

# Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

November 2024

## The Blind Hymnist

*And we know that for those who love God  
all things work together for good, for those who  
are called according to his purpose – Rom. 8:28*

Fanny Crosby was an incredible Christian woman. She was born on March 24, 1820 in Putnam County, New York. At six weeks old, she caught a cold that caused inflammation in her eyes. When her parents called on the family doctor, they learned he was not at home and were told someone else would come by to help. When the man arrived, he recommended that hot poultices be placed on her eyes. Tragically, the prescribed treatment caused Fanny to lose her eyesight.

Shortly afterward, at six months old and now blind, tragedy struck Fanny again, when her father suddenly died. Although she was now without a father, Fanny had a loving mother and maternal grandmother who took her to church and taught her to follow Jesus. Incredibly, by the age of fifteen, Fanny had memorized the four gospels, the Pentateuch, the Book of Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, and most of the Book of Psalms.

In 1835, Fanny enrolled at the New York Institution for the Blind, where she remained for eight years. During her time at the institution, she became an accomplished soprano singer, learned to play the piano, organ, harp and guitar, and met her future husband, Alexander Van Alstyne, a blind musician whom she married in 1858 at the age of thirty-eight. They had one child who died in infancy.

Although Fanny Crosby is known mostly for her hymns, nearly nine thousand before her death at age ninety-four, she did not write her first hymn until she was forty-one. Some of her hymns include the well-known songs, "Blessed Assurance," "Rescue the Perishing," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "Saved by Grace," and "To God Be the Glory."

In addition to her hymn writing, Fanny Crosby was a popular speaker. She went to the White House on several occasions as the guest of Presidents John Quincy Adams, John Tyler, Andrew Johnson, and Grover Cleveland. Her friends included many famous people. Yet her fame never made her lose sight of what she viewed as her life's overarching purpose; to present the gospel message of her crucified and risen Savior to anyone who would listen.

Fanny Crosby was a gifted Christian musician who happened to be blind. For ninety-four years she lived without seeing because a medical treatment went horribly wrong. Yet she was never bitter over the loss of her sight and once stated, "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow, I would not accept it. I might not have written or sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me. When a minister once confided he wished God had given her the ability to see, she replied, "If I had been given a choice at birth, I would have asked to be blind...for when I get to heaven, the first face I will see will be the One who died for me."

The life of Fanny Crosby wonderfully illustrates the truth of Romans 8:28, “that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” For Fanny never viewed her blindness as a disability keeping her from reaching her full potential, but the very means by which God enabled her to accomplish all he had purposed for her life. Truly, in the words of William Cowper, “God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.”

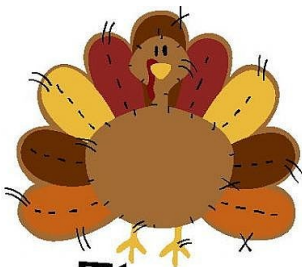
*We express our sincere sympathy and love to the Price family in the death of Ms. Stella Price who went home to be with the Lord on Monday, October 21, 2024.*

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*



**GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD  
FOR HE IS GOOD**

*His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!*



**Happy Thanksgiving**

### ***The Lord's Supper***

will be  
observed on November 3 at the  
morning worship service.

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



### **Cards for the Troops!**

We greatly appreciate all the thought and care that was put into writing Christmas cards to our Troops who are serving overseas.

Thanks again for blessing our Troops in this way! It means so much to them, knowing that they are not forgotten, especially at this time of year.

Appreciate your  
faithfulness,

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

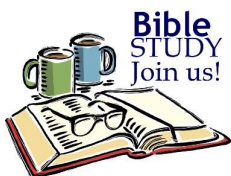
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***Office Closed***

Please note that the church office will be closed Thursday, November 28, Friday November 29th.

If you need assistance during this time please contact Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler,

*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.**



What do you know about Jonah?  
 This book of the Bible is more than just about a man and a fish!!  
 What do you know about Habakkuk?  
 It is a book of the Bible also!  
 These questions are being answered the second Tuesday of the month at our Circle Meeting. God is teaching us how we can use these examples and events in our every day life. Please join us at 10am the second Tuesday of every month at Grace as we look at "God's Cranky Prophets".  
 We have a great time of study, prayer, and fellowship.  
 If you have any questions please contact 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, November 7, 6:30pm  
**WIC Circle Meeting:** Tuesday, November 12, 10:00 am  
**Session Meeting:** Sunday, November 3, 12:00 pm  
**Prayer for our Nation:** Wednesdays at 10:00 am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am



**Men of the Covenant**  
**Resumes Thursday, November 7**

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant which will resume its monthly meetings 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 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 7:00 p.m.

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

**MNA DISASTER RESPONSE**

***By the LORD's grace we were able to send \$1541.00 to help those who were affected by Hurricane Helene.***  
***Grace Presbyterian Church \$750.00***  
***Member of Grace Presbyterian Church \$550.00***  
***Women in the Church \$241.00***

***We Pray that the Lord will continue to bless this important ministry.***

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, November 3 at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, Kit Bonvillian, or Cleve Chandler know.



# November 2024



*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."*

*Psalm 100:4-5*



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

**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

November 2024

## ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

*Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

*Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised  
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;  
May we ever, Lord, be bringing  
All to Thee in earnest prayer.  
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,  
There will be no need for prayer—  
Rapture, praise, and endless worship  
Will be our sweet portion there.*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances; for  
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus  
for you.”*      **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

