

LENTEN CALENDAR

Lent begins on March 6, this year. Beginning on that date, we will once again share in weekly Lenten dinners, worship and study. **Each Wednesday, a meal will be served in Conway Hall from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.** The meals are prepared for you by the Congregational Fellowship Committee and there will be baskets on the table for donations to cover the expense. Participants are asked to choose a day to bring a dessert to share. There will be a place on the reservation form to sign up for this.

will know how many children to expect and can plan accordingly.



On Maundy Thursday, April 18, there will be a dinner at 6:30 followed by a service of Communion and Remembrance.

Registration forms and class information are available in the bulletin and on the kiosk. **You have three classes to choose from:**

- CSI: Text Messages from the Bible;
- Convincing the Doubting that Jesus is Real
A study of the book of Hebrews
- Forgiveness.



On **March 6, Ash Wednesday,** there will be a **service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm.** You are encouraged to come for worship even if you are not attending the meal.

For the remaining weeks, **March 13, 20 and 27 and April 3 and 10,** following the meal, you will participate in a class. **You will be able to choose your class which will meet from 6:30 – 7:15 pm.**



Youth should make their choice from the classes offered. Children will have a special class and a nursery will be available if requested. Please be sure to sign up on the reservation form so we

We hope you will join us to share in this time together as we reflect on the season of Lent.

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See the church calendar online:

<http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/>

I have to tell you that my family and I were completely blown away by my retirement reception. I know this took a lot of planning and I could see the careful thoughts that went into every detail – from the bagpipes to the astronomically themed napkins. Everyone had such great words to share and I was glad the whole day was light hearted and fun spirited.



I deeply appreciate the picture of the church and the love offering that was presented. As I write this, the reception was just held yesterday, and so my wife and I are still slowly sorting through all of the cards and notes, enjoying and savoring all that you have written to us.

Mostly, I thank you for allowing me to serve God and to serve you through this congregation. I have always said that being a pastor has been the best job in the world, and I leave you still feeling fortunate to have been called by God to be your pastor. I know that you will be in good hands as your new Interim Pastor arrives.

May the Grace of God be with you,
Maynard Pittendreigh



To Mike Beam:

Please congratulate the youth members for us for a great “Youth Sunday” service.

I’m sure we speak for members of the congregation who know that they all did a great job last Sunday. While we know many of them, some we do not know by name.

As some of the Eighth graders read their biographies - or at least some of the activities that they pursue, we can appreciate how proud their parents must be of them. We too are happy that they are members of our church, and happy that they are active in it as well.

We would also like to thank you and those who work closely with our youth group, helping

them along the path of life and helping them recognize the importance of a Christian way of life and our Lord.

Charlotte Carroll
Gene Lang



The family and friends of Matthew Durham would like to thank the staff of the church that helped with the fellowship lunch after his funeral. They did a great job and are so appreciated!

Special thanks to Candy Vander Weide and Kathy and Brian Gallagher who worked so hard on the service, food, flowers and everything that needed to be done. They epitomize Christian love and support. God really blessed us with Matt. He fought so hard for so long. Words cannot express the sorrow on his passing and how much he will be missed, but God was ready for him.

God Bless,
Mark Durham, Deborah Timerman
and many, many loving friends



Thank you for your prayers of support for some of our high school boys who made a journey to Heart of Soncoast Chrysalis in Brandon, FL. This retreat is designed to provide tools to those who have already professed a faith in Jesus Christ, and is living a life for Him.

In Him,
Mike Beam



A special thanks to the Buildings and Grounds Committee (Bruce Johnson, Manuel Umpierre, Glen Widick and Joe Waddell) for their cleaning of the bus last Saturday. This was done in preparation for its sale which will be happening soon. The bus has been a good mission for the church but its usefulness has diminished recently and it is felt that it should be sold. Anyone who would like to participate in the selling of the bus, please contact the church office.



Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, March 31

The Christian Education Committee has designated Sunday, March 31, as Teacher Appreciation Sunday at Grace Covenant.

A luncheon will be held for the Sunday School Teachers and their families following the 10:45 service on that day.

This is just a small way to say thank you for the time, commitment and love shown by this special group as they follow the command to “go, therefore and make disciples...teaching them...”

Won't you take a moment to write a note or say a special thank you to the teachers on this day?

We have six dates open that we have need of hosts for the **hospitality table** following the 10:45 service.



The dates are **March 31, May 26, June 16, July 28, August 11 and September 1.**

You just have to leave the service during the last hymn to put the drinks out on the table....be there to greet those who come over...put the containers on the cart when all is done and wheel the cart into the kitchen. Please call Candy at 407-898-6571 or email candy@grace.to if you would be willing to cover one or more of these dates.

Address Changes

Karl Kesler

Patricia Rogers

Address Correction

Michelle & Jason Gonyea

CUT IT OUT!



For more than 20 years **Box Tops for Education** has helped schools raise money to fund programs for students.. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents.

