

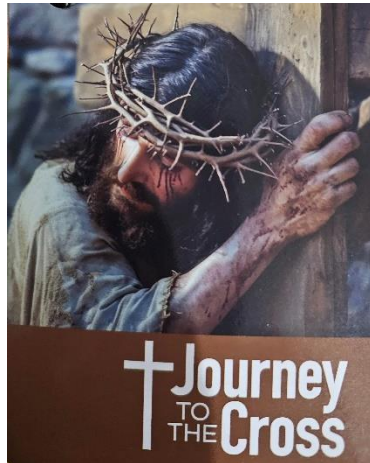
# Grace and Peace

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

5030 S. Memorial Drive, Homosassa, FL 34446

Phone: 352-419-7702

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



**"And Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23:3-4**

## A Message from Pastor Kip

Greetings Church Family! Easter is closing in quickly now! By the time you receive this newsletter, Easter will only be a few weeks away. Will you be ready?

The disciples weren't. The arrest, beating and crucifixion of their Master, Rabbi, and Lord tore their hearts apart. They could not begin to imagine how things had gotten so out of control. One day they are all together, healing the ill and mending the injured. The next thing they know is that from the day they entered Jerusalem for the Passover Celebration, life changed drastically.

We cannot begin to imagine their horror and confusion. They were told by Jesus that this would happen, but it probably sounded too crazy to really believe. They all had varying perspectives of what they hoped for through Jesus. The cross was not one of them.

Yet, the cross did indeed release a new and startling presence of hope. In 1 Corinthians 15:19, Paul reminds us of the proper perspective of our hope in Jesus when he writes, If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Why would he write that? Because the hope we hold in this life in relationship to the life of Jesus, is the foundation of the eternal hope that will blossom forward. If we think that Jesus is our hope only for the troubles of this world, then we are cutting ourselves grossly

short. We are also cutting Jesus' life, death, and resurrection short as well. Paul closes this thought by reminding us that as all humanity died through Adam's sin, so all humanity is open to eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus.

Three days after the awful death of Jesus, the disciples were awakened to the shocking news that their Lord had indeed risen from the dead. Somehow, somehow, what was dead was now alive! I sense that for the disciples, the sudden and shocking truth of Easter made a much greater impact on them than we could ever imagine. This impact changed their lives forever. It should change ours as well. Our absence from the original Easter should not dampen our spirits toward the truth of this event. Because He lives, so too do we who love him!

I hope that you are looking forward to a very blessed Easter Celebration! It will be another great day in the life of our church and in our lives as well!

Blessings, Pastor Kip

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

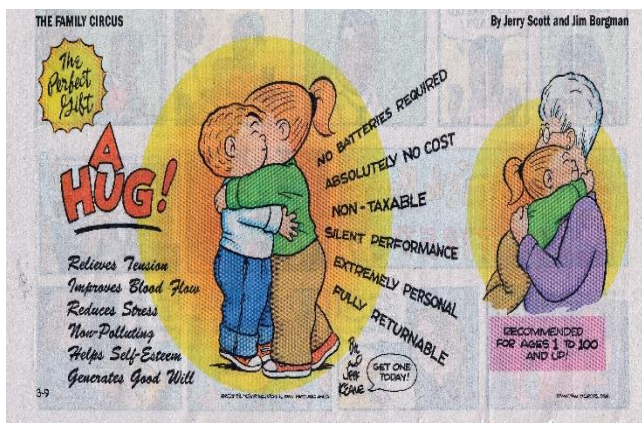
The Truth Project is a ground-breaking small group curriculum on the Biblical worldview as presented by Dr. Del Tackett. This video-based Bible study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. This is a 13-week study on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life, featuring insights from biblical experts like R.C. Sproul, O.S. Guinness, and Gordon Pennington.



We have completed the 13 sessions of The Truth Project and if you missed this study, we may be offering it again in the fall. Keep watch for announcements as to when this study will begin and where.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Bill Farmer

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



***"Hugs are an important part of our physical and mental health!"*** The reason they feel so good has to do with our sense of touch. Hugs increase our well-being and pleasure. Social touch bonds us to one another and helps maintain our relationships. Hugging releases endorphins which make us see hugs and touch as rewarding. The simple means of touch is the glue that binds us

together. Even the simple act of stroking and petting our pets has benefits to our well-being as well as to that of our pets.

Hugs cause a decrease in the release of cortisol, a stress hormone, and hugs help to reduce blood pressure and heart rate in stressful situations. Giving and receiving hugs has also been shown to be a strength factor in our immune systems. Being hugged conveys a sense of safety, love, and knowledge that we are not alone.

