ATTENTION: VETERANS AND VETERANS’ FAMILIES

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church will honor you on Sunday, November 12 with our slide show featuring your older uniformed and newer current pictures. If you have not submitted a picture of yourself or your veteran family member, and would like to participate, please submit a photo of him or her in uniform plus another photo that is relatively current to the church office by November 1st. Please indicate the branch of service along with the uniformed picture.

In addition, if a member of your family has been represented in our program previously, but has passed away, please let the church office know that, too.

The church is gearing up to honor our Vietnam War veterans as part of the national Vietnam War Commemoration Program marking the 50th anniversary of the war and their service. If you or your family member whom we have been honoring at Veterans Day in the past served on active duty between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, he or she is eligible for special recognition under this program. Please let the church office know if you or your veteran served during this time period. As our service on November 12th constitutes a Veterans Day salute, those veterans that desire to wear their uniform, service vest, or a military related T-shirt that Sunday are invited to do so.

Pssst... Church Picnic!!

Also on November 12, make plans to attend the Church Picnic which will be held on the drive at noon. The picnic will be prepared for you. There will be donation baskets on the tables to cover expenses. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share. Don’t miss out!

This is always a special event for our church family!

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See the church calendar online:
http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/
Our **Special Offering** this month will be for the Thornwell Children's Home and their new Building Families Program which is already in progress in our Central Florida Community.

Many of our GCPC congregation are already aware of the great work being done by Thornwell. Please keep them in mind for this special offering.

Our **Ruth Circle**

continues the excellent study of the book of Hebrews under Winifred Rutherford's guidance! Our meetings are the **second Monday of each month at 10 am in room 16**. All are welcome.

**We continue to support Servants Heart as our community project.** As well as monetary support we are also meeting the need for baby diapers and wipes. They are also asking for children's books of all ages as some children never had a book of their own. So we welcome contributions from all members - you can bring them to church and give to me or any member of Ruth Circle.

We want to thank the Circle of Light for their very generous monetary gift to Servant's Heart. Chloe, the director, was so pleased. For any questions feel free to contact me.

~~ Barbara Hart 407-851-8967

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Send Grace Notes items to Jane Heppner at jane.gracenotes@gmail.com

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the deadline is **Friday, November 10th**.

A thousand thanks and more to the volunteers at Grace Covenant who take people to their various appointments when they are unable themselves, especially Nancy Nordman and Gene Lang. I was able to keep doctor's appointments because of them. Thanks also to Candy and Maynard and GCPC….this is an amazing church. I’m so glad to be a member!

~~ *Rosemary Golden*

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Youth sponsored Spaghetti Dinner. Special thanks to Brian Gallagher, Mary and Alison Solik, Carolyn Castagno, Mike Beam, Candy Vander Weide, Carol Pate, Mary Widick, members of the youth group and their parents who helped make the event a great success. We look forward to serving you again soon!

~~ Byron & Judy Thames

Dear Maynard,

I was so sorry to see on FB that the church steeple came down during Irma. I remember when that one was installed. Drew and I remember what it was like in Orlando post-Charley. So glad GCPC is opening its doors to welcome in the community. Thank you for your leadership in a difficult time.

God Bless,
Diane Knauf
(former Associate Pastor)
We extend our Christian love and sympathy to:

The family of Roberta Eckard who died on Sunday, October 8, 2017. A service was held on October 15, 2017.

Glenn and Mary Widick and family on the passing of his father, Bill Widick. A service was held in Oregon.

Walter Wiese and family on the passing of his wife, Darlene, who died on Sunday, October 15, 2017. A service was held on October 24, 2017.

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Help Sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner

Join our youth group as we partner with the PTA of Dover Shores Elementary to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for families who are in need. We are asking members of Grace Covenant to help provide turkeys for the families. If you are interested in helping, you can make a donation towards the cost of a turkey ($15 - $20). Donations can be placed in the offering. (Be sure to note "turkey" on the memo line of the check or on the envelope.)

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The Big Red Bus Blood Drive to Help Puerto Rico, Houston and Las Vegas Victims

OneBlood is providing their Big Red Bus on Sunday, November 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church campus. Orlando Presbyterian Church initiated the blood drive and would love your support.

OneBlood is a not-for-profit working with the American Red Cross, Blood Centers of America (BCA) and America’s Blood Centers (ABC) and coordinates daily shipments of blood and platelets to hospitals in Puerto Rico. The blood donations will take place inside the bus.

Generally healthy people age 16 and above who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate. Donors receive a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and iron count plus a cholesterol screening. The entire process takes about 20 minutes. As a donor, you will receive gifts, from OneBlood, and the sponsoring churches.

The need is constant. Blood donated today will be transfused within 2-3 days. Remember this important fact: 1 pint of blood helps 3 people. Your help is needed now.

