

TWAG

This Week At Grace
Grace Episcopal Church
4110 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Port Orange, FL 32127
386-767-3583

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parish@egracepo.org
facebook.com/egracepo.org
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.
9 am – 1 pm

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

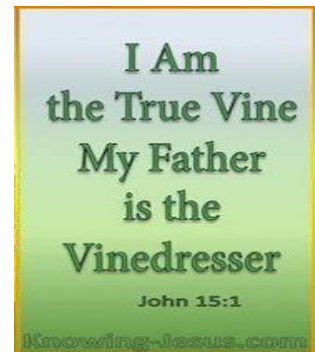
April 28 – May 4, 2024

Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8; Psalm 22:24-30 [The Lectionary Page](#)

Sunday:

8:00 am HOLY EUCHARIST
9:30 am Graceway Café
10:30 am HOLY EUCHARIST *also live-streamed.*
10:30 am Children’s Sunday School

This Sunday’s Gospel:



Monday: Birthdays: Terry Schmitt, Jeanne Mickler
9am – 12pm **Drop off & Set-up for Yard Sale Event**

Tuesday:
9am – 12pm **Drop off & Set-up for Yard Sale Event**
12:00 pm 8am Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm BAM with Artie

Wednesday:
9am – 12pm **Drop off & Set-up for Yard Sale Event**
6:00 pm **HEALING SERVICE/ HOLY EUCHARIST**

Thursday:
9am -12pm **Drop off & Set-up for Yard Sale Event**

Friday: Birthdays: Nancy Brunner
9am – 1pm **Drop off for Baked Goods only - help with pricing.**

Saturday: Birthdays: William Zatloukal
9:00 am **YARD SALE/ CRAFT VENDOR EVENT**
Come and bring your friends!



NEXT HEALING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 at 6:00 pm

(LAST HEALING SERVICE UNTIL AUGUST 7)

Join us in the chapel as we invite the healing nature of the Holy Spirit into our midst for those who seek prayer for themselves, family, or friends.

Healing services are the first Wednesday of every month offering Holy Eucharist, anointing with holy oil, and the opportunity to receive special prayers and the laying of hands by Clergy, Healing Ministry and Prayer Team members.

If you or someone you know would like to receive prayer and anointing for healing in mind, body or spirit, please know that this service is available to everyone in the community. Our hope is that it will bring peace and comfort to all.



WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL ON HIATUS FOR JUNE & JULY.

Clergy and the Praise Band are taking a summer break for two months starting in June. In its place, Fr. Gary will be conducting his “Back Porch Evening Prayer” on Facebook

live. Stay tuned for more information.

YARDSALE & CRAFT/VENDOR EVENT

SAT. MAY 4 – 9am to 1pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP: This is one of ECW’s biggest fundraisers for Grace. You can help by donating your gently used items:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Household Goods | Linens |
| Toys | Home Décor |
| Tools | Sports Items |

(NO clothes, books or furniture this year) BAKED GOODS are always a big seller!

There are still some tables available for this event. Please let your crafting and vendor friends know: *Rent for round tables - \$40. Rent for long tables - \$50. \$5.00 for use of outlet.*



Volunteers are needed for the Yard Sale set-up next week. See the handout flyer below for drop-off dates and how you can help set-up. Please add your name to the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Please tell your friends & neighbors about our Yard Sale/ Craft/Event or bring them with you!



Grace Church is joining people all over the globe in the 6K WALK FOR WATER to help provide life-saving clean water to communities in need.



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- The Outreach Committee is gratefully accepting cash or check donations in any amount. Make checks payable to Grace Church with Walk for Water in memo line.

- Walk with us locally in Bushman Park, Port Orange by signing up with team “amazing grace” at <https://global6k.worldvision.org/> (\$50 registration includes Tee Shirt).

When you register, join team “**amazing grace.**” Kids walk free! The Outreach Committee has matching funds to reimburse you for children’s registrations.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. [2024 Global 6K for Water | World Vision](https://www.worldvision.org/global6k)

Retirement Party

Sunday, May 19, 2024
After One Combined
9:00 am Service.

POTLUNCH BRUNCH -

BRING A DISH TO SHARE

Join us as we celebrate Rev. Susan's 14 years of dedication & service to Grace Church as our beloved Deacon.



COLLECTING THANKS & BEST WISHES for REV. SUSAN and BILL

There are note cards in the narthex to express your thanks, appreciation, and best wishes to Rev. Susan and Bill.

The cards will be given to her at

her Retirement Party.



