

Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 2021



The Season of Thankfulness

We were surprised to see families arrive in the pumpkin patch all dressed up. But there aren't many places in Florida to get a "fall" backdrop for photos because we don't have the usual change of seasons. So, in addition to picking up a pumpkin, a number of families stayed to take photos as well.

Even without the cooler weather or the blaze of color from changing leaves, we are nevertheless moving into the season of thankfulness. As a country we honor and thank those who have served in the armed forces. As families we gather for a thanksgiving meal to count our blessings. And as a congregation we begin the month honoring the saints who faithfully served the church in years gone by and by gathering as a family of faith for an annual picnic to give praise to God.

There is much for which have to be thankful. The congregation is coming back together in worship and in fellowship. We are reaching out to the community in new ways to serve and to share the good news. We are coming to the close of not just another church year but also the 75th year of ministry in our community. And we are moving forward as a congregation to call a new pastor who will help lead us in the years to come. We are richly blessed here at Grace Covenant. Thanks be to God.

Looking Forward

November

Wednesdays - SHINE

6 - Marriage Workshop

14 - Church Picnic

14 - Christmas Alternatives

21 - Hanging of the Greens

25 - Thanksgiving

28 - Season of Advent Begins

December

1 - Best Christmas Pageant Ever

15 - Blue Christmas Service

24 - Christmas Eve Services

25 - Christmas Day

26 - One Service

January

1 - New Year's Day

9 - Installation and Ordination of
New Officers

30 - Congregational Meeting

30 - Chili Cook-Off/Cookie Bake-Off

See the church calendar online:

<https://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/>



November 7

Thank You

Thank you for your IMMENSE donations for the ROOTED Youth Group car wash in October!!!! Your donations will help defray the costs to our summer mission trips this summer.

In Sympathy

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



Sandra H. Whitten - October 3, 2021

Baptism

September 19, 2021

Son of Larry and Allie Phelps
Grandson of Larry and Trudy Phelps

October 10, 2021

Son of Johnathan and Melissa Pham
Grandson of Hieu and Dale Pham

Change of Address

John and Mary Jane Neusaenger

Gracie Tittles

Book Club

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

7 p.m. Panera Bread on S. Semoran Blvd.

Revival Season by Monica West

The daughter of one of the South's most famous Baptist preachers discovers a shocking secret about her father that puts her at odds with both her faith and her family in this debut novel.

Contact Jane Heppner with any questions.

Cooking with Grace

November 15 6 p.m. on Zoom

Each month, this group buys ingredients then meets online to cook together. To join them, contact Carolyn at Carolyn@findingnewjoys.com

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle continues to meet monthly continuing our study of Peter under the wonderful leadership of Winifred Rutherford. Our outreach focus for the next month is to obtain \$10 gift cards from Publix to support Servant's Heart drive to feed 600 families over the holidays. All are welcome to participate. Cards can be given to members of Circle or put in the offering box with note for Ruth Circle. We will be delivering the cards after our next meeting on November 8. We still participate in the diaper project and appreciate all contributions.

We have welcomed new members to the Circle and all women of the church plus friends are welcome.

Please contact Barbara Hart with any questions.

Small Blessings Child Care

As Mrs. Madline R. says, there are "little pumpkins everywhere" here at Small Blessings Childcare. We at GCPC are so very grateful for each and every one of them including the parents, teachers and all the staff. We take great pride and joy in watching all of our "little pumpkins" grow, learn and explore our wonderful world and how we give thanks in all things to the Lord. What a great time at SBCC, there will be lots of learning and fun times with a Pumpkin Party and a Costume Parade!

EVENTS-

Progress Report Nov 5

No VPK (SBCC open) November 22-24

Closed Thanksgiving November 25-26

Bible Verses-

Philippians 4:19 My God shall supply all your needs

Isaiah 43:5 Fear not for I am with thee

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we at GCPC bow our hearts and pray: We give thanks for all You've done especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. For the many blessings at SBCC. We give thanks with a grateful heart now and through the years to come. Amen.

Turkey Drive

ROOTED Youth Group will be accepting cash and/or check donations at the end of each service on November 7 and 14 for our annual Turkey Drive!! If you can't make it to church, you can either mail it or drop it off. Please clearly mark for Turkey Drive. The monies donated will be turned into gift cards, then given to the Dover Shores Elementary School PTA for families in their school. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

2022 Calendars

ROOTED Youth Group will have their annual calendar sale in December. There is no need to preorder and the cost remains \$10. We'll have them for sale after church services in December. If you are unable to attend worship, you can mail or drop off your money along with your address and we'll deliver it to your house!

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:30pm at a local restaurant. Contact the church office for more information.

Thornwell



November is a month for giving thanks and what better way to do so is to be generous with God's blessings.

Thornwell began in the heart of a young pastor in 1875, caring for orphans of the Civil War. Over the years, it has grown and evolved into much more, with programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. They offer a Christ-centered continuum of care featuring programs for teen moms, infants, toddlers, preschool children, young kids, teenagers, young adults, and families.

