

Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church
5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa, FL 34446
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{Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.}

Make yourself an ark of gopher-wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

Genesis 6:14



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Message from Pastor Bill Farmer...

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

Grace Methodist Church has been gathering for six months. What a beginning for a congregation of losers. Yes, we lost the disaffiliation vote, but we won a great victory and Grace Methodist Church began ministry immediately. God opened the door for us to have a place to meet and a team of workers came together to get our newly rented building ready for worship on January 29, and there has been continual growth.

Grace Methodist Church is a team made up of individuals seeking to celebrate our relationship with each other and Christ. Individuals become Christian by a personal commitment. However, there are no solitary Christians, we make individual commitments to Christ, but we need to be part of a team to stay alive in Him. As a team we share our love for God by serving through giving, praying, feeding, singing, greeting and many more ways. It is my prayer that every person at Grace Church will find great joy and peace as they volunteer to serve. The Grace team is instrumental in helping one another grow in knowledge of Christ. Without Jesus

and His Holy Spirit in our lives we are all powerless. To help us grow in Christ we all need a mentor to help us along the Christian path, and we all need to be a mentor to use what we have already learned to help another along the path. Our Bible studies and other small group events are great sources for personal growth.

My friends at Grace Methodist Church, we need Jesus, and we need each other. It is a great place to get involved. Come, Celebrate, Serve and Grow in Christ with us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill Farmer

Sunscreen 2023...Karen Kline

A month or so before leaving on our summer vacation we checked in with our dermatologist for our yearly checkup. When we left, we both had band aids covering biopsy spots. My pre-cancer spots were dealt with two weeks later by being zapped with a few squirts of nitrous oxide. Unfortunately, Neil's will require Mohs surgery when we return from vacation.

When you think back to our "youth," it is not hard by today's standards regarding sun exposure, to be surprised by our dermatologist visits. We all "baked" in the sun. We all got sunburned and had fun peeling our blistered skin. Sunscreen lotion? Ha, we used baby oil to bake faster! At one point we even used baby oil and iodine to add more color. Although in my case it turned out to be the hard way to discover an allergy to iodine! Or, how about driving with the un-tinted car windows rolled down and soaking in the sun rays.

Science has advanced in our favor in regards to sun exposure and ways to prevent sunburn and potential skin cancers. The American Academy of Dermatology Association has a campaign: "Say Yes to Sunscreen and No to Cancer." They recommend two types of sunscreens:

Physical: contains zinc oxide and or titanium oxide

Chemical: contains oxybenzone, avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, octinoxate in various combinations.

Essentially any broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or higher is recommended.

Other recommendations to protect yourself are:

- Avoid exposure between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wear protective clothing, including a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses.
- Apply sunscreen every two hours and after swimming or sweating.

Keep in mind that one in five Americans develop skin cancer. Twenty Americans die of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, every day!

Living in Florida we need to be mindful of this on a daily basis.

THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM...Jan Wise

"How can we love someone who is 'unlovable', who has done terrible things to people, especially children, and shows no signs of remorse or regret? It's humanly impossible to love people like that." The health workers' discussion broke up with this right conclusion, although they did not realize they only had the beginning of the answer.

It is "humanly" impossible to love people who offend our human sensibilities so strongly. Yet God loves *all* people, not their sins but them. But, we argue, "We are not God. He can't expect us to do what he can do". If you are a Christian, one who accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and all he did for you at the cross, you can...I can, love the unlovely because of what 2 Corinthians 5:16a explains. It says that after we have received Christ, " ... from now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view".

We will come to regard those we thought of as "unlovable" as "savable". 2 Corinthians 5:17 emphasizes the change that has happened in us as followers of Christ - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new has come"! As Christians, we are given the new, divine ability to love as God loves, to want all to be saved.

We might think we were more worthy of salvation than those "unlovables" who have done terrible things, but the Bible teaches us that *all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. "All" includes you and me, who were born with a sin nature inherited from our human father, Adam. So, God sent his Son Jesus to die for *all* that *all* might have the *opportunity* to be saved. We, as Christians, have been given the privilege to live and offer that salvation to all God brings across our paths. If God places you in a situation where you will be ministering to or working with a person your human self-regards as unlovable, prayer like this will help you prepare. "God, please let your love flow through me while I am with this person. Help me to see the situation as you see it. Let your compassion flow through me and draw this one to Jesus. Thank you. Amen".

