



## Making a Commitment to the Future

The Pastor Nominating Committee has begun its work. That means we are turning our attention to completing the mission study process. The PNC will use the congregation's input in the Mission Study Report to help guide them in their search and selection.

Last winter Session conducted congregational surveys and hosted congregational conversations about the future vision and mission of the church. Under the leadership of elders Diana Ibarra, Sally Kest, and Jim Pate, we are refining that conversation to take into consideration who we are as a church now given the extraordinary changes brought by the pandemic over the past six months. The vision we have for impacting our community for Christ in the future and how we are going to be able to accomplish the mission of the church have changed along with everything else.

Supporting the Pastor Nominating Committee in their search will include more than a Mission Study Report. Calling an installed pastor includes a commitment to financially support the new pastor and the pastor's family for many years to come. Presbytery will not approve calling a pastor without that commitment. The members of the Grace Covenant family of faith demonstrated the first part of that commitment by eliminating years of deficits. Now the hard, but satisfying, work of demonstrating our

commitment to the future can be realized with a successful stewardship campaign for 2021.

We have been entrusted with the future of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Let us by faith move into that future with confidence.



### Looking Ahead Events May Be Postponed or Moved Online

#### October

- 7 - Wednesdays at Grace
- 8, 9 - Daily Bread
- 21 - Wednesdays at Grace
- 25 - Commitment Sunday

#### November

- 1 - The Great Pumpkin Chase
- 4 - Wednesdays at Grace
- 8 - Annual Congregational Picnic
- 18 - Wednesdays at Grace
- 22 - Chili Cook Off
- 26 - Thanksgiving Dinner
- 26, 27 - Office Closed
- 29 - Hanging of the Greens

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### ***Many Thanks***

Thank you Grace Covenant for the Scholarship money! I was able to use the money to pay for my New Student Experience class. I was also able to get my textbooks as well.

Hannah Mann



### ***Welcome***

#### ***New Nursery/Walker & Preschool Staff!***

Please welcome Trinisha Howard, Brooke Petersen and Haley Jones as our new early childhood staff, joining Catelyn Castagno. We welcome them to the Children's Ministry team! You can catch them in action each Sunday on the first floor of Smith Hall!

### ***GRACE TIME!!***

**Watch your email if you have a child who is 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

A "take a break" opportunity for parents will be launched in mid to late October called GRACE TIME. Perhaps you need a moment to go to the grocery store, perhaps you need a moment alone, the list can be long in our current world situation. GRACE TIME will be a time on Sundays for parents to bring their child and drop them off for 2.5 hours of fun and learning! Modeled after our successful Super Summer Wednesday program, each session will include crafts, games, stories and more! Safe Covid protocols will be followed. Your registration information is coming to you by email, please call the office and update your email address if you have changed it recently.

### ***Ruth Circle***

Ruth Circle met on Monday Sept 14th in Conway Hall. We wore masks and practiced social distancing but were so happy to be together again. There were 14 in attendance. This year we are studying Joshua and his journey of faith. Winnie Rutherford is leading us in this study.

Our community project continues to be Servant's Heart which is feeding about 200 families per week. Since there are many young families they serve, diapers are always a big need. Therefore, this year we are proposing the diaper challenge - each time you go to the grocery store you pick up a package of diapers, any size.

In October, Servant's Heart will be starting the turkey drive for the families for the holidays and request \$10 Publix gift cards. We will be joining in that effort.

We look forward to another amazing year. All are welcome, so please join us on October 12 at 10 am Conway Hall. Let me know if you have any questions.

Barbara Hart

### ***In Sympathy***

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following who have lost a loved one

Nelson Flack and family  
on the passing of his wife, Joyce.

The family and friends of June Bockus.

Jane Heppner and family whose uncle, Jim Laux, passed away.

Lydia Hernandez Trickey whose son, Phillip Trickey passed away.

Eddie Fike and family whose brother, Timothy McGinnis, passed away.

Eric and Josi Gray on the passing of Eric's brother, Jeff.



## ***Presbyterian's Answer to Hunger (PATH)***

Fighting hunger is at the heart of our Presbyterian understanding of mission. Jesus fed the hungry and told his disciples to do the same. We know that hunger is an extremely complex phenomenon with economic, political and social causes. Still, a local congregation can make a huge impact on local hunger. Presbyterian churches are feeding hungry people in their neighborhoods with food pantries, soup kitchens, community meals, community gardens, backpack programs and more.

Here at Grace Covenant, among our other missions to alleviate hunger, we have participated in the 2 Cents per Meal program for many years. Did you know that the 2 Cents program originated in 1976 by Presbyterian Women as a way to involve individuals and families in a coordinated response to world hunger? There is still great need to feed hungry people, so the program now is called 5 Cents per Meal. The PATH partners who receive our donations in Central Florida Presbytery are:

The Society of St. Andrew Gleaning Network ([www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org))  
The Second Harvest Food Bank ([feedhopenow.org](http://feedhopenow.org))

A.I.R. Guatemala ([www.airguatemala.org](http://www.airguatemala.org))  
Madagascar Fruit, Vegetable, Environmental Education (FVVEE)/Dan and Elizabeth Turk (P.C.USA Mission Workers)

Just 5 cents per person per meal a day is only \$4.50 per month, but these small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$450 a month at five cents a meal. That's \$5,400 dollars a year. A 30,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million annually at a nickel a meal.