While it is important to continue to keep ourselves safe, it is just as important that we don't give up our hugs forever. If you find yourself craving socialization, do it safely. Continue to wash your hands, mask up if it makes you feel safer, and start connecting with friends and family.

### **Stephen Ministers...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 is in 12,000 congregations since 1975. More than 600,00 laypeople have received Stephen Ministers training. More than one-and-a-half million people have had a Stephen Minister walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

Our congregation has been blessed to have Stephen Ministry available. Our current Stephen Ministers and Leaders are: Pastor Bill Farmer, Dick Bily, Carolyn Bright, Joyce Foxwell, Jane Hamilton, Kathie Henderson, Becky Jones, Jan Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, and Sue Philips.

Stephen Ministry Leaders are: Karen Kline and Carol MacKenzie

If you need help, our Stephen Ministers are available by calling one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders - Karen Kline at 352-634-1781 or Carol MacKenzie at 382-8926 or cell 352-201-9380. A Stephen Minister will meet with you one-on-one, total **confidentiality** because we are here for you...you are not alone. Someone to listen to you and pray with you.

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

Don't forget—all one-dollar bills will go to Residing Hope (Children's Home in Enterprise, FL). You can give by designating your gift to Residing Hope on your envelopes or by placing \$1.00 bills in the offering.

### **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 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. WOW meets every second Thursday at 2:00. Come join the fun.

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

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, April 13** following the worship service. We welcome visitors who want to see our group in action and learn about our projects

that include:

- Sweet Celebrations for Mother's Day and Father's Day
- Helping Hands Ministry
- Comfort & Care Meals
- Bible Verse Memory Project
- Upper Room Library & Free Little Library
- Fellowship Hall Decorating
- September Ladies Retreat

The **Sweet Celebrations** are returning for Mother's Day, May 11 and Father's Day, June 15. We, again, will give out gift boxes of sweet selections to moms and dads with cookies, brownies, cupcakes and candies contributed by church members. Plan on participating.

On the Saturdays before (May 10 and June 14), bring your contributions to church from 9-10 am. Our Cookie Committee, chaired by Rose Matchen, will place them in gift boxes.

This was a popular project last year and we are very happy to offer it again this year.

## **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). She needs help with these meals, so please call her and volunteer to help.

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

**The Ark of God...**(adapted from a Dr. Jeremiah's devotional)



The Philistines captured the Ark of God from the Israelites and kept it for months. This resulted in trouble for their camp, so they put the Ark on a cart pulled by oxen and sent it back to the Israelites. When the Ark arrived at its Israelite destination, the Levites unloaded it. Then some curious men looked inside the Ark, and God struck them dead for their sin.

This unexpected judgment from God made the people afraid. So, men from another Israelite town came to get the Ark and took it to the house of Abinadab. It remained there for years, bringing blessings with its presence. Many things transpired while the Ark remained at Abinadab's house. The Israelites wanted a king like its neighbors. So, after being warned by the prophet Samuel of the cost of living under a king, the Lord told Samuel to anoint the

people's choice, a man named Saul. Saul's failure to follow God's commands led Samuel to reject him as king and anoint David. Many battles occurred as Saul sought to kill David while also leading his people in wars against Israel's enemies. When Saul and his sons died in battle, David then became King of Israel.

As king, David recognized the significance of the Ark to the Jewish people. He gathered thirty thousand men of Israel and set out for the house of Abinadab to bring the Ark to Jerusalem and place it in the tent prepared for it. They set the Ark of God on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding the cart's path. The whole house of Israel celebrated before the Lord "with all their might" as the procession proceeded. Then the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark. Because of his irreverent act, God struck Uzzah dead there beside the Ark.

David was angry because of God's wrath against Uzzah. In his anger, David feared God and wondered how he would ever get the Ark to Jerusalem. So, David took the Ark of the Lord to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and God blessed that household abundantly. Hearing of the blessings the Ark brought to Obed-Edom's house; David determined to get the Ark to Jerusalem. *However, this time he used the method of moving the Ark that had been instructed by Moses--the God-honoring, traditional method David would have known.* The Levite priests carried the Ark on poles resting on their shoulders, stopping regularly to offer burnt offerings to God, and praising him. Though it took much longer, the Ark arrived safely in Jerusalem, to be set in the place David had provided.

