



Grace Presbyterian Church

"To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ."

A Letter from Pastor Mark Middlekauff

At Christmas there is always one thing or another pulling on our hearts. And often it's really **good things** like spending **quality AND quantity time** with family or **serving others** in our communities, like our church's annual Christmas Carol Bingo at the Hamptons Center retirement home.

And yet, **our hearts can be pulled in other directions, too** - and it's easy to see why! With all the "Christmas" ads and their tempting words like, "The Holidays are the perfect time for that new car! In fact, how about his and her SUV's in matching colors!"

Now it's probably true that most of us could use a new car (or two). And we all have genuine needs in order to live God-honoring lives (that's why I always seem to get new socks at Christmas; might as well, right?). But **may we be reminded** this Christmas season of *how easy it is for our hearts to be pulled in the wrong direction*. Now, I need this reminder just as much as ... well ... Jesus' disciples!

Here is what Jesus says: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Amazing! Jesus is saying **we only have two options for what pulls on our hearts**: If we **treasure** earthly, vulnerable, breakable **stuff**, our hearts will not only be pulled towards stuff, but *our hearts* will, in the end, be what's broken! **But when we treasure Christ** and his kingdom, **our hearts will be pulled towards that which is eternally valuable**, and therefore **our hearts will be satisfied**; both now and in the age to come.

This Advent season is a time for us to be reminded where our greatest treasure is, so that our hearts may be pulled towards Christ and his kingdom. And as we do this, by God's grace, the joy and peace of Christ comes to us. May this be your experience this Advent season. **May the gospel of Christ be your treasure**, and may this treasure pull you in!

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Mark Middlekauff



New members joining Grace Church



Fall Family Fun Day



GraceYouth enjoying a BBQ



Women's Retreat ladies having fun

Our Vision

At Grace Presbyterian Church we have a big, “treasure in heaven” vision.

The vision of Grace Church is *to see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ.*

And this vision statement comes with **Four Vision Goals:**

1. **Be a thriving church** in the **Hamptons** that shines the light of the gospel into our community **and** back into **New York City** and surrounding areas (city folks come to faith & grow at Grace Church)
2. **Plant thirteen churches** on Long Island by 2030 A.D. (huge, huge need! Right now, we are planting a church in Stony Brook!)
3. Establish a **Christian counseling center** on the East End of Long Island (Yes!)
4. Establish a **Christian retreat/study center** on the East End of Long Island (Think L'Abri)

Notice, our vision is not just for the Hamptons, but ALL of Long Island! Does that sound too ambitious for a church our size? It could be, but then again, when the hearts of God's people treasure Christ and his kingdom—look out!

How You Can Help

Whether you are an active part of Grace Church or a friend who is thankful to God for us, **would you pray for our vision** to see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ? And if able, **would you consider regular monthly giving or a year-end offering** to help us towards our vision? Whatever you decide, may the treasure of Christ capture your heart this Christmas!

1. If you would like to let us know that you're praying for us, email us at contact@gracehamptons.org. We'd love to hear from you!
2. To give, visit our website (gracehamptons.org/giving) to set up recurring payments, give a one time gift, or donate stocks.
3. If you would like to send a check, please make it payable to Grace Presbyterian Church and mail it to:
Grace Presbyterian Church
1225 Montauk Hwy. Water Mill, NY 11976.



Dianne and Debbie cooking at our Women's Retreat



An amazing GraceCamp



Beach party this summer



Wonderful chefs at Fall Family Fun Day

Grace Presbyterian Church
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