Donate blood at Grace Covenant on the Big Red Bus

November 19 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Lots of exciting events happened in October. Thirty years’ celebration of Small Blessings ministry to children and their families, a costume parade, pumpkin parties and Grace Covenant’s own Trunk or Treat! Hope you were around for some of these fun times.

Now we are into the fall season and Thanksgiving. The children are learning about harvest time, colorful leaves and all the many blessings we have been given by God. The children will have a Thanksgiving feast which is always fun as they dress as Pilgrims or Indians and learn the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

New skills continue to be introduced and friendships continue to blossom. The children always look forward to the worship activities on Wednesday mornings in the sanctuary with Ms. Candy.

Small Blessings children began their drive for donations for Operation Christmas Child on October 13. The K-4 children will have their Christmas Pageant the evening of December 7 in GCPC’s Sanctuary. Everyone is invited. More about December events in the next newsletter.
Family Fun Nite
Tuesday, November 21  6:29 pm
Conway Hall

In November, we do something a little different. This is our annual Soup Nite. For this month only, instead of a covered dish, bring a vegetable (canned, frozen or fresh) to add to our soup stock. By each one adding a little, working together, we will share a delicious, bountiful soup together. Drinks, bread, crackers and dessert will be provided.

There will not be a Fourth Thursday at the Garden in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

You are Invited to Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 23 Noon  Conway Hall

You are invited to celebrate this holiday with friends and family. Turkey, ham, rolls and drinks are provided. Please bring a traditional covered dish to share (potatoes, salad, vegetable or dessert).

Come with your family, or a friend, or just bring yourself, but plan to join in fellowship for this holiday meal.

Let us know if you are coming….and how many to expect...so we can plan. Fill out the bulletin insert, sign the sheet on the kiosk, call the church office, 407-898-6571, or email candy@grace.to.

Cookie Sunday
On the fourth Sunday of each month we accept donations from the congregation. These cookies are served at hospitality time after the second worship service each week. Thank you for all your contributions!

Saturday, December 2, the Youth Group will be going to Give Kids the World Village. If you have interest in serving or learning more about this great opportunity, please contact Jimmy for more information. This opportunity is open to ages 12 and up. The deadline to sign up will be Sunday, November 26.

We would love to have you join us!

Hanging of the Greens
Friday, December 1st
Crafts at 5 pm and Dinner at 6pm in Conway Hall
Decorating service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm

Come take a break from turkey leftovers and have chili and hot dogs as you start your Advent season in a special way. Make some crafts to take home and some to use in decorating the sanctuary. During the service, learn of the traditions and meanings of the decorations we use each year. Enjoy friendship, fellowship and fun! Each family is requested to bring a pair of socks as a gift to be given to someone in need.

Saturday, December 11
5 pm - 9 pm

This event is sponsored by our youth group and their parents and is for any age child up to 5th grade. The recommended donation is at least $20 per family plus $5 for each child who would like dinner provided. Proceeds will go toward youth group summer trips.
### Rooted Student Ministry Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Give Kids the World&lt;br&gt;Leave church at 3:30 pm and return by 10:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Youth Group Meets and Church Picnic&lt;br&gt;12:00 - 3:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>November 26</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Youth Group Lunch&lt;br&gt;after 10:45 service&lt;br&gt;~12:00 - 2:00 pm (ish)&lt;br&gt;$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hanging of the Greens&lt;br&gt;5:00 pm - 8:00 pm&lt;br&gt;Crafts @ 5&lt;br&gt;Dinner @ 6&lt;br&gt;Worship @7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Give Kids the World&lt;br&gt;Leave church at 3:30 pm and return by 10:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>December 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Parents Night Out Fundraiser&lt;br&gt;4:30 pm - 9:30 pm (youth)&lt;br&gt;Event is 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>December 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Making Memories&lt;br&gt;Gingerbread Making&lt;br&gt;3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Youth Group Meets&lt;br&gt;4:30 pm - 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 22</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christmas Light Tour and Progressive Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Time TBA&lt;br&gt;Locations: Solik, Neusaenger and Pate homes</td>
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### Attention members, parents and friends. Can you help?

We have a number of fun opportunities for you to assist with this school year. We are in need of volunteers in addition to parents to help keep our momentum moving in the right direction and would love for you to join us. Whether it’s opening your home to host an event, joining us on a trip to Give Kids The World Village, going to a fellowship lunch with us, or cooking dinner on a Sunday night for youth group, there is something for you! If you see something that interests you, or would like to help us, please contact Jimmy Steele at 863-860-3961 or at jimmy@grace.to.

### 3rd Graders Receive Bibles

On Sunday, October 22, the 3rd grade students in our Church family received a Bible as a gift from the Church. After a class during the Sunday School hour, for all elementary ages, to help them better understand and to use their Bibles, the students received their Bible and were treated to a time of refreshments.

