



Commitment to the Future

When Grace Covenant was planted in 1947, the members of the new church solemnly promised and covenanted to “walk together as an organized church.” (Service of Organization, May 11, 1947). Over seven decades later, we are still committed to life together as the body of Christ, according to the faith and order of our Presbyterian Reformed heritage.

Grace Covenant has a strong identity as a family of faith; and over the years members have embraced the gifts with which we have been equipped to fulfill the mission and ministries to which God has called us. But the work is not done. Now, with the limitations and restrictions of the pandemic being lifted, it’s time to renew our commitment to the future.

Last year, Session affirmed several goals suggested in the Mission Study Report.

- Goal One: Re-emphasis on reaching out to neighbors with the good news of the gospel.
- Goal Two: Strategic application of resources of the church to support new local mission.
- Goal Three: Growing children’s and youth programs for long-term sustainability of the church.
- Goal Four: Being the church in new ways for newcomers and next generations.

These are ambitious goals but working together we have already taken steps towards meeting some of them: Session set aside funds in the 2021 budget for new local outreach initiatives; online worship will not only continue but be expanded to other ways of being the church; and last month, Session approved the hiring of our own Sheryl Chernault to the new full-time position of Director of Family Ministry and Community Outreach.

Make a commitment to be a part of the future at Grace Covenant.

<p>Inside this issue:</p> <p>Graduates 2</p> <p>Backpack Project 2</p> <p>Vacation Bible</p> <p> School 3</p> <p>Music Camp 3</p> <p>Church Officers 3</p> <p>Session Summary 7</p> <p>Sundays at Five 7</p> <p> See the church calendar online:</p> <p> https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/</p>	<p>Looking Ahead</p> <p>Events May Be Postponed, Moved Online or Outside</p>		
	<p>June</p> <p>7 -- 11 - Vacation Bible School</p> <p>12 -- 17 - Youth to Montreat</p> <p>14 -- 17 - Music Camp</p> <p>23, 30 - Super Summer Wednesdays</p>	<p>July</p> <p>7, 14, 21 - Super Summer Wednesdays</p> <p>11, 18, 25 - Sundays at 5</p>	<p>August</p> <p>1 - Back to School Backpack Drive</p> <p>Sundays at 5</p> <p>4, 11, 18, 25 - Table Talks</p> <p>22 - Rally Day</p> <p>Ice Cream Social</p>



Prayers

Please pray for our ROOTED youth group students and chaperones as they travel to High School Montreat Youth Conference on June 12-19. Pray for travel mercies, and that Christ will reveal Himself in a fresh and unique way so we **all** can grow closer to Him.

In Sympathy

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy
to the families of*



Georgia Ann Lampman - April 24, 2021



Dessie Joan Rainey - May 4, 2021

Small Blessings Child Care

Our teachers at Small Blessings Childcare are in a class of their own. They demonstrated tremendous love and support of the children and their families during this past school year despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our teachers and staff had a positivity and commitment to teaching while also keeping everyone safe that was inspiring. Our teachers and staff were supportive of all the parents--but especially those who were first responders and essential workers. Our teachers and staff managed to keep the balance on their own well being as well as facing major health concerns of the families and children. We are grateful for our teachers and staff for being there when so much of our world was turned upside down. And what a blessing it was to have the leadership of Director Kim Cliett who facilitated, guided, assessed, planned, structured, instructed, and kept everyone connected and engaged during a very challenging time. We can't say enough about how much we value our teachers and staff and Miss Kim. Grace Covenant is grateful and blessed to have each and every one of our teachers and staff at Small Blessings. Our teachers and staff are nothing less than a blessing from God. Thank you all, well done and God Bless.

Graduates

We are SO excited about our recent graduates!!!
May God continue to enrich your lives as you move into the future.

Jacob Chen

Celeste Coffey, Timber Creek High School
attending Flagler College

Zack Gallagher, Boone High School
attending Tallahassee Community College

Mia Griffin, Boone High School
attending University of Central Florida

Rhea Griffin, Boone High School
attending University of Central Florida

Keal McCarey, Boone High School
attending University of Florida

Lily Neusaenger, McLean High School
attending Duke University

Nick Ramirez, Timber Creek High School

Cal Schlichenmaier, Boone High School
attending Tusculum University, Greeneville, TN

Dylan Umpierre, Boone High School
attending University of Florida

Eisele Ibarra, Florida State University
Law School, Cum Laude.

ROOTED Back to School Backpack Project

The youth group is once again asking for your help in collecting school supplies as part of a Back-to-School backpack fill project for students in need in our community. Starting in July, there will be a collection box in the narthex and items **must be** turned in by noon on Sunday, August 1. Backpacks are needed for all ages. Suggested items include but are not limited to: pencils, notebook paper, crayons, markers, rulers, scissors, glue, etc.

Church Officers

The Nominating Committee will soon be seeking nominations for members to serve as Elders and Deacons, and for the 2022 Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully consider members who you feel would be good candidates to serve in these positions.

Elders are called to be the spiritual leaders and form the governing body of the church. This group is the Session which meets once a month. In addition, each Elder serves as a liaison to a committee. Committees usually meet once a month.

Deacons serve on the Board of Deacons and have the responsibility of compassion ministry. Their work complements that of the elders by ministering to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. They meet every other month.

Book Club

Tuesday, June 22

Zoom 7 p.m.

Harvest of Rubies by Tessa Afshar

The prophet Nehemiah's cousin can speak numerous languages, keep complex accounts, and solve perplexing mysteries---and she's a woman! When Sarah's forced to marry the queen's nephew, her career disappears but not her skills. After discovering irregularities in Darius's books, she finds herself in grave danger---and learns that she has more to offer than her talents.

Tuesday, July 27

Zoom 7 p.m.

Sensible Shoes by Sharon Garlough Brown

In *Sensible Shoes*, you will meet four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and embark together on a journey of spiritual formation. They find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation. Will key spiritual practices help them find hope together?

For more information contact Jane Heppner.

Vacation Bible School

June 7 - 11

9 - 11:45 a.m.

Pre-school through Rising Fifth grade

At *Treasured*, kids will discover they are priceless to God. *Treasured* is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!.

To **REGISTER**: www.grace.to/grace-kids/

More Exciting News About Music Camp!

We will have a Shofar (a biblical ram's horn) to be able to display and "blow" for everyone to hear! Thanks to Ann, daughter of Pat Lyons, who brought it back from an overseas trip and is willing to let us borrow for our camp!

This year we will feature chorus, Orff/rhythm instruments, hand chimes, instrument crafts and movement (dance). We will be making some instruments to use while we sing our songs.

We also will be putting together a Music Machine as a group that plays different tunes depending on which pegs are used on the drum – like a player piano. It will give them an experience they have never had before!

Register on the church's website under EVENTS. Dates are June 14-17, Monday-Thursday, 9AM to Noon.

If you can volunteer to help with Music Camp, please contact Barbara Browning.

ROOTED Youth Group Students

ROOTED will meet on June 6 and 27, July 11, 18, and 25 at our normal 5:15-7pm. We'll have pizza, dessert, games, music, and our lesson so bring you friends. We also welcome our new sixth grade students and families!!!!

We Are the Church, Together

In December 2020, the congregation raised over \$1400 for Presbyterian Giving Catalog (PGC) mission programs. Last year, PCG program funded projects totaled more than \$14 million in 50 countries. The projects our donation funded were chosen by our young people. Here are some interesting facts about what those projects accomplish.

Water filters: Among the places world-wide water filters are sent to is Flint, MI, as many residents there still do not have safe drinking water.

Goats, piglets and chickens: One project focusing on goats is in Nigeria, where goats are being given to 200 breeders (about 60% of them women). In Cameroon, piglets are given to small farmers. Another project is in western Kenya. After training, the farmers receive chickens and either one dairy cow or a pair of goats. In this region, 90% of households depend on agriculture as their primary source of income, and yet despite the area having a high potential for agriculture, many smallholder farmers are facing extreme poverty. 65% of the region's population live below the poverty line, far higher than the national average of 45.2%. Malnutrition has contributed greatly to the vulnerability of families, and many cannot afford to pay for basic needs such as school uniforms/books, healthcare or adequate housing. For women, the challenges of poverty and food insecurity are even more acute. Subsistence farming is the primary, often only, source of livelihood for 70% of women. The expectation is that more than 12,000 people will be impacted by the project. Another project is, surprisingly, one that helps expand the goat herds of small farmers in Alabama.

Water catchment systems: In Somalia, a long-term strategy to aid the population is to add catchment systems to provide both safe drinking water and irrigation for small farmers.

Fishing kits, food baskets, and emergency life packs: In the Middle East, two prolonged tragedies have been worsened by the effects of the pandemic. Palestine's economy already was declining, plagued by high poverty and unemployment. Under occupation, agriculture has diminished steadily with the continuous loss of land. In fact, just since 2000,

more than 1 million of Palestine's productive trees have been destroyed. Farmers, particularly women, lack the land, water and financial resources they need. The situation is even more dire in Yemen. Seven years into a civil war, Yemen is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Save the Children estimates that more than 85,000 children under five have died from starvation or disease since the war began in 2014. The United Nations World Food Program has found that 16.2 million of the country's 30 million people need food aid. During the past three years, PGC has helped more than 1,200 families in Yemen.