PS: For anyone who works in the health industry--You are blessed by God with a double ministry of blessing. Whenever God leads you to minister to one you would rather not serve, remember he has given you an opportunity to bless with both a physical and a spiritual touch. You may affect not only your patient's physical life but his eternal destiny as you pray for God's love to flow through you.

Stephen Ministry

Grace Methodist Church of Homosassa is an official Stephen Ministry Church. Stephen Ministers are the "After People." Stephen Ministries will help you if...

- you arrive home following the funeral and your emotions crash in on you.
- the relationship has ended but the wounds are still painful.
- the doctors have said, "there's nothing more we can do."
- the phone call you hoped you would never get.
- you must be admitted to a nursing home.
- the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led

- away.
- you are let got from your job.
- your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

A Stephen Minister is the "After People" and will be ready to come walk with you—or your friends, neighbors, co-workers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support and confidentiality for as long 'after' as needed. For more information, contact Karen Kline or Carol MacKenzie.

Building Fund

Let's keep going!!! Grace Methodist Church would like to "thank" an anonymous doner for presenting our pastor with a huge \$100,000 donation to our Building Fund. Also, we would like to thank the doner who "got us going" with a \$25,000 matching donation. All donations are greatly appreciated, but we "need to keep going." Negotiations are in progress to purchase our Grace Church so pray that this will occur with a reasonable cost. Please continue to support the church's building fund. We are going to need more to complete the purchase and then we will need to do some renovations.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!

Donation Dates: Only two Saturday's left to bring your items to the Church

- Saturday, August 26 – 9-11am
- Saturday, September 30 – 9-11am

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**

Women of Worship (WOW)...Sharon Miller

Women of Worship (WOW) started at First Church as a break off from United Methodist Women (UMW) because most attendees were all still working. The main goal of WOW is mission work for the community and other needs presented to us. On an annual basis, we do Christmas gifts for seniors in conjunction with Home Instead. In the past, we have supported CASA, collected coats for homeless through Family Resource Center, collected kids' shoes for Pleasant Grove Elementary since two of the members of WOW taught there and knew the need. We have also collected toiletries for the Grace House part of the Sanctuary Mission, along with other needs that were presented.

Our ongoing mission is the Alliance Stamp Ministry out of Ft. Myers, Florida. We have been collecting canceled stamps from the congregation for over 10 years. We trim the stamps and send them to the group in Ft. Myers. They in turn sell them to stamp 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 cancel stamps, there is a box 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 August 10th at 2:00. Bring scissors.

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



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 choose from.
- **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

Grace Methodist of Homosassa Supports Visits with Dutch...Sue Pagano



God's Love Therapy has been around for a few years, though you may never have heard of it. There is a better chance that someone has excitedly told you about a visit with Dutch, the floppy-eared labradoodle who is the face of **God's Love Therapy**. Residents at area assisted living facilities or local grief support groups can give you all the details. Dutch nuzzles with the aging, the young, the grieving, the depressed, and the traumatized, calming their fears and warming their hearts. He provides support for people with various emotional or spiritual needs in Citrus County with a special kind of healing. Dutch doesn't have a PH.D. or a

Master's Degree in counseling. He does have a buddy, his handler of seven years, Kathie Henderson. She attended the Rochester Institute of Technology and worked in social services. Kathie has trained Dutch as a full-service therapy dog so that he can visit with people in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, grief centers, hospice centers and courtrooms. Kathie is a trained Stephen minister where she helps people deal with physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. Dutch is an honorary Stephen minister and accompanied Kathie on all parts of training.

Kathie is a faithful Christian who believes that Dutch was brought into her life to help her and others through difficult times. "Dutch brings love without judgment or condemnation. When people are sick, depressed, grieving, or traumatized, they often just need a kind word, a hug, a nuzzle." says Kathie. "We are all human and know where life has not gone as expected. The best medicine for a broken heart or body may be to see Dutch's sweet face. His eyes speak volumes, saying

"It's OK. You're not alone. I'm here for you. I understand."