Last year Box Tops collected from Grace Covenant earned over \$90.00 for Eccleston Elementary School.

All of us can contribute in this easy way by saving Box Tops. Bring them to church each week and **put them in the bin marked Eccleston Elementary** just inside the side narthex door.

For more information contact **Pat Lyons** who serves as the Box Tops Liaison Coordinator.

Send Grace Notes items to Jane Heppner at jane.gracenotes@gmail.com

The deadline for the next issue is March 15th.

Please include Grace Notes in the title of your email.



Boone's 33 Vietnam War Casualties to be Honored March 29th with a Wreath Laying Ceremony

Boone High School alumni plan a wreath laying ceremony Friday March 29, 2019, at the school's Vietnam War Memorial honoring the 33 alumni who died in the Vietnam War.

The ceremony will take place on the Boone campus at **3:00 PM Friday, March 29, 2019, Vietnam Veterans Day.**

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, a Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Partner, will assist and support the event at Boone High School.

The ceremony will include brief remarks by CDR Herschel Hughes, Jr., MSC, USNR (Ret.) a 1962 Boone alumni and Vietnam war veteran. All Vietnam era veterans present who served on active duty at some point between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975 will be given the opportunity to be presented Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative lapel pins. Widows or widowers of eligible servicemen and women, identified in advance, will also be presented Certificates of Honor and respective commemorative pins. The invocation and benediction will be offered by Chaplain Marvin W. Luckie of the VA. After the reading of the 33 names, a wreath will be laid at the memorial, followed by TAPS. The public is invited. Any widows or widowers that would like to be recognized should contact CDR Hughes at hhughesjr@bellsouth.net or 407-625-6397 at least a week in advance so the certificates can be printed. Veterans wishing to receive their commemorative pins can just attend without any advance contact.



This year's planned March 29th event at Boone High School follows in the spirit of the Memorial Service conducted at Boone last year on Vietnam Veterans Day in which the 33 honoree's military pictures and records were presented. Certificates of Honor to thirteen immediate family members of the 33 were also presented. In addition, approximately 60 Vietnam era veterans from the Orlando community were honored with their commemorative pins.

Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

(# 14) will be on

March 28-31, 2019

at

The Retreat in Silver Springs, Ocala, FL.

Contact Minnette Mullings

for more information.



*We extend our Christian
love and sympathy to ~*

The family of Marion McGriff who died on February 1, 2019. A service was held in Barnesville, Georgia.

Reuben and Minnette Mullings and family. Reuben's sister, Adel Mullings, passed away in England on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

March 3

Sunday

12:00 pm Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off
5:15 pm - 7:00 pm Rooted Youth Group

March 9

Saturday

8:15 am - 1:30 pm UP and Lunch
Sign-up deadline for our morning mission at UP on March 9 is at ROOTED on March 3. We'll meet in the GCPC parking lot at 8:15am, and afterwards, Mike will take you and your friendz to lunch with a return to GCPC at 1:30pm. You CAN earn Bright House Community Service hours for doing this.

March 24 and 31

Sundays

5:15 pm - 7:00 pm Rooted Youth Group

Rooted Youth Group

We'll have awesome dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!

Sunday School meets every Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30am, in the Youth Room with **FREE** donuts, juice and **Jesus!!!**

Please bring your friends to anything we do!

They don't have to be members of GCPC, Presbyterian, or even believers but you **DO** need to tell them that the Gospel of Jesus **will** be taught in some kind of way.

For more details on our events and other news....

you can friend us on Facebook at: **Grace Covenant PC Youth**,
and on Instagram at: **rootedgcpc**.



Don't forget our Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off after the 10:45am service on March 3. Held in Conway Hall, there is a \$5 donation to sample all entrees. Prizes awarded so if you're interested in cooking/baking, please contact Mike at: mike@grace.to



Senior High School students will be graduating soon and are making plans for the next steps in their educational lives.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Grace Covenant members could help our GCPC graduating seniors reach their goal of attending college?

In the next few months please think about how you could help by contributing to the **GCPC Scholarship Fund**. Donations can be put in the offering plate (designated for the scholarship fund) or given to Candy.

Baptisms

Emerson Grace Field

daughter of Justin & Krysta Field
and granddaughter of Kathie Wiergacz
was baptized February 10, 2019.

Easton William-Michael Myers

son of
Colton Michael-Arthur & Louisa Maria Myers
was baptized February 10, 2019.



Vacation Bible School 2019

“To Mars and Beyond”



Our annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **June 11- 14, from 9:00 am – noon.** We are beginning to make plans for this amazing week of sharing the stories of our faith with the children.

It takes many hands and loving hearts to make this program happen. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry this year.

- ◆ Is God calling you to work with others in music, art, recreation, storytelling or refreshments?
- ◆ Are you willing to help with the closing picnic on Thursday, June 14 at noon?
- ◆ Could you be there to help with registration and to welcome the children as they arrive?
- ◆ Is decorating your gift?

