

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“Wishing all Gracians and friends  
a Blessed Chinese New Year!”**

**Pray for Jonathan Sam** as he prepares to speak on Sunday (29 January) from Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-8, 18-24. Message title: “*Understanding Gender from God’s Perspective.*” Service will be livestreamed at 9:30 am at [bit.ly/gracebpsermons](http://bit.ly/gracebpsermons).

**Pray for Pastor** who is preaching in Shalom BPC at 9 am today and in the Indonesian Service at 5pm via Zoom.

**Adult Fellowship 19th Anniversary** on Saturday, 28 January 2023 at 5 pm. Speaker: Rev Yap Kim Sin. Message Title: “*How to Grow Old Gracefully.*”

**Church Prayer Time.** Sunday 29 January 11.15am to 12.00 noon. Eld Victor will be leading this session. All are encouraged to come together to pray for the church.

**CNY Outreach** at Bedok South Horizon Estate, Sunday 29 January 2023 2pm -4pm. We hope to give out **500 CNY goodies packs. We need: 1) Mandarin Oranges** as part of the CNY Gift pack. We are asking Gracians to contribute 10-30 mandarin oranges each and bring it to church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**2) Help** with packing of the gift packs after worship service on 29 January **3) Gift pack volunteers** to help with the distribution at Bedok South Horizons. Please WhatsApp Dn David @ 98187789 if you can contribute or be involved in any of the above.

## NEXT WEEK’S APPOINTMENTS

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Speaker</b>                 | Jonathan Sam                            |
| <b>Worship Leader</b>          | James Chen                              |
| <b>Musicians</b>               | Joanna Hor, Stanley Poh, Emmanuel Zhang |
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>        | Tham Hui Yi                             |
| <b>AV Ministry</b>             | Elijah Lim                              |
| <b>Ushers</b>                  | Dn Allan Lim, Lee Kee Min, Evonne Tee   |
| <b>Junior Worship</b>          | Dn Lim Chien Chong                      |
| <b>Pre-Primary Worship</b>     | Hannah Yeo                              |
| <b>Flowers</b>                 | Irene Seah                              |
| <b>Refreshments</b>            | Irene Seah                              |
| <b>Prayer Meeting Devotion</b> | Rev Tan Eng Boo                         |

## LAST WEEK’S GIVINGS

Offerings \$ 2, 034. 00  
Tithes \$ 3, 980. 00

QR code for tithes & offerings  
(Please indicate “Tithe” or “Offering” under Reference no. / description)



## LET US PRAY

Join us in praying for the church and the world via Zoom. Please contact Rev Tan at 9784 2761 for Zoom meeting ID and password. You may also email us your prayer items at [prayer@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:prayer@gracebpc.org.sg)

## MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD

### Salvation

*For the Lord is our judge;  
the Lord is our lawgiver;  
the Lord is our king;  
he will save us.*

*Isaiah 33:22 (ESV)*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### Moderator

Elder Victor Goh 9682 2281  
[Victor\\_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:Victor_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg)

### Co-Moderator

Elder Seah Soon Huat 9835 2178  
[Soon\\_Huat\\_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:Soon_Huat_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg)

### Honorary Pastor (Mandarin Service)

Rev Lee Fatt Ping 9668 1549  
[Fatt\\_Ping\\_Lee@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:Fatt_Ping_Lee@gracebpc.org.sg)

### Pastor (Mentoring)

Rev Tan Eng Boo 9784 2761  
[Eng\\_Boo\\_Tan@gracebpc.org.sg](mailto:Eng_Boo_Tan@gracebpc.org.sg)

