

### OUR WEEKLY EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL

1:00 pm MON – Memory Lane Support Group & Respite  
9:00 am TUE – Weight Accountability Group  
7:00 am WED – Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast  
5:00 pm WED – Choir Practice - newcomers are welcome.  
10:00 am THR – SOAP Bible Study- led by Jan Wise  
11:30 am THR – Lunch Bunch Bible Study- led by Sharon Miller  
10:00 am FRI – Wise Bible Study- led by Jan Wise  
10:15 am FRI – Bible Study at Meadowcrest Clubhouse (in Crystal River) led by Pastor Bill

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Matthew Holms** [Metcalf’s grandson] long recovery-motorcycle accident multiple injuries, [Kathie Henderson’s son] **Jay and the family**—cancer, now in hospice, **Sharon Smith**—recovering from neck surgery, **Lois’ granddaughter** brain surgery, **Mike & Dawn Oliver**—doing well (waiting for time to pass), **Lady**— abused by her son. [Carol MacKenzie is collecting encouragement cards for her-there is a basket on the Food Bank Table]. **Jan Metcalf --health concerns. Want to be on our email Prayer Chain as one who prays or to request prayer for yourself or someone else?** Send an email to Jan Metcalf - [janmetcalf7@gmail.com](mailto:janmetcalf7@gmail.com). Ask Jan to add you to the list of people receiving prayer requests! Then remember to pray as you receive requests.

### MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

**We support Samaritan’s Purse Evangelistic and Disaster Relief around the world. We also support the Food Pantry at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.** Please designate on your check and/or giving envelope if you want a portion of your offering going to either of these missions.

**Karen Kline – is our Faith Community Nurse.**

**We also have trained men & women available to assist you if you or someone you know would like a caring friend to listen.** Contact Carol MacKenzie or Karen Kline for more info or to request a caregiver.

**Carolyn Bright** – Card ministry – if you would like someone to receive a card from the congregation let Carolyn know.



## MAY 21, 2023

**GRACE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**We Celebrate, Serve, and Grow in Christ**

**Website: [www:gracemethodistchurch.org](http://www.gracemethodistchurch.org)**  
**Email: [admin@gracemethodistchurch.org](mailto:admin@gracemethodistchurch.org)**  
**Facebook: FMCTraditional (Grace Methodist Church)**

**Phone: 352-651-2502**  
**P.O. Box 530 Homosassa Springs, FL 34447**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Bill Farmer

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

\*Indicates standing if able

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*INVOCATION** Rev. Kip Younger

**\*OPENING HYMN #8** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**CHOIR** *Loving God, Loving Each Other*

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**PRESENTING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER**  
**THE LORD'S PRAYER #700**

**\*HYMN #580** *My Tribute*

**MESSAGE** Luke 24:50-53  
*The Ascension – The Gift that Keeps on Giving*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #616** *When We All Get to Heaven*

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Kip Younger

If you have questions or want to talk - you can contact Pastor Bill at [billfarmer818@gmail.com](mailto:billfarmer818@gmail.com) or call or text 260-241-4869.

If you prefer to mail your offering send it to our mailing address: P.O. Box 530, Homosassa Springs, FL 34447

**On June 4<sup>th</sup> we will be receiving several new members. There will be a membership class today at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in becoming a member talk to Pastor Farmer.**

**THE THERMOMETER IS RISING  
IT NOW STANDS AT \$ 69,450**

**WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR THE BUILDING FUND** (not to build but for a down payment). We know the building is going to be for sale soon. We must have the down payment on hand. **Our original goal was \$80,000 we may have to raise that in order to get the best financing.** The need becomes more urgent as each week passes.

**SHORT LESSON ON VOLUNTEERING**  
Isaiah 6:8 says that Isaiah had a vision from the Lord that spurs him on to service. In the vision the Lord asks, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah's response was "Here am I; send me."

**SEE THE INSERT FOR SEVERAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.**

5/21/2023

The Ascension - The Gift That Keeps On Giving!

**Scripture Luke 24:50-53** 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**LK 2:27 - 32** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

**Phil 2:9-11** 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Acts 1-** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the

same way you have seen him go into heaven.

**Rev 21:3** "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

**Col 1:18** And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, 14:2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

**John 16:7** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

**1 John 1** But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**Heb - 15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**His birth is our Emanuel**

**His Baptism is for our unity with Him**

**His Transfiguration is our assurance of his Glory**

**His death for our sins**

**His burial is our evidence of His suffering for us**

**His resurrection is for our lives**

**His ascension is for our eternity**

**GRACE METHODIST  
IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER CHURCH  
There are no paid staff persons at Grace.**

One of our membership vows is to be in service to God and to our local church. You do not have to be a member to serve in any of the ministries. A servant's heart is all that is needed.

We have several positions that need to be filled.

1. Someone to be in the room with Laurie and the children during Worship Service. This is for Laurie and the children's protection and safety. If we have 4 volunteers (does not have to be a woman) you would only serve once a month. No preparation or teaching is required. **Please talk to Laurie** if you are willing to help her and your church in this way. (She will be in the foyer today.)
2. Volunteers to clean our facility. You sign up for 1 month at a time. There needs to be 2 in the building in case of an emergency. So, grab a friend or acquaintance and talk to Karen Kline or she will pair you with another volunteer.
3. Volunteers for Memory Lane on Mondays 1-3pm – it does not have to be every week. See Karen Kline if you think this is something that you could do occasionally.
4. Andy Fredrick is asking for volunteers to carry the service flags for our honoring of veterans on Sunday, May 28. Please meet briefly with him and Katherine at the front of the sanctuary after today's service.
5. Needed back-up audio technician help. Please contact Terry Cornelius

The following was copied from Seedbed Daily Devotional by J.D. Walt on Thursday,  
May 18, 2023

There are only two stories. The story of Adam and the story of Jesus.  
The story of sin and the story of grace. The story of death and the story of life.  
The story of crucifixion and the story of resurrection.  
The story of trespass and the story of forgiveness. The story of idolatry and the story of worship.  
The story of brokenness and the story of wholeness. The story of lost and the story of found.  
The story of darkness and the story of light. The story of ashes and the story of beauty.  
The story of empire and the story of kingdom.  
The story of war and the story of peace.  
The story of despair and the story of joy. The story of fear and the story of faith.  
The story of condemnation and the story of embrace.  
The story of slavery and the story of freedom.  
The story of injustice and the story of justice.  
The story of pride and the story of humility.  
The story of indifference and the story of love.  
The story of theft and the story of gift.

There are only two stories. The story of Adam and the story of Jesus.

Who in their right mind would choose the story of Adam?

And therein lies the problem. We are the unfortunate inheritors of the mind of Adam.

The bad news is we are all born into the story of Adam (and Eve).

The good news is we are all invited into the story of Jesus.

And the story of Jesus is truly a "how much more" story.

There is literally no comparison.

So how on earth could anyone ever choose to remain in the story of Adam  
and not take the invitation to enter into the story of Jesus?