UPDATE FROM CAREPORTAL RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

First Church invited us to participate in filling a recent request for a 15-year-old boy newly placed with a caregiver.

They provided a twin bed, comforter, linens, pillows, a voucher for Thrift Boutique, a gift card to purchase new clothes and a TV. Grace provided a twin mattress pad, new shoes, socks, and underwear using funds from our CarePortal Reserve Fund.

Thank you to everyone who supports this outreach ministry.

CarePortal is sponsored by <https://www.onefamilyfl.com/>

Their mission is to equip and empower foster families in need through wholehearted community support.



It is with sadness that we announce the passing into eternal life of parishioner **BOB BARKER**.

Bob was an attendee at our 10:30 Sunday services and a frequent smiling face at many fellowship events and the Lunch Bunch.

His Celebration of Life service will be held on **Saturday, May 11 at 11 am** in the chapel at Grace.

Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers.

We are a church of **PRAYER WARRIORS.**

Submit your prayer requests through our website or email or call the office.



Prayer Team



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“Grace Church welcomes all who seek to know, love, and share Jesus.”

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

“We will be a light within the community where all people are welcomed and nurtured by experiencing God’s love.”

HUM PANTRY NEEDS:

CEREAL BAKED BEANS MAC & CHEESE

Leave donations in the narthex or bring them to the pantry at Grace on Mon. Wed. and Fr. between 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

GRACE CHURCH PET FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Dry or Wet Cat & Dog Food

Dog/Cat Treats

Gallon Ziploc Slider Style Bags

For monetary donations, make checks out to "Grace Episcopal Church" with "Pet Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Thank you from the Outreach Ministry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



QR CODE FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING

Many parishioners are finding it more convenient to donate to Grace electronically. This QR code will connect you to Donor Box which accepts Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and credit and debit cards. It is also printed on your 2024 Pledge Card. Note: this QR code is on your bulletin each Sun

ADDRESSES FOR OUR ACTIVE MILITARY PARISHIONERS:

PFC Brandon Poarch
10931 G Anzio Loop
Fort Drum, NY 13603

PFC Woods, Caleb
Unit #93199
TF Pyramid (3ID, 87 DSSB, CHARLIE COMPANY)
APO, AE 09008



"We are the Church of Open Arms. We are a community that celebrates Jesus.

We are disciples committed to growth: in membership, in outreach, and in stewardship.

We glorify God and empower people for service."



ECW EMAIL -All Grace women are automatically members of the EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW), our very active service and fellowship ministry. We maintain a separate e-mailing list to send out requests and news for specific ECW events. If you would like to be included in

the ECW e-mail list, please send your name and email address to ecwgrace@gmail.com.

Pick up a copy of this flyer in the narthex:

**CRAFTS / VENDOR
EVENT
& Mini YARD SALE**

**SAT. MAY 4
9 am to 1 pm**

This is ECW's biggest fund raiser of the year. YOUR help makes it successful!

WHAT TO DONATE:

*(Mini Yard Sale - restricted items)
NO clothes, small furniture, books.*

Household Goods	Home Décor
Sporting Goods	Toys
Tools	Linens (clean & size marked)

BAKED GOODS

DROP OFF DATES:

Sat. April 27: 10 am to 1 pm
Mon -Thurs April 29 to May 2 : 9 am -12 noon
Fri. May 3 : 9 am - 1 pm *Baked Goods Only*

HELP SET UP, PRICE, & SELL:

Set up: Mon -Thurs, April 29 to May 2: 9 am to 12 noon
Set up & Price: Fri. May 3: 9 am to 1 pm
Sell: Sat. May 4: 9 am to 1 pm
Please sign up in the narthex.

Please do not park in HUM area on Mon. Wed. and Fri.

**AND PRAY FOR OUR SUCCESS.
THANK YOU!**

Sunday, April 28

Psalm 24 *The earth is the LORD's and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. For he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. (vv.1-2 NAS)*

The Hebrew word used for “earth” (transliterated: *erets*) means the physical planet while the word used for “world” (*tebel*) refers to the “social world” or human inhabitants of the earth. These verses re-affirm the story of creation told so eloquently in the first chapters of Genesis.

I love the land. I enjoy tilling the soil, pulling weeds, planting seeds, and watching things grow. Some of Jesus’ most beloved parables were parables of the land about mustard seeds, weeds, the sower, workers in the vineyard, the vine and the branches, etc. Jesus used these images because he knew they would connect with his hearers. When I work in my garden, I feel a sense of joy to know that working the land is what humans have done ever since our creation. Farming (not prostitution) is really the world’s oldest profession.

