

# 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 Kip...

I had checked the local weather report for Inverness when I got out of bed which is my habit to see if I could take my bike or if I would be walking for exercise that morning. The weather report: cloudy, with a slight chance of rain. Perfect, I could take the bike.



After breakfast at the Hen House, in downtown Inverness, I headed to the trail and unloaded my bike. A few miles down the trail, I felt rain drops. Great! I turned around and headed back hoping to get home somewhat dry. Immediately after getting my bike put up, I was standing in the opening of the garage on the aluminum track that the garage door lands upon. The rain was pouring down! I thanked God for the rain, and happy smiles on my grass/weeds in the front yard.

Suddenly, with no advanced notice everything turned bright white, and the loudest thunder I have ever heard happened within a millisecond of each other! I was shocked (not literally, metaphorically) and I wondered if I was alive or dead. After a second or two, I decided I was still alive and started to hastily retreat deep into the garage!

Seconds later, the same thing happened again! Only this time instead of the noise of the thunder seemingly coming from directly in front of me, it seemed to come from my right.

Sherry and I were planning on going camping the next day and had thus parked the camper (travel trailer) and our pickup on the easement of the property next door. As I looked to the right, I could see a light trail of smoke blowing over the top of the camper. Once the rain quit pouring down, I went out to see if there was any damage. The result was our truck being towed to a shop in Floral City. As of this writing, our truck is still there! After the first blast of lightning, I thought about various verses in scripture that mention lightning. I thought about verses similar to Job 37:3 *He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth!* So, in other words, had I been hit, it would have been God's fault!

Matthew's verse, 24:27 - *For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man!* I looked around for Jesus, but I didn't see him anywhere! So, this was like a "lightning false alarm". Or maybe better might be, a "lightening reminder" of the truth of scripture and the quickness by which Jesus could return. And as there was no warning or any notice beforehand that lightning was about to happen, so too will be for the Son of Man.

I was glad to see that I was in fact not dead. And if the lightning had found me and zapped me like it apparently had the truck, I would still not be dead (spiritually) - I would be fully alive in the Kingdom of Heaven! This blast of lightning served well to drive home the point of the possible immediacy of leaving this world! The next time you are aware of thunder and lightning, I hope that you will remember this story from last Tuesday, and you will affirm in your heart that you too are prepared to see Jesus face to face!

Blessings, to you all, Pastor Kip

**Health Ministry: Faith Community Nurse (FCN)...**Karen Kline  
**SUMMER HEAT IS HERE!**

We Floridians love to get outside to garden and play in the sun... But, do you know that muscle cramping may be the first sign of a heat related illness? With our Florida temperatures already on the rise you should know how to recognize heat exhaustion and heat stroke, know what you can do to treat them, and when it is time to call for help. Infants, children and those of us over 65 are in greater danger of a heat related illness due to the body's reduced ability to regulate temperature. Obesity and certain medications can also be a factor.

**Heat Exhaustion** is due to the body is overheating. It occurs when you are exposed to high temperatures, especially when connected with high humidity and strenuous activity. It can also occur if you are dehydrated, overdressed or drinking alcohol. It can occur suddenly or overtime, especially with long periods of exercise. Heat exhaustion is preventable and treatable.

**Symptoms:**

Heavy sweating	Muscle cramps	Faintness	Dizziness	Fatigue
Weak, rapid pulse	Low blood pressure	Nausea	Headache	

**Heat Stroke** is due to the same causes as heat exhaustion but occurs when the body's temperature reaches 104 F or higher. It requires immediate emergency treatment! Left untreated your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles can be damaged. The longer you wait to treat, the greater the risk of complications or death.

**Symptoms:**

Elevated body temperature	Altered mental state	Headache
Nausea and vomiting	Flushed skin	Rapid breathing
Racing heart		

Immediate treatment after calling 911 involves moving the person to a cooler area, removing excess clothing, and attempting to cool the person in any way you can.

**Decrease your risk of heat related illness by taking a few precautions:**

- Wear loose fitting, lightweight clothing
- Use sunscreen
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Ask your pharmacist if any of your medications put you at risk
- Never sit or leave anyone, including pets, in a parked car in the sun with windows up
- Take it easy, rest during the hottest times of the day, and in an air-conditioned area.
- If you are running errands or traveling this summer, take a cooler filled with water.

**Be aware, start planning ahead, be safe, and have a wonderful healthy summer!**

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

Stephen Ministers do not take the summer off. We have Stephen Ministers ready to listen and pray with you. Just a call away. You can speak with any of the men and women who wear a blue name badge. Or call Carol MacKenzie, 352-201-9280 or Karen Kline 352-624-1781. Our congregation has been blessed having Stephen Ministers and they are: Pastor Bill Farmer, Dick Bily, Carolyn Bright, Joyce Foxwell, Jane Hamilton, Kathie Henderson, Becky Jones, Jan Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, and Sue Philips. Our Stephen Ministry Leaders are: Karen Kline and Carol MacKenzie. A Stephen Minister will meet with you one-on-one, with total **confidentiality**...you are not alone.

