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**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

SHINE Kids Club

For K—5th Grade Students

Saturdays

September 9

October 21

November 11

9am - 11:45am

Songs, Stories, Snacks, STEAM activities and tons of fun! Come to one or all three, each one is different! Register online at grace.to/grace-kids



National Night Out

On the Front Lawn

Tuesday, October 3

5:30pm

Food, Bounce House, Games, and Greet Our Neighbors!



To:

Grace Notes

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

September 2023

From the Pastor

One More “T” for Generosity!

At the end of the month, I will again be participating in the Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference, a joint effort of Presbyterian and Lutheran church entities. This year, it will be held in Minneapolis. I will attend many workshops addressing fundraising strategies. I will also write about them for the Presbyterian Foundation, which is paying for my conference registration.

As you know, stewardship is about more than cultivating generosity of finances. It is about devoting oneself to the work of the church through personal involvement, too. We

Looking Forward

September

- 5 Cents Per Meal
- 4 Labor Day (office closed)
- 9 SHINE
- 23 Campus workday

October

- 1 World Communion Sunday; 5 Cents Per Meal
- 3 National Night Out
- 14 Pumpkin delivery
- 21 SHINE
- 28 Buddy Break
- 29 Fifth Sunday Funday! One Worship 10:30am; Congregational meeting to elect officers; church picnic

November

- 11 SHINE
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 26 Decorate sanctuary for Christmas!

See the church calendar online: grace.to/get-involved/weekly-calendar

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Thank You

Thank you so much for your cards, kind words and support during the difficult time of my husband John's passing. The Grace Covenant Church family is very meaningful to my family and me.

Blessings to each of you,
Paula Craig

In Sympathy

We extend out Christian love and sympathy to Minnette Mullings who lost her sister, Louise Pinnock, on July 30.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch has returned and will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Shelvey Johnson if you plan to attend.

Listening to the Call of the Lord

Being called to serve God's children in the church can give members opportunities to feel the joy and fullness of serving the Lord. Is God calling you to serve or involve yourself differently in the church? If you would like to serve "behind the scenes," the Worship Committee is looking for folks to help prepare communion for the first Sunday of the month. If you enjoy connecting with church members each week, the committee is looking for Sunday morning greeters for both services. If the Lord is calling you, please see Nick about the details!

Book Club

Tuesday, September 26, 7pm
Panera, 6424 S. Semoran Blvd.
This month, we discuss
A Distant Shore by Karen Kingsbury

Happy Birthday *Happy Anniversary*

Please contact the church office for a copy of this list.

The Scholarship Team has awarded six scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year. Congratulations to these students!

- ◆ Brooke Petersen - University of South Florida
- ◆ Alex Richards - University of West Florida
- ◆ Connor Richards - Florida State University
- ◆ Alison Solik - Case Western Reserve University
- ◆ Connor Umpierre - University of Florida
- ◆ Dylan Umpierre - University of Florida

Thanks to the congregation and several church groups for continued contributions to the fund!

Small Blessings Child Care

Aristotle said “ Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

The 2023-24 school year has begun at Small Blessings. The school offers classes for infants through three-year-olds and VPK for four-year-olds.

SBCC is considered one of the best child care facilities in Orlando and we are proud to share our GCPC campus with them! The children will develop a love of learning and learn about God’s love for us. Let us pray for a successful school year and for all the teachers and staff who give so much of themselves so our little ones will grow.

GCPC sends an enormous thank you with a grateful heart to SBCC for the gift of air conditioning in our Conway Hall Gym. God bless SBCC!

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will begin the 2023-2024 year on Monday September 11 at 10am in the conference room by the main office. We will continue our study of Women of the Bible . We will pick up on Session 10 with Martha.

Our study leaders this year will be Carol Ivey and Barbara Hart.

We will continue our much needed support of Servant's Heart with our Diaper ministry which has become one of need for the families they serve.

We look forward to gathering again and welcoming new members.

Any questions, please contact Barbara Hart or Carroll Frazier, co chairs.

often hear the phrase “time, talents and treasure” when discussing stewardship.

Last month, I talked about challenges facing the whole church as the attitudes of Americans towards religion is shifting. I suggested that the people of Grace Covenant should look outward, using your existing networks to discern community needs so we can let our lights shine where needed. We hope to change hearts and minds about the ability of the church to show the love of Jesus.

This month, I want to address a slightly different, yet related need: to think about our stewardship of time and talents even more than tithes and other financial considerations. After all, how can we expect to increase our presence in the community if we

are not willing to spend more time in it?

Though I stressed off-campus community outreach efforts last month, there are plenty of opportunities to participate in the life of the church on campus as well. For example, our next campus workday is Saturday, September 23. We will also need a few folks on the morning of Monday, September 25 to help park cars for the Bereaved Survivors of Homicide annual service. On Tuesday, October 3, Grace Covenant will join the National Night Out event by hosting fun activities on the front lawn (and those activities need attendants!). And we will also need many hands to help unload the pumpkins for our pumpkin patch on Saturday, October 14 at 9am.

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If those particular dates do not fit your schedule, consider other, more regular opportunities to contribute your time and talents: we are still seeking folks who can help prepare the communion elements when we celebrate; we have our SHINE events on September 9, October 21 and November 11; Buddy Break is on October 28; and October 29 is a big day in the life of the church as we hold our church picnic as part of the Fifth Sunday Funday activities.

On Rally Day, we handed out colorful stickers depicting a stained glass-style mosaic of a rising sun and the word “Together” running across it. I think that makes a fitting addition to our generosity campaign theme this year:

Time, Talents and Treasure-- Together! Together, may we be the church for each other, for our community, and for the world.

Pumpkins Are Coming!

Pumpkins are being delivered Saturday, October 14 at 9am. We need help unloading the truck. Lots of coffee, water and snacks will be provided. It usually takes about an hour to get everything off the truck. Let Sheryl know if you can help.

407-898-6571 ext. 106
gracekidsnow@gmail.com

Pumpkin Patch Help

We also need help staffing the tent to sell the pumpkins! Look for a sign-up in the narthex on Sundays. Come be part of the pumpkin patch fun! It’s a great way to get to know our Grace Covenant neighbors.

Pumpkin Patch Hours

beginning October 15

Monday - Friday 3:30pm - 6pm

Saturdays 11am - 6pm

Sundays 3pm - 6pm

ROOTED Youth

Rooted resumed meetings in August and looks forward to another year of growing with God and learning from each other. We continue to meet Sunday evenings 5:15 – 7pm. Thanks to those who provide meals for us! (If you would like to, email youth@grace.to) Watch for events and news in our Facebook group, Grace Covenant PC Youth or on Instagram where our handle is [@rooted.grace.covenant](https://www.instagram.com/rooted.grace.covenant).

D.E.C.K 2.0

This crafting group meets 6pm — 11pm on the second Friday monthly. Come for any amount of time! Contact the office with questions.

Lend a Hand

September 23 Workday

We have “chores” for everyone! All ages welcome!

Needed:

- * 3 pressure washers
- * 3 people to clean walkways
- * 4 people to weed front beds and side island
- * 3 people to clean out a closet in Smith Hall and fill holes in the wall with foam filler
- * 1 chain saw/2 people to trim magnolias. Should not need ladder.
- * 1 pole chain saw/2 people to help trim.

With enough people these jobs should only take 2-3 hours. Your time and talents will be appreciated! Contact the church office or sign up in the narthex on Sundays.