



GRACE NOTES

JUNE 2024

Sharing the Faith

The beautiful hymn named, “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” was authored by the Reverend George Croly in 1854, when Reverend Croly was seventy-four years old. Known for his high level of energy and forceful magnetic preaching, Croly, a Spirit-filled pastor in his faith, in addition to leading his own congregation in London, took it upon himself to lead the restoration and reopening of the nearby Saint Stephen’s Church, which had been closed for more than a century.

Even with just that brief biographical snippet, one could easily envision that George Croly was a person of faith who was engaged in many ways in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Indeed, in his last years, he himself prepared and published his own hymnal, “Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship,” in which the previously mentioned hymn, “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart,” could be found under the section entitled, “Holiness Desired.” In the original four stanzas of this hymn, Croly makes a personal and moving appeal to us today.

In the first stanza, prompting us to change the focus of our lives toward holiness, Croly wrote, “to love Thee as I ought to love.” In the second stanza, to encourage dedicating one’s life to God, the words written were, “soul, heart, strength and mind,” which is a reference to the Shamah in the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 6 verse 5. In the third stanza, the words “teach me patience of unanswered prayer” were the author’s prompt to bolster strength of faith. And in the last stanza he wrote, “My heart an altar, and Thy love aflame,” as a pious call to the Holy Spirit to descend upon the heart, your heart and mine.

We recently celebrated Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th. We read the wondrous and miraculous story of the first Pentecost, with fiery tongues and the rushing Spiritual wind, and the disciples who were overcome in the upper room, and who then joined the crowds who were gathered in Jerusalem, and they were able to speak in the languages of all who were there that day. With all that Pentecost excitement, perhaps the question that we should all ask of God, is to have the Holy Spirit to descend on each of our hearts.

And so, in the Spirit of Pentecost, we will be working on just that, studying and learning and speaking about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our hearts for the next nine weeks. Please begin the process by opening your bibles to Galatians 5:22-23 and begin to contemplate, meditate on, and then embody the nine aspects of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. I mean, since the Holy Spirit has already come, as Jesus promised it would, I think it’s time that we explore the benefits that the Spirit inspires in a deeper heartfelt way.

*Many Blessings,
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 Bob McAlpine; Kirk Manning; Pastor Don; the family and friends of Sarah Robinson; Faye Tripp; Pastor Don's niece, Anne-Marie 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; Pastor Don's brother-in-law, Joe; Fred Pinochet; Laura Raizada; Libby Richardson; Lonnie Stevens; 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

IN MEMORY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" McAlpine who passed away on Thursday, May 9 at Haven Hospice in Gainesville, Florida. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at 1:00 pm on June 15 at Grace. Reverend Don Mossa will officiate.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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- 6/15 - John Kim
- 6/18 - Phyllis Manning
- 6/22 - June Torres
- 6/24 - Jack Luciano
- 6/24 - Ann Preston



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



- 6/10 - Jennifer & Bill Hemphill
- 6/15 - Varian & Josh Osteen
- 6/20 - Lisa & Stephen Weaver
- 6/21 - Kathy & Kevin Youngblood

Please call the church office at 352-376-5654, if your special day is **NOT** listed or is **NOT** correct.

Elders on Call

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.

Elders on Call for June are:

Lois Butler 352-262-5893
Karen Russ 352-262-5419

Session Meeting Highlights

May 13

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CLERK OF SESSION

Faye Tripp submitted her resignation
Jay Collins was elected to fill the Clerk of Session position

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

Barnett "Barney" Plisko will be employed as Cantor
Carmen Mercado resigned as On-Sight Employee - moving out of the manse June 1
Barnett "Barney" Plisko will be employed as On-Sight Employee - will be moving into the manse June 1
Searching for Secretary

WORSHIP & MUSIC

4/27 - American Guild of Organists - All present enjoyed the talented performances of Gabriel Johnston and John-Peter Ford .
Rev Don McGarity was pulpit supply on 5/5 and 5/12
Communion was served on 5/5
Committee will meet 5/19 after the worship hour
Liturgists are needed
Communion will be served 6/2
Memorial service for Bob Mc Alpine 6/15

PROPERTY & OPERATIONS

Edge's Air Conditioning serviced the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall A/C units
Beth Hartwell purchased and planted an Azalea for the Memorial Garden and put in some additional plants in the Courtyard Garden.
Clint Collins is looking into providing Internet coverage for the Old Manse as well as replacing the office computers
James Berry, our lawn care provider is retiring at the end of May
John Kim, Pastor, Korean church is retiring - last worship service for congregation at Grace 5/26

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MISSION

Pictorial Directory nearing completion
Grace Giving Mission for May – canned meats/tuna
St Francis Dinner was delivered on Friday 4/19 - Next meal preparation and delivery Friday 7/19
Family Promise - Did not meet the \$6,000 goal for The Big Give Fundraiser on 4/24
Ordering new inscribed pens for visitor bags - need to order coffee cups
Committee will meet 6/4 in the church office at 11:00 am

Our Daily Bread booklets for June, July and August are available in the narthex

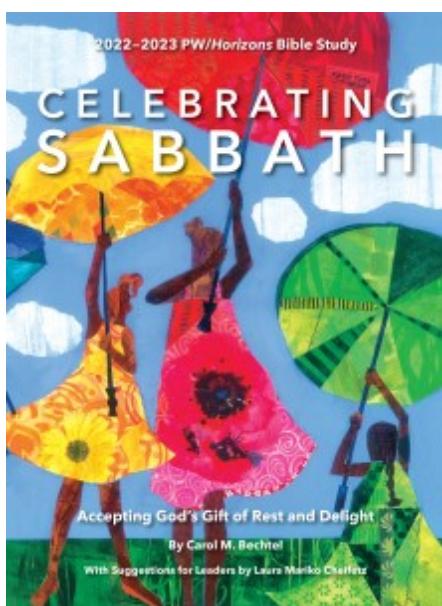


Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



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, June 4 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.

| | April | Through 4/30 |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Income | \$ 11,518.452 | \$ 50,964.47 |
| Expenses | \$ 14,231.68 | \$ 37,664.80 |
| Pass Through Donations | | |
| Two Cents a Meal | \$ 73.00 | \$ 98.02 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | \$ 4.03 | \$ 294.03 |

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).



Leaving on summer vacation?
Don't forget your pledge during
the summer months

JUNE

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

JUNE
2024

Grace Presbyterian Church
3146 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: 352-376-5654
Email: office@gpconline.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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 June we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly.

