



GRACE NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2024

SHARING the FAITH

I've always felt that the ministry of John the Baptist was one of courage, insight, faith and sacrifice. A cousin to Jesus, born six months apart, it is only in Luke's gospel where we see how the two are connected in their infancy (Luke 1:24-38). Scripture gives no account of how they grew up together, but I must believe that they had to be close. The next thing we know is that John and Jesus are grown young men in their thirties and have arrived at the same time and place at the river Jordan. It is there that John the Baptist is doing what his name suggests for "all the people of Jerusalem," (Mark 1: 1-11). It is then and there when his cousin, Jesus, arrives and John, quoting the Prophet Isaiah proclaims, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight...for I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1: 3, 7b-8). So, in addition to being courageous, insightful, faithful and ready to sacrifice, John is a preparer. That's the message for this month's Sharing the Faith, to prepare the way!

Now the one who is coming after me, your new interim pastor, is not Jesus (as far as I know) but will be a very important leader. That means we must get ready and get prepared. One way to prepare is for us all to think and pray about being a greater church. I hope the sermon series that has begun, and that I have named *Good to Great* will help us get ready for the next episode in our church. One way to do that is to come to know, contemplate, pray about and embody the *Great Ends of the Church*. Here they are:

*The proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind;
The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
The maintenance of divine worship;
The preservation of the truth;
The promotion of social justice; and
The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.*

It is my hope that as we talk about each one of the Great Ends, we will prepare Grace Church for more greatness, more faithfulness, more courage, and whatever sacrifice will be required in the future. Having these great ends in our minds and hearts will help your next pastor formulate with the congregation, your next straight path with Jesus. Prepare the way!

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:

The Butler Family (on the death of Jerry's brother George)

The Crane family (on the death of Sherry)

Lois Ferguson

Kathy Franks

The McAlpine Family (on the death of Bob)

Phyllis Manning

Faye Tripp

Mary Williamson

Also pray for those with longer term needs:

Margie Baker

Jerry Butler

Michael Crane (Carl's brother)

Holly and John Durst (Lois Butler's sister and brother-in-law)

Donna Fidler

Janine Groner

Billie Jean Jones

Pauline Kirk

Laura Raizada

Libby Richardson

C D Weaver

Wayne Wagner

Our Military

First responders

The people of the Ukraine, Israel, the Gaza Strip

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

9/1 - Don Woodward

9/18 - Phyllis Manning

9/24 - Jack Luciano

9/24 - Ann Preston



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IN MEMORY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sherry Crane who passed away on Saturday, August 17 in Fairhope, Alabama. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at 1:00 pm on August 31 at Grace Presbyterian Church with Reverend Don Mossa officiating. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Session Meeting Highlights

August 12

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INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE - Debbie Harris

Committee and Cheryl Duke will have a Zoom meeting on 8/20

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION - Debbie Harris

St. Francis House - prepared and delivered a meal for approximately 40 people on 7/19/24—next meal will be prepared/delivered on Friday, 10/18

Family Promise - dinner at Covenant Wednesday, 9/11 Sep 11 and dinner at Westminster Wednesday 9/25 - Fulfilling the Promise luncheon and fundraiser Thursday, 9/26 - new Family Promise Center still not open

Grace Giving Mission collection for August is cereal and crackers - September will be personal hygiene items and paper goods

Directory Update – hope to deliver local directories after our new pastor arrives so that she can go with us to make home visits

Next Meeting September 3 at 11:00am in the church office

WORSHIP & MUSIC - Karen Russ

Communion was served on 8/4 - next communion 9/1

Piano tuner, Zachary Joiner, repaired a few hammers on the sanctuary piano and tuned the choir room piano on 7/27 - he suggested a dehumidifier for the sanctuary piano and it was installed on 7/31 - he return 9/4 to tune the sanctuary piano

Organist John-Peter a huge help with this piano need
Committee will meet 9/15 after the worship hour

PROPERTY & OPERATIONS - Jay Collins

Second opinion on studio/PDA air conditioner - compression is not on its last legs and will last several years

Manse air conditioner repaired

Getting estimates for men's bathroom renovation in sanctuary

Tree from across the street fell on the manse property and Barney's car - the car received minimal cosmetic damage

Request for use of fellowship hall and nursery for the months of September and October by a daycare center was denied



Anyone who would like to join Grace Church as a member, and has not attended the orientation/information meeting, please contact Pastor Don. Arrangements can be made for joining the church on an individual basis.

Our Daily Bread booklets for September, October and November are available in the narthex



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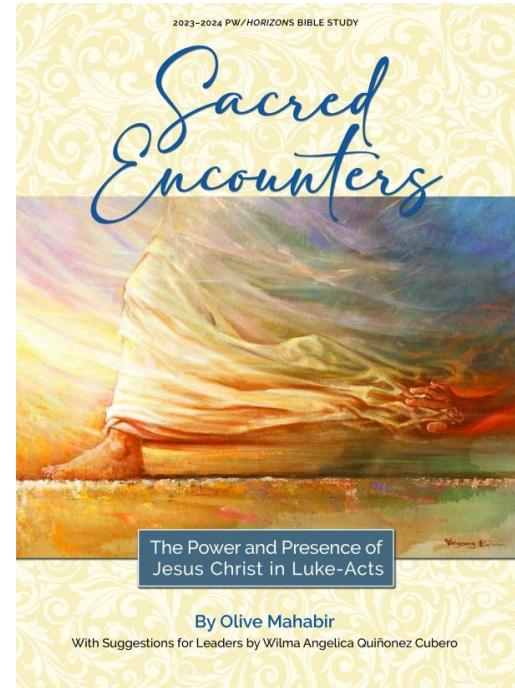
Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



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, September 10 at 12:00 noon in the library. Diane Millican will lead our study of Lesson 1 "Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter" in *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. 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.

	July	Through 7/31
Income	\$ 6,003.17	\$ 69,940.82
Expenses	\$ 14,206.13	\$ 65,586.05
Pass Through Donations		
Two Cents a Meal	\$ 46.02	\$ 152.04

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).

Elders on Call

**Elders on Call
for September are:**

**Debbie Harris 352-213-5645
Karen Russ 352-262-5419**

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.

SEPTEMBER

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

SEPTEMBER
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 July through September will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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 September we will be collecting personal hygiene items and paper products.

