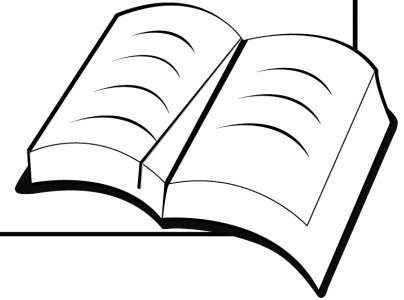


# GR



# CE notes

GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 2020 — Volume 63, Issue 7

## The Church Today

General Assembly, the biennial church-wide gathering of the Presbyterian Church (USA), was held online over two weekends in June. Instead of traveling to Baltimore, the 500 commissioners of the 224<sup>th</sup> GA sat down at their computers for worship and meetings. At least two devices were required to capture live-streaming of events and voting by virtual ballots.

Much may have been lost in the way of informal fellowship and the experience of being together at the convention. But the intimacy of motions made from kitchen tables and home offices, access to behind the scenes production staff and volunteers in Louisville (the church's parliamentarian was a rock star for her handling of heated discussion about motions being drafted in real-time), and the experience of being together in Spirit from all over the world was nonetheless exciting.

The business taken up at the 224<sup>th</sup> GA reduced due to the sheer size of the technical undertaking. However, concerns relating to racial justice and COVID-19 spilled off the streets and onto the commissioners' screens. These concerns were centered as too important and too immediate to be "rolled over" to the 225<sup>th</sup> GA in 2022. Among the items that came out of this unique assembly were statements that the church has been both yearning to make and needing to hear: about the state of Native American churches; the disproportionate impact of

COVID-19 on minorities and marginalized groups; and the sin of racism with a call to action.

That call has gone out now to the churches of the PC(USA) and the world awaits our response.

<https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/>



### Looking Ahead Events May Be Postponed or Moved Online

#### August

- 2 - Youth Group Back Pack drive
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - Mister Rogers Book Study
- 9-16 - Family Promise
- 22 - F.I.S.H.
- 25 - Book Club

#### September

- 7 - Office Closed
- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Table Talk
- 14 - Ruth Circle
- 20 - Congregational Meeting
- 27 - Youth Spaghetti Dinner

#### October

- 11 - Stewardship Kickoff
- 25 - Commitment Sunday
- 28 - Trunk or Treat

### Inside this issue:

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

## Many Thanks

Thank you all for your support in my Eagle Scout project . Hopefully it will ensure the safety for all of those that attend and work at Small Blessings.

Sincerely,

Connor Umpierre

Thank you so much for the money donated toward my Eagle Scout project. I look forward to improving our church grounds.

Best Regards,

Dylan Umpierre

## Backpacks and School Supplies

The youth group is once again asking for your help in collecting school supplies as part of a Back to School backpack fill project for students in need in our community. Thank YOU for the amazing amount of supplies collected so far. There will be a collection box in the narthex and items *must be* turned in by Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Backpacks are needed for all ages. Suggested items needed include but are not limited to: pencils, notebook paper, crayons, markers, rulers, scissors, glue, etc.

## Book Club

Book Club continues to meet using Zoom. The August meeting will be Tuesday, **August 25th** at **7:00 pm**. We'll be discussing the book *Isaiah's Daughter* by Mesu Andrews.

*Isaiah's Daughter* is an excellent reminder that the truth of God's words will be proven, even when His people cannot see through the veil of suffering to the ultimate victory. Epic drama, adventure, love, treachery—*Isaiah's Daughter* is all of that and more.

Please join us! Zoom is easy to use. If you have any questions, contact Jane Heppner.



FOR RISING K – Rising 5<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

BEGINS AUGUST 2

8:30am service

Children will attend worship with their family and after the children's sermon be escorted to Room 15 of Smith Hall for time with Ms. Sheryl learning about worship in a new and exciting ways. Nursery/ Walker and preschool care provided.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

BEGINS AUGUST 23

9:30am to 10:30am

Discover, Explore, Learn! Using hands on activities children will experience God and His amazing love for them!

*Continued page 7*

## Daily Bread and the Upper Room

Copies are available for pick up by the elevator.

## In Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to



Craig Marquis whose girlfriend Mattie

Hickson died on May 24, 2020

Karen and Jon Paul Estes and family. Karen's uncle, Drexell Toombs, died July 9, 2020

Diana and Vince Ibarra and family. Diana's father, Henry Guinotte, died July 16, 2020

**ADDRESS  
UPDATES**

Claire and Paul Doster

## *F. I. S. H.*

Fresh Ideas Start Here is Central Florida Presbytery's annual training event for volunteers and professionals engaged in educational ministries at their churches will take to Zoom this year in light of the pandemic. It will be held on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (including Lunch and Learn). The registration packet and on-line registration is available. Visit [www.cfpresbytery.org](http://www.cfpresbytery.org) and click on the Equip tab. There will be 14 workshops split between two one-hour workshop periods plus Lunch and Learn. Our own Sheryl Chernault will be teaching one of the workshops!

