

# Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

March 2023

## Where Did the Bible Go?

When I was a student at a Christian school in Orlando, I remember the reverence we had for our Bibles. We were discouraged from writing in them, lest we sully the Word of God with our sinful scribbling! But that was more than 40 years ago--attitudes toward the Word have changed since then. Now, we are encouraged to write as much as we want on the pages of Scripture. In these days of Bibles customized to niche interests or age groups, some even have blank lined pages for note-taking.

And that's assuming we even carry a physical Bible in the first place! I access Scripture through electronic means only, and have done so for a long time. While I appreciate the physicality of printed pages in Bibles, other books, newspapers and the like, I don't elevate

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## Looking Forward

### March

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Lenten  
Lunches, 12 Noon  
19 - Blessing of the Quilts  
Sunday

### April

1 - Easter Egg Hunt  
2 - Palm Sunday  
Communion  
5 - Hops for Haiti  
6 - Maundy Thursday Service  
9 - Easter  
ROOTED Golf Tournament  
TBD  
30 - Fifth Sunday Fun Day

### May

6 - Mother's Day Tea  
14 - Mother's Day  
12 - Youth Sunday  
28 - Pentecost Sunday

See the church calendar online:  
[https://www.grace.to/  
announcements/weekly-calendar/](https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/)

### **Thank You**

Dear Grace covenant,  
Thank you so much to everyone that has reached out to me following my father's passing. Every card, prayer and message was appreciated. Thank you Seekers for being there for me.

Love, Sheila Heinemann

### **New Contact Info**

Jeanne Munson  
Please call the church office for a new address.

### **Mother's Day Tea**

Mother's Day Tea will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023. This year the tea will cost \$5 . Tickets are required to enter, sale will begin on Sunday, April 2, in the Narthex and also the following week. You will need a ticket to hold your reservation and to attend. We are planning on serving 100 people. Thank you for your support. If you would like to help with serving the tea, please contact Minnette Mullings and/or Carroll Frazier.

### **Ruth Circle**

Our February study was on Gomer. Many of us were not familiar with Gomer but we are now. (Check the book of Hosea.)

In March, we will be studying Mary, the mother of Jesus and assembling 40 Easter Baskets for Servant's Heart to distribute to families with children. We pack the baskets with books, cards, games, etc. and of course candy.

At our April meeting the study will be on Mary Magdalene.

In May, we will end our winter season with a luncheon in Conway Hall . We have much to look forward to.

### **Book Club**

Tuesday, March 28 7pm  
Panera Bread, S. Semoran  
*Where the Desert Meets the Sea* by Werner Sonne

### **ROOTED Youth Group**

Sunday evenings  
Middle school 4:15 - 6:00 pm  
High school 5:00 - 7:15pm.  
Watch for details on events and news on Facebook:  
Grace Covenant PC Youth and Instagram: @rootedgcpc

### **Session Meeting Summary February 2023**

In February, the session approved the following items:

--the formation of a special team to refresh the narthex by adding a welcome center; rehanging the doors to the sanctuary; installing a video display between the doors; and other potential changes involving décor and furniture.

--the March 5 baptism of Elizabeth June Erdmier, who is Pastor Bob Eckard's great-granddaughter. Pastor Jody asked and the session approved Bob to participate in the baptism.

--an update to the "Open and Close Procedures" portion of the Administrative Manual.

Also, the session voted to move its stated meetings from the third to the fourth Thursday of the month.

#### **D.E.C.K 2.0**

6pm -11pm

Second Fridays,

**Discover, Explore, Create, & Know** the joy of cultivating your creativity with other crafters. Drop in for any amount of time. Questions: contact the church office.

### **Grace Scholarship Fund**

As high school seniors and current college students face the rising cost of higher education, we hope you will consider donating to the Grace Covenant Scholarship Fund. Students must apply and then meet the guidelines set by the Grace Covenant Scholarship team to receive any scholarship funds. We send the awards to their institution directly. Recipients draw funds from the school to pay for educational needs only. You can deposit your gift to the Grace Covenant Scholarship Fund in the offering box located in the back of the Sanctuary. Please make sure to designate your gift "Student Scholarship Fund." The Grace Covenant Scholarship committee, comprised of Jane Heppner, Ann Taylor, Carroll Frazier, Sally Kest and Paula Craig, thank you in advance for your donation to this worthwhile cause. And so do the students and their families!

# March

*Happy Birthday*

*Happy Anniversary*

Please contact the church office for a copy of this list.



## **Small Blessings**

Small Blessings is springing forward and bidding farewell to February. It was great fun with so many activities and parties, learning how to love one another as God loves us. The next school year is around the corner. In house registration for current students is March 1-3. Daylight

Savings Time starts March 12, which lines up with spring break March 13-17. Grace Covenant wants to give a big heartfelt thank you to all who will be participating in Hop for Haiti. We are truly blessed to have SBCC Ministry on our campus, whom we love and support wholeheartedly.

printed media over digital. Each has its advantages and disadvantages.

I write about this as an oblique answer to a concern a few folks have raised over the disappearance of the large sanctuary Bible. Rest assured, it is still in the sanctuary! But it needs a more appropriate home than the Lord's Table. Consider this advice from the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

*It is common in many Presbyterian congregations to find a brass standing cross and a pair of candles on the Lord's Table. Some churches will include a large Bible, sometimes on a book stand. Occasionally one even sees arrangements of flowers and other items. The cross, the light, and the Bible are central symbols of the Christian faith (not so for flowers, as beautiful and meaningful as they may be). However, as these objects accumulate they can begin to crowd out and obscure the primary meaning and purpose of the Lord's Table — a place for a meal — a place for eating*

*and drinking with the risen Christ, in thanksgiving for the gifts of God and in anticipation of that great feast to come in the realm of heaven.*

As I have been experimenting with the placement of various items on the chancel and elsewhere in the sanctuary, I welcome your constructive criticism. This is part of what the season of Lent calls us to do: examine ourselves and reset our relationships to God and one another.

Related to this issue, the session has approved the formation of an ad hoc team of folks who will be developing a welcome center in the narthex as well as some other needed changes to that space. We hope that this will be the beginning of continued attention to how we order and fashion our worship at Grace Covenant. As we reconsider why we have arranged our worship space the way we have, let us extend a graceful, listening ear to one another. In the meantime, I am looking for a better way to return our "sanctuary Bible" to public view.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday  
April 1  
10am

Bring your Easter basket  
so you can load it up  
with treasures!

## Lenten Lunch and Devotional

Wednesdays  
in March

Noon

Conway Hall



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**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1655 Peel Avenue  
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**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)

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