



re-Membering Grace Covenant

In May 2022, the church will celebrate its 75th anniversary. A lot has changed over the years. There have been several generations of members—including some who joined when other churches closed or were merged into Grace Covenant. The church moved from its original site on Curry Ford to our current location, and built new facilities for worship, study, service and recreation. And the community has grown and changed with us. Families who were original owners of homes in some of Orlando's earliest suburbs are being replaced by new owners in what are now established neighborhoods.

As we look back on the history of the church there is much to celebrate. Members of Grace Covenant have been faithfully serving, loving and caring for our closest neighbors through the many ministries and programs of the church. Remembering the past 75 years of ministry would be a wonderful way to honor and affirm the vital, vibrant ministry of years gone by.

By May 2022, the church will also be embracing new mission goals and, if the search process is completed, working with a new pastor to implement new ministries and programs. A lot is going to have to change to get to that point. That may include additional reorganizing, revitalizing and rebuilding as we've been doing over the past two years. AND there will need to be enough members to sustain the congregation moving forward.

As we look to the future of the church in our community, we will need to "re-Member" it. We need to invite and engage those whom God is even now calling to join the church; and welcome back and re-engage those members who are feeling called to get actively involved again in a class or program or serve on a committee or in the community. re-Membering Grace Covenant would be a wonderful way to begin the next 75 years of ministry in our community.

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**See the church
calendar online:**

[https://www.grace.to/
announcements/weekly-calendar/](https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/)

Looking Ahead

Events May Be Postponed, Moved Online or Outside

May

5, 12, 19 - SHINE
9 - Mother's Day
16 - Youth Sunday
20 - SBCC Graduation
24 - Pentecost
31 - Memorial Day
Office Closed

June

7 -- 11 - Vacation Bible
School
12 -- 17 - Youth to
Montreat
14 -- 17 - Music Camp
23, 30 - Super Summer
Wednesday

July

7, 14, 21 - Super Summer
Wednesday



With Thanks

A very warm and heartfelt *Thank You* to Pastor Melanie, the church prayer line and the congregation for the many prayers, cards and kind words during the nine months of my son's hospitalization and his passing on March 5. You all have meant so much to me.

In Christ's love, Carol Birmingham

Many thanks to our *Vaccine Angels*. So many stepped up to help others in getting their Covid-19 vaccine and it is greatly appreciated. The members of Grace are truly a church family that cares.

Thank you ALL for helping make our 5th annual *Grace on the Greens* golf fundraiser a HUGE success!! Proceeds from the tournament will help off-set costs for our summer conference trips in Montreat!!!

In Sympathy

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy
to the families of*

Nellie Lenora Livengood - February 14, 2021



Todd Birmingham - March 5

Carol Birmingham's son



Patricia "Pat" Dunham Prestin - March 31, 2021

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle has continued to meet during this difficult time with social distancing and use of masks. We have almost completed our study of Joshua which has been fascinating and afforded a great deal of discussion. We continue to support Servant's Heart as our community outreach project. Our 36 Easter Baskets which we assembled were well received and very much appreciated by the organization and by the recipient families as reported by Chip Hanna.

May will be our last meeting until September - We will be celebrating with an outdoor luncheon at the home of "M" Waddell. We will have our final Bible study for the year and look forward to picking up in September as we continue our exploration of the Bible and service to the community.

The women of Ruth Circle appreciate the fellowship and support we each receive and look forward to a continuation of this ministry.

Barbara Hart

Small Blessings

Events

Toddler, K2, K3 Program May 20

K4 Graduation May 27

End of Year Parties May 28

Bible Verses

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me and I will answer thee

Babies Our precious babies' lesson plan is "I explore" and do they ever. Growing, learning to walk new and faster steps, smiling bigger smiles (bubbles help), blowing kisses and waving goodbye to a blessed school year.

Toddlers Our toddlers new color to learn is yellow like the sun. God created the sun which makes it possible for life to exist on Earth. They are growing, changing and becoming more independent everyday.

K2 The K2 is having fun and doing a great job with learning "letters" that begin with their names. When a letter is called out and are asked who's name begins with that letter, they get them all correct. What a great job recognizing letters!

K3 The budding K3 students are growing with a love for learning about God's creation, who lives in the pond, under the sea, five senses and the circle of life. Also, celebrating Earth Day with learning about the creatures that live on earth as well as how important it is to protect it.