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## *Church Officers*

The Nominating Committee will soon be seeking nominations for members to serve as Elders, Deacons and for the 2020 Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully consider members who you feel would be good candidates to serve in these positions.

Elders are called to be the spiritual leaders and form the governing body of the church. This group is the Session which meets once a month. In addition, each Elder serves as a liaison to a committee. Committees usually meet once a month.

Deacons serve on the Board of Deacons and have the responsibility of compassion ministry. Their work complements that of the elders by ministering to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. They meet every other month.

## *Ruth Circle*

The members of Ruth Circle are looking forward to gathering in September with appropriate accommodations being made for social distancing and the wearing of masks. Our scheduled date to begin is September 14th at 10 am in the Conway Hall reception room.

After much discussion the decision was made for our Bible study to be Joshua: *A Journey of Faith* by Mary Mikhael. This is an older study but is very relevant to our world today. This study is part of the Presbyterian women's catalog of studies.

We will continue our community support of Servant's Heart.

All are welcome and we look forward to serving our present members and new ones as well.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings and love to all, Barbara Hart

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## *Yard Visits*

We miss seeing your smiling faces. If you are not ready or able to come back to meet face to face yet, you can schedule a front yard visit.

Pastor Karen can come by and spend time with you on your front porch or in your yard, safely socially distanced and outside! She can even take a picture of you waving "hello" to share with the rest of the congregation! If you would be interested in a yard visit please contact Karen or the church office.

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## *Stay Connected and Current*

Grace Covenant is offering weekly email updates. Get the latest news and information delivered right to your inbox. To subscribe, call or email the church office. (Everyone will still receive the Grace Notes newsletter with its extra features each month.) Follow the church on Facebook. Subscribe to the church YouTube channel where you will also find our new "Grace Kids Now" channel. Sermons, COVID-19 updates, and announcements can be found on the church website.



# August



Please contact the church office  
if you would like a copy of the  
birthday and anniversary list.



## Family Promise Update

of Greater Orlando

We had several people from Grace Covenant sign up for meals the last time Conway United Methodist hosted (our partner church). The families were very grateful for the meals; we had some different meals than their normal and provided a little variety for the families. There were also several donations of money to offset the hotel costs. Thank you to all.

Due to Covid, the families are still being housed at hotels through the end of August.

Each of the churches is being assigned a week to prepare dinners to be delivered to the Day Center (who will distribute to the hotels and families).

The next supper sign-up for Conway Methodist (our partner church) is August 9-16<sup>th</sup>.

You can go to the following SignUp Genius at the following link (copy/paste to the URL) and sign up for any of the dinners listed as "CU" the week of Aug 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. The exact number of people and ages will be provided the week before we serve.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4aabac2ca3f85-family13>

If the above dates do not exactly work for your schedule, there are totally empty slots near the end of August without a church assigned and you can sign up for one of those dates as well.

For more specific details please contact Diana Ibarra.

The program is grateful to all of you who can help provide for these families.

### Mister Rogers Book Study Set!

I am reading a wonderful new book that I would love to share with you. Because of the spike in Covid-19 cases we are moving the study to the beginning of August. We will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in Conway hall and over Zoom to start a book study on **"Exactly as You Are: The Life and Faith of Mister Rogers"** by Shea Tuttle. The study should run for 3 or 4 weeks,

depending on how fast we go through the book. Mr. Rogers is one of my favorite people and one of my favorite Presbyterian ministers!

The book is available on Amazon in hardcover for \$17.99 and Kindle for \$17.09. Check online for bookstore prices. The church has a copy for check out and the Presbytery resource center has one copy that I can check out for you. Just let me know if you need it.

Join us August 5 at 10 in Conway Hall for some socially distanced fellowship, or join us over Zoom. Then, we will discuss a chapter or two of the book. **Please let me know if you are interested and whether you will be attending in person or over Zoom, so that I can get a head count and send Zoom invitation.** You can contact me at 407-898-6571.

Hope to see you there!

Karen Estes

### Dan & Elizabeth Turk Are Here!

#### Remotely!

Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00

We have an unprecedented opportunity, sponsored by our Outreach Team, to engage with Dan & Elizabeth Turk, our Missionaries in Madagascar. When it became clear that the pandemic would put our faithful missionaries at risk, PCUSA made the tough decision to bring them home for the near future. Although it has been difficult for the Turks to be away from their life's work, their being here offers us the gift of time to get to know them and learn about the mission field they are tenaciously developing in the unique land of Madagascar. Please join us on Zoom for Dan's presentation full of colorful pictures and surprises you won't forget. As we are inviting other churches to join us, sign up early. The Zoom presentation will be Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Special instruction will be available if you are new to this platform. Call the church office by Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> to receive the Zoom information to get you on this special virtual meeting.

## New Sunday School Year 2020

The new Sunday school year kicks off on Sunday, August 23. We won't be able to have the usual fellowship but there may be ice cream sandwiches for the young and young at heart. Some of the adult Sunday School classes will be in person (social distancing and wearing masks) and some will Zoom or do both. Check with the office for information on how to join online classes. New-comers welcome anytime.