How often have we used a process not honorable before God in order to speed up our result? Does **"the end justify the means"**? We learn from King David that God cares as much about **how** we do things (the process) as he does about the end result.

### **Renovation Committee Notes...**Ron Snowberger

The renovation committee and Pastors met with the architect/engineer Local Engineering, Inc. (LEI) on March 5 to review the expansion ideas for GRACE Methodist Church. LEI will complete the final drawings for review within two weeks from that date. We will also receive a realistic cost expectation/estimation for the expansion. Once reviewed and finalized, the plans will be submitted to the Administrative Board for approval. At this point, the plans and cost expectations will be provided to the congregation through a formal presentation. After approval from the Administrative Board, a contractor will be selected through a competitive bid process.

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S DATES:

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**DONATION DATES ARE:**

Saturday, August 30 and

Saturday, September 27

**NOTE:** Donations after September 27 will not be accepted.



On donation days, volunteers will be needed for sorting, pricing, boxing, and storing. Please volunteer! If you have questions, call Priscilla/Andy Frederick @ 352-212-4037

**CATEGORIES BEING ELIMINATED:**

Books, CD's, VHS, DVD's  
Electronics  
Furniture of any kind  
Linens



**BABY BOTTLE TIME !**

Save your loose coins for the babies!

Pick up your baby bottles starting

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Collect any loose change each day!

All bottles will be due back on

**Sunday, May 11 – MOTHER'S DAY!**

Coins will benefit the Pregnancy and  
Family Center, Inverness

Contact Judy Awe @ 352-697-0100 if you have questions.

\*This is a joint project for WOW & LOG\*



**Blue Shirt Edit** When we started the "Blue Shirt" program, first and last names were printed on the front of the shirts with "Member" printed under the name. Some individuals expressed their desire to have this word removed. Becky, Lian's daughter, and the lady who puts the artwork on the shirts now has a product that can remove the vinyl printing, without leaving any residue. Becky has offered to remove "Member" from your shirt, **at no cost**. If you desire to have member removed, please bring your

shirt to church services any Sunday, and turn it over to Lian or myself. We will coordinate the editing of your shirt and return it to you on the following Sunday. **Lou Espinoza**



**GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH 2025 FLORIDA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE...June 13 & 14, 2025**

Everyone is invited to attend the 2025 FL Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The theme for this Conference is "*Preparing for the Presence*". For non-clergy members the conference will be held from Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Living Hope Church in Clermont, FL. For more information please refer to the following website: [annualconference2025.rsvpify](https://annualconference2025.rsvpify) How wonderful it would be to

see an ocean of blue shirts representing our church at the conference. Lunch will be available at \$15 per person each day.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN CHURCH...Karen Kline**

There's an old saying that goes like this...“Cleanliness is next to godliness.” This means that maintaining a clean and tidy environment is considered almost as important as being morally good.

Of all the tasks that must be accomplished to maintain a smooth-running operation, be it home, office, or place of worship, housekeeping is probably the least attractive to volunteers. However, I believe everyone enjoys being in a clean, well-maintained facility.

**YOUR** church needs volunteers to step up to the task of maintaining our inside facilities like we do maintaining our outside facilities. For the outside, we have three teams of at least two members, maintaining the grounds. They work on a rotating basis, so each team works one or two days a week for a calendar month, then they are off for two months.

If we could get enough volunteers, perhaps eight to twelve, we could divide the workload so each team of two or three only has to work one month and have three months off. Team members, would decide among themselves how the overall work would be accomplished. Step up and **volunteer**, even if only two weeks at a time which would be great.

## **Observance of Holy Week, 2025**

Holy Week is a time of spiritual reflection and remembrance for Christians. Each day has special meaning. Plan your week to ponder and pray each day.

- Palm Sunday- Commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday- Days for personal reflection.
- Maundy Thursday - Commemorates the Last Supper and the Eucharist
- Good Friday - Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus
- Holy Saturday - A Day of reflection anticipation of the resurrection
- Easter Sunday - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