And/or would you be willing to help in some way with the **Small Blessings Bible School** to be held on **June 18, 19 and 20?** This program meets from **9 – 11:30am** on these three days.

Please call (407-898-6571) or email Candy (candy@grace.to) with any questions or ideas, or to express your willingness to share God's love in this fun and special way.

Fellowship Opportunities for All

Family Fun Nite.....

normally held on the third Tuesday of each month **will NOT be scheduled in March or April** because of the Wednesday night Lenten dinners.



You are encouraged to participate in the Wednesday night Lenten activities.

(See page 1 for details.)

Fun Nite will resume on May 21.

FOURTH THURSDAY **AT THE GARDEN**

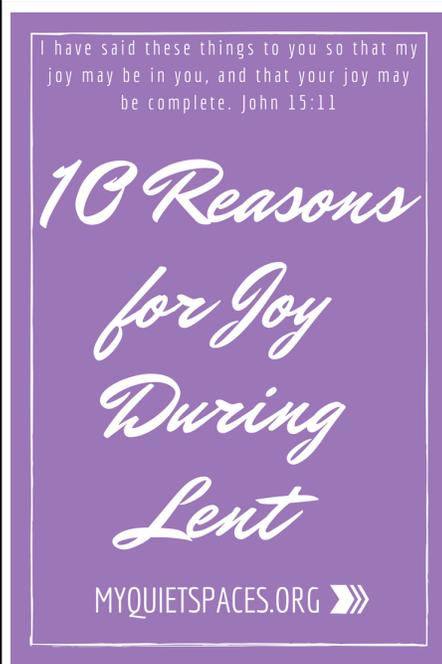
Thursday, March 28
6:30 pm

No reservations needed.
No program or agenda.

Just great food, fellowship and fun
at the

Olive Garden Restaurant
on East Colonial.

Hope to see you there!!



10 Reasons for Joy During Lent

Adapted from the website: [The Upper Room](http://TheUpperRoom.org)
MyQuietSpaces.org

1. This is a period to reflect on our health and wellness and to commit for 40 days to a new spiritual and health practice. “Take on” one new health behavior that may become a lifestyle change. Hopefully!
2. We have the opportunity to allow our bodies to rest by giving up sugar, fried foods, or other habits that we feel need to be let go of—at least temporarily!
3. We share with Christians across the world in this centuries-old spiritual practice—the discipline and spiritual growth of Lent.
4. When we “repent” (turn away from) behaviors or thoughts that take us away from God’s grace, we feel more fully the joy of God’s mercy and forgiveness. We are to practice forgiving ourselves.
5. Dedicate more time for a deeper relationship with God through a daily cleansing prayer (Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10), fasting, volunteering, or caring for our bodies as the temple of God (Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
6. Feel as if we are sharing in the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his ministry, which strengthened his purpose and helps us strengthen ours, too. (Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7)
7. Take this time to fast from negativity, guilt, fear, envy, impatience, sense of entitlement, bitterness and resentment, blame, gossip, comparison, fear of failure, doubt, pride and worry.
8. We know the end of the story: that at the end of every season of Lent (of self-denial, wilderness, abstinence) there is Easter (new life, rebirth, abundance, rejoicing). When we are in a season of wilderness or struggle, we know that God is present and that season will give way to a resurrection (of ideas, identity, relationships) and rejoicing.
9. Observing Lent allows us to dedicate 40 days to reflect on our relationship with God, others, and ourselves to gain insights for new ways of living with more joy and becoming more healthy and well, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
10. We will not be the same after 40 days of a closer walk with God! Whatever service, behaviors, ministries, or wellness lifestyles we “take on” for Lent, once the 40 days are over, we have a testimony and a renewed purpose.

MARCH 2019



**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

Candy Vander Weide
Commissioned Lay Pastor

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

To:

College Care Packages

It's just about that time again.....our college students are back on campus! A surprise box full of necessities and fun stuff can brighten a student's day and remind them that folks back home are keeping them in prayer during a stressful time. During the month of **March** (until **March 17**), the Deacons will once again collect items for College Care Packages for church members who are college students attending college away from home. Below is a list of suggested items to be included in our care packages. Donations of these items can be made in the box located in the narthex labeled "**College Care Packages.**" If you have a student away at college, be sure we have their address.

Please contact Kathy Roberts at kjroberts@cfl.rr.com. Thank you!



notebook paper
legal pads
scotch tape / staples
paper clips
post it notes
stamps
hygiene products
antibacterial spray
laundry detergent
cleaning products

air freshener
tea or lemonade mix sticks
hot chocolate packets
coffee / tea bags
instant soups
ramen noodles
tuna / canned chicken
popcorn
cereal / oatmeal
pretzels / chips

party mix / crackers
candy / gum
protein or granola bars
cookie packets
brownie mix
peanut butter
Nutella
beef jerky
pens / pencils
highlighters
gift cards