



# GRACE NOTES

MAY 2024

## Sharing the Faith

“...the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control,” Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians 5:22-23. As we move from the church season of Easter, beginning on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we begin another season. In times past this new time was called “Ordinary Time.” But I call this new time “The season of the Spirit...” The Holy Spirit that is.

I like fruit; do you? I do; I like fruit a lot! I like berries, apples, bananas, and pears. Next to our condo in Ocala there once was an orange tree that produced in season, copious amounts of fruit, and these particular oranges were just delicious – really delicious! They were big and juicy and had just the right taste - a mix of sweet and tart. Unfortunately, because the squirrels liked those oranges, and apparently liked being in and around the house, the grounds crew decided to cut the tree down, but I still like fruit – berries, oranges, apples, bananas and pears...I like them all.

The thing about fruit, the kind of fruit that grows on trees anyway, is that it grows up high - higher fruit. I've noticed on that orange tree that was near our condo, that the fruit on the lower branches, because of their weight, were pulled down onto the ground. If gone un-harvested, the fruit either rotted or hence, various critters made quick use of them, which believe it or not, brings us back to Paul's teaching to the Galatians. Paul, if you study his writings closely, is always leading, encouraging, pushing, and sometimes pulling the reader toward higher things. Having picked more than my share of fruit from that tree, I've noticed that the oranges closer to the top of the tree were unblemished, and seemed bigger, juicier, and ready to eat! – YUM!

The higher fruit that Paul's letter speaks of pushes us to reach for what is a higher way to live our faith. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is an essential fruit if we are to understand that our calling as Christians is to seek the higher things of Jesus Christ. When we do this, seek the higher things, though it may take more effort, like when trying to reach the high fruit on that orange tree, but oh, the view from the top is spectacular, gives us true freedom, and reassures us that Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

Operating from Paul's vantage point, up high and enjoying the fruit of the Holy Spirit and therefore loving more, enjoying more, experiencing more inner peace, being more kind and more generous, living more faithfully with a gentle heart and true self control, is the juiciest and most sacred fruit there is. From that vantage point, though it can be hard work to get up that high, we can see more clearly the One who planted the tree in the first place. We come to understand more clearly from that viewpoint that God not only planted the tree, but that Christ is the true vine, and that we are His branches who bear the highest fruit by the power of the Holy Spirit, through faith in the One who first loved us.

Reach higher for Jesus! It's delicious! We'll be talking about the Fruit of the Spirit in this new season of faith.

More Easter and Pentecost Blessings to you all,

Pastor Don

The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2024 Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex. Fresh floral arrangements are \$35 and you may place your name on any selected date of your choosing. Please note that roses added to your arrangement are in addition to the \$35.00 and are \$5.00 each.



## Prayer Requests

Please join us in lifting up prayers for those who have immediate concerns: Sherry Crane; Jennifer and Jerry who are currently homeless; Philip Barton; Charlie Collins, Clint Collins father; Kathy Franks; the family and friends of Sarah Robinson; and Mary Williamson.

Also pray for those with longer term needs: Margie Baker; Jerry Butler; Michael, Carl Crane's brother; Holly and John Durst; Lois Butler's sister and brother-in-law; Donna Fidler; Janine Groner; Pauline Kirk; Bob McAlpine; Pastor Don's brother-in-law, Joe; the friends and family of Gale Nevill; the friends and family of Cile Pfahler; Fred Pinochet; Laura Raizada; Libby Richardson; Sarah Robinson; Lonnie Stevens; Wayne Wagner; C. D. Weaver; Lucinda Williams; our military; first responders; the people of the Ukraine, Israel, the Gaza Strip; and our church.

If there are other people or concerns that you would like to add or delete from this list, please contact Lois Butler by phone at 352-262-5893 or by email at [treasurer@gpconline.org](mailto:treasurer@gpconline.org)

## Elders on Call

Elders on Call  
for May are:

Jay Collins 352-870-2873  
Faye Tripp 904-307-4082

Two elders volunteer to be available to church members and friends who may need assistance. When the church office is closed, these elders are on call to help.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

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- 5/5 - Debbie Harris
- 5/8 - Libby Richardson
- 5/13 - Peyton Osteen
- 5/25 - Clint Collins
- 5/29 - Karen Russ



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 5/6 - Sarah & John Kim
- 5/19 - Margie & Clay Baker
- 5/28 - Jay & Clint Collins
- 5/29 - Cynthia Jean & Franklin Morgan



Hannah Luciano and her son Jack have been worshiping with us for some time. We welcomed Hannah as a member of Grace Presbyterian Church on Easter Sunday, March 31.

