

January 2023  
Volume 65, Issue 11



**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1655 Peel Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32806  
Phone: 407.898.6571  
E-mail: [churchoffice@grace.to](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)

**Sunday Worship**  
8:45 a.m. / 10:45 a.m. / Online

**Office Hours**  
Monday–Thursday: 9 am – 3 pm  
Friday: 9 am – noon

[WWW.GRACE.TO](http://WWW.GRACE.TO)

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

Return Service Requested



Plan now to attend!

Sunday, January 29 – Conway Hall

Directly after the Congregational Meeting

This year we have entertainment and fun scheduled as we taste and vote on the best entries! How about entering the Cook Off with your families best recipe? This event is a fund raiser for our youth. If you are interested in entering your fabulous chili/sweets, call the church office and leave a message for Val.

To:

# Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

January 2023

## Pastoral Lingo

By the time you read this, I will have been your “temporary pastor” for about two months. Before that relationship was formalized through a one-year contract, I preached most of the month of October, focusing primarily on the season of generosity (AKA stewardship). So we have had a bit of time to get reacquainted.

Still, as folks continue to return to church, they might wonder what it means to have a temporary pastor. Wasn’t Pastor Melanie temporary? And she was here for more than 2 years! Indeed she was. Melanie was

## Looking Forward

### January

Installation & Ordination

1 - New Year’s Day

One service at 10am

No Sunday School hour

2 - Office Closed

29 - One service at 10:30am

29 - Annual Congregational Meeting

29 - ROOTED Youth Chili Cook-Off

### February

5 - Scout Sunday

22 - Ash Wednesday

22 - Worship Service, 6:30pm

### March

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Lenten Program

19 - Blessing of the Quilts Sunday

29 - Hops for Haiti

See the church calendar online:  
<https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/>

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also specifically tasked as an interim pastor--a trained specialist in helping congregations move from one installed pastor to the next. She excels in that specialized ministry, as you all were glad to experience.

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. has a guiding document called The Book of Order. In the section called "Form of Government," we find this language regarding temporary pastoral relationships:

Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of

the presbytery. A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor.

Here is where you have to pay attention to specific words. In this case, "ordinarily" is important. Our presbytery (like a Catholic diocese, but Presbyterian) has the discretion to allow temporary pastors to become "installed" pastors (not my favorite description for permanent relationships, but what can you do?). Currently, Central Florida Presbytery does not allow interim pastors to become the next installed pastor, but other temporary pastors can, with the presbytery's approval.

## Session Summary

December 2022

- Updated the ministry structure of the church to change from having "committees" to "teams" and "moderators" instead of "chairs" (in keeping with the language of the administrative manual). With this change, some teams have updated names for their ministries, as well as new moderators.
- Joyfully examined several officers-elect for ordination and/or installation as deacons and elders, and thanked elders and deacons rotating off active service.
- Received encouraging words from the pastor about settling into the position.
- Approved a balance transfer from a discretionary fund to shared mission support for the Presbyterian Church in 2023.
- Approved material donation drives for local schools, Share the Care, and United Against Poverty to be held in 2023.
- Approved holding one worship service on fifth Sundays of months having five Sundays as a way to build community among folks who do not often see each other. This allows congregational gatherings, fund-raisers and celebrations to be held after worship.
- Approved a motion for the session to join the deacons at their January meeting.
- Approved hosting the Big Red Bus for blood donations on January 29, 2023.
- Referred administrative manual updates to key policies to appropriate teams (or the session itself after it receives new members in 2023).

### **Ruth Circle**

Ruth circle has had a wonderful fall. Our study of 12 women of the Bible has been very enlightening and conducive to much discussion. We look forward to continuing in the new year! The circle's support of Servant's Heart has been most rewarding . For Thanksgiving we were able to donate many gift cards that allowed families to enjoy a nice meal. For Christmas a request was made for toys for children up to age 12. The circle came through and was able to deliver many sacks filled with toys and books. The diaper ministry continues as well. The circle is a vibrant group of women dedicated to the Lord . All are welcome. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month,10- 11:30 .Come join us in the new year.

Barbara Hart

### **Book Club**

Tuesday, January 24 7pm  
Panera Bread, S. Semoran  
Jewel of the Nile  
By Tessa Afshar

### **Extended Communion**

We are offering Communion to our church family who have been unable to attend in-person worship . If you, a family member or a friend would like Communion brought to you, please call the church office to schedule a time. 407-898-6571

### **Apocalypse Now?**

New 6 week Group Study  
with Pastor Jody!  
Sundays beginning JANUARY  
22 9:30am – 10:30am  
Conway Hall

Many people consider Revelation to be a mysterious and even frightening book of scripture. Some avoid studying it, and among those who do try, many find it confusing. Why does the book confound so many and give rise to so many conflicting interpretations? Come be curious and take a look into The Book of Revelation.

All that is to say, I hope that I may be able to serve at your side for the foreseeable future. As I write this, I just preached during Advent about wonder. Both you and I are wondering what God is up to. Signs look good, and we continue to trust the movement of God's Spirit in our midst. Remember, the Word works wonders!

I apologize for making you wade into the Presbyterian weeds to help you understand the nature of this pastoral relationship. If things are still not clear, your session and I are happy to help. In the meantime, I pray that you will continue to be faithful to God's leading within the Grace Covenant community of faith. Regardless of who occupies the pulpit, your

calling to follow Jesus does not change. Happy New Year, and let's make it one to remember!

### **Fifth Sunday's and One Service**

Session has approved holding one worship service on months with a fifth Sunday. The first one in 2023 is in January. Mark your calendar for January 29 for one service at 10:30 a.m.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday  
January 29  
In the Sanctuary following  
the 10:30 a.m.  
worship service.

### **New Contact Info**

Camille Bosworth

Eddie and Joyce Julian

### **Small Blessings**

Psalm 100:4 “Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” As we start the New Year, let us be reminded of the importance of giving thanks to God and of praising Christ. Small Blessings looks toward the New Year with joy in our hearts and excited anticipation of what’s to come. A great big thank you to all who participated in the “A Servant’s Heart” project. We surpassed our goal of filling 40 bags and filled 55 bags with an addition of many gro-

cery gift cards. Thank you again families and staff for having such a giving spirit for those in need. It is much better to give than it is to receive. A gift, a treasure of great value. Our gifts are small blessings, precious little jewels that give us joy every day. May the Spirit of Christmas be with you all throughout the New Year and God Bless SBCC, families and staff. GCPC continues to love and support SBCC Ministry now and throughout the New Year and it all starts with praising Him for all He has given us.

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

Sunday evenings

5:15 - 7pm.

Watch for details on events

and news on

Facebook:

Grace Covenant PC Youth and

Instagram: @rootedgcpc

### ***Happy Birthday***

### ***Happy Anniversary***

Please contact the church office for the list of birthdays and anniversaries.

