

Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church
5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa, FL 34446
Phone: 352-651-2502

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



Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

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Message from Pastor Bill Farmer...It's Clean-up Time

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. Psalm 29:10-11

The storm has passed, and we are left with a dirty mess. Houses are polluted, disease from the residue and all kinds of trouble awaits unless we get it all cleaned up. It will require casting out some items that we treasure most, some things that we cling to and grieve about when we see them go – but they must if we are going to live a healthy life.

Many of us missed the storm Idalia, and we are very thankful. But we all have storms in our lives. Little rainy days or sometimes massive thunder and lightning storms. They rob us of our peace. But we need to know that God sits above the storms and helps us prevail if we follow Him.

My personal story. Sometime ago Donna and I went to a fast-food restaurant. I had some BOGO coupons. I ordered our food and then had a difficult time getting the coupons up on my phone. The young man taking my order saw the coupon before it disappeared but would not honor it. I was upset. I told Donna let's go and we walked out. We enjoyed eating at another fast-food restaurant. Later that night I realized that the restaurant had received my order and was busy preparing the food before I walked out.

Someone had to pay for that food, and it should not have to be the restaurant or the young man taking my order. I was the problem! (that is hard to write). I went back the next day and asked for the manager and related what happened and tried to pay for the food. We worked through the problem, and I am still welcome at that restaurant. I am forgiven for my actions and peace is restored. If we want to live in peace, we must have grace. Grace to receive and grace to give. It is all part of the clean-up process.

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill Farmer**

A Special “Thank You” from Wanda Ashley, Church Treasurer

This past January 29 when we became part of a new church named Grace Methodist, little did we know that we would be embarking on a path that God had laid before us. It's unlike anything I have ever experienced as well as many of our Church Members. I have never been more blessed in my spiritual life than what each of you share with me at Church. We were led to a building that we are now in serious discussions of purchasing. We started a fund-raising campaign, and I believe everyone in our church has participated in some way to make this purchase. We are witnesses to each other giving of our time, our talents, our gifts, and our service in many ways that together we get many things done. I am just overwhelmed sometimes at your generosity and the volunteer spirit that has made Grace Methodist the spirit filled and led church that it is. I want to say how much I appreciate each of you and how proud I am to be a part of this congregation. Love and hugs to all.

**Wanda Ashley
Grace Methodist Church Treasurer**

Do You Feel it?...Karen Kline

Do you feel something special when you walk through the doors of Grace Methodist Church on a Sunday morning? Do you feel it when you walk into the Fellowship Hall or into the Sanctuary? Do you feel it during the service or after the service?

At this point you are now probably thinking; what the heck is she talking about, right? Well, I'm talking about that feeling of a sense of family, a sense of being home, and a sense of belonging and knowing you're in the right place. I feel it! To try to explain it, I needed to do some research to explain and define family. OK, the Oxford dictionary defines family as “one or more parents and their children living together as a unit.” Nope, not what I am feeling here. A more modern definition simply states that family can be anything you want to define it, based on strong commitment and emotions. We might just be getting closer to “what I'm feeling”. To be a real family some would say there needs to be feelings of support, love and caring for other family members, providing security, a sense of belonging,

open communication, making each person within the family feel important, valued, respected, and esteemed. Strong bonds within a family are crucial to a person's physical, emotional, and mental health.

I am beginning to think that is what we are all feeling at Grace Methodist; that as believers we accept that we are members of God's household, where as a church family we experience the depth of life that is shared within these doors. Galatians 6:10 "Therefore as we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

The personal health benefits of our "family" can be physical, by creating lower rates of anxiety and depression, higher esteem and self-worth, greater empathy, and more trusting relationships. Do you agree?

Welcome to our Family!

Stephen Ministry

Grace Methodist Church of Homosassa is an official Stephen Ministry Church. Stephen Ministry is the "After People." If anyone wishes to join the Stephen Ministry family, please contact Karen Kline at karen@neilkline.com or Carol MacKenzie at bobca35@tampabay.rr.com

Building Fund

Let's keep going!!! The Trustees of Grace Methodist Church are in negotiations with Nature Coast Masonic Lodge to purchase Grace Church; therefore, please pray that this will occur with a reasonable cost. Also please pray that, if it is God's will, for us to purchase with a mortgage free church. Please continue to support the church's building fund. We are going to need more funds to complete the purchase, and then the renovations will begin.

Mission Moment...Samaritan's Purse

Giving to Samaritan's Purse, allows them to respond quickly to meet critical needs in Jesus' name. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Grace Methodist Church supports this mission. If you would like to donate through the church to Samaritan's Purse, please denote "Samaritan's Purse" on your check or a church envelope.

Announcements

September 11th, 10 A.M. First meeting for all Stephen Ministers interested in maintaining a relationship at Grace Methodist Church will meet **9/11/23 at 10 a.m.** Please plan on attending. All are welcome.

September 13th, 11 A.M. Fall Prevention: Are you at Risk?

"Thank You" Karen Kline and Carol MacKenzie for the lovely art work and lettering for the Fall Festival Banner. They did an awesome job. Also **"thank you"** to Kip and Sherry Younger for preparing and hanging the banner.

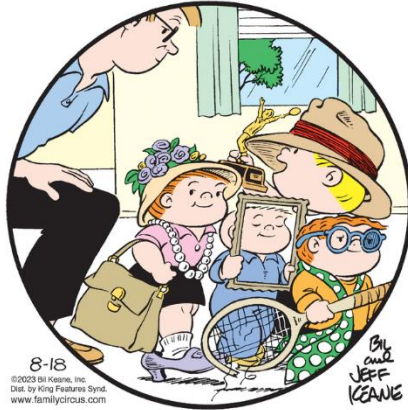
Grace has many members who are willing to step up and do work that is needed.

Cleaning the church... Karen Kline has volunteered to oversee keeping our list of monthly church cleaners and ordering supplies. Please be sure to sign up for a month. If you have any questions or need supplies, please call Karen at 352-634-1781.

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!

Donation Date: Only one Saturday left to bring your items to the Church

- **Saturday, September 16th – 9-12 pm**
- **Pricing Marathon Day: Monday, Sept. 18th. 9 to 11 a.m.**



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"Mommy's cleaning out the attic."

BRING DONATIONS TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR PROCESSING!

- Donations should be boxed or in a tote –
- Should be clean – not broken
- Please save any boxes and newspaper for packing and bring with donations
- **No clothes or large pieces of furniture**

HOMOSSASSA'S FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL HAPPENS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 7, 2023 9am-2pm

Free FAMILY FUN TIME
Giant Wet-Dry Slide * Refreshments * Fire Truck
* Fire Safety House * Sheriff's Bloodhound Dog Unit
* Dutch, the Therapy Dog * CASA * Child ID Info
LifeSouth Bloodmobile, 9a-Noon

RUMMAGE-BAKE & PLANT SALES
Man Cave & other home accessories * Holiday décor
* Small appliances * Art * Jewelry * Books * Kids Stuff
*Donations accepted at the church last Saturdays, 9am-noon
Please: Parents accompany children. No credit cards.*

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH of HOMOSSASSA
5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa 352-651-2502
See us on Facebook: Grace Methodist Church Homosassa
Email: suepagano@verizon.net

Grace Methodist of Homosassa will host a **Family Fall Festival** for the community on Saturday, October 7, 9am-2pm. This fun and free event has something for everyone:

- **Free Family Fun Fair** with an inflatable wet/dry slide, refreshments, plus the opportunity to visit a real Fire Truck, the Fire Safety House, meet

the Sheriff's Blood Hound Tracking Unit and Dutch, the best and most loving therapy dog EVER and more. Representatives from the Citrus County Fire Department, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and CASA will be on hand with information.

Life South will accept blood donations on the Bloodmobile from 9am-noon.

- **Huge Homosassa Rummage Sale** featuring Man Cave accessories, home décor, holiday decorations, kids' stuff, small furniture, and books.
- **Big and Best Bake Sale** with delights of all kinds to select.
- **Live Plant Sale** with selections for indoor home and outdoor decorating.

Church members will welcome in the autumn season and visit with friends. Citrus County Commissioner Diana Finegan who represents the Homosassa district will be on hand. Hot dogs and drinks will be served. Parents are asked to accompany children. **No credit cards, please**, for purchases at the rummage sale. Grace Methodist Church is located at 5030 South Memorial Drive, just east of Suncoast Boulevard (US Highway 19) off Green Acres Drive. The church has Sunday services (fellowship at 9am and church service at 10 am), Children's Church, bible studies, support for patients with dementia and their families, community book distribution through Free Little Library boxes, healthy weight group and grief/trauma support through God's Love Therapy (visits with Dutch and Kathie). For more information, contact the church office at 352-651-2502 or send an email to Sue Pagano: suepagano@verizon.net

Women of Worship (WOW)...Sharon Miller

WOW's ongoing mission is the Alliance Stamp Ministry, Ft. Myers, Florida. We have been collecting canceled stamps from the congregation for over 10 years. Stamps are trimmed and sent to the group in Ft. Myers. Alliance Stamp Ministry in turn sells the stamps to distributors who then sell them to collectors. With funds raised they provide Sunday School materials in Spanish for third world countries. If you would like to participate in providing canceled stamps, a box has been placed on the food pantry table. If you are interested in joining WOW, we will be meeting each month on the 2nd Thursday in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 2:00. Bring scissors.

Testimonial Corner...Jerusalem by Nancy Krebs

On October 17, 2019, my husband and I set sail on a cruise that started in Athens, Greece and ended in Rome, Italy. I was really anticipating our three-day stop which included Jerusalem and Bethlehem on October 20th and 21st. We boarded a bus for the 72-mile trip from the port of Haifa to Jerusalem. We got an overview of the city on our way to our first stop. We went to see the Church of all Nations, nearby was the Mount of Olives and the garden of Gethsemane.

After I got off the bus, I was standing and looking around taking in the view, and I had **strong feeling as the Spirit of God enveloped me**. It was a feeling I have never felt so strongly before. I kept thinking that I am seeing and walking where Jesus had walked and lived. I was so moved that I began to sing The Jerusalem Hymn. Not sure why that particular song, but it just happened. This vantage point gave us an excellent view of the ancient walled city of Jerusalem.

We took a short bus ride to Old city of Jerusalem; we entered the Jaffa gate to see the Wailing Wall. Leaving the walled portion of the city, we started a very long walk through the Christian quarter of the Old City. This was the path Jesus followed as he carried his cross to Calvary. We rejoined our bus and went through the Judean Hills to the town of Bethlehem. We went to the Manger square to see the Church of the Nativity. This church is built over a grotto that is believed to be the location of the birth of Jesus.

Day two found us going to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. We drove from Haifa to Mount Carmel. Upon arriving in Nazareth, we went to see the Basilica which is where the Archangel revealed to Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah. We also saw the alter that incorporates a portion of the grotto where Mary lived. In another area we saw the chambers where Joseph had his carpentry shop. We drove through Cana, and then stopped to see where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes. Following that we went to the Mount of the Beatitudes to see where Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount. The last stop we went to the river Jordan to see where Jesus was baptized by the Apostle John.

I really appreciated seeing all the sights that I have mentioned, but the most moving and memorable moment will forever stay with me was the **Holy Spirit descending on me** while I stood observing the Mount of Olives.

John 4:24 “**God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and the truth.**” That verse certainly speaks of all of us feeling and listening to God’s spirit as we move forward with Grace Methodist Church.

Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, & Other Meetings

- Mon 1:00 pm Memory Lane Support Group & Respite, GMC
- Tues 9:00 am Weight Management Meeting (women & men)
- Wed 7:00 am Men’s Prayer Group at GMC followed by breakfast out
- Wed 5:00 pm Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornellius
- Thurs 10:00 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) led by Jan Wise
- Thurs 11:30 am Women’s Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller
- Thurs 2:00 pm **Women of Worship (WOW)...Meets once a month on the second Thursday...Next meeting is September 14th**
- Fri 10:30 am Bible Study led by Jan Wise (10:30-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship...11-12 Bible Study)
- Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse

...God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!...

Grace Methodist Church Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, **9/13, at 9:00 a.m.** All church members are welcome to attend.

Testimony Corner...If you would like to submit a testimonial for future newsletters, please send to Alice Trusley at atrusley@pantherbranch.com

Grace Methodist Church is a member of the
 **GLOBAL**
METHODIST CHURCH