

# Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church (*The Miracle Church*)

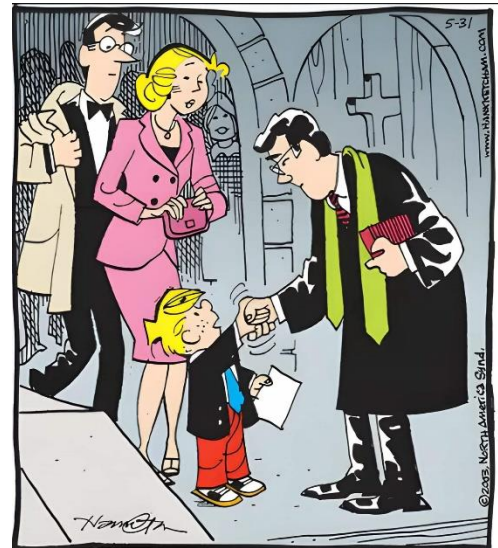
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{Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.

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"MY DAD SAID HE KNEW YOUR SERMON COULDN'T GO ON FOREVER, BUT I WASN'T SO SURE."

## Don't Forget, We Need Help Cleaning the Church...Karen Kline

There is a sign up sheet in our Fellowship Hall with a schedule for monthly cleaning of the church. Also attached is a list of cleaning details. Essentially: If it looks dirty to you, clean it! Everything needed to clean is in the closet across from the men's bathroom.

When you sign up include your phone number, please. The idea of "two" couples or 3-4 people to sign up is basically that you don't forget. Plus, you can coordinate when it is convenient to clean. Cleaning normally takes about an hour.

If you don't have a church key there is a "cleaning key" that is passed each month. If you find any supplies running short, please contact me at 352-634-2781. Thank you.

## Ways of the Kingdom.....Jan Wise

Since June (in our "before" traditions) was the month for weddings, I chose this simple explanation of longevity in a marriage.

A **paradox** is sometimes explained as "two seemingly contradictory facts which must be kept together as inseparable parts of a basic truth". It seems like the perfect explanation as to how God will work in a marriage.

## **Me and He**

"What a beautiful morning," says me.

"I think it looks like rain," says he.

"I'd like to go out for lunch," says me.

"We have a refrigerator full of food," says he.

"I think it's chilly in here," says me.

"Really? I think it's too warm," says he.

"Can you believe we have been married 66 years," says me.

"Of course--it's because we're so compatible," says he.

ONLY OUR GOD COULD WORK SUCH A MIRACLE. I testify to his faithfulness!

## **Hearing Loss and Dementia, Related?...Karen Kline, Faith Community Nurse**

A 2020 Lancet Report (one of the oldest respected medical journals) lists hearing loss as one of the top risk factors for dementia. For real? Yup. Right now, only an estimated 8% of dementia can be attributed to hearing loss, and these are people who were diagnosed with hearing loss at ages 45-65. OK, that doesn't seem like much, but it means that 800,000 out of the 10 million cases of dementia diagnosed each year are caused by hearing loss. Scary stuff! Today it is estimated that there are more than 55 million people living with dementia.

Hearing loss can make the brain work harder forcing it to strain in order to try and hear better and fill in the gaps, or it may cause the brain to shrink more quickly. Another possibility is that hearing loss can be a factor in people being less socially active and isolated. If you are not hearing well your brain is not being intellectually active.

John Hopkins led a large National Institute of Health Study to see if hearing aids can preserve mental status in seniors. Nearly 1,000 people ages 70-84 volunteered for the study. One group was provided with hearing aids and the other group received aging education focusing on healthy aging. Both groups were evaluated at six-month intervals. This study lasted three years. Results showed that those involved with heart-health and had hearing aids had a 50% reduction in cognitive decline as opposed to those in the healthy aging education group. The bottom line is for recommended regular hearing tests with any hearing losses being addressed promptly.