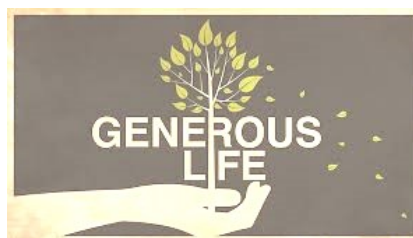
When the ministry started, the first funds came from a young boy. Thornwell Emphasis Month honors this legacy by inviting each of us to contribute what we can, whether this contribution is a dona-

tion through Tom the Turkey or a post on social media that raises awareness. We know that we are serving Jesus when we serve others! Thornwell emphasis will begin on November 7 and continue through the month. Donations can be made in the offering box or on-line

Share the Care



Every Christmas, we like to show our care for the seniors at Share the Care by filling gift bags for their party. There are several ways to help. Starting November 21, the bags will be available in the Narthex for you to take home and fill. If filling a whole bag seems daunting, you can donate items in the bin in the Narthex or drop them off in the church office. Of course, we will also happily accept donations of money and the Outreach Team will buy the gifts. Suggestions include sugar-free candy, small bottles of hand sanitizer and lotion, lip balm, pens and pencils (including colored pencils and markers but not crayons), jigsaw puzzles and puzzle and word search books (many of the clients primarily speak Spanish). We need to deliver the bags to STC on December 6, so please make donations of items or cash before November 30.



Generous Life – Stewardship Commitment

If you haven't already made your stewardship commitment for 2022, please do so soon. Drop completed commitment cards in the box at the rear of the sanctuary or mail them to the church office. Extra cards are available at the rear of the sanctuary and in the church office.



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



Support GRACE Covenant
Shopping on Amazon? Got to
<https://smile.amazon.com/>
Designate Grace Covenant
As the non-profit to support.

Please submit articles to
churchoffice@grace.to
New Deadlines
November 10
December 8

ROOTED Youth Group

ROOTED will meet on November 7 and 14 from 5:15pm-7pm. We'll have awesome turkey-lurkey-dee dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements, and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!

We could always use your help in the annual Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary. This takes place after service on Nov. 21.

Think you might be hungry after Thanksgiving?!? Mike's buying lunch for ROOTED Lunch Bunch at PDQ chicken on Orange Ave. on Friday, November 26 from 11:44am-12:30pm.

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

Christmas Alternatives

The arrival of November also reminds us that Christmas will be here before we know it. Our Christmas Alternatives program last year was so much fun that we decided to do it again! Last year, our young people chose how to use the donations to buy life-building items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Those things included goats, piglets, sewing machines, water filters and fishing equipment.

Christmas Alternatives will kick off on November 14 and continue through Advent. Let's see what we can buy this year! As always, if you prefer to donate to one of our other mission partners, please do so.



Session Summary

October 21, 2021

Newly elected elders and deacons were examined and approved for ordination and installation on January 9, 2022.

Stewardship 2021 continues with Session taking up the 2022 budget at the November meeting.

Members Sandra Whitten, Syd Hooks and Reese Laughlin were removed by death; and Priscilla Robinson, Joji McDonald and Candy Vander Weide by request. Baptisms were approved for William Ward and Arian Ramlogan.

Dr. Kevin Urichko will preach on November 7 following the marriage workshop on November 6. \$1000 was approved from the Session Discretionary Outreach Budget.

Maintenance agreements were approved with Aire Tech Mechanical for the church's HVAC systems.

Session approved the new Hospitality Committee's request for other committees to co-sponsor events throughout the year; and for the deacons to be responsible for funeral receptions.

The Christmas Eve service schedule and one worship service at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 26, were approved.

The final "Return to Grace" Covid-19 report was approved.

Sally Kest and Nancy Venable were appointed to meet with Meals on Wheels representatives regarding the ministry partnership with the church.

Ministerio Restauracion y Esperanza is returning to in-person worship on a bi-weekly basis in November and the relationship between the churches was renewed for 2022 with approval for the celebration of the sacraments.

SHINE PRESENTS

Share the Good News
(The best Christmas Pageant ever)

Wednesday, December 1, 6:00pm

Come for food and fun followed by the program.
(Program is approximately 20 minutes)



Can You:

Do the Mashed Potato?

Outreach is joining with our partner, United Against Poverty (UP) to help provide Thanksgiving dinners to 450 local families in need. Grace Covenant will be providing the **mashed potatoes**. You can



help out by dancing into the narthex with your contribution of boxes of instant mashed potatoes of approximately 15 oz. each, or a similar size for one family. As part of our Outreach mission, we want to make a difference in our neighborhood and to also join with our partners having similar missions. We have so much to be thankful for! What a great opportunity to share God's bounty with others and to dance in gracious joy!

November 2021

Volume 64, Issue 10



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Online

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – noon

1655 Peel Avenue

Orlando, FL 32806

Phone: 407.898.6571

E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

WWW.GRACE.TO

To:

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

Return Service Requested

Making the Most of Your Marriage

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

9am – 12N



Are you engaged? Newly married? Married 3 years? 50 years?
“Making the most of your marriage” led by Dr. Kevin Urichko is for you!
Learn relationship skills that will enhance and change your marriage,
your friendships and your life!
A healthy marriage is a gift to everyone!

Space is limited. Register online <https://grace.to/ministries/community/>

Childcare with fun programming is provided by GraceKids and Ms. Sheryl. Your kids will have a great time with games, crafts, stories, snacks and FUN, FUN, FUN!

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.