings, we can know he does nothing without a purpose. So, before we begin our day it would be good to pray for God to help us to be sensitive to the people around us, so we will not miss those providential opportunities to either share the message of Christ or, in some tangible way, image Christlikeness to those God brings our way. For there are no chance encounters.

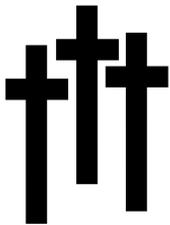


Daylight Savings Time...

Begins Sunday, March 8. Please remember to set your clocks forward an hour Saturday evening!

"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

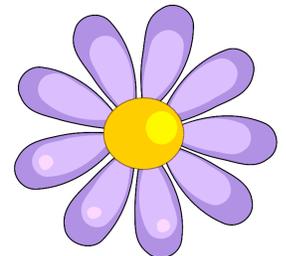
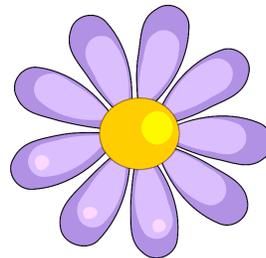


And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

**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.”

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



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

The Lord's Supper

will be observed on March 1 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



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

**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.**



Ladies
ministry

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

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

Men of the Covenant Thursday, March 5 at 1:00pm
Session Meeting: Sunday, March 8 at 12pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, March 10 at 10am
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant

Will meet on March 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, March 8 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.

“And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’”

Matthew 21: 9



March 2026



“... Blessed is
Who comes in the name of the

Matthew 29:1



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3	4 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	5 1:00pm Men of the Covenant	6	7
8 Session Meeting	9	10 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	11 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	26	27	28
29 	30	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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March 2026

THE SESSION AND CONGREGATION OF

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(FORMERLY MONTE SANO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

9:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

12:15 P.M. COVERED DISH—JAMBALAYA

HYMN SING, MEMORY SHARING & FELLOWSHIP

Call the church office for more information.

225.261.0890 (church office) www.gracepresbyterianbr.church

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