How many times have you heard people say: "I hear just fine." What you don't realize is that you could have issues at various levels of your hearing and not be aware of it. These issues won't go away, they will get worse. By addressing them promptly you have the best chance of preserving your hearing at that point and hopefully slowing further loss. I can attest to that. I have been wearing hearing aids for about 13 years. I still have trouble hearing if I'm in a large group in a restaurant or even in a social setting. I have frequent checkups and adjustments to my hearing aids. There are times when in a difficult situation, I get exhausted just trying to hear, and I understand why some people will isolate themselves to avoid these situations.

My father refused to get a hearing test or hearing aids, and it was really sad to see his subsequent decline and isolation due to the hearing loss. I encourage everyone to get a good

## Hearing Loss...continued...Karen Kline

hearing test. At least if there are no problems there will be a baseline. If you do need hearing aids, do your research, and find the hearing aids that work the best for you. I'm sure you don't want to miss any of the great sermons we hear at Grace Methodist by Pastor Bill and Pastor Kip!

## **STEPHEN MINISTER MOMENTS...Carol MacKenzie**

Stephen Ministry is built to last. You'll find Stephen Ministry in congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations across the U.S., Canada and in 29 other countries. Stephen Ministry has been going strong for 20 or even 30 years in hundreds of congregations, Stephen Ministry is in 12,000 congregations, since 1975. More than 600,000 laypeople have received Stephen Minister training. More than one-and-a-half million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times. Talented Joy Potts wrote a song for Stephen Ministers, the words tell the Stephen Ministers story.

### **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

Here before our Lord we come  
Praying that His will be done.  
As we share faith one to one  
To show you that you're not alone.

Grief may come into your life  
Doubt may fill your days with strife.  
Let us bring the Lord of light,  
To show you that you're not alone.

God is here to calm your fears.  
He is here to dry your tears.  
In his name we come to you,  
To pray with you, to comfort you.

We will listen to your cares.  
We will keep you in our prayers.  
When you need us, we'll be there  
To show you that you're not alone.

God has claimed you as His own,  
And you will never be alone.  
You will never be alone  
Never be alone.

If you would like to contact one of our Stephen Leaders, Karen Kline, 382-726 or Carol MacKenzie, 382-8926. We are looking forward to commissioning 5 new Stephen Ministers sometime in July. They will walk beside you, total confidentiality, one on one.

**Look up Psalms 139:23-24...Question, is this exploratory surgery for sin? How are we to recognize sin unless God points it out?**

←—**Got Questions.org...submitted by Linda Rose**

**Question: "Does God expect Christians to vote?"**

**Answer:** It is our contention that it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian to vote and to vote for leaders who promote Christian principles. God is most certainly in control, but that does not mean we should do nothing to further His will. We are commanded to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In terms of politics and leadership, there is evidence in Scripture that God has been displeased with our choices of leadership at times (Hosea 8:4). The evidence of sin's grip on this world is everywhere. Much of the suffering on earth is because of godless leadership (Proverbs 28:12). Scripture gives Christians instructions to obey legitimate authority unless it contradicts the Lord's commands (Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7). As born-again believers, we ought to strive to choose leaders who will be themselves led by our Creator (1 Samuel 12:13-25). Candidates or proposals that violate the Bible's commands for life, family, marriage, or faith should never be supported (Proverbs 14:34). Christians should vote as led through prayer and study of both God's Word and the realities of the choices on the ballot.

Christians in many countries in this world are oppressed and persecuted. They suffer under governments that they are powerless to change and governments that hate their faith and silence their voices. These believers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at the risk of their own lives. In the U.S.A., Christians have been blessed with the right to speak about and choose their leaders without fearing for themselves or their families. In the U.S.A, in recent elections, about 2 of every 5 of self-professed Christians took that right for granted and did not vote. About 1 in 5 self-professed, liberal Christians are not even registered to vote.

