

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

Return Service Requested

**November 2023**  
Volume 66, Issue 9



**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

## SHINE Kids Club

Kindergarten through 5th  
Grade

Saturdays

November 18

9am - 11:45

Songs, Stories,

Snacks, STEAM activities and

tons of fun! Come to one or  
all three, each one is different!

Register online

<https://grace.to/grace-kids/>



**Rummage Sale**  
**November 18**  
**8:30am—1pm**  
**Conway Hall**  
**Donations accepted**  
**beginning Friday,**  
**November 10**

---

**Christmas on the**  
**Front Lawn**  
**Friday, December 8**  
**4—6pm**

**To:**

# Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 2023

## The Pastor's Page

Someone recently said that my name should appear in this space, whether in the title or a byline. I never considered that before, since every church newsletter I have ever seen leads with some pastoral reflections. It is one of those things that church folk take for granted: the pastor should have the front page!

I am not sure that is the case, though I am certainly happy to lead off the newsletter. I do think my thoughts should appear somewhere within, but many things are happening in the church, and it is okay if some other story leads the way.

*Continued page 2*

## Looking Forward

### November

- 5 All Saints' Day
- 5 Communion
- 5 Daylight saving time ends
- 18 SHINE
- 18 Rummage Sale  
8:30am—1pm
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 26 Decorate Church

### December

- 3 Communion
- 8 Christmas on the  
Front Lawn 4-6pm
- 17 Christmas Cantata
- 20 Service of the  
Longest Night 6pm
- 24 Lessons and Carols  
8:45am, 10:45am, 6:pm
- 31 One Service, 10:30am

That being said, I think it is a good idea to have a more permanent name for my article, regardless of where it appears. So I chose “The Pastor’s Page” as the title to use going forward. This way, I am relieved of the “burden” of picking a clever title for the article every month! And you will know that I am writing the article.

Sometimes, I struggle to come up with one “big idea” for a newsletter article. That leads to Rhonda tapping her foot as she waits past the deadline for me to send her something! So this month, I will share a few random thoughts in addition to introducing a regular title.

First of all, if you would like to write something in this space, ask me. I would be happy to cede some news-

letter real estate. Of course, I hope you would plan ahead--let me know what month you would like, and send me a rough idea of what you plan to write. If you want to meet to help me craft your piece, I can do that, too. By the way, this goes for the Grace Cove news also, if you do not know, that is the name of the weekly email newsletter I send. There is no shortage of space there for your message.

Off the topic of newsletters, November is the month of Thanksgiving. In a way, only having one day dedicated to giving thanks is insufficient for the depth of gratitude we should be showing for the gifts God gives us. So try to cultivate a spirit of everyday gratitude. Thank God every day for at least one gift. Thank folks for doing nice things for you--or for being

**Happy Birthday**  
**Happy Anniversary**

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

### **Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch has returned and will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Shelvey Johnson if you plan to attend.

### **Small Blessings Child Care**

GCPC gives thanks with a grateful heart to SBCC for over 35 years of service to children, families and the community. SBCC celebrated fall with Pumpkin Parties and a costume Parade! Our pumpkin munchkins are such a delight to watch them grow and learn new bible verses, songs, games, letters, colors and numbers. The children and teachers give thanks daily for God's many blessings. GCPC is blessed to have such an important Ministry on our campus, the children are our future. May God bless every staff member and every Small Blessings family during this Thanksgiving Season.

### **ROOTED Youth Group**

Sunday evenings, 5:15p – 7p  
Watch for events and news on Facebook - Grace Covenant PC Youth IG - [Rooted.grace.covenant](https://www.instagram.com/Rooted.grace.covenant).

### **Ruth Circle**

The next meeting of Ruth circle will be November 13. We are now collecting \$10 gift cards from Publix for those served by Servant's Heart. Many of their people do not have a place to cook a meal or a turkey so gift cards are provided so they may have food for thanksgiving .

We will be collecting the gift cards at our November meeting .

In December, we will be providing gifts to boys and girls up to age 12. We also look forward to a holiday luncheon in December!!!

