



SHADY GROVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023

**“Magnifying Jesus Christ by ministering His gospel to
ourselves, our community and around the world”**

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Welcome to Shady Grove Presbyterian Church!

Our Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45am, in person and broadcast live on YouTube

NO Sunday Evening Cornerstone Youth Group Tonight!

Late Morning Prayer (Tuesday and Friday, 11:00-11:30) on Zoom:

NO Thursday evening Cornerstone Bible Study this week!

Dates to Remember

1/4 The Great Unadorned and Chili Dinner

1/9&11 Start of Women's Bible Study (Place 4 You)

1/28 New! Monthly Church-wide Prayer Meeting

See updates and details on our website (<https://shadygrovepca.org/>)

Facebook page ([ShadyGrovePCA](#)) & Instagram ([ShadyGrovePCA](#))



New Here?

Welcome to Shady Grove!

We're glad you're here! Please visit our welcome center in the lobby or scan the QR code to fill out a connect card.



Shady Grove Adults

Winter Sunday School Classes

TODAY, Gene Sohn will be teaching a combined class in the sanctuary about how Christians should think about and interact with AI (artificial intelligence). Beginning January 7, the regular classes will resume. Russ Rushton will continue to teach *Knowing God* in room 10/11 and a variety of teachers will be teaching the Epistle of Hebrews. The winter quarter of Sunday School meets weekly from December 3 to February 25.

Giving Options: Year-end Giving Note

In addition to online giving (<https://shadygrovepca.org/give/>) or mailing in your checks, there is a Check Deposit Box located outside the church office, resembling a mail slot. Also, all year-end giving must be received by December 31 (today). All gifts must be received online or in the church deposit box on or before December 31. Likewise, gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to be counted as a 2023 tax-deductible donation.



Shady Grove Women

Upcoming Women's Bible Studies

The Place 4 You Bible Study recently completed a study on the first half of Exodus. Please make plans to join us this January as we study *God of Freedom: A Study of Exodus 19-40*, with Jen Wilkin. The new study begins the week of **January 8**. We meet weekly on Tuesdays (**January 9**), 9:30am-noon and Thursdays (**January 11**), 7:00-9:00pm. Workbooks will be available in each class for \$10. Come and be blessed! Please contact the church office if you are bringing children.



Shady Grove Missions

"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." Jn 4:35b

The **White Fields offering** is a missions offering we have done for many years as a church. It is an annual offering raising funds to respond to the one time needs of our domestic and international missionaries, and to support our church's annual short term missions trips.

Each year the missions committee prayerfully selects recipients for a portion of the offering. This past year, **Covenant Village** (the Christian retreat center that hosts our youth and men's retreats), **International Students Inc** (Hon Lam's student ministry at Montgomery College), and the **Shannons in Peru** (for the construction of a center to minister to people with disabilities) were among the ministries supported. We were also blessed to provide financial assistance to ministries with specific needs to help fill financial shortfalls. The White Fields offering also enabled us to send two short-term missions trips this year, one to Colombia and one to Honduras, both of which ministered in large part to rural indigenous populations with limited access to biblical teaching.

Two of the ministries we would like to support this year include the ministry of **Sarah Lokos** (working with local youth with FCA), and **the Dillons** (church planting at a multi-ethnic church in Panama). We are also looking at a new missionary project we can support and planning to send short-term teams next year to Columbia and Honduras, building on existing relationships.

Our goal is to raise \$35,000. The drive will run through the end of January. You can give online or by writing "White Fields" in the memo line of your check. There are also envelopes labeled White Fields at the entrance of the church sanctuary. You can give towards White Fields at any time of the year, but giving at this time helps the committee prepare better for how to distribute the funds. The missions committee would like to thank you in advance for your generous gifts to the work of expanding the reach of the Gospel.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:2

Missionaries of the Month:

Michael & Pearl Oh (Global Executive Director/CEO of Lausanne Movement), and their children Hannah, Mikaela, Eowyn, Elliot, and MJ. Please pray for wisdom and strength as Michael connects influencers and ideas for global mission. Michael asks for prayer that people will understand the vision for the 4th Lausanne Congress in Seoul 2024. This will be the largest and most representative gathering of Christian influencers ever to accelerate global mission by mobilizing teams to address the greatest gaps in the Great Commission. The Lord provided above 34,900 nominations for delegates and they are now in the process of narrowing these down to make 5000 invitations. Please pray for wisdom in the selection process! Please pray for Michael and the Oh family. Michael said: "This is a marathon, though it feels like we need to run at sprint speed! The Lord has been sustaining marvelously. But we know that we need to be wise and covered in prayer. I'm aware that this is a spiritual battle, so I would ask for your prayers for protection and vibrant walking with Jesus. And prayer for my wife Pearl and our kids is always my highest value. As I often say, 'If they are ok, I'm ok. If they are not ok, I'm not ok.' So if you do nothing but pray for them, I'd be grateful!"

Missionary of the Month: Kristen Lalley

Missionary, Kristen Lalley (not legally changing her name), and her husband, Thanos Pappas (means *priest* in Greek) will be moving from London the beginning of next year to Athens, Greece for the long term of starting COMMUNITAS' first team in Greece. They will be working with teens and refugees. Kristen and Thanos are currently receiving about 64% of support and need to raise some one-time support for the cost of moving and need to raise \$1,637 in monthly giving.

Local Ministry Opportunities: The Micah Cart

The Micah "Basket" that has been recently located in the hallway outside the church office has become a Micah Cart. This ministry restocks the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. For a list of the items currently needed, check [here](#). **The pantry coordinator has requested boxes of cereal as a pressing need.**



He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Pastoral Prayer Requests

Our world

- Israel – war with Hamas
- Ukraine – ongoing war with Russia

Our **community** – prayers for being salt and light to our unsaved family, friends, and co-workers

SHADY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY

For Reflection:

The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. ²¹ Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. **Isaiah 60:19-21**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **1 John 1:5-7**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship – Revelation 22:1-7

Leader: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

All: No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Leader: And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” ⁷ “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

As with Gladness Men of Old - *Hymn #163*

As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before, Him Whom heav’n and earth adore,
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare, at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav’nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Scripture Reading – Revelation 22:8-13

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹ but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” ¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” ¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Come People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land -
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands -
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing -
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
"Our God is all in all"!

Scripture Reading – Revelation 22:14-21

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say,

“Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Psalm 130 (*From Depths of Woe I Raise To Thee*)

From depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark, our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee? (*Repeat; ladies echo*)

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain; In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight, all must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy. (*Repeat; ladies echo*)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On him my soul shall rest, His Word upholds my fainting spirit:
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience. (*Repeat; ladies echo*)

What though I wait the live-long night, and till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might; It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel’s seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait till God appeareth. (*Repeat; ladies echo*)

Though great our sins and sore our woes His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow. (*Repeat; ladies echo*)

(Children eight years and younger are dismissed to children’s church.)

SHARING AND CARING

Pastoral Prayer

Elder John Mitchell

Ministry in Music

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

"Its Lamp is the Lamb"

Pastor Charlie Baile

Scripture Reading – Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height

are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Sermon Notes

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice

He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Name above all names Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing How great is our God

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Benediction

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