

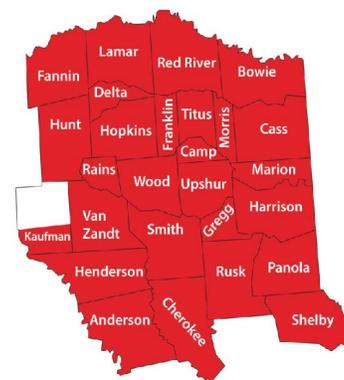
December 2025



from the...

EAST REGION

of Grace Presbytery



Dear Friends,

These past few weeks I enjoyed the hospitality of United Presbyterian in Greenville with other pastors for our quarterly East Texas Pastor’s Lunch. I preached for the combined worshipping community of First Longview and Alpine. I engaged in renewal and continuing education at Gilmont. I spent a lovely Saturday afternoon teaching elders to serve at the communion table. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, January 17. [Email me](#) for more info.

And Advent is upon us! Advent marks the beginning

of the new liturgical year. December is the last month of our calendar year. At this

time of endings and beginnings, I invite you to take some time to reflect on how the past year has been for you. What went well? What would you like to do more in 2026? What didn’t go so well, what would you like to do less in the months to come? How can you build up your church community? How can you support your pastor and other church leaders?

As you celebrate the season, may your Christmas be filled with wonder and delight.

Michele

Do you have a question for Presbytery? Call me 918.232.6422 or email

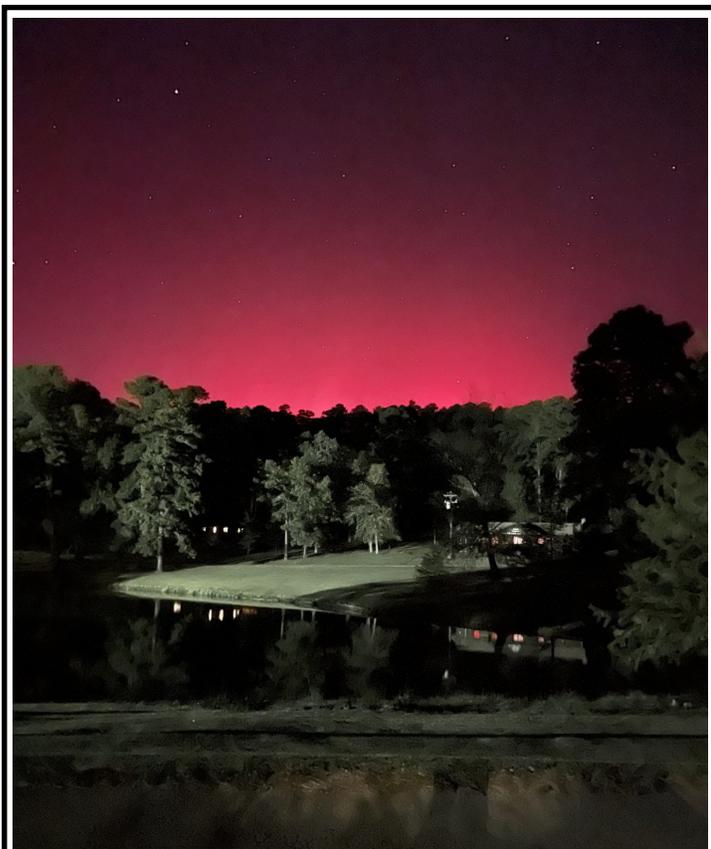
michele@gracepresbytery.org.

Rev. Michele Goff,

Regional Ministry Associate, East Region

In this issue:

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- ◆ Happenings
- ◆ Guess Where
- ◆ Inspiration
- ◆ Important Links



The Aurora Borealis, as seen looking over the pond at Camp Gilmont on November 12th.

Inspiration

Leisure is only possible when we are at one with ourselves. We tend to overwork as a means of self-escape, as a way of trying to justify our existence.

Josef Pieper

Communion Training

Are you discerning a call to deeper leadership in your church? Would that call include serving others by leading the sacrament of communion? If you are a Ruling Elder at a church without full-time pastoral leadership, you may be eligible for Communion Training. Contact [Michele](#) or [Sharon](#) for more information about discerning with your Session about this ministry role, and what the process involves. Next class scheduled for Saturday, January 17.

Happenings

Dec 11, Thurs, 9:30a,

Presbytery Mtg via Zoom

[Mtg Info Link](#)

Dec 16, Tues, 7p

Small Church Zoom

[Email Sharon for link](#)

Dec 22 - 26, All Week

Grace Presbytery Offices

Closed ~ Merry Christmas!

Jan 1, All Day ~ Happy New Year!

Lunch!

Pastors from the East Texas Region enjoyed the hospitality of Rev. Mike O'Neil and United Presbyterian Church in Greenville. Rev. Katie Cummings, our Associate Executive Presbyter, joined us for conversation and delicious food.



Guess Where



Where in our East Region can this stained glass window be found? First one to email me the correct answer gets FREE lunch!

michele@gracepresbytery.org

November's answer: The window depicting Jesus as shepherd is located in the rear of the sanctuary over the loft at Central Presbyterian in Paris.

Kindness "Hustle"

Members of the Outreach Team of First Presbyterian in Henderson recently "hustled" kindness to the workers of the Rusk County Public library, providing them with lunch.



Combined Worship

The combined congregation of Alpine and First in Longview now worship together. Stay tuned for the announcement of their new, combined name!



Happy
ADVENT

Important Links

Visit the website for more information about Grace Presbytery and its programs

<https://gracepresbytery.org/>

Explore the calendar for a comprehensive list of presbytery-wide events

<https://gracepresbytery.org/events/>

Subscribe to the Grace eNews for weekly updates and resources bit.ly/3QzSbkn

View the Grace eNews archives to access recent issues bit.ly/4IWfTWw

Check out the East Region page for a Directory of member churches and our regional news archive <https://gracepresbytery.org/east-region/>