



We're Getting There...

This has been the “Pandemic Interim” at Grace Covenant. Every interim at every church is different but this one has been like no other. The church’s online job posting for the position went up almost at the same time as the world locked down. Now, as the world enters a new phase of uncertainty about what comes next, the PNC is interviewing potential candidates not knowing if one of them could eventually be called.

We might be tempted to get impatient or angry or despair about what is happening around the world with the rise of virus variants and the resumption of mask mandates and closures. And we might wonder about when and who God is calling to lead Grace Covenant. But if the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that we can do hard things.

A year ago, there was no vaccine. Grace Covenant was barely back to in-person worship; and there was no way of knowing who would be coming back or when. Session had no playbook for planning for post-pandemic ministry or what the budget might look like that could support it. And no one knew whether pastors would be willing to move or churches like Grace would even be around to call them.

Today we have hybrid worship, meetings and classes in place. We are caring for one another, serving our neighbors, and sharing the good news of the gospel in new ways. And we have a Pastor Nominating Committee working hard to bring the interim to a successful close. In God’s timing, and with God’s continued protection and provision, we will get there!

Looking Forward

September

Sundays - Lemonade Stand
18 - Hero Training
22 - SHINE
26 - Congregational Meeting
26 - Youth Spaghetti Lunch
29 - SHINE

October

Wednesdays - SHINE
17-31 - Pumpkin Patch
3 - World Communion Sunday
10 - Third Grade Bibles
31 - Kirkin’ Service

November

Wednesdays - SHINE
14 - Church Picnic
21 - Chili Cook-off
21 - Hanging of the Greens
25 - Thanksgiving
28 - Season of Advent Begins

See the church calendar online:

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



Hero Training!

“Because nobody ever says, when I grow up I want to stand around and do nothing”

CPR/First Aid will give you the information and the skills you need to help adults, children and infants during breathing and cardiac emergencies.

September 18, 8am – 10am – Conway Hall

You can do this! Hands-on, in-person class!

Ruth Circle

In September, Ruth Circle will start the 2021-2022 year of study. Our first meeting will be Monday Sept 13 at 10 am in Conway Hall. This year, we will study Peter 1 and 2 using the book, *Living Hope in a Hard World* by Lydia Brownback.

We look forward to some lively discussion. We will also continue to support our community outreach Servant's Heart. All are welcome to join us. Please feel free to reach out to Barbara if you have any questions or concerns

Book Club

Tuesday, September 28

7 p.m. Panera on Semoran Blvd.

The Fifth Avenue Story Society by Rachel Hauck

An invitation to join The Fifth Avenue Story Society gives five New York strangers a chance to rewrite their own stories.

When all five New Yorkers receive an anonymous, mysterious invitation to the Fifth Avenue Story Society, they suspect they're victims of a practical joke. No one knows who sent the invitations, why, or has heard of the literary society. And no one is prepared to bare their deepest secrets to a roomful of strangers. Yet curiosity and loneliness bring them back week after week. They discover the stories of their hearts and the kind of friendship and love that heals their souls. They look deep inside themselves and come to grips with some tragedy they had in the past.

inside Contact Jane with any questions.

Cooking with Grace

September 20 6 p.m. on Zoom

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

Carolyn@findingnewjoys.com

Births

Malachi Pham

Parents, Melissa and Johnathan Pham

Grandparents, Dale and Hieu Pham

New Address

Jim and Wendy Malcolm

ROOTED Youth Group Students

In September, **ROOTED** meets on the 12th and 19th from 5:15-7pm. We'll have awesome dinners provided by our parental units, games, music, prayers, announcements, and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!! For more details on our events and other news, friend us on Facebook: Grace Covenant PC Youth, and on Instagram: @rootedgpc

Small Blessings Child Care

“A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, touches a heart and instills a love of learning.” It's a glorious thing.

The school year 2021-2022 has officially started at Small Blessings Childcare Center. After last school year, a very challenging time, we are still maintaining a clean and safe environment for our children, teachers, staff and all involved. Please include Small Blessings in your thoughts and prayers each and everyday for the school year ahead.

