

# Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

April 2023

## **The Resurrected Life**

April begins on a Saturday this year with the annual Easter egg hunt. Then we enter Holy Week: the palm-waving processions followed by increasing solemnity as we head to the cross with Jesus. Then the celebration of Resurrection Sunday, with flowers and bright colors and so much festivity! And then--what's next?

Easter is not a day. It's a whole season in the liturgical calendar. And every Sunday is a "little Easter"--a reminder that the Lord rose from death on the first day of the week. As Christ-followers, we are called to live as if we have been resurrected already. But what does that mean?

It means that we should not worry about what we will eat or what we will wear, for God will provide (Luke 12:22-34).

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## **Looking Forward**

### **April**

- 1 Easter Egg Hunt
- 2 Palm Sunday  
Communion
- 5 Hops for Haiti
- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 9 Easter
- 29 ROOTED Golf  
Tournament
- 30 Fifth Sunday Funday

### **May**

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

### **June**

- 3 Buddy Break
- 5 - 9 Vacation Bible School
- 11 - 17 Montreat, High  
School
- 12 - 15 Music Camp

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

### **Small Blessings**

May this joyful season of Easter fill your heart with renewed hope, love and peace. The children at SBCC are blooming like the flowers in Springtime. It is so joyful to watch them grow and embrace a love for learning. Their enthusiasm to hop for Haiti is such a blessing in sharing God's love. A tremendous thank you to all who will be participating. Please don't miss the SBCC Art Festival April 21 as the wind of creativity has guided our little ones to make wonderful masterpieces. Grace Covenant wishes the parents, children and staff a blessed and happy Easter.

### **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

### **Ruth Circle**

The March meeting was eventful as we filled 36 Easter baskets delivered to Servant's Heart to be distributed to the children whose families they serve. This is always a special event for the members of Ruth Circle who enjoy the opportunity to work together and actually assemble the contents of the baskets.

This month we learned about Mary, the mother of Jesus, emphasizing her courage and journey of faith.

In April, we will learn more about Mary Magdalene. In May, we look forward to a potluck lunch in Conway Hall after our meeting. We are grateful for our sisterhood.

### **Book Club**

Tuesday, April 25, 7pm  
Panera Bread, S. Semoran  
*An Extra Mile*  
by Sharon G. Brown

### **Maundy Thursday**

Soup/Yeast rolls at 6pm  
Service at 6:30pm

### **Seniors vs Crime**

Do you know that feeling of frustration after you or someone you love has been scammed or taken advantage of? We all do! You will want to come to Conway Hall on April 30, following the Sunday Funday potluck, for a presentation by volunteers from the Seniors vs. Crime Project.

They will give you tips on how to avoid fraud, unfair business deals, and scams—and what to do if you have already fallen victim to any of these. The group does not give legal advice, just common sense advice for all—you don't have to be a senior to come!

So if you want to get the best of the barrage of misleading sales pitches by phone, email, text and other channels, mark your calendar for April 30 after Sunday Funday!

### **News from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

The Central Florida Presbytery COM (Committee on Ministry) followed up with the PNC whose members have each agreed to continue serving as we move forward, “decently and in order” in true Presbyterian fashion. Scott Porter will now serve as moderator.

While we are not starting our work “from scratch”, we have several procedural matters to resolve as a committee before we can do the steps necessary prior to soliciting an application for a candidate to call as our installed pastor.

We earnestly petition God for His guidance and discernment through the Holy Spirit as we now fulfill our commissioned work. We covet your continued constant prayers and patience in the days ahead.

Birthdays and  
Anniversaries

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

**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.

**God's Word**

I have loved you with an  
everlasting love; therefore I  
have continued my faithful-

It means that we live by faith, which “is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

It is also a life in which that assurance leads us to do bold things. To let the Spirit guide you regardless of possible outcomes. To model the humble, self-sacrificial life of Jesus as the most authentic witness to his influence in your life.

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King delivered an address to the annual convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called “Where do we go from here?” One of the many memorable parts of the speech was a litany of “divine dissatisfactions” that began with this simple call: “Let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds.”

Though his analogy imagined America as a human body, he was borrowing from his understanding that the church is the body of Christ.

The resurrected body! As such, it should bear witness to radical transformation of individual lives as well as whole societies.

Where does Grace Covenant go from here? It’s a question we should be constantly asking in a time when churches are shrinking and aging. What needs to change? What must we do to continue to live the resurrected life? Let’s keep asking each other in the spirit of divine dissatisfaction, for we know that the Spirit of God calls us to follow Jesus out of the tomb.

**Get Ready for  
5th Sunday Funday!  
April 30  
One Worship 10:30am  
Potluck 11:45am (ish)**

We will gather and worship together in one service. After, share your favorite entree, side and/or dessert with your Grace Covenant family. Bring your smile and appetite! And gather your wits for Pastor Jody’s trivia time.

*See ya’ll 5th Sunday Funday  
Potluckday!*

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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To:



**Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday  
April 1  
10am

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

**Mother's  
Day  
Tea**

Saturday  
May 6  
1PM  
\$5



Conway Hall  
Purchase tickets  
April 2 and 9  
in the narthex  
after any service