



A Community of Faith

One year ago, the Grace Covenant community of faith joined our local community, and communities around the globe, in suspending in-person gatherings. We didn't know at the time how long it would be before we would be able to resume "normal" operations; and we didn't know what that new "normal" might look like. Now, one year later, with COVID restrictions still limiting how we worship, fellowship and care for one another, the world looks very different indeed.

But there are many reasons for us to have hope for the future.

First, unlike many churches, Grace Covenant never closed. Staff and volunteers kept working to support our resident ministry partners as well as our benevolences in a time of critical need. We also continued to worship through the lockdown and resumed in-person worship early. The church has been slowly and safely ramping up for some time now.

Second, we are blessed with devoted and dedicated members. This has not been an easy time. But the congregation has risen to the challenge and has made it possible to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. With giving steady and expenses held in check, it has been possible to improve finances while also making needed repairs and improvements.

Lastly, we are resurrection people. On Easter we celebrate the triumph of the empty tomb. Jesus' victory over the power of sin and death is the good news that we proclaim. As Christians we do not have to be afraid in the face of danger or be tempted to fear death. Our lives are a testimony to Christ's salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This Easter, join us online or one of three in-person services to proclaim together, as the community of faith, "Christ is risen! Alleluia!"

Inside this issue:	Looking Ahead		
	Events May Be Postponed, Moved Online or Outside		
<p>See the church calendar online: https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/</p>	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Maundy Thursday 2 - Good Friday Vigil Office Closed 3 - Egg Hunt 4 - Easter 5 - Office Closed 11 - The Celebration Continues 24 - Grace on the Greens 	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 - Mother's Day 16 - Youth Sunday 20 - SBCC Graduation 24 - Pentecost 31 - Memorial Day, Office Closed 	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 -- 11 - Vacation Bible School 12 -- 17 - Youth to Montreat 23 - Super Summer Wednesday 30 - Super Summer Wednesday



With Thanks

Dear Friends,
Thank you to all who have sent me cards and called me on the phone to keep in touch with me. I appreciate all of you.

Maggie Thomas

New Address

Lydia Hernandez Trickey

Kudos to Our Kiddos

We at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church are giving you, Small Blessings children, their parents and all who participated (Ruth Circle) a BIG, BIG thank you for making project Servant's Heart a great success.

Because of SBCC and those mentioned above, they were able to make Christmas a little brighter for the children in our community and their families. In the past, SBCC has made up boxes for Christmas Child, a world-wide mission. However this past Christmas it was decided to direct the mission to our community. SBCC with the help of their parents collected items for a week, such as school supplies, new clothing, socks, hygiene products, small toys, candy, baby items and grocery gift cards as well as a couple gift cards from Target. Because of the generosity of so many, SBCC filled 48 gift bags and collect enough for 40 grocery gift cards. All were delivered to Servant's Heart in Pine Castle, FL for the deserving families in our community.

SBCC is continuously helping those in need, by the time you read this SBCC girls and boys will have Hops for Haiti to raise money for Grace Covenant's mission in Haiti. Small Blessings children and their parents pledge money to help supply fresh drinking water to the Good Shepherd School in Haiti.

Their hands are always busy doing good things. Don't miss this year's Art Fest, Friday, April 23 at SBCC. As an art lover, I am always awestruck by the works of those little hands and their talents.

We are thankful and blessed with so many giving hearts at SBCC. God Bless this Ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Vacation Bible School

June 7 - 11

9 - 11:45 a.m.

Pre-school through Fifth grade

At *Treasured*, kids discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold – it's them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Closing Quest that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met on March 8. We continued our study on Joshua with an emphasis on justice as a mandate from God. Jesus was the ultimate person of justice who died for sinners.

Our Easter project for Servant's Heart was completed under the excellent direction of Carroll Frazier. We were able to provide 36 baskets to be distributed to the many children that Servant's Heart serves. Director, Chip Hanna was so grateful for the offering .

