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March/April 2024



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1655 Peel Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806
Phone: 407.898.6571
E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to
www.grace.to

To:



Saturday

March 23, 10am
Babies—5th Grade

Lenten Dinner

March 19 5:45pm
Join us for Lasagna
and Salad.

**Maundy Thursday
Dinner and Service**

March 28 5:45pm
Dinner will be soup and
yeast rolls followed by a
service at 6:30pm.

Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

March/April 2024

The Pastor's Page

We have been taking inventory of our church membership lately. This is something we have to do every year in order to report church statistics to the General Assembly of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church, USA. Separately, we send important information to Central Florida Presbytery like key contacts for ministries and who is on the session. Keeping up with this data keeps Rhonda busy from December through February.

One thing we have come to realize in compiling this important information is that some of it is missing. We often

Looking Forward

March

- 3 Communion
- 19 Lenten Dinner, 5:45pm
- 23 Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday
Dinner, 5:45pm
- 28 Maundy Thursday
Service, 6:30pm
- 29 Good Friday Service at
Noon
- 31 Easter Day

April

- 1 Easter Monday, Office
Closed
- 3 Hops for Haiti
- 7 Communion
- 13 SHINE, 9am
- 27 ROOTED Youth Group
Golf Tournament

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wonder if a member still lives at the address we have on file. Usually we do not find out otherwise until a piece of mail is returned.

But that's not the only information that is missing. Sometimes, we do not know how old one of our members is, because they never told us their birthdate. Or maybe someone gets a new phone, perhaps with a new phone number. They may have a list of folks and businesses they know should have their new number, but sometimes they forget to include Grace Covenant on that list.

All of this leads to one question: does the church know enough about you to minister to you well? What about the person next to you on Sunday morning? What about the person who started attending

a while back but has not joined the church for whatever reason?

Life is more complicated these days. People are understandably hesitant to divulge personal information for fear of identity theft or other privacy concerns. But isn't that where the trusted community of faith can play a bigger role? In other words, we cannot be accountable to one another if we do not know who you are and you do not know who we are!

We need a better system to track who is coming to church, who no longer is, and who may have moved far away (and whether those folks want to remain connected or not).

There are many ways to address this issue. "Friendship Registers" (you

Small Blessings

Child Care

Our beloved director of SBCC, Kim Cliett is retiring. Quoting Kim, "Throughout these 40 years many changes have taken place in our industry, however, our mission "Train up a child in the way he should go and when old, will not depart from it". Proverbs 22:6 has remained steadfast. Today, more than ever, families need a safe secure place filled with love to allow children to grow and learn in a Christ centered environment. We have proudly served over 4000 families over the years and continue to welcome new families to SBCC." Though we will miss Kim, it is with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation that GCPC gives an enormous thank you for her dedication, compassion and leadership. May God guide Kim in her future endeavors.

Connect to Grace

Receive text and/or email about life at Grace Covenant via our Flocknote service, including Friday's Grace Cove-e-news.

Two ways to sigh up:
On the web: or your phone.
gracecovorl.flocknote.com
Text MARK1234 to 84576
Also, follow us at
facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterianChurch@gracecovenant

Third Thursday at the Garden

Show up and share a fun dinner out with Grace Covenant family!

Third Thursdays at 6pm
March 21
April 18

D.E.C.K 2.0

6pm -11pm Second Fridays
Craft with others for any amount of time. Questions: contact the church office

may know them better as pew pads) were a tool we used in the past, but their limited space is not friendly to newcomers. Some churches rely on particularly friendly members to seek out the newcomers and long-time members and visitors. They do good work, but we need other avenues of engagement.

Have you not received a phone call from the church in a while? How about an email? Maybe you're reading this newsletter at a friend's home because you moved and we do not have your address! If any of these are true, call 407-898-6571 or email churchoffice@grace.to to verify your contact information with the church so we can keep you informed and be ready to assist you in a time of need.



Do you
want to

volunteer with our special needs community? Give the office a call.

Upcoming dates are:

March 9, August 10

October 12, December 14

Bingo and Bites

Saturday, May 18

Conway Hall

11:45am - 2:00pm

The Discipleship Team will be hosting a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund.

A Salad Bar will be served and then everyone will enjoy Bingo, gift cards will be awarded as prizes. Tickets will go on sale in April, cost is \$10, more information will be posted as to the dates.

We appreciate everyone's support. Ask your friends to join in the fun, let's make this a huge success for our college students.

Ruth Circle

10am Conference Room

March 11 and April 8

On March 11, the study will be Women Of The Bible, Session 3 "Shulamite Woman". After the study we will be filling 40 Easter Baskets for Servants Heart to be given to the children of the families who are in need of assistance.

Then on April 8 the lesson will be on Ruth.

All are welcome.

Church Workday

Saturday, March 2

Come help with one or both events. Interior windows in Smith and John Calvin need Spring cleaning and Spring planting in the gardens will be done.

UCF Community Choir

Tuesday, March 12

Friday, April 26

7pm

The UCF Community Choir will have two free concerts in the Sanctuary. All are invited!

8th Annual

Grace on the Greens

Saturday, April 27

Remington Rivers Golf Club

Our goal is to fill the course with 60+ golfers for the event.

In order to complete this project, we are in need of golfers, and hole sponsors. Fees to play are \$85 for individual players or \$320/ foursome, or The proceeds raised will go directly to the youth to help provide scholarships for summer camp and to support our efforts of serving the community. For more information, contact Val at youth@grace.to or watch your Grace Cov-e-news.