Every visit is different and special, according to Kathie. They have monthly meetings with residents of assisted living facilities when Dutch greets folks privately in their rooms and in large gatherings. They attend grief support groups. Dutch is the official therapy dog for children and adult volunteers at Camp Good Hope which is hosted four times annually by the Friends of Citrus Grief Center. Other times they may be called to visit hospice patients, calm traumatized children, or veterans with PTSD. Kathie loves talking with people while Dutch heals hearts. She notes, "He senses who needs him that day and spends extra time with them."

She emphasized that though the visits reflect Christ's teachings including love for your fellow man, compassion, acceptance and community service, there is no preaching. "Dutch cannot speak words. He simply represents love to all. He is humble and keeps each person he visits as the center of attention." She continues, "Dutch meets people where they are and gives them support. That is exactly what Christ did for both believers and non-believers." Kathie also does public speaking engagements for schools and businesses to provide education on the role of service and therapy dogs. Dutch comes along to demonstrate skills.

The mission statement of God's Love Therapy is "Reaching out everywhere that God leads us, being empowered by God's spirit and honoring Jesus." To schedule a visit or speaking engagement, contact Kathie Henderson: khenderson42@tampabay.rr.com. This is an outreach ministry of Grace Methodist Church of Homosassa.

Testimonial Corner

"We are in awe of that which God has Created" ...Jim & Alice Trusley

We really enjoy camping and usually plan our adventures up to two years in advance. We knew this year that we would be going to Wyoming (WY), so we coordinated a grand-daughter's graduation in Kentucky with a trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter as our first stops on our way to WY. We had heard from many people that these were must visit places, so this year we were able to schedule the time to visit both. Taking a retrospective view of creation isn't easy for us as we tend to focus more on the present and future; however, God left much evidence of His creation. When we think about the Earth, we think about a spinning ball with a hot center that spins around a giant orb while keeping our feet planted on this earth so we don't float away. We don't think about a moon that effects the tides of the ocean, and we sure can't explain how it all works. But we do know that when God created things, they were perfect in every way.

Genesis 7-8 talks about a global flood (Noah's Flood) and the numbers and kinds of animals to be taken into the Ark. The Ark Encounter gives an excellent explanation of how the animals (and all creatures) came to the ark. They were not sought, they came. There is considerable information about dinosaurs and how they were accommodated in the ark. The ark replica has been completed with enormous research and period specific interpretations of how the ark was set up to accommodate people and all types of animals.

Now one might ask, “do you think God really flooded the earth”? We would have to answer absolutely, as evidenced by two significant events we have personally witnessed. One was the Badlands National Park in South Dakota. When we were there, the ranger talked about a fossil that was found of a palm tree branch which was imbedded in a large rock formation. The other was in Utah visiting Dinosaur National Monument where you can see and touch dinosaur bones imbedded in rocks. One of the more interesting finds at that site was a crocodile fossil. Crocodiles are salt water creatures and the desert of Wyoming, South Dakota, and Utah isn't known for it's salt water. Yes, Bonneville, UT has the salt flats but this is just one of the many fossils they are finding in the mountains. These “finds” reassured us that the great flood was real and evidence points to the presence of water creatures that “weren't from around there.”

While people may differ in their opinions about the Earth and how it came about, just remember, it's in perfect harmony with the rest of the universe and there is much physical evidence that Alice & I have personally witnessed that makes us thankful that God created things, and we have been blessed by the blood of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, & Other Meetings

Mon	1:00 pm	Memory Lane Support Group & Respite, Grace Methodist Church (GMC)
Tues	9:00 am	Weight Management Meeting (women & men), GMC
Wed	7:00 am	Men's Prayer Group, GMC followed by breakfast at a restaurant
Wed	5:00 pm	Choir Practice (newcomers are welcome) led by Katherine Cornellius, GMC
Thr	10:00 am	S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) led by Jan Wise, GMC
Thr	11:30 am	Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller, GMC
Fri	10:30 am	Bible Study led by Jan Wise, GMC (10:30-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship... 11-12 Bible Study)
Fri	10:15 am	Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadowcrest Clubhouse

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

Grace Methodist Church Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 9, at 9:00 a.m. All 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