Sewing machines: In Panama, a group of artisans created a workshop and warehouse for the preparation and sale of traditional Panamanian clothing. The purpose is to provide a work place for craftswomen, a place of sale for handicrafts where people can find traditional garments, and also provide information about traditions and customs. The group is dedicated to give training to new generations so they are able to pass on their traditions, have their own income and have a better quality of life. In New York, Common Threads is a group of refugee women from 20 countries who gather to learn how to sew, knit, and crochet clothing, make silk screen shirts, jewelry and other crafts professionally that are sold at local markets, festivals, and on Etsy. Three women from Somalia started helping other refugees navigate life in the U.S. to include teaching English and sewing class. The sewing class was expanded to include training in silk screening, and broader crafts. In the ten month of classes, attendees control the project as the skills they learn are used to create items to be sold and/or to make clothes for their families. This project allows the women who have lived for many years in refugee camps to learn English and obtain a skill that can lead to a career that supports the families long term survival. Several program graduates were hired by local sewing factories. The women enter the program as novice and learn skills and then become the teachers and mentors for other women. The project is a place the women feel safe and trusted. They are then empowered in other aspects of their lives.



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

amazonsmile

Support GRACE

when shopping online!

When you make a purchase on
Amazon, go to

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Designate GCPC as the
non-profit to support.

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

Session Summary

May 2021

Session celebrated Jim Pate’s approval by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry to officiate the sacraments. Jim was previously appointed to the Pulpit Supply List. Congratulations, Jim!

Session approved a new staff position (and job description) for Director of Family Ministry and Community Outreach; and approved the hiring of Sheryl Chernault. Congratulations, Sheryl!

The church continues to be blessed by faithful giving allowing it to improve its equity position.

A revised Personnel Manual and a revised Wedding Policy were approved.

Upon notification of the forgiveness of the church’s PPP loan, the separate Valley National Bank account set up to manage the loan proceeds was closed and the balance transferred to a reserve account. The Finance Committee was charged with bringing a recommendation to Session regarding further disposition.

The 10:45 worship service will continue in the Conway Hall Gym through July 4. COVID restrictions regarding masks will also continue for worship and other indoor, in-person gatherings where vaccination status is unknown. Congregational singing will resume. Social distancing will be reduced to 3 feet per current guidelines.

Exceptions to the suspension of in-person gatherings by non-church groups were made on a case-by-case basis upon request.

The Memorial Hall Bathroom Ad Hoc Renovation Committee (MHBARC) provided an update regarding project progress.

New members Bob and Janet Core were received by reaffirmation of faith. Georgia Lampman who passed away April 24 and Joan Rainey who passed on May, 4 were removed.

Two elders were appointed commissioners to the June Presbytery meeting.

Family Promise

Family Promise of Greater Orlando is excited to announce that they have found a home for one of their client families! After several months of living in another shelter, Tom’s wife walked out because she could no longer endure homelessness and caring for 3 special needs children. Family Promise helped Tom stabilize their lives, and now they have found a home of their own! Our donations and volunteers are making a difference in our community!



**Come be a part of Sundays @ 5
July 11 through August 1**

FOR ALL AGES!

Family dinner together at 5:15 pm in Conway Hall

After dinner

the youth will attend **ROOTED**,
the kids will attend GRACE KIDS
and the adults are invited to stay
for a time of fellowship and study.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Watch for more details. . .

Put the dates on your calendar now!

Super Summer Wednesdays!

Crafts, Games, Stories, FUN!

PRESCHOOL
through 5TH GRADE

9:30 am – 12 noon
LUNCH – FREE

Light it Up!
June 30

Treasures!
July 7

Game Show Mania!
July 14

Under the Big Top!
July 21

Register: www.grace.to/grace-kids/

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
1655 Peel Ave, Orlando, FL 32806
407.898.6571



June/July 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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To:

**Vacation
Bible School**

**June 7-11
9 - 11:45 a.m.**



**Sciency-Fun Gizmos
Team-building games
Bible Songs
Treats**

Register now

Pre-School - Rising Fifth Grade

<https://grace.to/grace-kids/>

Scroll down to registration button for VBS

Instruments of the Bible

**Music Camp
June 14 - 17
9 a.m. - noon**



**Singing
Orff
Crafts
And More
Kindergarten thru
Eighth Grade
Call the church office
to register**

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.