

Grace and Peace

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

For many of us, our journey with Jesus began years ago. However, beginning about a year ago many of us began being very uncomfortable with the way our United Methodist Church was headed. We were not sure where we were going, but we knew we had to venture into the unknown trusting that God would lead us in the right direction.

A little over three months ago we began to see a new direction was being opened. We lost the vote to leave the United Methodist Church but won a victory. That victory was the availability of a place to meet and develop a new congregation of like-minded people. People who were in love with the Lord and felt a calling to restore biblical worship, biblical teaching, with hearts to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and serve our Lord. We rejoice that steady growth has been taking place. But growth always means there are new questions to be answered. Our building where we meet is going to be sold. We want to be the buyer. We are in the process of getting an appraisal and trying to secure financing. Then perhaps we can negotiate a price. However, the seller is anxious to get this all completed. We know that even with good financing we will need at least 20% down or around \$80,000, more would be better.

Recently an individual with a heart for God and for the ministry taking place here at Grace Methodist offered a twenty-five-thousand-dollar matching grant. Every major contribution that you make will be matched up to the twenty-five-thousand-dollar figure. Your contribution needs to be made by June 30. Please be in prayer about how you can help us capitalize on this challenge and reach our goal of securing this building as our home base for worship.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Bill Farmer



Prayer Chain

Jan Metcalf started a prayer chain for Grace Methodist Church; therefore, if you would like to be part of the prayer chain, please send her your name and e-mail address and she will make you a part of the prayer chain. She can be reached at janmetcalf7@gmail.com

Children's Church

Children's Sunday School has begun. Ms. Laurie Painter started a new Sunday school class at Grace Methodist, and children are coming. If you have children, grandchildren, or neighbor children, please invite them to join Ms. Laurie as she is the best children's Sunday school teacher anywhere, and she has some awesome puppets.

KINGDOM LIVINGJan Wise

The first step in banking How good are you at banking, especially when it comes to saving for things you know you will eventually need? Have you ever thought about banking God's promises, which are more valuable than any money or gold? In fact, in 1 Peter 1:25 we are assured "the Word of the Lord stands (endures) forever". The banked and invested promises of God will work for us forever.

God's promises come with learning them. Start paying attention to the many promises God gives to his people, selecting the ones that apply to your needs and learning them. Read each promise over and over until the Holy Spirit puts it in your memory bank.

Now start investing. Each time a challenge comes, draw on a banked promise, investing the promise by saying, "God's Word promises that..." For instance, when you feel alone, use God's promise from Hebrews 13:5, which reminds us of God's continual presence. You invest the promise by claiming "I may feel alone, but God is here now, for he promised to never leave me nor forsake me". Each investment will bring a heavenly return.

One of my favorite banked promises comes from 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". God didn't promise to take away Paul's weakness but to make God's own power more than sufficient in Paul's problem area.

It had been a hectic day for me. Then our missionary nephew, Rick, and his wife, Sharon, came to visit for a couple hours. They have been missionaries for 40 years, most of the time in Ecuador. They came back to the U.S. to visit their 7 kids and relatives. While they were here, the Hospice nurse came to check on Tom. During the conversation, someone mentioned that Rick's Aunt Nettie lived in Brooksville, FL. After a lively conversation with the nurse, (remember Rick is a missionary and so wanted to know if the nurse knew Jesus). Her firm answer was a yes--she came from Haiti where her father was a pastor! Rick wanted a quick side trip to see Aunt Nettie. From somewhere out of my "tired" self, I heard that self say, "We'll lead you there".

I don't enjoy driving, especially when tired. So I asked the Lord, "I'm so tired. You promise to be strength in my weakness so will you take over and drive for me?" Rick and Sharon followed us to Brooksville to Aunt Nettie's house. As I was thanking the Lord for making it safely, Rick came running up to my window, saying, "Aunt Jan, you are such a great driver. You obeyed all the speed limits, stayed in the middle of your lane, did such a good job of getting us here"! My thought as Rick left me----"God, you, and I both know who drove. Thank you for keeping your promise"!

Memory Lane



Respite

Memory Lane Support Group and Respite Program...Karen Kline, R.N., B.S.N.

Memory Lane Support Group and Respite program for individuals dealing with Dementia is a long-time established group in Citrus County. The support group was initially started when it became apparent that caregivers were struggling in their roles and experiencing increasing frustration, heartbreak and lack of education on dementia. A casual remark: "What do they do with their loved ones while they are in the support group?" led to the addition of the Respite part of the program. At the time both the name and the Logo for Memory Lane were a combined effort of the volunteers depicting the journey the group was taking as a whole.

Originally the group received education and support from the Alzheimer's Association but are currently under the wings of Elder Options in Gainesville. Elder Options offers a wonderful educational program entitled "Savvy Caregiver Training", which all the volunteers and the program facilitator have taken. The support group is a safe, confidential environment where members share their concerns and joys while giving support to one another and sharing ideas and techniques that have worked for them. Educational information is provided, as well as occasional speakers.

There is no set rule that someone bringing a loved one to the Respite program is obligated to attend the Support Group. They may decide to use this time to run errands or just have some quiet time, but over the years most people have found a greater benefit in the companionship and education that the support group offers.

At the same time that the support group is meeting, loved ones are being cared for by volunteers where they participate in various activities such as games, art projects, music, exercise or interaction and socialization with each other.

In an atmosphere where you might expect to find sadness and frustration there is instead laughter, joy and bonds of friendship.

Memory Lane is a ministry of the **Grace Methodist Church** located at 5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa. It is a free program open to everyone. The facilitator for this program is Faith Community Nurse Karen Kline, R.N., B.S.N. For more information Karen can be contacted thru: karen@gracemethodistchurch.org or 352-634-1781.



Fellowship Hour.....If you are enjoying fellowship hour and would like it to continue, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the kitchen for volunteers to bring cakes, cookies, cupcakes, or any type of breakfast snack items you would like to contribute. Please locate the sign-up sheet and volunteer. You will feel great doing something for God's glory.

Thank you to Joan & Jim Veronesi and everyone on the Kitchen Committee for making our first-ever covered dish/pot luck gathering a huge success. Looking forward to many more.



Angels Are All Around Us...In scripture, we see many instances where angels were an integral part of God's plan. "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Carpenters Needed for Neighborhood Outreach Project....Sue Pagano

Grace Methodist Church would like to participate in a national project called "**Little Free Library – Take a Book/Return a Book**". It is a literacy project where people place gently used books in curbside boxes for others to share. The books can be returned to the box or kept by readers. In any case, they will be replaced with other books.

At Grace Methodist, the plan is to put up 4 boxes (1 each for faith books, women's interests, men's interests, and children's interests.) It is hoped that these book boxes will be a successful outreach effort to neighborhood residents.

Information about the national project and plans for the boxes can be found online at littlefreelibrary.org. Ready-to-use boxes can be purchased on Amazon.com for \$149.99. Or handy carpenters can make them from scratch, understanding that the boxes must be waterproof. Construction kits and plans can be reviewed on the Little Free Library website.

If you are interested in helping with this project, contact suepagano@verizon.net.



What Do Archaeologists & Historians Say About Bible History...Sue Pagano

"**Patterns of Evidence**" is a documentary film series directed by Tim Mahoney who works in the Christian film industry. While Mahoney's views often conflict with scholarly naysayers, he features interviews with archaeologists, historians, and biblical scholars. When talking with folks who dispute the authenticity of scripture and biblical events, Mahoney's documentaries validate Christian beliefs.

Who is Tim Mahoney? Mahoney says "I'm an investigative filmmaker, author, husband, father of four married children and, now, grandfather of eight. I have owned my own television and video

Archaeologists Say About Bible History...continued

production business for over 30 years making TV commercials and documentaries. I also produced educational and online curriculum. It was during that time of curriculum development that I started to interview Bible scholars from a variety of viewpoints, liberal to conservative, and my interest in the Bible grew. Since I was raised in a Christian home, hearing biblical stories from my mother was common. My own attendance in Sunday school as a youth reinforced my understanding that the Bible was based on real events that happened in history. As I grew older, I learned that many people were unsure about the Bible's historical credibility."

Why Mahoney looked for patterns of evidence - In 2002, he traveled to Egypt and made a documentary film on the route that Moses and the Israelites would have taken on their journey to Mount Sinai during the Exodus. When he interviewed a renowned Egyptologist, Manfred Bietak, and asked if he had found any evidence that the early Israelites living in the area of Goshen, Bietak said, "So far not!" Mahoney was stunned. A Crisis of Faith Resulted in the Patterns of Evidence Series. Upon returning home, he encountered the beginnings of a crisis of faith. It is all documented in the first film *Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus* and the book [Patterns of Evidence: A Filmmakers Journey](#).

Mahoney says he knows what it is like to have secret doubts about the Bible and also what it is like when you find answers. He did not want to believe something if it was not true. But he also didn't want to just ignore the conflict, He became proactive, taking an objective approach and 12 years of investigation before the first film was finished. Here is where people can see what he discovered:

1. *Patterns of Evidence: Exodus* explores whether evidence affirms that the ancient Hebrews' flight from slavery really happened. It presents the view that the Exodus was a historical event that took place during the Middle Kingdom of Egypt. Other scholars dispute that it really happened, placing it later during the New Kingdom of Egypt. Mahoney's supporting data includes archaeological evidence of Hebrew habitation in ancient Egypt, timeline of the Exodus and correlating events in ancient Egypt. It also describes artifacts and documents from Ancient Egypt which experts have long debated.
2. *Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy* examines whether Moses directly wrote the events of the Exodus as an eye-witness account, and largely advocates for the traditional view that the 5 books of Moses (Pentateuch) were directly written by Moses himself.
3. *Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle* explores the viewpoints of modern-day scholarship regarding the parting of the Red Sea in the Book of Exodus. Mahoney presents two models of thought for the event: the "Egyptian model" and the "Hebrew model".

You can download the **Redeem TV app** on your smart phone, smart TV, IPAD or computer to view the series. Or you can go to www.patternsofevidence.com for more information, including a recap of the latest addition to the series called **Journey to Mt. Sinai**.

Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, & Other Meetings

9:00 am TUES...Weight Management Meeting (women & men)

7:00 am WED.....Men's Prayer Group – Meeting at Grace Church and then to breakfast

10:00 am THR.....S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) led by Jan Wise at Grace Church

11:30 am THR.....Lunch Bunch Bible Study at Grace Church led by Sharon Miller

5:00 pm THR.....Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornellius

10:00 am FRI.....Jan Wise Bible Study at Grace Church

(10-12 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship followed by bible study at 11:00)
10:15 am FRI.....Meadowcrest Bible study @ Meadowcrest Clubhouse lead by Pastor Farmer

Attention.....Submission of Articles for June and July Newsletters

Please send your articles for June and July newsletters to Karen Stone at karen.stone3@yahoo.com by the 25th of May and June. Thank you for your contributions to this newsletter.

Upcoming Mission Moment

Kathie Henderson and Dutch are on a mission to help individuals suffering from grief, medical issues, and loneliness. Attached is a picture from Friends of Citrus Grief Support Groups with information about Dutch being a support dog. Kathie and Dutch are now members of Grace Methodist Church and will be continuing their camps (Camp Good Hope) in support of Grace Methodist Church's mission as part of sharing God's love and our church's outreach in therapy ministry.

Wings Grief Center

Wednesday 11:30 am to 1 pm
Thursday 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Wings Grief Center

Friday 10:30 to 11:30
Wings Grief Center
\$7 per class

Camp Good Hope
Teen Encounter

April 22, 2023
"Together We Stand"
9am to Noon (lunch provided)

June 3, 2023 Family Camp
"Preparing for Summer"
9am to Noon (lunch provided)

Grief support Camps provide an honest, safe environment where kids can learn to talk openly about their loss and improve their ability to cope. Mini camps help campers understand grief through interactive stations and support.

Therapy Dogs "Dutch" and "Winnie" offer support to the group

Save the Date!