

Grace Notes

February 2023

Divine Providence

Lately, I've been contemplating the doctrine of providence. The Bible clearly teaches the providential hand of God is always at work within our world (Eph. 1:11). But what does that mean for us as God's people? How should the doctrine of providence affect our life?

While much could be said in regards to providence, I'll keep my words as concise as possible. After all, this is a church newsletter not a doctrinal thesis!

The late theologian J.I. Packer defines providence as, "The unceasing activity of the Creator whereby, in overflowing bounty and goodwill, he upholds his creatures in ordered existence, guides and governs all events, circumstances, and free acts of angels and men, and directs everything to its appointed goal for his own glory." A wordy definition but accurate to Scripture.

And though the nineteenth century minister, Maltbie Babcock, was unaware of Packer's definition of providence, he would have heartily agreed. For after he wrote the well-known hymn, "This is My Father's World," he revealed it was written to testify to the providential handiwork of God displayed in the creation he governs, upholds, and preserves. Therefore, rocks and trees, skies and seas, birds and lilies, morning light and rustling grass all declare their maker's praise in the words of Babcock's hymn.

Maltbie Babcock looked at the world around him and saw the hand of God at work. And that is what happens to people who live with an awareness of God's providence. They see him at work everywhere, preserving and governing his creation.

So, with that thought in mind, how should the doctrine of providence affect our life? I can think of at least two ways.

First, it makes all of life momentous. We see the hand of God everywhere at work, in big things and in small. For nothing happens in this world apart from God's will. He made the world by the word of his power and he sustains and governs the world by the same power and word (Col. 1:15-17).

Second, since God ordains all things to happen as he sees fit, "luck" and "chance" are eliminated from our vocabulary. Nothing occurs in life by happenstance. And since we know God is good, we know all he ordains is good, even the hard things in life that are less than pleasant (Rom. 8:28).

So, in view of God's providential care, let us trust him in all of our ways and for all of our days. For he is good and all that he does is good (Ps. 136:1).

In the words of the hymn writer Samuel Rodigast:

What'er my God ordains is right:
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er he doth;
And follow where he guideth;
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to him I leave it all.

**You are cordially invited
to the Installation Service
of the Reverend Jim Gorski as Pastor of
Grace Presbyterian Church
On Sunday, the twenty-six of February
At Five o'clock in the evening.**

**The Service will be conducted by
Southeast Louisiana Presbytery
And the sermon will be given by
Dr. Aquila, D.Min.
President of New Geneva Theological Seminary**

**A Reception will be held in the
Activities Building immediately
following the service.**

*"And I will give you pastors according to mine
Heart, which shall feed you with knowledge
And understanding."
Jeremiah 3:15*

*Thank
You*

"Amy and Gaylan McLin thanks the Grace PCA family for their support during Gaylan's surgery and recovery and the prayers for our son Ryan. All the cards, calls, visits, texts, and other acts of kindness were all very uplifting to us during this difficult time. We are blessed and humbled by your response to our needs. Amy and Gaylan pray that you all will be blessed by God for all you did for us.
Thank You!"

BY GRACE

*"For by grace you have been saved
through faith. And this is not your own
doing; it is the gift of God, not a result
of works, so that no one may boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9*



The Lord's Supper

Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion during the morning worship service, Sunday, February 5, 2023

Everyone should spend time during the week before preparing your hearts and minds to partake in this sacrament.

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)



Bible Study

DATE: 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.

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



The Women's Circle will be starting a new study this February

It is by John McArthur "Hard to Believe", Understanding The High Cost and Infinite Value Of Following Jesus.

It is a long title, but what we will be learning about will be what it means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. About how the world has a false view of Christianity, and the truths from the Bible on how we can defend our faith. The watering down of the gospel in today's world.

Please come join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am at Grace for study, prayer, and fellowship.

We welcome everyone, and bringing friends.

If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison



Men of the Covenant

Thursday, February 2

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant (first Thursday of each month, except for June through August).

We enjoy a nice meal around 7:00 p.m., but many of the men arrive around 6:30 to enjoy some good fellowship. Following the meal we will hear a devotion from the Word of God. Men, please sign up in the foyer if you are planning to attend.

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

ChristianInquiry

A Blog About Topics and Views of Interest to Christians

www.christianinquiry.com

This is a new blog from Dr. Gaylan McLin containing topics of interest, especially to Christians, and for sharing his views about those topics. Gaylan hopes that this blog will edify the readers and give glory to God.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Men of the Covenant:	Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.
WIC Circle Meeting:	Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 a.m.
Session Meeting:	Sunday, February 12, 12:00 p.m.
Prayer for our Nation:	Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study:	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.



The next **Session Meeting** will be
Sunday,
February 12th at 12:00 p.m.

Please contact Jesse Arnold, Kit Bonvillian, Randy Borill, Cleve Chandler, Dana Andries, Don Andries prior to the meeting if you have items to bring to their attention.





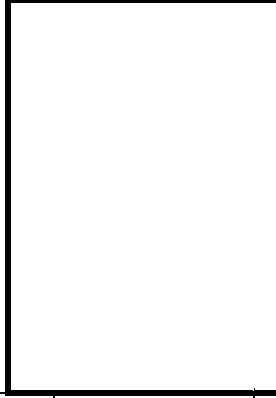
February 2023



We love 
 because He first
 loved us.

1 John 4:19

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



A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13: 34-35

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service • 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service

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

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February 2023

Dr. Aquila will be the key note speaker for the installation of our new Pastor, Rev. Jim Gorski, at Grace Church in Central. This event is scheduled for 5 pm on February 26. Dr. Aquila will be speaking at both the am worship service and the pm installation service.

Dominic Aquila, D.Min.

President of New Geneva Theological Seminary

Belhaven College, B.A.; Reformed Theological Seminary, M.Div.; Westminster Theological Seminary, D.Min.

Dr. Aquila has over thirty years of pastoral experience, most recently serving for twelve years as senior pastor of Kendall Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL. He is an editor of the web magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America and, in 2006, served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly. He has served as a seminary professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Miami, FL, and Knox Theological Seminary in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He has served as a Dean of Students and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at a number of seminaries. Dr. Aquila has served on numerous boards for Christian schools, a college, a jail ministry, pro-life ministries, and home missions, and is a prominent leader in the PCA. He is a person of wisdom and great knowledge in biblical, theological and church related subjects.