The 3rd grade students in our Church family are:
- Colin Capatosto, Kody Kest,
- Madison Osbourne, Jude Steele,
- Lillian Stogsdill and Clover Ward.

### Prayers for the Journey

There are six young people in our Church family who have begun the journey to Confirming the vows that were made for them at baptism. Two additional youth were not baptized as infants and are on the Journey to baptism and membership. All are being supported on this journey by covenant partners and their families. As their Church family, your support and prayers are also needed. Please be in prayer for
- Zach Gallagher, Lily Neusaenger, Connor Richards, Logan Ruckman, Calum Schlichenmaier, Alison Solik, Connor Umpierre and Dylan Umpierre during this time of study and building relationships with God and with others in His family.
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
4’ x 6’ Banner Campaign
One-Year Conway Hall Banner Advertisement

Date: ________________

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church members can now advertise their business in Conway Hall, for one year, in the form of a 4’ x 6’ vinyl banner.

Along with this application, please attach a 8.5” x 11” color copy of your intended advertisement. Include payment in the amount of $300.00 payable to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church; Check # __________. Submit application, payment, and intended advertisement to the Church Office for GCPC approval.

Upon payment this one-year agreement shall become effective under the following terms.

1. Upon advertisement approval, GCPC will have a 4’ x 6’ vinyl banner produced for your company. An electronic copy of the intended advertisement may be required. Company logos shall be emailed to tracy@suncoastassemblers.com in a PDF or JPEG format.

2. Banners will be installed on the GYM’s upper perimeter wall in Conway Hall, in a sequence to balance space, surrounding the basketball court.

3. Banner production & installation may require two to three weeks.

4. GCPC & the applicant will have the option to renew the agreement for an additional year. An invoice will be sent to the applicant annually in the amount of $300.00.

5. If the applicant does not wish to renew their advertisement, or payment has not been received within 30 days, applicant may pick up their banner in the Church Office.

Company Name: _____________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________

Contact Person: ___________________________ Phone#: ( ) ________

Signature: ____________________________________ E-Mail

GCPC STAFF APPROVAL: ___________________________ DATE: ____________

Banner Installed on: ________________________________

“To GOD Be All the Glory”
Happy holidays!!! Yes, it is that time when once again we move into a multitude of holidays – or “holy days.”

In a rather short amount of time we are going to celebrate All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, Kwanzaa, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day. Our neighbors will celebrate other holy days. Jews will observe Hanukkah, Hindus celebrate Dussera, and Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Fitr.

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Some who know me well may think about International Talk Like a Pirate Day in September or Halloween in October. While they are fun, my favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Other holidays may separate or confuse us. I have a Hindu friend who has to tell me every year the meaning of Dussera, while she always asks me to explain where Santa comes in the Bible. Holidays from other cultures can often enrich our lives. My Hindu friend who is always asking about Santa loves Christmas trees and always has the loveliest one on Facebook.

But Thanksgiving is a holiday we can all understand. We all can be thankful and spend time pondering how grateful we should be. It is often a time with family and friends. The best of food is served. Sometimes we may miss those who are no longer with us because they have died in recent months, but we can be grateful for our memories of them and the difference they made in our lives. We are often fearful of the violence of our times, but we can be thankful for the men and women who serve in the military or as first responders to keep us safer. It can also be a time of meaningful service with and to those who feel lonely during the holidays.

My prayer for each of you is that the holidays begin with a meaningful observance of thanksgiving, so that you may be filled with gratitude that will carry you through Advent, Christmas, a New Year and beyond.

Bible Quiz

It's intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books doesn't mention autumn?

A. Matthew
B. Jeremiah
C. Proverbs
D. Jude

Answer: A (see Proverbs 20:4, ESV; Jeremiah 5:24; Jude 1:12)

Lectionary for November

5 Matthew 23:1-12
12 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
19 Zephaniah 1:1-18
26 Ephesians 1:15-23
To:

Dr. Maynard Pittendreigh
Senior Pastor
Candy Vander Weide
Commissioned Lay Pastor

Annual Alternative Christmas Celebration

Sunday, November 5
9:30 am – 1:00 pm Conway Hall

This annual event provides an opportunity for you to choose gifts that will not remain hidden in the bottom drawer or on the top shelf of a closet, but instead will be a gift that will keep on giving. The celebration will provide information and opportunity to select ways to complete your gift list by giving a gift in the name of one you love. You will be given a gift card to send to the person you have gifted in this way.

Plan to spend some time in Conway Hall on that day and see the displays and learn more about some very special ministries that the Grace Covenant family supports. You can choose your gifts that day, or take home an informational booklet to study, decide on the “gifts” you’d like to purchase, and return your selections to the church any time before Christmas.

Boxes and instructions for Operation Christmas Child and bags to fill for the Share the Care residents will also be available on that day. (Christmas child boxes and instructions will also be available on the Kiosk beginning October 29. These are due back by November 12.)