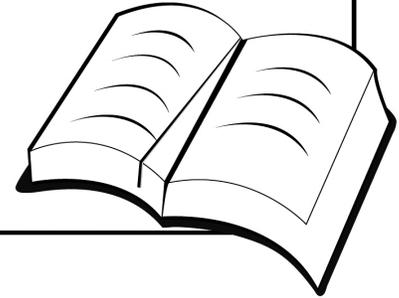


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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May 2020 — Volume 63, Issue 5

Moving Forward

What it means to be the church is changing! From online worship to virtual meetings and classes, we are making real-time change and doing it in really big ways.

Given the uncertainty about when it will be safe to return, the suspension of in-person worship and other church gatherings are extended through May 10. That means we will celebrate our first ever online communion May 3. Prior to going online for worship that Sunday, gather bread and juice to partake at home after the blessing of the elements during the service in the sanctuary. Because Mother's Day likely won't include church and brunch after, invite others to "meet" and celebrate your mother in a special Montage of Moms. Email a picture of your mother to the church office. Pictures will be uploaded for the service then taken down.

Even as we adjust to doing church in new ways, we are planning and preparing to re-open. What church will look like moving forward is going to require changes, too. As believers we live by faith, not by fear. But we must be both proactive and practical in protecting our most vulnerable members and our community. We have a lot to think about and do before the church can return to the building.

Some things don't change: like trusting in God. Or praying with and for each other and serving as we are able. Stay connected and current through the church web-site at www.grace.to,

follow the church Facebook page, subscribe to weekly updates by email. Call the church office to update contact information, for help getting on-line, or to sign up for email updates.

We are not alone in this.



Looking Ahead Events May Be Postponed or Moved Online

May

- 17 - Youth Sunday
- 28 - Fourth Thursday at the Garden
- 31 - Pentecost

June

- 1, 2, 3, 4 - Music Camp
- 8, 9, 10, 11 - Vacation Bible School
- 15, 16, 17 - Small Blessings Bible School
- 24 - Super Summer Wednesdays
- 25 - Fourth Thursday at the Garden

July

- 1, 8, 15, 22 - Super Summer Wednesdays
- 23 - Fourth Thursday at the Garden

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| SUPER Sunday S.S. | 2 |
| Family Promise | 2 |
| Session Summary | 7 |

See the church
calendar online:
[http://www.grace.to/
announcements/weekly-
calendar/](http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
LET'S SERVE TOGETHER!**

We need YOU to serve one Sunday from 9:30 - 10:30am in SUPER SUMMER Sunday school. That's our summer Sunday school for Rising Kindergartners through Rising 5th Graders. No preparation necessary! You will serve alongside Ms. Sheryl, she needs help with snack time and craft time. You will be showing love to the children at Grace Covenant! QUICK!!! Send Ms. Sheryl an email or call her at the church and sign up for your Sunday. YOU will have a great time and leave feeling like you have received more than you have given.

Email: Sheryl@grace.to or 407-898-6571

Family Promise

Family Promise thanked Grace Covenant for financial assistance to house families needing shelter during COVID-19: "your donations will help defray the cost of the hotel". The request now is for help in feeding the four families currently under care:

- mom and a 12 year old;
- mom, dad, 3 children ages 1 to 9 years old;
- mom and a 3 year old; and
- mom with 2 children ages 5 and 6.

Favorite foods: pasta, chicken, mac & cheese, green beans, broccoli, corn, pizza, salad.

Grace Covenant's week is May 17-24.

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4aabc2ca3f85-conways>

Food drop off at Family Promise, 1000 Clay St., Winter Park at 5 pm or Conway Methodist Church which will deliver for us.

Call Alison 407-615-1080 to coordinate or Diana Ibarra 407-925-5830 for more information.

Quilters Serving by Sewing

With gratitude to our Still Stitchin' quilters and Grace Covenant members who jumped in to help make masks for health care employees and other front-line workers. Hundreds have already been delivered to local hospitals and our ministry partner at Russell Home.

Scholarship Application Information

Applicants must be students who are members of Grace Covenant or students actively involved in church activities and whose parents are church members.

- If you have previously received a scholarship you must reapply each year.
- Deadline for applying is June 1.
- Forms are available from the church office or can be mailed to you by calling the office.
- Amount of the scholarship is determined by the scholarship committee.
- Additional information may be requested by the committee.

Donations for the Scholarship Fund are still needed and much appreciated.

The Upper Room

The May/June issue is now available. To get a copy, visit the office door 9 AM - 3 PM.

In Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Lewis and Phyllis Ciavaglia and family. Lewis' mother, Sandra Ciavaglia, died April 8, 2020 and



Michelle Smith and Jennifer Green whose grandmother, Merle Lucille Motisher who recently passed away.

Jana and Jon Adams

Lucas Chen

Ginny McGachey

ADDRESS

UPDATES

Dropping the Landline. . .



New contact number for Doug Hogarth



Session Summary

April 2020

The suspension of in-person worship and other gatherings was extended through May 10. Session continues to monitor the situation and will adjust as circumstances warrant.

Expenses exceeded revenues for March. However, critical church functions and ministry programs are on-going. Tithes and offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online through the church website.

Session approved online communion on May 3. Members will gather bread and juice to partake together in spirit after the elements are blessed in the online service.

Outreach and Care approved disbursements to church members and several community ministry partners for immediate COVID-19 assistance.

Building and Grounds projects were approved for upgrades for drainage and the sanctuary drop-off area now while traffic is at a minimum. New doors will also be installed in the narthex (with thanks to those who donated funds) for enhanced safety.

Technology completed the install of new monitors in the sanctuary. Grateful thanks was offered to the donors who made this upgrade possible.

The Functionality Committee submitted a report which was received with gratitude for the work done over several years by the Committee. Action items and recommendations from the Committee will be reviewed by Session at future meetings.

Caring and Sharing

One of Outreach's goals is to provide immediate relief in times of crisis to our neighbors in the community. There are many needs nearby in this uncertain time. With schools closed, many of the families with children at Dover Shores Elementary are struggling to feed their families.

Aided by funds from the Foundation, Grace Covenant provided 48 \$20 food gift cards and bus passes to families at Dover Sores.

The needs of these children go beyond food. Virtual schooling is difficult as some lack access to computers, internet, and even packets of written assignments in Spanish.

As we thank God for His blessings during these challenging days consider what you can.

*".... in as much as you did it to one of the least of these
My brethren , you did it to Me."*

Matthew 25:40

All Things Are Possible

All things are possible with God. This statement is true, even in this crazy time of things being not as "normal" as expected, but only when we believe it. Inspired by Norman Vincent Peale's, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, here are ten steps to do every day to help see the possibilities.

1. *See yourself succeeding.* Picture yourself succeeding, and be as specific as possible. Maybe even put this in your "Notes" app on your phone.

2. *Cancel negative contractions.* When you hear inside your head "can't", "won't", and "don't", replace it with, "I can!", "I will!", "I do!".

3. *Deflate your obstacles and wipe away trouble.* Deal with your problems unemotionally. Imagine them like raindrops on your windshield, then "wipe" them away with your positively-charged windshield wipers.

4. *Don't be awestruck by others-model them!* Learn and imitate the strengths you see in others who share the same goals in life that you want.

5. *Find a coach/mentor.* Trust in them your doubts, ask them for help and advice. Those of you who have experienced my Senior Sunday at GCPC have heard me say this as advice on how to succeed in your after high school journey as a Christian moving forward in this time of your life.

6. *List what's good about you.* Trust in yourself so that others see what is valuable about yourself.

7. *Perceive yourself as you want others to perceive you.* This is all about your actions. How you relate to others, how you conduct yourself when things are going good for you. *Perceive yourself as you want others to perceive you.* This is all about actions. How you relate to others, how you conduct yourself when things are going good for you, but MOST impactful is how others see you act when things aren't going your way.

8. *Take the "im" out of impossible.* Every goal can be reached when you take small steps. Mountain climbers make a series of steps to reach the top.

9. *Let go, and let God!* God IS the MOST powerful ally you can have when you face a challenge. You can't do it by yourself, let Him help you. It all starts with being humble in prayer.

10. *When you think it's a coincidence, it's really God answering your prayers.* The world will tell you it's your "destiny". Every time I read this, I hear *Star Wars* in my head. Truly though, it's God reaffirming you through signs of coincidences and your answered prayers. It shows you that you are never alone, and that you are going in the right direction!

In Him, Mike

May 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

To:

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 3597
Orlando, FL

Return Service Requested

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MUSIC CAMP



June 1 -4, 2020
with a
performance on
Sunday, June 7

Registration
\$20/\$10 for additional siblings.

Ukuleles - \$33.00

Adult and high school
volunteers needed.

To register and for more info,
contact Barbara Browning
or call the church office
407-898-6571

**SUPER SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**



FOR RISING
Kindergartners
through Rising 5th
Graders

Who is your favorite Super Hero?

If you had to go into battle,
what Super Hero would you want
standing by your side?

Every Sunday

9:30am – 10:30 am

Come learn how you can be
a Super Hero!

One hour filled with games, stories,
food and fun!

See you in Smith Hall!

**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL**

Register Online

[https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/
myEvent/?id=55505](https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=55505)



JUNE 8-11, 2020
9 a.m. to noon

Completed grades K-5

Invite your Friends!

At *Rainforest Explorers*, we'll learn
about Jesus, our Savior, through
Bible stories, meet new friends,
do fun activities, sing great songs,
make crafts, play games, eat
snacks, and more! Questions?
Call 407-898-6571.

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