K4 The K4 students like May flowers continue to grow spiritually and educationally. Our students will be moving on to the next level with graduation set for May 27. They are moving fast jumping into spring, just as the students who hopped for Haiti with a whopping 16,656 hops. \$7,375.95 was raised for our partner school (Good Shepherd) in Haiti. Thank you families of SBCC and God Bless our Children's Ministry and all who support them.

New Address

John Sewell

Ruth Shirek

Carmen Walker



\$7, 375 Raised

Many thanks and congratulations to the families of Small Blessings Child Care. The children of Small Blessings Child Care hopped 16,656 hops in their Hops for Haiti fundraiser for our partner school, Good Shepherd, in Haiti. The parents generously donated a total of \$7, 375.

Come SHINE with us!

Are you searching for safe enrichment activities for your Kindergarten through Fifth Grade? Has your child always wanted to take an acting or improv class? How about beginning art? The next session of SHINE begins May 5

Theme: Celebrating Art

Wednesdays May5 – May 19 4:45pm – 5:45pm

Acting, Improv, Pantomime, Drawing, Illustration, Painting, Oh my!

Choose which class you would like. Class sizes limited. Masks and social distancing will be followed.

To register go to: <https://grace.to/grace-kids/>
scroll down the page to SHINE

Vacation Bible School

June 7 - 11

9 - 11:45 a.m.

Pre-school through Rising Fifth grade

At *Treasured*, kids will discover they are priceless to God. Treasured is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!.

Graduates

Calling ALL recent college graduates and graduating high school seniors!! May 16 is our next **Youth Sunday** and we would love to acknowledge your accomplishment in that Sunday's bulletin. For college graduates, we would like: your name, college, type of degree, and area of study. For our high school seniors, we would like: your name, high school, and next step in your path (name of college, military branch, work, etc.). PLEASE give this information to Mike by Monday, May 10. Thank you!

10 Year Music Camp Anniversary

Summer Music Camp at Grace Covenant is fast approaching and will be Monday through Thursday, June 14-17, 2021, 9:00-12:00. Please mark your calendars for this great musical experience for your children ages Kindergarten through eighth grades.

Our Music Camp started 10 years ago in 2011 and has grown into an annual event which has led our students to be the worship leaders of tomorrow. Our purpose and goal are to provide purposeful musical activities to excite, engage and instruct the students in music and Biblical principles which in turn will give them a foundation to be our future worship leaders.

In the past we have offered either classes or demonstrations with choral singing, tone chimes, ukulele, guitars, recorders, stringed instruments (violin, viola, bass viol), flute, harp, organ, and for two years we had an instrument museum. We

will be announcing which classes will be offered soon. Each year the students are eager to return to Music Camp!

This year our Theme is **The Instruments of the Bible**, and we are looking to bring as many examples of those instruments as possible for the students to view. If you have instruments that you think could qualify as a Biblical instrument, please let Barbara Browning know. Those instruments can range from anything like: Shofar, lyre, finger-cymbals (middle-eastern), rhythm bones (mentioned in 2 Samuel 6:5), wooden clappers, *Mid-easter bells, reed-pipes, melodic cymbals for lifting up with the voice for joy" (1 Chronicles 15:16), lap harps and more. We will be learning more about all these instruments, and we will be making some of our own.*

New Members Class

Have you been praying about becoming a member of Grace Covenant? Do you want to learn more about Grace and membership in a Presbyterian church?

Join Pastor Melanie on Sunday, May 2 in the Conway Hall Gym after the 10:45 a.m. service.

ROOTED Youth Group News

ROOTED meets on May 2 and 23 from 5:15-7 p.m. We'll have dinner, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson. We will announce our "Bring Your Friendz to ROOTED" contest.

For more details on our events and other news, friend us on Facebook: Grace Covenant PC Youth, and on Instagram: @rootedgpc

Our Youth & Young Adult Planning Day will be held via ZOOM, Saturday, May 1, at 9am. If you are interested in giving feedback from this past year, AND want to share in planning the summer and '21-'22 activities, please let Mike know by noon, Thursday, April 29.

Cooking With Grace

Cooking With Grace is a monthly cooking group that meets via Zoom. On May 17 at 6 p.m., we will be making meatloaf led by Betty Robinson. Join in the fun making new dishes with friends. To receive a list of ingredients, steps to prep food in advance and the Zoom link, Email Carolyn at

carolyn@findingnewjoys.com

Troop 23 Hikes the Florida Trail

During this past Spring Break, four adults and six scouts from Troop 23 hiked 70 miles of the Florida Trail over seven days. They prepared for the trip by earning the Hiking Merit Badge, which requires trekking up to 10 miles a day. The group started at Rodman Dam, hiked to springs and through prairies, ending up at Clear Lake, not far from our local Scout Camp, Camp La-No-Che.

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



Book Club

Tuesday, May 25

Zoom 7 p.m.

One Tuesday Morning

by Karen Kingsbury

Jake Bryan, a firefighter in the hospital, remembers nothing. Jamie will do anything to help her husband regain his memory. This love story is tender and poignant, commemorating the tragedy and heroism of September 11 and portrays the far-reaching power of God's faithfulness and a good man's love. Contact Jane Heppner at for more information.

Please submit articles to
churchoffice@grace.to

Next Deadline - May 15

***June/July is a
combined issue***

Session Summary

April 2021

Approved a new job description and the hiring of Patrick Cruz as part-time Audio Visual Coordinator.

Approved the recommendation of the Worship Committee to continue using Conway Gym for the 10:45 a.m. service through the end of May; and the Youth Committee's request for an exception for Youth Sunday so that both services on May 16 will be held in the Sanctuary.

Received the report from the Finance Committee that the Payroll Protection Plan loan has been forgiven and thanked the church treasurer, finance director, Small Blessings director and Finance chair for their work on behalf of the preschool and church.

Approved the new Covenant between Small Blessings and Grace Covenant with thanks to the SBCC and elders who worked on the revision.

Received reports regarding summer educational planning, building and grounds projects, progress on the John Calvin Hall restroom renovation project, and the church finances which remain steady.

Removed from the rolls Lenora Livengood and Pat Prestin who died recently; and Ginny Pittendreigh who transferred her membership to College Park Presbyterian where Dr. Pittendreigh is serving as interim. Approved baptism requests for Hannah Hinckley and Owen Polak.

Pentecost Special Offering The Month of May

Each May, Grace Covenant receives a special Pentecost offering which encourages the church to develop and support its young people and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent of this special offering is retained by Grace Covenant for the purpose of impacting the lives of young people within our own community. The remaining sixty percent is used to support at-risk children, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Psalm 71 speaks to the foundation of faith established during childhood that helps ensure a lifetime of faith and service. By contributing to the Pentecost offering,

we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come. Your generous gift will greatly impact young people both locally and throughout the reach of our Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Pandemic Affects Our Mission Partners

Grace Covenant has had mission partnerships in a number of countries for many years. Among them are Madagascar, Haiti, Guatemala and Cuba. In those countries, the economic effects of the pandemic have been much greater than in the U.S. The precipitous decline in tourism, along with a drop off in mission donations (and in some cases political instability) have combined to create severe economic conditions and hunger for many people. Grace Covenant is committed to continuing our support through donations from our mission budget and our Five Cents per Meal offerings, but just as important, we need to continue to pray for our foreign mission partners.

Outreach Joins Belle Isle Police In Community Connection

Outreach has had a wonderful opportunity in the last few weeks to impact some very deserving people. The Belle Isle Police Department has adopted two side-by-side extended-stay motels on McCoy Road near Orange Avenue. The residents, mostly Spanish-speaking, are in need of such basics as diapers, toilet paper, and food. We were invited to join the effort by creating a children's reading corner in the community room. The transformation has been extraordinary! Our dedicated church members have pulled together and donated lots of sorely needed items in addition to gently used children and adolescent books and bookcases. To complete the corner, we were able to purchase a children's table and charming wall stencils for decoration.

We were able to show off the bright, appealing children's corner just in time for the Belle Isle Police special event pizza drop and give-away. Our Outreach volunteers assisted the residents in choosing the items they needed and offered a warm welcome to kids as they returned from school. Approximately 200 families were served. Please continue to bring toilet paper and books to church.

May 2021



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Online

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

WWW.GRACE.TO

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Orlando, FL

Return Service Requested

To:

**Vacation
Bible School
June 7-11
9 - 11:45 a.m.**



**Sciency-Fun Gizmos
Team-building games
Bible Songs
Treats**

Register now

Pre-School - Rising Fifth Grade

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

Scroll down to registration button for VBS

**Instruments of the Bible
Music Camp
June 14 - 17
9 a.m. - noon**



**Singing
Orff
Crafts
And More
Kindergarten thru
Eighth Grade
Call the church office
to register**

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