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

**Don't forget our CHRISTMAS IN JULY** which is supporting Samaritan's Purse. We are entering shopping season so pick your gift from the catalogs which are on all the tables. After you have selected your gift, place your cash or check along with your gift choice (name & number) into an envelope (forms will be available) and place them in the offering basket.

Additional Missions that Grace supports:

- RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME (designated gifts and all \$1 bills in offering)
- GIDEONS (annual special offering)
- GIFTS OF FOOD (1<sup>st</sup> UMC Food Bank)

Thank you! Grace Mission Committee

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

Thank you, Grace Methodist, for all the support that you give to the WOW's projects. 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 (LOG)...Sue Pagano**

- **Helping Hands Ministry** has launched! There are many ways to help others in our church- trimming trees before hurricanes, making dinner for someone who has recently been discharged from the hospital or contacting someone who lives alone to be sure they are OK. We know that you can't do everything, but you have value and can do something.
- Katie Snowberger, LPN, is leading the Helping Hands Ministry that offers help for these and other needs. Ladies of Grace (LOG) made this focus of our mission efforts. Ladies of Grace (LOG) and Helping Hands Ministry meetings will be on the same day – third Tuesday @ 10:00 each month.
- Please be part of this wonderful ministry. Both men and women are needed.
- **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.

### **Message from Pastor Bill – What to Expect for the Next Three Sundays**

***“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1, NIV)***

Hey Friends, I wanted to give you a glimpse of worship beginning July 13 through August 3. We will be worshipping our way through the Book of Colossians. There will be special music, a video, drama and Holy Communion lifting Christ and calling us to come taste and see the goodness of God. The Apostle Paul is encouraging the Colossians and us to stay in Christ and to share the Christ in us. We will come to the first Sunday with a *Gratitude of Grace — Celebrating Christ’s Gifts to the Church*. The second Sunday we will look at *The Supremacy of Christ* — for in Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible — He is the Image of God, the Peacemaker, the Transformer and the One who Empowers all.



The third week we begin to look at the effect Christ has on believers. Paul is encouraging us to be *Rooted and Built Up in Him* so that we can live a spiritually full life with Christ and reject the worlds attempt to pull us into failure. The first week of August we will conclude our time in Colossians by looking at priorities. Paul says, set your mind on things above and not on earthly things. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

We will close this four weeks together with a time of remembering what Christ has done for us through the celebration of Holy Communion. I pray that the message of Christ will dwell, fill and overflow out from you and into everyone whom you meet. Let’s celebrate a Great God together!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill

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

#### ***THE HOLY SPIRIT...***

**SCRIPTURE:** *You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. (Romans 8:9-11)*

**THE STORY:** The women in Bible study discussed excitedly what it meant to know that the very Spirit of Jesus, his Holy Spirit, lives in every Christian to guide, teach and satisfy our need to have a closer relationship to our Lord. Suddenly one woman exclaimed, as

she patted her chest, "You mean he lives in me, right in here"? Her excitement made us laugh with joy at the truth she discovered. She had been in church all her life and never knew she contained this marvelous gift of God.

The class watched in amazement at the spiritual growth in this woman as she learned to listen for the Spirit's counsel in her daily walk, to hear God's voice through the Scriptures, and to recognize God's hand at work in situations she would have before seen as just the circumstances of life.

**TO PONDER:** If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you received the gift of his Holy Spirit to dwell within you at that same time. If you are not aware of his presence, ask the Lord in prayer to make that presence, the person of the Holy Spirit, real to you. Then begin thanking the Lord for the life of his Holy Spirit in you and soon you will begin to be aware of a change in your spiritual life that will enable you to believe larger, see God's work more clearly, and find a joy you have not known before.

1. Ask
2. Give thanks for the answer
3. Be aware

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

The Renovation Committee reviewed the submitted drawings which were received from our architect and engineering firm LEI. We had a unanimous consensus among the committee to accept the expansion project plans as proposed. LEI is now preparing presentation documents that will be utilized to communicate the recommendation plans to the Administrative Board and the congregation. Once presented to the Board and congregation, the church will need to determine funding for the project. Once funded, negotiations would begin through a bid process with a licensed commercial contractor.

### **RUMMAGE SALE...Priscilla Frederick**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S DATES: **Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**DONATION DATES ARE: Saturday, August 30 and Saturday, September 27**

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

#### **CATEGORIES BEING ELIMINATED:**

- Books...CD's...VHS...DVD's...and any electronics
- Furniture of any kind...and linens

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

### **“EMPTY BOX BRIGADE!”**

**\*Empty boxes** needed for rummage sale donations!

\*small and medium in size

\*break them down for easier storage

\*bring on donation days in August/September

**THANKS!**

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: Sign the volunteer sheets in Fellowship Hall**

- Cleaning the church weekly
- Bringing snacks for Sunday morning fellowship
- Handing out the Sunday bulletin

## **Dates for 2025 Blood Drive...Rose Matchen**

- September 14, 2025
- December 14, 2025

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

**Choir News:** The choir will be taking the month of July off for vacation. Special music will be available every Sunday while the choir is vacationing.

## **Meetings for the Month of July**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| July 3   | -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise         |
|          | -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study @ 11:30 led by Sharon Miller |
| July 4   | -- Independence day                                     |
| July 6   | -- Communion Sunday                                     |
| July 9   | -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00                        |
|          | -- Administrative Board                                 |
| July 10  | -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise         |
|          | -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller   |
|          | -- Women Of Worship (WOW) @ 2:00                        |
| July 11  | -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00                         |
|          | -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ Meadowcrest @ 10:00      |
| July 14  | -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00               |
| July 15  | -- LOG & Helping Hands @10:00                           |
| July 16  | -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00                        |
| July 17  | -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise         |
|          | -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller   |
| July 18  | -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00                         |
|          | -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ Meadowcrest @ 10:00      |
| July 21  | -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00               |
| July 23  | -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00                        |
|          | -- Worship Committee @ 11:00                            |
|          | -- Trustees @ 2:30                                      |
| July 24  | -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise         |
|          | -- Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 led by Sharon Miller             |
| July 25  | -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest      |
|          | -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00                         |
| July 28  | -- Memory Lane Support & Respite @ 1:00                 |
| July 30  | -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00                        |
|          | -- Renovation @ 9:00                                    |
| July 31  | -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise         |
|          | -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller   |
| August 1 | -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00                         |
|          | -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest      |

## **Birthday Corner:** Alice Trusley

Let's wish the following individuals a happy birthday...



Lois Diedrich	July 2
Leanne Comfort	July 10
Sue Stone	July 11
Donna Bell	July 15
Jim Veronesi	July 15
Richard Love	July 16
Becky Jones	July 22
Jan Love	July 28
Kathie Henderson	July 30

## **Annual Conference Update**...Jim Trusley

- On Thursday (Clergy only), June 12, 37 men and women continued preparation to become ordained deacons and elders by exploring the “historic questions” written by John Wesley to better understand their vows. Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson, president of the Foundation for Evangelism, led the clergy in a half-day of sharing multiple tools to better equip our churches for evangelism in the 21st century.
- Friday morning, June 13, the clergy gathered for their executive session to receive and approve the ordinations and retirements recommended by the Board of Ministry. Also Rev. Dr. Luther Oconer, Associate Professor of Global Wesleyan Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary, presented a discussion on the Holy Spirit.
- Friday afternoon began the plenary sessions, and the keynote speaker was a video interview with renowned Christian author and psychologist, Dr. Henry Cloud, focusing on his book *Necessary Endings*. This video is available for everyone to watch on our Conference’s YouTube Channel and would be good for church committees to view. (<https://youtu.be/qwMeEPRCyKM?feature=shared>). The second keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Luther Oconer, taught about being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Friday evening continued the plenary sessions with a service of Holy Communion. Conference Superintendent, the Rev. Jay Therrell, preached on Preparing for the Presence by focusing on Acts 2. He challenged us that “if you’re not dead, you’re not done;” that the Holy Spirit is always doing a new thing but never sharing new truth; and the only way to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to first repent.
- Saturday’s plenary session began with a stellar Bible study from the Rev. Taylor Fohr on being empty and being re-filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Saturday afternoon, the Conference celebrated the ordination and transfers of 37 men and women as deacons and elders.
- Unanimous approval of the annual budget for the 2025-26 Conference year of \$701,661. The connectional funding rate remains the same at 1.5%. This budget includes significantly more investment in youth, clergy coaching, church planting,

helping existing churches to become multiplication-minded, and more than a tithe for helping our partner conference in South Africa.

This year's GMC annual conference was a powerful time of worship, prayer, commissioning, consecration, and ordination. Over seventy thousand dollars was collected from all the churches for the Conference's Feeding the Children and Planting New Churches.

### **Future Dates to Remember**

**July 9 – Administrative Board Meeting**

**October 3-4 – Rummage Sale**

**October 12 – Pastor's Appreciation Sunday**

**November 4 – Election Day**

**November 11 – Veterans Day**

**November 27 – Thanksgiving Day**

**November 30 – December 24, 2025 – Advent**

*What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace." John Wesley*

**REMINDER...COMMUNION IS SACRED. THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE IS A TIME OF REFLECTION, PRAYER, AND MEDITATION AND SILENCE SHOULD BE OBSERVED.**

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

