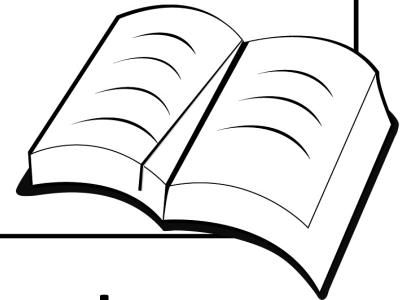


# GRACE notes

August 2021 — Volume 64, Issue 7

GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Open Doors and Open Hearts

Grace Covenant never closed down during the pandemic. We gathered for weekly worship services, first online and then also at limited in-person services. We supported the daily operation of our resident ministry partners, Small Blessings Child Care, Share the Care and Meals on Wheels. And we reached out to the community—serving and sharing the love of Christ in new and creative ways such as Wednesdays at Grace in the courtyard, Sunday fellowship take-out events, and mid-week children's programming.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and limitations, we are beginning to open our doors and hearts to welcome back the support groups, community users and others for whom we have been not just a community center but the spiritual center of the community. It is gratifying to hear from them how delighted they are to be back and how we can once again be a blessing to others.

In an effort to be more intentional and strategic in our outreach ministries, Session approved a

new Hospitality Committee. Romans 12:13 reminds us that we are to practice hospitality which means more than getting together with those we know. It means being a friend to strangers.

The Hospitality Committee will support traditional fellowship programs for members like picnics and potlucks. Hospitality will also partner in special outreach efforts to new members like Sundays @ 5 and the Good Samaritan Fund ministry. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation \$10,000 was distributed through the Good Sam Fund last year for unemployment, food and holiday assistance to church and community members in need. Hospitality will also oversee special events at the church including the Presbytery meeting in September and our year-long 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Re-opening and re-building the congregation is going to require effort. But it is going to be an exciting time in the life of the church. Be praying about how you can help!

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### See the church calendar online:

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

### Looking Ahead

#### August

- 1 - Back to School Backpack Drive
- 8 - Blessing of the Backpacks
- 15, 22 - Sundays @ 5
- 22 - Rally Day Ice Cream Social

#### September

- Sundays @5
- 19 - Congregational Meeting
- 26 - Youth Spaghetti Lunch



#### October

- Sundays @ 5
- Pumpkin Patch
- 3 - World Communion Sunday
- 10 - Third Grade Bibles
- 31 - Kirkin Service

## ***Small Blessings Child Care***

Remember what it was like to be a kid in the summer? School's out and it's fun, fun, fun. The summer program is rockin' and the SBCC children are having the time of their lives. The children will have participated in VBS "Treasured" with hands on teaching of many activities that help faith flow into real life. Then on to the summer program at SBCC with many water days, cooking activities, movie days, pony rides, petting farm and mad science. Lessons are: Home on the Range, How We Get Around, Stars and Stripes, Under the Sea, Color Our Beautiful World and Carnival day. They end their summer with a foam party in the courtyard. It doesn't get much better than that except for a visit from the ice cream truck! Oh to be a kid again, lay in the grass and look up at the sky and see all those big puffy clouds that make so many shapes of things and we thank God for our precious, priceless children. We also thank those who make all that fun happen during summertime and SBCC that support Grace Covenant with so many church projects and or missions. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful Children's Ministry at Grace Covenant and God bless all who support it.

## *Cooking with Grace*

August 16  
6 p.m. on Zoom

Each month, this group buys recipe ingredients then meets online to cook together. To join them, contact Carolyn at the following email address.

[Carolyn@findingnewjoys.com](mailto:Carolyn@findingnewjoys.com)

## *Births*

Congratulations on the birth of their baby boy!

Parents, Paul and Claire Doster  
Grandparents, Chris and Gail Barley

In Sympathy

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

४०९

Magdaline “Maggie” Thomas - June 27, 2021

३०६

Mary Morgan - July 4, 2021

### **New Address**

Corky and Susan Smith

Linda Harp

Evie Smith

## New Phone Number

Nancy Nordman

# *ROOTED Back to School Backpack Project*

The youth group is thanking YOU for the amazing amount of supplies collected. We will take them to Eccleston Elementary the first week of August.

## ***ROOTED Youth Group Students***

August

- 1 – ROOTED, 5:15-7pm with FREE pizza, drinks, and we'll fill back packs which will be delivered the next day.
  - 15 – ROOTED becomes part of Sundays at 5! Casual worship service in Conway Hall starts with dinner and music before ROOTED moves to the Youth Room.
  - 22 – Sundays at 5 – ROOTED has its annual Ice Cream Social and splits (*get it?*) from 6pm-7pm. Just bring your favorite toppings and enough to share. You'll hear what exciting things are ahead for us!!! Bring your friendz.
  - 29 – Sundays at 5 – don't forget to bring friendz!

Watch for details on our Annual Spaghetti Luncheon, Sept. 26, and other events and other news on Facebook: Grace Covenant PC Youth, and on Instagram: @rootedgcpc

## ***Church Officers***

The Nominating Committee is 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, August 24

Zoom 7 p.m.

*Under the Tulip Tree* by Michelle Shocklee

Sixteen-year-old Lorena Leland's dreams of a rich and fulfilling life as a writer are dashed when the stock market crashes in 1929. Seven years into the Great Depression, Rena's banker father has retreated into the bottle, her sister is married to a lazy charlatan and gambler, and Rena is an unemployed newspaper reporter. Eager for any writing job, Rena accepts a position interviewing former slaves for the Federal Writers' Project. There, she meets Frankie Washington, a 101-year-old woman whose honest yet tragic past captivates Rena.

As Frankie recounts her life as a slave, Rena is horrified to learn of all the older woman has endured—especially because Rena's ancestors owned slaves. While Frankie's story challenges Rena's preconceptions about slavery, it also connects the two women whose lives are otherwise separated by age, race, and circumstances. But will this bond of respect, admiration, and friendship be broken by a revelation neither woman sees coming?

## ***Back to School Bash***

**August 7 10am - 12n**

Let's celebrate before school starts!

Parents and Kids are invited to a time of carnival games, bounce houses, food, fun and a  
**SIDEWALK CIRCUS!**

Here is the schedule. Put it on your calendar now!

10:00am - Greeting

10:15am - **SIDEWALK CIRCUS**

Curbside Circus features high-flying acrobatics, music and world class entertainers

10:45am - Bounce Houses and Games area open

11:00am - Food area open - Hotdogs, Soda, Cotton Candy, Snow Cones

Each food booth is 50 cents - What a bargain!

**TWO PACKED HOURS OF FUN  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

*Go out in JOY*

*Be led back in PEACE*

**Blessings of Backpacks**

*Sunday, August 8*

**at both services (8:45 and 10:45)**



Teachers and Students,  
bring your backpack to worship for a special gift  
and time of blessing!  
Invite your friends to come along!



**Coupons for  
Russell Home**

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

Do you still get coupons in the newspaper or in the mail. The Russell Home could use the ones you do not need, even ones that are expired. Please bring them to the church office or put them in an envelope and place in the offering box. Thank you!



**Support GRACE Covenant**  
When shopping on Amazon, go to  
<https://smile.amazon.com/>  
Designate Grace Covenant as the non-profit to support.

Please submit articles to  
[churchoffice@grace.to](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)  
**Next Deadline - August 15**

## **Session Summary**

July 2021

Session created a new Hospitality Committee with responsibility for Care (Good Samaritan Fund); Fellowship; Kitchen Crews; and Special Events. The Care Committee and Fellowship Subcommittee will become subcommittees of Hospitality.

The financial position of the church remains stable. Committees are preparing 2022 budget requests in anticipation of stewardship in the fall.

Building and Grounds has been busy with numerous repair and installation projects—including an assessment and repairs as needed of the HVAC system in Conway Hall.

The back to school bash will be on Saturday, August 7. Sundays @ 5 will begin on August 15 and the new Christian Education year will kick off with Rally Day on August 22.

Technology is reviewing proposals for upgrades that will support expanded online worship and outreach ministries.

Grace Covenant will host the quarterly meeting of Central Florida Presbytery on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Volunteers will be needed to help with parking, registration and lunches.

The Officer Nominating Committee is meeting regularly to discern God's leading for calling new elders and deacons.

### **Children's Ministry Is Growing**

Did you ever consider being a Sunday school helper? Our growing Children's Ministry is in need of a few helpers for Sunday mornings! Once a month or every Sunday YOU ARE NEEDED! Contact Sheryl in the church office. (Sheryl promises you will have fun!)

### **Food Distribution**

Our long-awaited food distribution in cooperation with Good Samaritan Outreach and Second Harvest

is coming in September! As of this time the exact date is not firm, but it will be either Saturday September 11 or 18. We will need lots of volunteers to make this happen smoothly. As soon as the date is firm, we will be organizing the event and will need your help. Thank you in advance.

### **Haiti and Cuba**

As you are aware from news reports, events in Haiti and Cuba are resulting in instability and great hardship for the people of both countries. Please pray for all those affected, and especially for our partners as they try to stay safe, provide for their families, and continue doing God's work.

### **Children's Books**

The Outreach Committee thanks everyone for their generous donations of children's books. At this time, we do not need any more books for pre-school age children, BUT we can still use books for older children and adolescents. Also, at this time we have enough toilet paper. Thank you!



## **Saturday, August 21st**

**Via Zoom**

**9:00 a.m. - Noon Workshops**

**12:15 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Optional "Lunch & Learn"**

**with Rev. Gini Norris-Lane**

**Executive Director**

**UKIRK Collegiate Ministries Association**

Register online

<http://www.cfpresbytery.org/equip.html>

**August 2021**

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

**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Return Service Requested

**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

To:

1655 Peel Ave., Orlando, FL 32806

Phone: 407.898.6571

E-mail: [churchoffice@grace.to](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)

**WWW.GRACE.TO**

**Sundays @ 5!  
Two sessions in August!  
August 15 and August 22**



Everyone is welcome! There is something for every age!

Starting with dinner from a local restaurant as we support local. After dinner we will set the theme of the evening (skits, songs, and fun) and then split into our groups. Kids preschool through 5th grade will go to GRACE KIDS - middle and high school will head to ROOTED and adults will spend time discussing topics such as Inclusion, Exclusion, CRT, LGBTQ, and other topics, taken from the headlines. We will all stretch and grow.

Don't miss this time at the table where "All are Welcome"!

**Rally Day!  
August 22**

I Scream -  
You Scream -  
We all scream for ICE CREAM!

Join the CE committee as a new year of Sunday school begins. Stop by Conway Hall and get your ice cream after each service at 9:30am or 11:30am.



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.