The school offers classes for infants through three year olds and the Florida State run VPK for four year olds. SBCC is considered one of the best in Orlando. Small Blessings is dedicated to meeting the needs of the working parent and providing quality education from a Christian standpoint. We are blessed to have this Ministry on our campus at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Chapel will start in September with Sheryl Cherrault - Director of Children's Ministry. Small Blessings will be closed for Labor Day September 6. Small Blessings children's photos will be taken the end of September

God Bless the teachers, staff, children, parents and all who are involved with SBCC in this new school year.

Session Summary
September 2021

Received the report of the Officer Nominating Committee. Nominees for Elder Class of 2024: Maxine Gokee, Carol Manno, Scott Porter, and Mary Solik. Deacon Class of 2024: Barbara DiOrio, Susie Findell, Dan McDonald, and Winifred Rutherford. The congregational meeting to elect new officers is set for September 26 at 11:45 a.m.

Invited Jeanne Munson and Marilyn Schaus (representing the charter families of the church) to be honorary co-chairs of the 75th Anniversary celebration. Events planned to date include the Food Drop; Kirkin' of the Tartans; church picnic; worship at Hourglass Brewery; 40 days of Service; and homecoming celebration.

Appointed a commission to consider the proposed purchase/install of equipment for online worship. Members: Diana Ibarra; Scott Porter; Pat Teal; Sally Kest; and Brooke Peterson. Staff Patrick Cruz and Sheryl Chernault, ex officio.

Session requested the Foundation Board distribute \$19,900 from the Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund for new lighting and windows on the first floor of John Calvin Memorial Hall in the area used by Share the Care.

Approved Aire-Tech's proposed HVAC repairs in Conway Reception area, youth rooms and kitchen [Phase 5] for \$6,895 using funds from the PPP Reserve.

Welcomed CFP Youth Coordinator Kenne Sparks as our guest at Youth.

Received the report of the Small Blessings Board regarding the recent closure of the school Aug 9-13 due to COVID. Morning coffee to resume in October or November.

The Central Florida Presbytery meeting and the Bereaved Survivors of Homicide Day of Remembrance scheduled to be held at the church have moved online. Some support groups and community users have returned to meeting on-site; but others who planned to do so have now delayed their return.

Masks will continue to be encouraged on property regardless of vaccination status.

The Choir is delaying its return to the chancel until after Labor Day. Singers (masked) will continue to assist Choir Director Kelly Miller in leading worship.

The PNC continues to meet regularly and making progress.

Pastor Melanie is away on August 29. COM Liaison Rev. Dr. Carmelo Mercado preaching. Elder Scott Porter preaching on September 5.

GraceKids Lemonade Stand

GraceKids is hosting a Lemonade Stand to benefit children fighting cancer. Let's help move one step closer to finding a cure for all children with cancer! Visit our stand between worship services in September. Make a donation and get a cool glass of lemonade! Contact Sheryl@grace.to

Pumpkin Patch

opens to the public October 18!

Come pick out perfect pumpkins
for your fall activities

Monday – Friday 3:00pm – 7:00pm.

Saturday October 23 & 30, 10am – 4pm.

Sunday October 31, 12noon – 4pm

Fun Activities in the Pumpkin Patch
Saturday, October 23

Bring your kids and let's have fun!

10am, Preschool StoryTime & Craft

11am, Elementary StoryTime & Craft

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



September 2021

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GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Online

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon

1655 Peel Avenue

Orlando, FL 32806

Phone: 407.898.6571

E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

WWW.GRACE.TO

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SHINE!

Fall Session each Wednesday 4:45 - 6pm
September 22 - December 1



The theme of this session is **Performing Arts!** Whether your student is looking to develop their professional chops, evolve as an artist or dabble in creative expression, they're sure to find something super fun (and super rewarding) at SHINE. Using the show **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** students will create sets, sing, act and maybe even dance a bit. Teachers are performing art professionals (Disney, Cruise Ships, Equity Actors...). We will end our fall SHINE session by sharing **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** with family and friends on Sunday, December 5 at 5pm. Come learn and have fun! No auditions required. For more information call Ms. Sheryl at 407-898-6571 or register at grace.to/grace-kids

ROOTED Youth Spaghetti Day



Sunday
September 26, 2020
10:30am - 1pm

Donations will help defray our summer mission trip to either Jamaica or the Appalachian Mountains.

Beginning September 12, pre-sale tickets will be available.

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.