### Church Services at Grace Methodist

Sunday, April 13, 10am- Palm Sunday Service

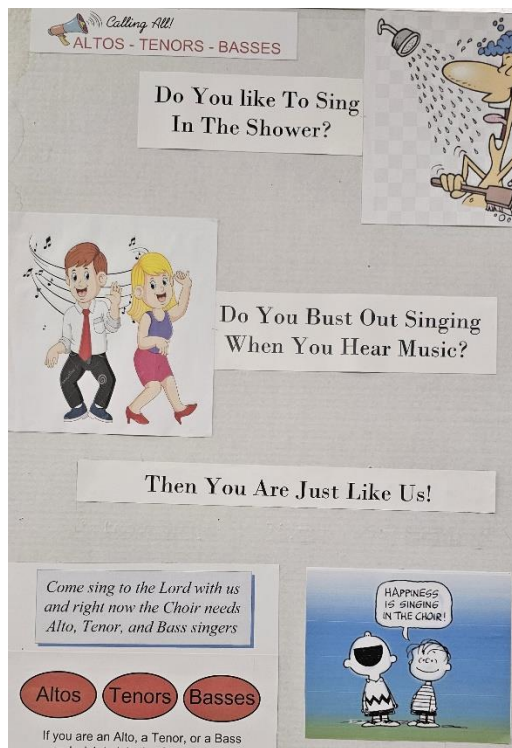
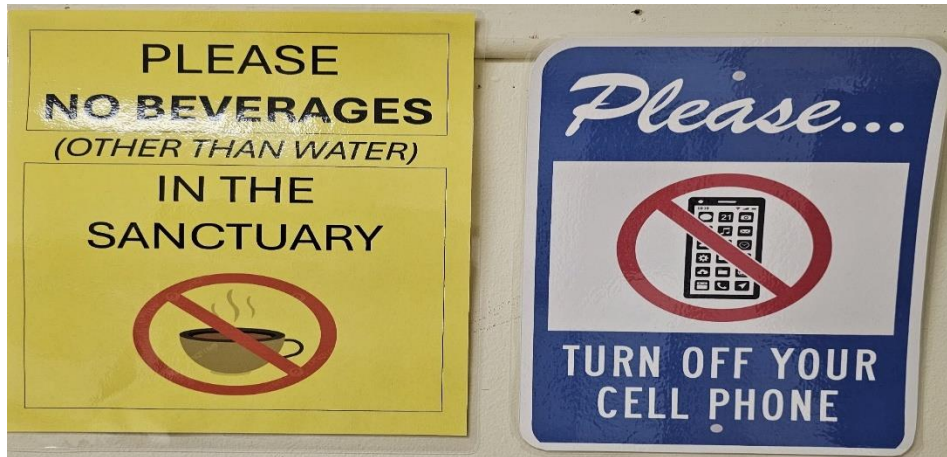
Thursday, April 17, 1pm- Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18, 1pm- Good Friday Service



**Sunday, April 20, 10am- Easter Service**

**Please remember...no beverages other than water in the Sanctuary and PLEASE silence your cell phones.**



Our choir needs your voice. If you sing in the shower or around the house, you can sing in our Grace Choir. If you are an alto, tenor, or bass, we need your voice. Please consider volunteering for the choir.

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

June 8, 2025

September 14, 2025

December 14, 2025

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



## **Meetings for the Month of April**

- April 2 -- Finance @ 9:00
- April 3 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise  
-- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller
- April 4 -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00  
-- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ Meadowcrest @ 10:00
- April 6 -- Communion Sunday
- April 7 -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00
- April 9 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Administrative Board @ 9:00  
-- Worship Committee @ 11:00  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00
- April 10 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise  
-- Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 led by Sharon Miller  
-- Women of Worship (WOW) @ 2:00
- April 11 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- April 13 -- **Palm Sunday**
- April 13 -- Grace Church Service @ 10:00
- April 13 -- LOG meeting @ 11:30
- April 14 -- Memory Lane Support & Respite @ 1:00
- April 16 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00
- April 17 -- **Maundy Thursday Service @ 1:00**
- April 17 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise
- April 18 -- **Good Friday Service @ 1:00**
- April 18 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- April 19 -- Pancake Breakfast @ 8:00  
-- Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00
- April 20 -- **Easter Sunday**  
-- Grace Church Service @ 10:00
- April 21 -- Memory Lane Support @ 1:00
- April 23 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00
- April 24 -- SOAP Bible Study @ 10:00
- April 25 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest  
-- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- April 27 -- Grace Church Service @ 10:00
- April 28 -- Memory Lane Support @ & Respite 1:00
- April 30 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00  
-- Trustees Meeting @ 2:30  
-- Choir Practice @ 4:00

### **Future Dates to Remember**

May 11 -- Mother's Day  
May 26 -- Memorial Day  
June 13-14 -- GMC FL Annual Conference, Living Hope Church in Clermont, FL  
June 15 -- Father's Day  
Oct. 24-25 -- Grace Rummage (garage) Sale...Dates & more information to follow.

*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**



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH