

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

Return Service Requested

January 2024  
Volume 66, 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)  
[www.grace.to](http://www.grace.to)

To:

### Two Events on Sunday, January 28



**Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting**

11:30am

In the Sanctuary



**Chili Cook Off**

**Cookie Bake Off**

In Conway Hall



# Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

January/February

## THE PASTORS PAGE

Where did 2023 go? It seems that as I get older, time accelerates! Of course, that is simply my perception, but I think I share it with many.

And of course, 2024 promises to be an eventful year. First, my installation as “official” pastor occurs on Sunday, January 7 at 3pm. The service will feature folks from around the presbytery, as ordaining and/or installing pastors is a presbytery function.

But it does not stop there! The following Sunday, January 14, we will ordain and/or install church officers. On January 28, we will hold our annual congregational meeting. If you are a member, I encourage you especially to attend these Sundays.

*Continued page 2*

## Looking Forward

### January

- 1 New Year’s Day,
- 7 Communion
- 7—**INSTALLATION**
- Pastor Jody 3pm**
- 13—Buddy Break
- 14 Installation and  
Ordination of Elders  
and Deacons
- 28 Annual Congregational  
Meeting
- 28 Chili Cook-Off

### February

- 4 Communion
- 11 Scout Sunday
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 14 Lenten Dinner/Soup  
DINNER 6pm  
SERVICE 6:30pm

If you can, I want you to take the following selection of text from the Presbyterian Form of Government (part of the Book of Order) and display it somewhere visible, like a bulletin board or refrigerator door. Whether you cut it out or take a photo of it, I ask you to glance at it from time to time to remind yourself of the “joy and privilege” of membership in the Church of Jesus Christ.

#### **G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members**

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,

Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,

- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- caring for God’s creation,
- We participating in the governing responsibilities

#### **Attention—Attention**

#### **Third Thursday at the Garden is back !**

THURSDAY, January 18

6pm

Show up and share a fun dinner out with GCPC family.



Want to volunteer with our special needs community. Give the office a call and ask to talk about Buddy Break. First session of 2024 is January 13.

#### **BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY**

As we try to save money and space we are considering not publishing birthdays and anniversaries in the Grace Notes. Please contact the office if you would like a list of January/February Birthdays/Anniversaries.

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

6pm -11pm Second Fridays

Craft with others for any amount of time. Questions: contact the church office

#### **INSTALLATION SERVICE**

Join us at 3pm on Sunday, January 7,2023, to install Pastor Jody as our permanent pastor!

Elder and Deacon Installation and Ordination

January 14, 2023, in the sanctuary. Elders Elect: Kyle Price, Sandee Smith, Tracy Umpierre, Glenn Widick. Deacons Elect: Paulo Chen, Christine Nursey, Pam Schallert, Evie Smith

## Small Blessings Child Care

Small Blessings welcomes 2024 with excitement and hope for the good that is to come. We thank God for all His blessings in 2023 and may God continue to guide SBCC. We all are grateful for the children, parents and staff at SBCC who made “A Servant’s Heart” project a tremendous success. They exceeded the goal of 40 filled Christmas bags with a total of 77 filled Christmas bags for the less fortunate in our community. What a wonderful loving, giving spirit that was a true Christmas blessing. A heartfelt thank you to you all. What an inspiration Small Blessings is with their compassion and their giving from the heart. The New Year will be filled with lessons, laughter and a love for learning about God and others.

## **ROOTED Youth Group**

Sunday evenings, 5:15p – 7p  
Watch for events and news on Facebook - Grace Covenant PC Youth  
IG Rooted.grace.covenant.

## **SHINE!**

Calling all Kindergartners through 5th Graders! A fun time of crafts, games, stories, snacks and more fun

Feb. 10th

Mar. 9th

April 13

9:00am—11:45am

Join in one or all!

For more information call  
Ms. Sheryl 407-898-6571

**Have You  
Pledged Yet?**

ties of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to take that next step to be part of the mission of God at Grace Covenant. By strengthening our commitments to the work God calls all of us to do, we demonstrate our faithful response to the good news of Jesus the Christ at work in our own lives.

Whether you are a long-time member, deacon and/or elder, or you are just getting to know us, you are welcome at Grace Covenant. I encourage you to extend that welcome into the community through your daily interactions with your neighbors. As our (ongoing!) stewardship campaign asserts are sharing time, talents and treasure together for the gospel of Jesus in

south Orlando and beyond.

I am excited to start a new year in the official capacity of Pastor and Head of Staff. We have many big jobs ahead, and it promises to be an “all hands on deck” adventure. But with Christ as our Captain, we can navigate any waters. Blessings to you and your loved ones in 2024. Let’s get sailing!

## **Connect to Grace**

Receive text and/or email about life at Grace Covenant via our Flocknote service, including Friday’s Grace Cov-e-news. Two ways to sign up:

- On the web: [gracecovorl.flocknote.com](http://gracecovorl.flocknote.com)
- On your phone: text MARK1234 to 84576
- Also, follow us: [@gracecovenant](https://www.facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterianChurch)