

# 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.*



## **A Message from Pastor Bill**

### **Life Is A Journey, A Process and An Adventure!**

Hello Friends of Grace Methodist Church...We just celebrated two years in our new church home with our growing family. What a joy it has been. Some days ago, I began thinking about all that has taken place during this time. If you were at the dinner following worship last Sunday, you would know that it took a bit over an hour to share many of the joys that have brought us together and kept us moving forward. At the absolute center of it all is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the firm belief and trust in God.

Yes, we have been on a journey of more than two years. On that journey many of us know we are part of a learning process — a process to stretch us and form us into a family as we care for one another. Family ties have developed among the people. A spirit of unity as we pray for one another, as we participate in Bible studies, as we witness about our faith and share in financial support.

The adventure began two years ago. I urge you to think about what you have witnessed. An outpouring of love and Grace at all levels. A willingness to give of self and resources. These are all factors that have led to a joy filled congregation. A people who know they are loved by God and by their church family.

When I see what God has done through the people during these first two years — I can only imagine what He has in store for the future Grace Methodist Family. When you join us over the next few months bring a few friends along. Pastor Kip and I will be answering, commenting on, and sharing your special questions, favorite verses as the theme of our preaching. This Sunday's message is from Romans Chapter 7 verses 7-25. One of the

questions I will use is, “How do I get rid of guilt.” Well, that is like Paul’s problem in Romans 7. Next week will be more focused on Evangelism and the simple question of, “Why do I need to go to church?” And then Pastor Kip will answer a few more of your questions/statements later in February.

May God’s Grace and Peace fill your lives to overflowing.  
Pastor Bill Farmer

### **Be Transformed By The Renewing of Your Mind**

The Truth Project is a ground-breaking small group curriculum on the Biblical worldview.



This video-based Bible study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. I invite you to join Dr. Del Tackett, as he takes us through 13 engaging video lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life, featuring insights from biblical experts like R.C. Sproul, O.S. Guinness, and Gordon Pennington.

We have completed our 5<sup>th</sup> session of The Truth Project which is held on Thursdays at 4:00 pm, concluding in March. The video portion is about 55 minutes and there is discussion following. I anticipate a 90-minute class or less. Please join us for the remainder of the class.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Bill Farmer

### **Faith Community Nurse (FCN)...Karen Kline**

**February is Heart health Month.....**Recently my neighbor had been concerned about some weird heart symptoms he was periodically experiencing. He initially saw his cardiologist for this issue. His cardiac medications were changed several times, and he also had some diagnostic testing done, including wearing a Holter monitor. He continued to experience the same symptoms with no change. He came home from a recent visit and told me he was going to have a “thingy” implanted in his chest which could be there for three years monitoring his heart rhythms. Hum, I wasn’t quite sure what exactly he was talking about, and he couldn’t remember the exact name of the device.

So, of course I had to do some research on “thingy” implanted in the chest. Low and behold there is actually a device called ILR which stands for Implantable Loop Recorder. This device is implanted under the skin, in your chest wall overlying the heart. It continually records electrical activity of your heart similar to an EKG for up to three years. The ILR is constantly looping its memory and it has automatic triggers to store recordings. A patient can also activate and store recordings as well. Most of these recorders have a home monitor that can directly send information to your health care provider.

The purpose of the ILR is to find the causes of fainting, palpitations, very fast or slow heartbeats, and hidden rhythms that can cause strokes. It may also be used to monitor a patient's prognosis after an acute cardiac event.

The implantation of the device is considered a minor outpatient procedure using local anesthesia. The device is about the size of a USB memory stick. It is activated by passing a magnet over the device. Most people have the procedure done without any problems, although sometimes there might be bleeding, bruising, mild pain at the insertion site or infection. Infection would probably require the device to be removed.

The first ILP was implanted in 1990, with the first clinical experience published in 1995. Amazing. The first pacemaker was inserted in 1958 and the first defibrillator in 1980. These three devices have certainly changed the outcome of many people over the years they have been used. How blessed we are to live in an era where this type of testing is available!

### **Stephen Ministers...Carol MacKenzie**

**A great way to help a hurting friend...**Give the perfect gift...it fits all, will never have to be exchanged and keeps on giving:

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of Grace Methodist Church in Homosassa who have received special training to provide high quality, **confidential**, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a health diagnosis, going through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness, or caring for a spouse who is chronically ill, experiencing a great deal of stress, facing the loss of a job or encountering any of countless other life challenges.

Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It is free, and it is a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Karen Kline 352-382-7263 or Carol MacKenzie 352-382-8926. Or you may speak to any of our Stephen Ministers, they wear a blue name tag.

### **Mission Moment...Donna Farmer**

#### **2024 MISSION GIVING**

- \$10,023 S.O.S. Giving (\$ 6,850 on hand at year end)
- \$ 9,299 Faith Responders GMC Relief (Florida hurricane relief)
- \$ 7,103 Samaritan's Purse (used where needed in various ministries)
- \$ 1,825 Pregnancy and Family Center (Inverness)

\$ 1,000+ Gideons International (Distribution of Bibles)  
\$ 143 Food Pantry + Carloads of groceries (1st UMC)

This year we are adding Residing Hope (Children's Home in Enterprise, FL) to the list of missions that we are supporting. You can give by designating your gift goes to Residing Hope (this will be added to the next batch of envelopes when printed) or by putting \$1.00 bills in the offering. All \$1 bills will go to support Residing Hope.

Thank you for your support in 2024. We look forward to seeing what God and you have in store for our Missions Program in 2025.

### **Women of Worship (W.O.W)...Sharon Miller**

Thank you, Grace Methodist, for all the support that you give to the WOW's projects. Also, don't forget to continue supporting the WOW's collecting of stamps and soda pop-top tabs which can be placed in the respective boxes on the table by the Food Pantry in the small fellowship hall.

### **Grace Place--News from the Ladies of Grace...Sue Pagano**

The Ladies are ready to go into 2025 after selecting activities to continue our missions of offering fellowship and spiritual growth for ladies of the congregation. In addition, we are focused on supporting activities of other groups at Grace Methodist Church.

Our next meeting is on February 16 following the service. We welcome new members to participate in these projects:

- Mini-Retreat on February 25 and the September Fall Retreat
- Cookie Celebrations for Mother Day and Father's Day
- Monthly Crafts & Chats (Crocheting, Quilting, Sewing, etc.)
- Helping Hands
- Comfort & Care Meals
- Decorating of the Fellowship Hall
- Bible Verse Memory Project

### **Ladies Winter Mini-Retreat & Luncheon- Tickets on Sale Each Sunday**

Ladies Winter Mini-Retreat & Luncheon  
"Spiritual Gifts Review & Reflections"  
Tuesday, February 25, 9:30am-1:00pm at Grace Methodist Church  
\$20 per guest (Church members, family & friends invited)  
Guest Speaker: Nancy Kennedy, Religion Columnist, Author, Humorist

### **Check Out the Upper Room Library by the Fellowship Hall Stage**

- ✓ The Ladies of Grace set up a very nice lending library in the "Upper Room" behind the stage in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-out book. There are no fees or time limit.
- ✓ A collection of works by well-known religious pastors and authors, as well as devotionals are available. Books are on the left shelves. Devotionals are in the center.

- ✓ There are also home study materials if you want to start a home Bible study Group. These study materials are on a bottom shelf.
- ✓ There are grief and dementia materials chosen by Karen Kline, RN, BSN, Parish Nurse, and perhaps, readings may be an aid to you. Check with Karen for information on these materials (located in the center shelves). Ask her, too, about Memory Lane programs.
- ✓ On the right section are donations of books to the Free Little Library boxes for kids, women, and men. If you see a book that interests you, borrow it and return to the Little Free Library boxes when you are done.

### **Comfort & Care Meals...June Kirschbaum**

The Comfort and Care Meals committee continues to deliver meals to folks who need a little help to get through a rough patch due to illness, grief, or any of life's speed bumps. These meals nourish the body and the spirit. To arrange a confidential delivery, contact June Kirschbaum by phone: (352 )382-0424 or email: [junekirsch13@gmail.com](mailto:junekirsch13@gmail.com).