Saving up a jar of nickels may not seem like such a good idea during a pandemic, so you can just add it to your tithes and offerings on-line or by check. Thank you for your generosity!

### ***Book Club***

GCPC has a book club that is currently meeting by Zoom at 7:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We'd love to have you join us for informal discussion and fellowship! If you're interested contact Jane Heppner.

Our next book is:

Oct. 27 ***Unfinished Death***  
by Dee Henderson

## ***ROOTED Youth Group News***

**ROOTED** in October meets on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:15pm-7pm. We'll have awesome dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements, and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!

Please pencil in **Youth Lunch Bunch** for Sunday, Oct. 18 after the 10:45am service. Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, we may all go out to lunch, OR brown-bag it in the Youth room.

**THE Great Pumpkin Chase** - pencil in for Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:15pm-7pm. It's a city-wide scavenger hunt complete with finding someone dressed as The Great Pumpkin. We'll have games, food, drinks, and prizes galore!!!! **DEAD**line to sign-up is Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

For more details on our events and other news, friend us on Facebook: Grace Covenant PC Youth, and on Instagram: @rootedgpcpc

## ***Session Summary***

September 2020

The finances of the church remain steady as stewardship season begins and the 2021 budget is developed.

Confirmation 2020-2021 begins soon with six students registered. Elders will serve as covenant partners.

The 2021 stewardship schedule and letter to the congregation was approved.

Recommendations regarding benefits, a revised Facilities Manager job description, and renewal of the Parish Associate relationship with Rev. Estes were approved.

Reports were received from other standing committees of Session.

The Officer Nominating Committee presented the slate of nominees for Elder (Bonnie Keller, Carole Pate, Nancy Venable, Joe Waddell) and Deacon (Joyce Julian, Stephanie Kelly, Craig Marquis, Frank Quiett, and Susie Findell).

Session removed with sadness, June Bockus and Joyce Flack who passed recently.

## ***Congregation Meeting***

Grace Covenant conducted a historic congregation meeting on September 20 when the congregation met together online and in person for the first time. Over 60 members signed in or maintained social distance in Conway Hall for the purpose of amending the bylaws (to allow the church to meet online), to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect new Elders and Deacons. Thank you to Doug Hogarth and Carolyn Castagno for providing the tech support and Zoom hosting.

## ***Elections***

Congratulations to newly elected PNC members: Danielle Alchin, Brian Gallagher, Maxine Gokee (Alternate), Gary Munson, Scott Porter, Laura Regier,

Robert Taylor and Joe Waddell. Be praying for these members as they begin the exciting process of searching for the next installed pastor of the church.

Congratulations also to the newly elected elders Bonnie Keller, Carole Pate, Nancy Venable, Joe Waddell; and deacons Joyce Julian, Stephanie Kelly, Craig Marquis, Frank Quiett, and Susie Findell. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

## ***Grace Veterans***

The National POW/MIA Recognition day was September 18th. This day was set aside to remind Americans of the more than 81,000 Americans unaccounted for from past conflicts and to re-affirm our Nation's steadfast commitment to bring them home. The VW 50th Anniversary Commemorative Program sponsors Certificates of Honor for former American military prisoners of war as well as immediate family member of American military personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Certificates and lapel pins can be requested from the Department of Defense via our Grace Commemorative Team.

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sept. 27th. This day honors those who have lost a child while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Please display your flag to express our love, sorrow and reverence.

## ***Daily Bread***

Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9  
11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Grace Covenant volunteers will be helping at Daily Bread. Due to Covid-19, volunteers will prep to-go boxes which staff will then take outside to the clients. About 6-7 people are needed each day. If you can help or would like more information, contact Trudy Phelps before Sept. 30.

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Please submit articles to  
churchoffice@grace.to  
**Next Deadline - October 10**

October 2020



GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Sunday Worship**  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Office Hours**  
Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon

1655 Peel Ave., Orlando, FL 32806  
Phone: 407.898.6571  
E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to  
**WWW.GRACE.TO**

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Return Service Requested

## *Wednesdays at Grace*

In the Courtyard 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

October 7

**Stories and S'mores!** S'mores makings and fires supplied

October 14

**Reader's Theater** Enjoy live theater again

October 21

**Gospel Hour** All your favorite gospel hymns

October 28

**Pumpkin Carving** BYOP - Bring your own pumpkin

Bring a lawn chair! Masks are required.

Please continue to support the work of the church by mailing your tithes and offerings to the church or by making a donation through the church website. Go to the "Online Giving" page at [www.grace.to](http://www.grace.to) and click on the "Give Now" button.