We will continue our study of Joshua for the next several months and look forward to a meal together in May off campus in an outdoor setting.

Please feel free to join us at any time. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 10 am in Conway Hall where we are able to practice social distancing and mask wearing .

Blessings to all, Barbara Hart

Births

Kyler James Phelps

Parents, Larry and Allie Phelps
Grandparents, Larry and Trudy Phelps

Kallista Waverly Cove Suters
Parents, Matthew and Cherie Suters
Grandparents, Wayne and Pat Lyons



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 3 10 a.m.
Outside in the Courtyard

After hunting eggs, we will put together the Easter Story using our eggs and a few surprises!

Masks and social distancing required.

Children, bring your parents and/or grandparents!

Cross of Love

Sunday April 4 In the Courtyard

Bring fresh flowers to decorate the cross.

You may also want to bring your camera.

It's a great photo op!

Blood Drive

The Blood Mobile will be at Grace Covenant on Sunday April 11 from 7 a.m. until noon. Because of the pandemic, blood donations are way down and they are in great need of donations. Safety protocols will be observed. Donors will be screened, including a COVID-19 antibody test, temperature, blood pressure, iron count and cholesterol screening. Donors will receive a free T-shirt and \$10 e-gift card. Please help if you can.

Grace on the Greens

"I just want to say without your help, attending College Montreat Conferences would not be possible as a college student. At this year's Conference, I was able to learn more about the Sabbath, and what it means to have a day of rest. If I didn't get a chance to go, my life would not have been changed for the better." – Kaki Gallagher, one of our college students on her 2019 College Montreat Conference experience.

One way you can help is with our **Fifth Annual Grace on the Greens** Golf Tournament! Can your business help with buying hole signs or other sponsorship levels? Can your business help with items to put in each golfer's goodie bag? What about playing in the fundraiser for only \$75? Our goal is to raise enough money so our students can

Holy Week Services

April 1: Maundy Thursday Service

6:45 p.m. In the Sanctuary and Online

April 2: Good Friday Vigil

Online

April 4: Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. In the Courtyard

8:45 a.m. In the Sanctuary and online

10:45 am In Conway Hall Gym

Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Nursery available from 8:30 am - Noon.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Brought back because of its powerful content, the *church-wide* Good Friday Prayer Vigil will be on Good Friday, April 2. This 20-minute guided prayer time should be done in a quiet place with few distractions, sometime between when you wake up and noon. It will help you to focus on why we have Holy Week, and prepare us for the glory of Easter. You'll find the guide on the church's Facebook page during Holy Week.

attend summer youth conferences like Montreat Youth Conference. Students pay for their deposits. Youth Conferences have been impacting our students' journey of faith for several years in amazing ways through: small group discussions, mission, a worship service each day, and fellowship with other students from all parts of the US. Many of us have heard from the students themselves in their Youth Sunday sermons how much this conference has helped them to understand what it means to be in a relationship with Christ, and how to strengthen that relationship. This year's tournament will be on Saturday, April 24, at Twin Rivers Golf Course in Oviedo (same distance as to North Shore where we normally play). Shotgun start at 8:30am. For more information please contact Mike (mike@grace.to), or (407) 898-6571)

ROOTED Youth Group News

ROOTED meets on April 11 and 18 from 5:15-7 p.m. We'll have dinner, games, music, prayers, announcements, and a lesson. Bring your friendz as we only have TWO more times we meet before announcing the winner of our "bring your friendz to ROOTED" contest on May 2.

Children's Ministry needs our help with the **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 3, by hiding Easter eggs and shepherding the lil' chee-wees around from 9am-10:45am. **THEN** stick around for our very own Easter egg hunt from 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. And we may have a ROOTED Lunch Bunch afterwards! Contact Mike if you can help.

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

New Members Class

Have you been praying about becoming a member of Grace Covenant?

Do you want to learn more about Grace and membership in a Presbyterian church?

Join Pastor Melanie on
Sunday, May 2.