We continue our study of Women of the Bible and a new study will continue on the same theme.

All are welcome and we look forward to our fellowship. Any questions contact Barbara Hart

brave enough to tell you a hard truth. Thank those whose service benefits you-- especially ones you might take for granted, like the folks who haul away your trash! In short, give thanks always. It is a spiritual discipline that goes a long way in helping us navigate the challenging waters of life in the modern world.

Finally, let me help you plan ahead for December. Advent begins December 3. The fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. That makes worship planning a bit tricky. Your worship leaders agreed that we will have two Sunday morning services as usual on Christmas Eve Sunday, but only one evening service at 6pm. The services will be the same so you can come in the morning or the evening. Also, Wednesday, December 10 is the Service of

the Longest Night. This is a service where we acknowledge the grief that often accompanies the season, especially for those who have lost significant people in their lives. In past years, we called this Blue Christmas, but I prefer to leave that title for the Elvis song! Also, it is a service occurring close to the longest night of the year, the winter solstice (December 22 this year). Long nights often lead to somber feelings, so it is a perfect time to recognize that God holds us as we grieve, no matter when the loss occurred.

I will close by practicing what I preach! I give thanks for all of you at Grace Covenant. Together, we are called to serve God and our neighbors. Let's keep it going as we look to 2024!

## Thank You

We would like to thank the members for their love of cards, flowers, prayers and well wishes showered on us during the almost sudden death of Minnette's younger sister Louise Pinnock.

You have been our rock and strength. Whatever you did for us was greatly appreciated.

Like that was not enough Reuben was hospitalized for five days, October 3-7, 2023. Again you sent us your prayers, visits and love which caused him to heal so quickly.

His Internist wants him to go back to cutting his grass and doing the work he did before, while they continue to search for a diagnosis. As soon as they find one I will share it with you.

Love in Christ,  
Reuben and Minnette  
Mullings

## Food for School

The Outreach team will be supplying turkeys to Dover Shores Elementary for Thanksgiving. Please see the adjusted list of foods requested for their Thanksgiving distribution. Drop items in the Narthex or office by November 12. We are thankful for our blessings at this time of year so let's share those blessings and food with our neighborhood schools.

Happy Thanksgiving

Single serve mac n' cheese,  
Canned/Jar gravy, Pasta, Juice boxes, Canned tuna/meats, Peanut butter, Mac n' cheese, Mash potatoes, Spaghetti sauce, Boxed crackers/cookies, Stuffing, Fruit snacks, Canned pumpkin, Cup o' noodles, Granola bars, Apple sauce/fruit cups, Cereal, Marshmallows, Jelly/jam, Canned cranberry sauce.

## Scholarships for our Youth

The Scholarship Fund was started in 1995, and since then more than 50 students have been awarded scholarships, totaling more than \$60,000.00. That's impressive - as this fund relies solely on contributions from the congregation and several church groups. This fund is NOT part of the church budget. The current balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$38.99. It's time to rebuild so we'll be ready for next year's applicants!

Donations may be given at any time in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person, or simply designated for the Scholarship Fund.

What a legacy! Let's continue the tradition.

## Book Club

Panera Bread, S. Semoran  
Tuesday, November 28 at 7pm  
*Daughter of Rome* by Tessa Afshar

## Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 18  
08:30 AM-1:00 PM  
Conway Hall Gym  
Setup: Friday, November 17  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

### Volunteers Needed

Friday: Table Setup, Sorting Treasures

Saturday: Sign Holders out front, Negotiators, Money Handlers, Take Down. Drivers take some items to Russell Home or Good Will after sale. Will start accepting donations Friday, November 10. Please bring items to Conway Hall or side door of gym. Need your help to make sale the Best Ever! Please start cleaning closets, garages, kitchen items. Will accept furniture, rugs, lamps, clean clothes, linens, tools, planters, kitchen items, kid toys. Sale profits to benefit college scholarships and gardens.

Coordinator: Lori Lampman/  
churchoffice@grace.to