

Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church
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{Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.}

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A message from Pastor Bill Farmer...November is Here!

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 5:19-20*

God has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." *Acts 14:17*

November is a wonderful season of the year. I remember the great color of the Fall landscape, the loads of corn and soybeans going into winter storage, the winding down of harvest and the green shoots of the new wheat crop mixed in with the distinct Fall colors. It was harvest and it was also planting time. Sometimes harvest was plentiful and sometimes it was skimpy. That was life. Either way it was a time to give thanks for the year left behind and for the hope of another.

November winds down the Christian year. It will begin anew with the first Sunday of Advent in December. During November it is a good time to reflect on the year that was and give thanks. God has blessed Grace Methodist in wonderful ways. He has drawn together some wonderful people and placed within them His Spirit that gives life, joy, and peace. During this month we will be looking at the end times of the Christian year. The scriptures that I will be using also talks

about the end of time. The Christians in Thessalonica wanted to know when the end was coming and how it all would take place. We too have our own questions. With the entire middle east in an explosive situation, it seems like a perfect time for Jesus to come back. But then it might be thousands of years away.

One thing is for sure. Everything is going to change or be changed. Each season we go through provides a glimpse of hope. We need not lament that the harvest was not good, or the year did or did not live up to our expectations, instead we should keep on singing the hymns and songs that He has placed within our hearts. Let joy fill our lives and encourage all those around us. God has given us life. Let's live it with Him and for Him.

Grace and peace of God fill your life.....Pastor Bill Farmer

Important...Thanksgiving Dinner

Our next church dinner will be on Thanksgiving weekend, **Sunday, November 26** following our church service. The church will provide baked smoked ham, and all of you will provide the sides and desserts. A sign-up sheet will be in fellowship hall, so please let Jim Veronesi and his cooks know what you will be bringing and how many will attend. Mark your calendars.

Trunk and Treat was a great success. We had approximately 36 children who received a great deal of candy and an introduction to Children's Church by Miss Laurie. All the remaining candy that you provided was donated to the Dunnellon Global Methodist Church. Their Trunk/Treat was Tuesday night, 10/31/23. Last year Dunnellon Global Church had 700+ kids. They needed additional candy, and they were very thankful for our gift (a storage tub full of candy). They had announced on Sunday that they needed more candy, so God supplied needed candy from Grace Methodist Church.

Faith Community Nursing...Karen Kline

Gratitude and Thanks...Before every session of our Memory Lane Support Group of those caring for loved ones with dementia, I ask each person what they are grateful for that day. I would like to share some of their responses. **GRATEFUL FOR:** "Friends who still visit and call, ice cream bars, smiles and hugs, a good night sleep, a little sun in my life, volunteers, this group, knowing we're not alone in this journey, learning from each other, laughter from the room where our loved ones are being cared for, new refrigerator, air conditioning, our children, this church, being healthy enough to be here today, God's Grace, life, being alive, in and out of a medical appointment in two hours, living in a free county, a miracle grandson, a good week, church family, visiting family, for God who listens and hears me, the person who told me about this group, Amazon, a new relationship with my loved one, recovery from covid, that today is not yesterday," and many more.

All of us at Grace Methodist have much to be grateful for. Let us all be reminded of God's love, grace, and bounty as we celebrated Thanksgiving this year.

Samaritan's Purse... Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year, but as we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, we must remember that the Lord has called us to care for those in need. The 2023 Samaritan's Purse Christmas Gift Catalog offers unique and meaningful ways for you to not only meet critical physical needs, but also to provide opportunities for our teams and partners around the world to share the Gospel. We invite you to prayerfully [browse this Catalog of Opportunities](#) . Also, you may see the list of gifts to give on pages 7-8. See which giving opportunity God may lay on your heart to bless someone with His love this Christmas.

Bless Someone with God's Love This Christmas



If you wish to participate, please select your monetary gift, complete a Grace giving envelope designating the gift, mark on the envelope your selection, and include your check or cash. Place in the offering basket. All money collected will go directly to Samaritan's purse to purchase the gift you selected.

Church-Wide Christmas Project...Women of Worship (W.O.W)

Women of Worship has been doing Santa for Seniors each year as a mission project. This year W.O.W. is making this Christmas project a church-wide event. On November 8th, a tree will be in our mini-fellowship area with senior "bulbs" hanging on the tree. These bulbs have the gift items the seniors would like to receive for Christmas. Please select as many bulbs as you like. When you have completed your shopping, **place the unwrapped gifts in a gift bag, attach the "bulb" to the bag, and place it back under the tree by December 3**. W.O.W. will return them to the Home Instead Office. They In turn will give the gifts to each senior.