In our day and age, there are many who want to drive the name and message of Christ completely out of the public arena. Voting is an opportunity to promote, protect, and preserve godly government. Passing up that opportunity means letting those who would denigrate the name of Christ have their way in our lives. The leaders we elect—or do nothing to remove—have great influence on our freedoms. They can choose to protect our first amendment right to religious freedom and the right to spread the gospel, or they can restrict those rights. They can lead our nation toward righteousness or toward moral disaster. As Christians, we should stand up and follow our command to fulfill our civic duties (Matthew 22:21).

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## **Ladies of Grace (LOG) Update on Service Activities...Sue Pagano**

### **Pregnancy & Family Life Center Representative Will Visit on June 9**

The Baby Bottle Campaign in support of the Pregnancy & Family Life Center (PFLC) has been generously supported by our congregation. Judy Awe, a PFLC board member, will attend the June 9 service to accept a check from our church and give a brief overview of their important work.

**🌸 The Ladies of Grace meet monthly on the third Sunday at 11:15 am following the church service. Interested women are invited to attend for fellowship and get ideas on ways to serve. Our next meeting is on Sunday, June 23 (due to Father's Day on June 16.) Listed below are some of the projects we are working on:**

✿ **Father's Day Cookie Celebration – June 15 & 16**

We hope that members and friends enjoyed the **Mother's Day Cookie Celebration**. To honor our men, we are repeating the event in June to celebrate Father's Day. On Saturday, June 15, 10-11 am, church members are invited to drop off cookies at church. Cookie boxes will be put together from 11 am-1 pm. Cookie boxes will be given out on Sunday, June 16 after church. Enclosure cards will be available. Gift boxes are offered at no charge, but love donations will be accepted. Monies earned will be placed in the Ladies of Grace account to fund the Comfort & Care Meals program, the first annual Ladies Retreat on Saturday, September 14 and materials to further our ministry goals. Thank you!

✿ **Christian Musician Eirinn Abu to Launch Service Week, September 8**

September 8-14 will highlight the spiritual gifts that women bring to Grace Methodist Church. From worship to compassionate care to hospitality and organization, the service of women is seen throughout our church life. The week will begin with the concert on Sunday 8 at 3 pm and conclude with the Ladies Retreat on Saturday, September 14, 9 am-4 pm. Eirinn Abu, a native New Yorker, has been called the instrumental version of Josh Groban or Andrea Bocelli. Reminiscent of Kenny G, he has recorded 7 albums of pop, jazz, and easy listening favorites. He has collaborated with Dolly Parton. His latest album "Hymns" includes beloved selections, both old and new. Eirinn and his wife Brandy lead the Music for Life ministry through which concerts are performed to help churches broaden their outreach. Eirinn has a powerful testimony to share along with his music. Plan on attending and invite your friends. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10. They will be sold every Sunday in the Fellowship Room from 9:00-9:45 am and after the service, beginning June 2.

✿ **September 14 Ladies Retreat Focuses on Knowing and Using Spiritual Gifts**

On Saturday, September 14, 9 am-4 pm, the Ladies of Grace will host a one-day retreat at the church. Details will follow; however, it is based on our mission scripture which is ***1 Peter 4:10...*** ***Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's organization, grace in its various forms.*** We have been identifying our individual gifts and looking for ways to use them to provide services that help our members. In addition, we are strengthening our knowledge of scripture. Tools to accomplish both goals will be part of the retreat program. Nancy Kennedy, *Grace Notes* columnist and devotions author, will be the morning speaker. Elizabeth Cryst, president of the WCA of the Global Methodist Church and member of Dunnellon Methodist Church, will speak in the afternoon on ways that women can serve in today's cultural environment. She will also provide updates on the Global Methodist Church.

✿ **Comfort & Care (C&C) Meals**

The Comfort & Care Meals program is helping church members are battling an illness, being discharged home from a hospital or rehab center, experienced a loss or feeling exhausted while caregiving. Thanks to June Kirshbaum and Sharon Smith for coordinating this meal delivery service. Remember:

- C&C meals will be usually be delivered by a Ladies of Grace member.
- Meals are made with attention to healthy guidelines (low salt, low sugar, low fat).

## Ladies of Grace...continued...Sue Pagano

- Meals will arrive in microwaveable /freezable containers.