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# Session Meeting Highlights

## April 8

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### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MISSION

Cile Pfahler's Memorial Reception on 3/16 went well - family donated a television to the church

Easter Breakfast - 3/31 was a delicious success and enjoyed by all  
Pictorial Directory update in progress. Deadline to submit changes was 3/31  
Grace Giving Mission for April - dried beans and rice  
Next St Francis Dinner is Friday, 4/19 - Prepare meal in our kitchen  
Family Promise - The Big Give Fundraiser will be held on 4/24

### ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

Scheduling interviews for Secretary & Cantor

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

4/27 - 4 pm - American Guild of Organists will present a concert at Grace  
Guest Pastor - 5/5 and 5/12 - Don McGarity  
5/5 - Communion will be served - Rev. Don McGarity  
Annual Copyright licensing was renewed with CCLI  
Search for permanent cantor is ongoing  
John-Peter will secure cantor substitutes until permanent cantor is hired  
4/7 - Bionca Kleinberg will serve as cantor  
Committee will meet 4/21 after the worship hour

### PROPERTY & OPERATIONS

Edge's Air Conditioning is scheduled to service the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall A/C units in May

Facility Use Forms were collected in March as required by our new insurance company  
The Arabic Evangelical Church is meeting at 2:00 pm on Friday afternoons in the Sanctuary.

Pianos were tuned today, April 8

Submitting a grant to the Presbytery to remodel the men's sanctuary bathroom

## IN MEMORY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sarah Robinson who passed away on Thursday, April 18 in Tallahassee, Florida. A graveside memorial service will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church Columbarium, 2200 N. Meridian Road in Tallahassee, on Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations in memory of Sarah Robinson be directed to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32308 or to Faith Presbyterian Church.

Our Daily Bread booklets for March, April and May are available in the narthex



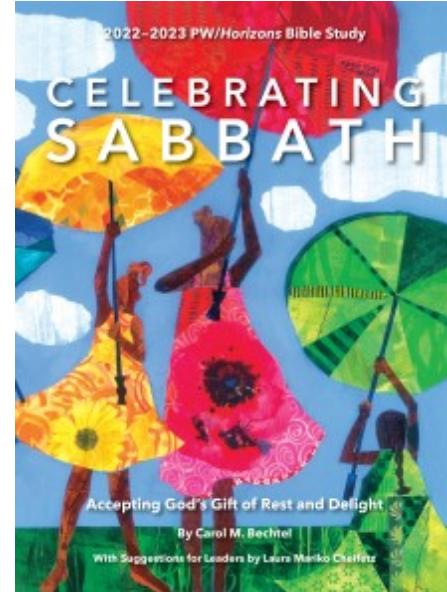
## Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



The men of the church are invited to meet each Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the library for fellowship. Please bring your own brown bag lunch, beverages will be provided.

## Circle News

The Anna circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 12:00 noon in the library. Diane Millican will lead our study of Lesson 9 "Sabbath and Community" in *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol M. Bechtel. This will be our last lesson until the fall. Join us to help select our new study. Please bring your study book, Bible and your own brown bag lunch and beverage. All women are welcome. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.



The finance committee would like to keep the congregation informed about our General Fund income and expenses and our pass through donations. If you have any questions, contact Lois Butler at 352-262-5893 or [treasurer@gpconline.org](mailto:treasurer@gpconline.org).

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	March	Through 3/31
Income	\$ 10,970.08	\$ 39,446.05
Expenses	\$ 7,149.44	\$ 23,433.12
Pass Through Donations		
Two Cents a Meal	\$ 8.02	\$ 25.02
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 290.00	\$ 290.00

For it is in Giving That We Receive

**Ways to Support Grace Presbyterian Church:**

1. Mail a check to the church office.
2. Use your bank's online bill pay system.
3. Use the electronic funds transfer from your savings or checking account.
4. Use a debit/credit card at the link on our website under the giving tab (there is also an image that you can click).

## THANK YOU

Dear Grace Presbyterian Church, Staff and Volunteers (especially Karen and Carmen),  
Thank you so much for opening up the church and welcoming us at the memorial service for my mom, Cile Pfahler. It meant so much to my family to celebrate her life of the church where she and my father married, baptized and raised their children, and worshipped. You all were so helpful and kind.

We have made a donation to the church in her memory.

With Gratitude,

Beth Radford

**MAY**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>3</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11:00 – Worship Service <b>Guest Pastor –</b> <b>Don McGarity</b> <b>Communion</b> 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>6</b> 11:00 am Congregational Life & Mission Group 4:00 pm – Square Dance	<b>7</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>8</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>10</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 11:00 – Worship Service <b>Guest Pastor –</b> <b>Don McGarity</b> 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>13</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group <b>6:00 pm – Session Meeting in Church Office</b>	<b>14</b> 12:00 noon – Anna Circle	<b>15</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>17</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11:00 – Worship Service <b>Worship Committee</b> 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>20</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>21</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch	<b>22</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch 7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)	<b>23</b> <b>Grace Notes Articles Due</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>24</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00 – Worship Service 1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)	<b>27</b> 4:00 pm – Square Dance Group 7:00 pm – Barbergators	<b>28</b> 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	<b>30</b> 2:00 pm Arabic Evangelical Church	<b>31</b>	

MAY  
2024

Grace Presbyterian Church  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG)

## Please don't forget our Special Offerings

### TWO CENTS A MEAL



We invite every member of the congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal. This offering is held the first Sunday of each month, but feel free to contribute on any Sunday to help alleviate hunger and poverty.

### \$1 FUND OFFERING

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the months of April through June will go to the Good Samaritan Fund.

## GRACE - GIVING AND SHARING MISSION

Grace - Giving and Sharing Mission is a food and household item collection benefiting the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. For the month of May we will be collecting tuna and canned meats.