# Grace Bible Presbyterian Church



Volume 48 · Issue 4 · 22 January 2023

### Speaker/Interpreter

Rev Lee Fatt Ping/Lim Ai Lin

### Worship Leader/ Co-chairperson

Eld Seah Soon Huat/  
Lim Ai Lin

### Musicians

Adeline Lek  
Chew Weh

### Scripture Reader

Eld Seah Soon Huat

### AV Ministry

Carol Lee  
Janice Lee

### Ushers

Augustine Tham  
Lee Kee Min  
Elsie Chan

### Junior Worship

James Chen

### Pre-Primary Worship

Hannah Yeo

### Flowers

Tay Boon Jin

### Refreshments

-

### Month of January Preaching Schedule

1 Jan “Our Hope Is in the Lord”  
(Num. 21:4-9)  
8 Jan “This Grace Wherein We  
Stand” (Rom. 5:1-11)  
15 Jan “Being True and Real As  
God’s People” (1 Thess.  
2:1-12)  
22 Jan “New Pursuit in the  
New Year” (Col. 3:16;  
1 Timothy 2:1-4)  
29 Jan “Understanding Gender  
from God’s Perspective”  
Gen 1:26-31; 2:4-8; 18-24

### OUR MISSION

To bring people to salvation in  
Jesus Christ and disciple them in  
their relationship with Christ.

### OUR VISION

To be a church that is passionate about God,  
transformed by the Word, authentic in  
relationship, and bold in witness.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

### Opening Song

Crown Him with Many Crowns

### Opening Prayer

Gloria Patri

### Worship in Song

Come, Thou Almighty King

### Responsive Reading

Psalm 16 (KJV)

### Giving and Thanksgiving

Doxology

### Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV)

### Pre-Sermon Song

Break Thou the Bread of Life

### Corporate Prayer

### Sermon

*New Year, New Pursuits*

### Closing Song

Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

### Benediction

Threefold Amen

### Sunday Worship & Activities

9.30am Main Service

10.00am Junior Worship

11.30am Bible Classes

(7-12 yrs old)

## ARE SOME CHINESE NEW YEAR TRADITIONS “UNCHRISTIAN”?

*Many Chinese New Year traditions are about luck and fortune. So how can a Christian celebrate the lunar new year?*

*By Leslie Koh*

Celebrating Chinese New Year has always put me in a bit of a dilemma.

As an ethnic Chinese, I appreciate many of the traditions and practices of the festive season, as they reflect my cultural heritage (though some of them arguably feel a bit outdated today).

As a Christian, however, I sometimes wonder: What Chinese New Year traditions can a Christian follow, and what he should not?

Obviously, those practices that clearly involve religious beliefs and superstition are to be avoided. But what about those that don't seem so clear-cut? Should I, for example, avoid wishing an older relative good fortune (even though it is part of the standard greeting in Chinese)? If I wear brightly-coloured clothes, am I giving in to the superstition that dark clothes are unlucky? Should I pay off outstanding debts before the new year, as some people do?

We could have a long debate on this topic, bringing in the 1 Corinthians 8 principle of not stumbling a weaker brother and balancing it against what these traditions actually mean.

But I've been reminded that some of the Chinese New Year traditions are far from “unchristian”. In fact, they appear to contain biblical principles that we can appreciate as believers. After all, at its heart, the lunar new year is about relationships with a greater Being and with fellow men.

Some have pointed out that the reunion dinner is in line with biblical principles of reconciliation and fellowship (Hebrews 10:24–25, Matthew 5:23–24). Paying off debts, reconciling differences, and making amends before the new year are powerful reminders that we are forgiven by God and given new lives, and that we are to forgive others as God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32).

Even the word “fu”, which means luck or fortune, hints at a biblical perspective. Watch this one-minute video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TQRBXi20MM> to see the remarkable link, and it's easy to see that the human desire for fortune reflects the longing for blessing that we know can come only from God.

And what is this blessing? Many Chinese New Year greetings have to do with prosperity, success, and material riches. But even the very structure of the word “fu” (do watch the video, it'll take just a minute!) shows us that true blessing comes from having a personal relationship with God.

John 1:12–13 expresses this inspiring promise from God: “To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

This Chinese New Year, how about taking some time to reflect on God's boundless blessings and love, and to share His love with others?

Lord, thank You for  
your ultimate blessing of  
a personal relationship with You.  
May I never take it for granted, and  
help me to live in a way that  
honours this relationship.

*This article was first published in Spotlight Singapore © Our Daily Bread Ministries. For more articles like this, visit: <https://odb.sg/spotlight/>*