To request a C&C meal delivery, contact June Kirshbaum by phone (352-382-0424) or email [junekirsch13@gmail.com](mailto:junekirsch13@gmail.com). Requests are preferred at least 48 hours in advance, but more urgent deadlines can be met. Please provide helpful information such as:

- Recipient's name, address, phone number
- Current situation (Discharging hospital or rehab center, grief, depression, etc.)
- Known allergies, medical conditions
- Spouse or caregiver

### **Crafts and Chats**

Crafts and Chats sessions offer fellowship for those who want to work on craft projects and visit with others. The group meets on the second Tuesday monthly, 10 am-Noon. Diane Monce, Lorraine Washburn, Sharon Miller, Pam Scram and Karen Stone made bookmarks for church hymnals. Jeanette McDougall and Mary Trice have been crocheting. Sue Pagano brought samples of simple dresses that can be sewn for little girls in need. Bring your favorite craft or learn from others.

### **Community Resource Brochure**

Heather Steighner has created a Community Resource brochure for quick reference on Citrus County medical, rehab, senior living, elder support services, community agencies and more. It will soon be distributed at church and possibly, online.

### **Lending Library**

The Lending Library behind the stage in the Fellowship Hall is a great resource for Christian insights into scripture, as well as devotionals, inspirational writings, community resources and health information/dementia offerings from our parish nurse. There is also a section for donations to the **Little Free Library** book boxes. We had recent gifts of books by Dr. David Jeremiah and Max Lucado, as well as books on managing grief. Please visit the library and look for selections to help in your spirit journey. Remember to sign the log for books you borrow.

## **Women of Worship (WOW) Updates...Priscilla Frederick**

**Women of Worship meet on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30. Plan to come and check us out! The fellowship is amazing.....Don't forget to support the stamp collections. Also, only the flip tops from soda cans will be accepted for minutes of free treatments. Soup and vegetable can flip tops will not be accepted. Please continue to use the container on the missions table for your donations of soda can flip tops.**

## **Rummage Sale is Back!**

### **LATEST RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!**

**DONATION DATES:**      **Saturday, August 3 – 9:00 to noon**  
   **Saturday, September 7 – 9:00 to noon**  
   **Saturday, October 5 – 9:00 to noon**

**PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
DONATIONS IN BOXES (when possible) WOULD BE APPRECIATED!**

**NO CLOTHING, SHOES, LARGE APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, TV'S, PLEASE!  
IF UNSURE PLEASE CONTACT PRISCILLA OR ANDY FREDERICK: (352-212-4037)**

**PLANT & GARDEN SHOPPE  
IT IS TIME TO START MAKING CUTTINGS!**

**Mary Trice (727-710-6985) and Pam Schram (727-709-2671) are the contact ladies!  
Please check with them if you have questions!  
This shoppe was popular and very successful last year!**

**Please NOTE the following changes in church activities**

- No card making in June
- No weight group meeting or WOW Lunch Bunch for the week of June 10-14
- Jan Wise's bible studies on Thursday and Friday have been suspended for the month of June. She looks forward to seeing everyone the first of July.
- No choir practice nor choir for the month of June

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)...Miss Laurie**

VBS is around the corner...June 10-14, 9 am to 12 noon and Miss Laurie is getting fellowship hall ready for the children and you! Please sign up to help Miss Laurie and, most importantly, pray for children and very successful VBS.

**Pancake Breakfast...Kent Kester**

Kent Kester and Grace's Men's Prayer Group has done an outstanding job with the Pancake Breakfast, and they are taking a well-deserved break. **There WILL NOT be a pancake breakfast in June.** We look forward to pancakes again in the fall.

**Mission Moment...Donna Farmer**

- ❖ For the month of May, Grace Methodist Church contributed \$531 for Samaritan's Purse project to feed refugees in Sudan. Rebels have driven women & children south while the men stayed behind to fight and protect property. In the future if you would like to contribute to Samaritan's Purse, please designate by noting it on your envelope or check.
- ❖ Thank you for donating \$450 for the Gideons to use in the placement of Bibles.