Cooking With Grace

Cooking With Grace is a monthly cooking group that meets via Zoom. We will be cooking together again April 19 at 6 p.m. Anyone can sign up to lead, share recipes or join in the fun learning to make new dishes with friends. Sign up to receive a list of ingredients, steps to prep food in advance and the Zoom link. Email Carolyn at

carolyn@findingnewjoys.com



Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of the birthday and anniversary list.

Book Club

Tuesday, April 27

Zoom

7 p.m.

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. Contact Jane Heppner for more information.

Please submit articles to
churchoffice@grace.to
Next Deadline - April 15

Summer Activities

We are beginning to collect supplies for all of our summer kid activities – VBS, Super Summer Wednesdays and Shine. There are four different ways you can help.

Next time you are at the **grocery store**, drop a few of the listed items into your cart; then drop them off at the church by May 30th.

If you would like to **shop online**, we have a listing on Amazon. Just add it to your Amazon order.

The link to find the shopping list is:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24J6UWIV7EGB1?ref=wl_share

Next time you are at the **craft store**, drop a few of the listed items into your cart.

Lastly, you can send a **monetary donation** to the church for supplies, just make sure to note it on your donation GRACE KIDS SUMMER.

Thank you for helping make this the best summer ever at Grace Covenant!

Blessings...

Ms. Sheryl

SUMMER ACTIVITIES SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Veggie Straws
- variously shaped crackers
- puffcorn
- microwave popcorn
- puffed rice cereal
- rice chex
- mini marshmallows
- frozen thick-cut steak fries
- 6 inch flour tortillas
- individual tear-open packets of ketchup
- individual packets of butter
- individual packets of jelly
- individual packages of mixed flavor (and color) Skittles candy
- fruit snacks
- Twizzler Pull ‘n’ Peel candy ropes
- spices: 1 each Cinnamon, Cardamon, Cloves and Ginger
- wax paper
- 400 sturdy green paper plates
- 10 cases of small water bottles
- 200 small white paper plates
- 4 bxs. quart size storage bags

- 4 bxs. gallon storage bags
- 2 bxs. 30 gal trash bags
- cotton kitchen string
- 100 3 oz. paper cups

These are on the Amazon wish list but you can find them at your local craft store

- gold glitter glue
- glue gticks (purple)
- construction paper (white, yellow, red, green, blue)
- white card stock
- 2” craft foam hearts
- glue dots
- playdough
- craft wood treasure boxes
- paraffin wax
- flashlights
- 2 plastic swords
- balloons
- permanent markers (black)

Session Summary

March 2021

Confirmation students Hannah Hinkley, Madison Osborne, Stephen Pesquira, Caitlin Richards, Jonathan Solik, and Allyson Straight will be received as new members on Palm Sunday, March 28. Baptisms were approved for Caitlin Richards (March 28) and Olivia Pritchard (April 25).

The church’s equity position remains strong at \$156,000. Although non-pledged and rental income are down, Session and staff have also kept expenses down.

Patrick Cruz will be providing video production assistance. Carl Stokes returns as Facilities Manager.

Session received reports regarding future planning and approved a blood drive at the church on Sunday, April 11. “Grace on the Greens” is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 at Twin Rivers.

Session is overseeing an update to church policies, procedures and guidelines and will meet for a half-day retreat on April 18.

April 2021



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
Online

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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Come SHINE with us!

Are you searching for safe enrichment activities for your Kindergartner through Fifth Grade? Has your child always wanted to take an acting or improv class? How about beginning art? The next session of SHINE begins April 21

Theme: Celebrating Art Registration begins April 1

Wednesdays April 21 – May 19 4:45pm – 5:45pm

Acting – Improv – Pantomime, Oh my! Drawing – Illustration – Painting, Oh my!

Choose which class you would like - Class sizes limited – Masks and social distancing will be followed

To register go to: <https://grace.to/grace-kids/> scroll down the page to SHINE

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 and click on the "Give Now" button.