Another W.O.W. mission is to collect canceled postage stamps as a year-round project. With Christmas coming, please put stamps you receive in the stamp box on the table by the Food Pantry items. W.O.W. trims the stamps and send them to a group in Ft. Myers. They in turn sell

them to collectors and use the money they receive for Sunday School materials for third world countries and the U.S.

Blood Donors...Thank You

Paisley from the Life South Blood Centers wanted to "thank those who donated blood" at the Fall Festival. Below is a list of those doners. The next blood drive at Grace Methodist Church is December 10th. Please plan on donating blood.

1. Frederick, Andrew
2. Kline, Neil
3. Leatherbarrow, Cecile
4. McInnis, Diane
5. Phillips, Suzanne
6. Timmons, George
7. Troutt, Elizabeth
8. Younger, Kip

Thank You from FUMC, Homosassa, Food Pantry

Grace Methodist Church received a "thank you" for all the food delivered to them for their food bank. The note stated....."Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry. Your help enables us to help many in our community thru difficult times. We appreciate all that you do." Sincerely Wayne Brown & Melody Gherke and our staff of volunteers...FUMC Church of Homosassa.

Christmas Decorating...Alice Trusley

Angels are among us. Grace Christmas tree will be put up on November 28; however, **YOU** are invited to participate in decorating our tree. Please bring your favorite **ANGEL ornament to church on Sunday, December 3 and decorate our tree.** We would like to see the tree covered with angels. Also, if anyone has a decorating knack and is interested in helping with putting additional Christmas decorations around Grace, please contact Alice Trusley at 352-586-5511. Thanksgiving decorations will come down on Monday, November 27 and Christmas decorating will begin on Tuesday, November 28. All ideas are welcome.

Ways of the Kingdom.....Jan Wise

I asked the Lord, "What shall I write? This column is due tomorrow! He said, "Write what you know". So, this I know: Jesus said, "Remain in me and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in me. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing".

Keeping God, especially his Son Jesus, as the central focus of my life in all situations--whether I am having a restless night, getting supper, doing the wash, or just "pondering" the events of the day, my mind keeps circling back to God's presence in what is occurring or has happened.

Ways of the Kindgom...continued

Remember he said he would never, never, never leave us. So, He is there always, a part of whatever the circumstances...I know that, too.

Now think about this amazing promise: Then Jesus said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:4-5, 7)

So, if our little church continues to stay steadfast in the ways of the Lord, giving God the glory as we grow in faith and move out in trust, we may ask for what-ever the Holy Spirit leads us to request.

We find a serious warning in James 4:1-3: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something, but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. *You do not have because you do not ask God.* When you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

One man gave our pastor a very large check as a gift for the church. God moved on the heart of a person in the church with the thought, "I can do more than that". That person asked the Bible-study members to pray about asking God for a "mortgage-free church". They prayed individually and came back together with solid agreement--we were to ask God for the funds. The idea was presented to each of the pastors, and from there on the idea resided in the hands of the church leadership. Through believing prayer, hard work, trusting God for what seemed an unreachable goal (to us, not to God!), we now are worshiping in the miracle of a mortgage-free church.

It is up to us to avoid the pitfalls of James 4. We are to ask God with united, trusting hearts when we have a need. He loves to give and wants to bless us with the joy of receiving!

Dates to Save

- November 5 – Daylight Savings Time...turn clocks back one hour
- November 5 – Communion Sunday, Fellowship @ 9 am, Church Service @ 10 am
- November 8 – GMC Board Meeting @ 9:00 am
- November 9 – W.O.W @ 2:00 pm
- November 20 – SPRC @ 5:00 pm
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- November 26 – Thanksgiving Dinner @ Grace @ 11:30
- November 28 – Decorating Grace for Christmas
- December 3 – First Day of Advent and lighting the first Advent candle
- December 13 – GMC Board Meeting @ 9:00 am
- December 14 – W.O.W @ 2:00 pm
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (time to be determined)
- December 25 – Christmas Day



Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, & Other Meetings at Grace Methodist Church

- Mon 1:00 pm Memory Lane Support Group & Respite
- Tues 9:00 am Weight Management Meeting (women & men)
- Wed 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group at GMC followed by breakfast out
- Wed 4:00 pm Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornellius
- Thurs 10:00 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)...Jan Wise
- Thurs 11:30 am 1:30 pm Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller
 - **Note....** Women of Worship (WOW)...Meets once a month on the second Thursday...**Next meeting is November 9 @ 2:00 p.m.**
- Fri 10:00 am Bible Study led by Jan Wise (10:00-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship)
- Fri 11am -12 pm Bible Study...led by Jan Wise
- Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse

Testimony Corner and/or articles for future newsletters...please send to Alice Trusley @ atrusley@pantherbranch.com

Grace Methodist Church is a member of the
 GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

1

Feed a Hungry Baby
Suggested Gift: \$9
Child Feeding Projects - 013710

2

Care for an Orphan
Suggested Gift: \$35
Samaritan Children's Fund - 013386

3

Hot Meals for a Child
Suggested Gift: \$7
Hot Meals & Feeding Programs - 013801

4

Rescue Children in Crisis
Suggested Gift: \$75
Children in Crisis - 013508

5

Help a Family Survive Disaster
Suggested Gift: \$45
International Emergency Relief - 013310

6

Feed a Family
Suggested Gift: \$35
Emergency Food - 013562

7

Serve Desperate Refugees
Suggested Gift: \$125
Refugee Relief - 012190

8

Provide Life-Saving Medical Care
Suggested Gift: \$100
Emergency Medicine - 013759

9

Put a Stop to Human Trafficking
Suggested Gift: \$125
Human Trafficking/Exploitation - 013964

10

Drill a Village Well
Suggest Gift: \$10,000 / Share the Cost: \$20
Freshwater Wells - 013924

11

Give a Filter to a Family
Suggested Gift: \$100
Water Filters – 013923

12

Bring Clean Water to a Community
Suggested Gift: \$75
Clean Water Projects - 013659

13

Help a Poor Farming Family
Suggested Gift: \$35
Farm & Garden Projects - 013657

14

Give a Dairy Goat
Suggested Gift: \$70
Goats & Dairy Animals – 013754

15

Help a Family Raise Livestock
Suggested Gift: \$350
Livestock Projects - 013831

16

Care for Mothers and Babies
Suggested Gift: \$75
Prenatal & Maternity Care - 013717

17

Plant a Grove of Trees
Suggested Gift: \$45
Fruit Trees & Forestry Projects - 013926

18

Honeybees
Suggested Gift: \$20
Beekeeping - 013933

19

'Jesus Loves Me' Lambs
Suggested Gift: \$10
OCC-Musical Toy Lambs - 013548

20

Baby Chicks
Suggested Gift: \$14
Chickens & Poultry Products - 013656

21

Blankets and Bedding
Suggested Gift: \$6
Blankets & Bedding – 013436

22

Bless the Marriage of a Military Couple
Suggested Gift: \$6,000 / Share the Cost: \$60
Operation Heal Our Patriots - 013960

23

Send Help to a Mission Hospital
Suggested Gift: \$50
World Medical Mission - 12004

24

Provide Life-Changing Surgery
Suggested Gift: \$350
Specialty Surgical Teams - 014044

25

Help Mend a Cleft Lip
Suggested Gift: \$250 / Share the Cost: \$25
Cleft Lip/Palate Surgery - 013979

26

Provide Life-Saving Medical Equipment
Suggested Gift: \$25
Medical Equipment & Supplies - 013365

27

Equip a Hospital Chaplain for Ministry
Suggested Gift: \$500 / Share the Cost: \$50
Mission Hospital Chaplaincy Program - 014048

28

Restore Sight to the Blind
Suggested Gift: \$40
Cataract Surgery – 014012

29

Send a New Missionary Doctor
Suggested Gift: \$100
New Missionary Doctors - 013946

30

Build or Improve a Mission Hospital
Suggested Gift: \$35,000 / Share the Cost: \$175
Hospital Construction & Upgrades - 013805

31

Adopt a Shoebox
Adopt a Shoebox: \$10 per box / Adopt a
Carton of 15 boxes: \$150
Operation Christmas Child - 013477

32

Disciple a Child
Disciple a Child: \$6 / Disciple a Class of 30
Children: \$180
The Greatest Journey – 013943

33

Build a House of Worship
Suggested Gift: \$15,000 / Share the Cost: \$75
Church Construction & Upgrades - 013757

34

Give a Copy of God's Word
Suggested Gift: \$10
Bibles & Christian Literature - 012025

35

Stand with Persecuted Christians
Suggested Gift: \$40
Persecuted Christians - 013654

36

Mend a Child's Heart
Suggested Gift: \$2,200 / Share the Cost: \$50
Children's Heart Project - 013687