### **THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM...Jan Wise**

Remember our anniversary celebration? Remember Pastor Kip's challenge to build a firm foundation in our personal lives and then in the life of our church as we step out into our third year? Remember the dinner afterward, so good, and then the testimonies of how God led various people to Grace Methodist, sounding almost like we didn't choose the church but the church chose us?

As we are praying for the changes we need to make for bringing things up to code and making space for developing ministries, this verse showed up (you know how that works!) in my daily devotions: "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (*Proverbs 19:21*). We have had many plans, some practical, some not so much, but as we discuss and imagine together, working to keep the unity of the Spirit among us, God's purpose will prevail and his mission for Grace Methodist will continue to unfold.

But there is a warning we need to heed. Mark puts it bluntly, as he writes: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand", (*Mark 3:25*). God has blessed us with many leaders of possible ministries that can be expanded to reach out to the needs around us. Each outreach is important and of God, but we can't do them all at once. So we pray together and individually for God to show us where he wants us to put the emphasis in 2025.

I believe Bible study is so important in the life of the church and would like to see more people in our Bible studies, but God has shown me to wait on his timing and to pray earnestly for the other ministries he is developing for our outreach. It is not hard to do if I trust that God's understanding of the way forward is so much greater than mine. I also know he will bless the Bible studies as I'm willing to be second or third or at the end of the line of the ministries he is desiring to develop right now. It's not what I see as most important but what God knows to be the best path for our church in 2025.

Back to remembering our anniversary celebration--remember the choir sang the song called, "A Call to Commitment"? The ending phrase kept going over and over in my mind: *"This is the time and place, for us to change the world with grace."* But I heard it this way: *"This is the time and place for us to change the world with Grace Methodist!"*

### **Renovation Committee Notes**

The behind-the-scenes work of the Renovation Committee is well on the way. Behind-the-scenes work includes the following:

- our number one objective is prayer and ascertaining what the Lord's desires are for His church. We want every member to pray for this,
- we obtained a wish/want list from members and affected leaders of programs and have taken those to our professional design team,
- working with LEI (our professional design engineers)
- LEI obtaining permits and assuring compliance with county codes.

The next steps for the renovation project are to:

- schedule a meeting of the Renovation Committee with LEI to discuss expansion ideas and needs,
- LEI to begin constructing a design inclusive of required fire and building codes,
- LEI to prepare the approximate cost of expansion,
- Present full plans, expected cost to Trustees, Administrative Board, and Congregation, and
- Secure funding and a contractor.

This renovation of God's church will not be an easy or fast project, so please pray that God will continue to lead our efforts.

### **Dates for 2025 Blood Drive...Carolyn Bright**

March 9, 2025

June 8, 2025

September 9, 2025

December 14, 2025

Times will be 7:30 am to 11:30 or later until last doner has been completed.



**Happy Valentine Day**  
**February 14**

## **Meetings for the Month of February**

- February 2 -- Communion Sunday  
February 3 -- Memory Lane Support @ 1:00  
February 5 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Finance @ 9:00  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00  
February 6 -- SOAP Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Lunch Bunch @ 11:30  
February 7 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00  
February 10 -- Memory Lane Support @ 1:00  
February 12 -- Grace Board Meeting @ 9:00  
-- Worship Committee @ 10:30  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00  
February 13 -- SOAP Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Lunch Bunch @ 11:30  
-- Women of Worship (WOW) @ 2:00  
February 14 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- *Happy Valentine's Day*  
February 15 -- Pancake Breakfast @ 8:00  
February 16 -- Ladies of Grace @ 11:30  
February 17 -- Memory Lane Support I @ 1:00  
February 19 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00  
February 20 -- SOAP Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Lunch Bunch Bible Study @ 11:30  
February 21 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00  
February 24 -- Memory Lane Support @ 1:00  
February 26 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Trustees Meeting @ 2:30  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00  
February 27 -- SOAP Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Lunch Bunch Bible Study @ 11:30  
February 28 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00

*You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream....C.S. Lewis*

**Grace Methodist Church is a member of the**