**Blood Drive...Save these dates...Carolyn Bright**

June 16th. 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Sept 29th. 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Dec 8th 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon

### Dates to Save

June 2, 2024 -- Communion Sunday  
June 10-14 -- Vacation Bible School  
June 12, 2024 -- Grace Board Meeting 1 p.m. (Any Grace member may attend.)  
June 16, 2024 -- Father's Day  
June 16, 2024 -- Blood Drive 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon  
June 16, 2024 -- Ladies of Grace (LOG) general meeting at 11:30 a.m.  
June 18, 2024 -- Ladies of Grace (LOG) Craft and Chat 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
June 20, 2024 -- Women of Worship Lunch Bunch, 11:30  
June 27, 2024 -- Women of Worship Lunch Bunch, 11:30  
August 3, 2024 -- Rummage Donation Date, 9 a.m. to noon  
Sept. 7, 2024 -- Rummage Donation Date, 9 a.m. to noon  
Sept. 8, 2024 -- Eirinn Abu Classic Sax, Jazz & Christian Music, 3 pm  
Sept. 14, 2024 -- First Annual Ladies Retreat  
Sept. 29, 2024 -- Blood Drive  
Oct. 5, 2024 -- Rummage Donation Date 9 a.m. to noon (last date to donate)  
Oct 25-26, 2024 -- Rummage Sale  
Dec. 8, 2024 -- Blood Drive

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

Sun 11:30 am Ladies of Grace meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month  
Mon 1:00 pm Memory Lane Support Group & Respite  
Tues 9:00 am Weight Management Meeting (women & men)...**No meeting 6/11/24**  
Wed 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group at GMC followed by breakfast out  
Wed 4:00 pm Choir Practice led by K. Cornelius & B. Jones...**No choir in June**  
Thurs 10:00 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)...Jan Wise **No meeting in June**  
Thurs 11:30 am Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller...**No meeting 6/13/24**  
Note... Women of Worship...Meet once a month on the second Thursday @ 2 p.m.  
**No meeting 6/13/24**  
Fri 10:00 am-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship...led by Jan Wise  
**No meeting in June**  
Fri 11 am -12 pm Bible Study...led by Jan Wise...**No meeting in June**  
Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse



# EIRINN ABU

## CLASSIC SAX, JAZZ & CHRISTIAN MUSIC

**CITRUS COUNTY CONCERT**  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 3:00 PM

Eirinn Abu has been called the instrumental version of Josh Groban or Andrea Bocelli. Reminiscent of Kenny G, his saxophone is full of soul and emotion. Dolly Parton collaborated on one track singing "I will Always Love You".

An American from NYC, he now resides in Florida, performing and running Music for Life Ministries. In addition to jazz and pop tracks, the collection titled "HYMNS" includes beloved songs like Just As I Am, Mary, Did You Know?, How Great Thou Art, Amazing Grace & more.

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH OF HOMOSASSA  
5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa, Florida  
Tickets: \$10.00 352-419-7702  
suep@gracemethodistchurch.org

Refreshments Available



# RUMMAGE SALE



**Fri. Oct 25, 9 AM - 2 PM & Sat. Oct 26, 9 AM - Noon**

**ANNUAL EVENT- ANOTHER AWESOME SELECTION**

**Man Cave - Home Accessories - Christmas Décor - Small Appliances  
Books - Jewelry - Art - Kids Stuff - Plants - Baked Goods**

(No credit cards)

**Grace Methodist Church of Homosassa**  
5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa 34446  
[www.gracemethodistchurch.org](http://www.gracemethodistchurch.org)

For more information contact Priscilla at:  
[rummagesale@gracemethodistchurch.org](mailto:rummagesale@gracemethodistchurch.org)  
or  
Phone 352-212-4037



6-27

"BEIN' GOOD'S NOT EASY. HOW DID YOU  
MANAGE IT ALL THESE YEARS?"