A description of each class is as follows:

**THE PRESENT WORD** class is studying "Love for One Another" starting with Genesis and going to First John. (Planning to meet in-person in Conway Reception.)

**THE EARL TYSON CLASS** is planning on a series of lessons where members will experience more fully the comfort of Christ as we deal with all the changes and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Scripture will focus on Christ's love for us in difficult times. (Meets online.)

**SEEKERS** class is studying "Hope for Hard Times", lessons from Elijah and Elisha. It provides hope, encouragement and the need to trust in God. (Meets online.)

Everyone is encouraged and invited to be a part of one of the Sunday School Classes.

## ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

### ROOTED Youth Group - 5:15 - 7pm

Come for an awesome dinner, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson.

Sunday School meets

**every** Sunday

9:30a.m.-10:30 a.m.

with FREE donuts, juice,

Jesus and Carole P!!!

There is also an occasional walk to WaWA!

For more details on our events and other news....

**you can "friend" us on Facebook at:**

**Grace Covenant PC Youth,**

**and on Instagram at:**

**rootedgpc.**

### August

**2**

ROOTED Youth Group - 5:15 - 7pm

Fill backpacks for delivery to schools

**23**

Ice Cream Social - 5:15 - 7pm

FREE Ice Cream! Just bring your favorite toppings and enough to share. You'll hear what exciting things are ahead for us!!! Bring your friends!

**30**

ROOTED Youth Group - 5:15 - 7pm

FREE pizza

### September

**6**

ROOTED is off for Labor Day weekend.



Support *GRACE*

**when shopping online!**

When you make a purchase on Amazon, go to

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Designate GCPC as the non-profit to support.

Please submit articles to

[churchoffice@grace.to](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)

**Next Deadline** - August 15

## Session Summary

July 2020

Session called the Officer Nominating Committee to begin working on a slate of nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Seven church members (one of whom will be an active elder) and one alternate will be elected by the congregation to search for the next installed pastor of the church.

The Officer Nominating Committee will also be busy calling members to serve as elders and deacons for the class of 2023.

Building and Grounds continues to work on modifications to make the church safe for all. Care Committee assisted members of the congregation as well as the staff and families of Small Blessings and Share the Care with emergency grants. The Sunday school year will kick off on August 23 with some classes meeting online. Outreach is planning online events and new ways to reach the community. Technology made repairs to computers, printers and phones after a lightning strike. Worship is partnering with Christian Education for a proposed Wednesday night program outside. Youth are collecting backpacks for students returning to school and recognized three graduating seniors. A confirmation class is planned for the fall.

Stewardship 2021 is underway with committees working on budgets and a pledge campaign slated for late September.

The church website is being updated for use on tablets and phones.

Session has been developing guidelines for in-person gatherings to resume as it is safe to do so. Online worship and online events and programs will continue to be offered.



Dear Parents:

At **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**, nothing is more important to us than the safety and security of your children. That's why KidCheck has been chosen as our children's check-in solution for all children's programs at Grace. By implementing a check-in system you can be assured your child will be safe and no one but you or your designated person will be able to pick up your child.

**As part of Phase One of bringing back children's programming at GCPC - We will go live with KidCheck on Sunday, August 2.** It is important you create your account prior to this date.

Beginning **August 2** - we will be providing nursery, walker/toddler and preschool care in Smith Hall for the 8:30am service.

**Children's Church program for Rising K – Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Graders begins August 2 – 8:30am service!**

Children will attend worship with their family and after the children's sermon be escorted to Room 15 of Smith Hall for a fun filled time of learning!

To create your KidCheck account, please do so by going to [go.kidcheck.com](http://go.kidcheck.com) and selecting "Create Your KidCheck Account". Or download the KidCheck Mobile App from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to create, manage, and update your account right on your mobile device.

Create your account from the comfort of home. It's simple and will only take a few minutes. Creating your account prior to the above date helps us have a smooth transition and helps your first check-in go more quickly so you can be on your way.

Once you've created your account, you will simply use your 10 digit phone number to check-in and receive your child's name/security badge.

Thank you in advance for keeping the children of Grace safe!

**Sheryl Chernault**  
**Director of Children's Ministry**

**August 2020**



**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday Worship**  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Office Hours**  
Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon

1655 Peel Ave., Orlando, FL 32806  
Phone: 407.898.6571  
E-mail: [churchoffice@grace.to](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)  
**WWW.GRACE.TO**

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## Confirmation Class

We will be sending out information in late August/early September  
on our 2021 Confirmation Class via letter & e-mail.

Done mostly on-line, this comprehensive class will include:

learning our church and Presbyterian history,

what is your role in Christianity,

and how we serve the church and our community.

We'll also have a mentor to help guide you on this seven-month journey.

Please continue to support the work of the church by mailing your tithes and offerings to the church office or by making a donation through the church website. Go to the "Online Giving" page at [www.grace.to](http://www.grace.to) and click on the "Give Now" button.