There is no “spiritual world” versus a “physical world” because it is all a “spiritual world.” Preserving the integrity of the earth—protecting the rivers, seas, soil; maintaining the forests and recycling as much as possible—is a spiritual endeavor. Make no mistake about it; God created the whole world and expects us to take care of it.

Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Psalm 29; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 4:16-30

Monday, April 29

Psalm 56 *My foes have trampled upon me all day long, for they are many who fight proudly against me. When I am afraid, I will put my trust in thee. (vv.2-3)*

The psalmist is not paranoid because there really were people against him. After September 11, 2001, most of us were shocked to realize that so many people hated Americans. Members of the al-Qaeda network spent their lives plotting ways to destroy us. While the reasons for their hatred are debatable, the reality of it is not.

That year, the Wall Street Journal publisher, Peter Kann, wrote in his annual report to readers: “We have all been vividly reminded (and a new generation has suddenly discovered) that there is evil in this world, not merely debatable degrees of moral ambiguity. That this should be so significant is a sad reflection on a moral relativism that has become pervasive and debilitating....” M. Scott Peck, author of *The Road Less Traveled*, told stories of evil people in his 1983 book *People of The Lie*. He wrote in its introduction, “This is not a nice book. It is about our dark side, and in large part about the...members of our human community I frankly judge to be evil.”

No honest Christian faith can fail to recognize evil and evil people. The more responsibilities you hold and the more decisions you make that affect people, the more likely you have enemies. My advice: Be wise, be discerning, and be prepared for evil at all times.

Leviticus 16:1-19; Psalms 57, 58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Tuesday, April 30

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing. (v.11)*

No verse in the New Testament contains clearer “marching orders” for a local church than this one. Our first duty within a body of believers is to encourage and support one another. Without encouragement, we will not have the strength or resolve to go out into the world to do works of charity and proclaim the gospel.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and theologian who was executed by Hitler’s firing squad because of his Christian witness, wrote these words in his book *Life Together*: “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer. God has willed that we should seek and find God’s living Word in the testimony of other Christians, in the mouths of human beings, Therefore, Christians need other Christians who speak God’s word to them.”

I like going to church because there I receive encouragement, support, and appreciation from other Christians. But it’s like the mail: to get it, you also have to give it. Next time you go to church, seek an opportunity to say some kind words of encouragement to others.

Leviticus 16:20-34; Psalms 61, 62; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, May 1

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 *But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction. (v.12)*

During my rebellious days as a young man, I resented some people in positions of authority, never wanting anyone to “tell me what to do.” That attitude also led to more than one job failure. When I was 27, I accepted Jesus and submitted myself to his leadership. In doing so, I learned to submit myself to the leadership of others in both secular and spiritual realms. In other words, I became “teachable.” I’ve learned to take directions from others, including pastors, supervisors, and others in leadership roles. That may have been the most valuable lesson I ever learned.

While I have since held several leadership roles, there are many areas of life where I am a follower. I don’t think anyone can become a successful leader until he or she has learned to follow. Jesus first words to his disciples were “Follow me!”—not “help me out” or “give me some advice.” Until we learn to submit to appropriate spiritual leaders, God will never give us the opportunity to develop our leadership skills. Leviticus 19:1-18; Psalm 72; Matthew 6:19-24

Thursday, May 2

Leviticus 19:26-37 *“Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.” (v.31)*

Astrology is the ancient science that claims to discover the influence of stars and planets on persons or events. Its resurgence on recent years is due in part to the declining influence of biblical principles in Western civilization. It’s not uncommon to find even professing Christians who read the astrology charts. The Bible clearly condemns the use of mediums, spiritualists, and astrology. Referring to astrologers and “those who prophesy by the stars,” Isaiah says that “they have become like stubble, fire burns them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame” (Isaiah 47:13-14).

Why? They're condemned because believers have direct access to God. We do not need to use a "medium" or study the planets in order to know what we should do or what God has in store for us. Stars and planets do not influence our lives; only God claims that kind of influence.

It defies common sense to believe that those born in certain months or spans of times have similar personality characteristics. This is one of those cases where Christians have a duty to admonish and correct those who may engage in harmful practices. We'll read more about that tomorrow. Psalms 70, 71; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12; Matthew 6:25-34

Friday, May 3

Matthew 7:1-12 *"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."* (v.5)

This verse does not say that we should neglect or overlook the speck that is in our brother's eye. There may be occasions when it's necessary to admonish others. Paul urges Christians to "admonish the unruly" (1 Thessalonians 5:14) and even to "reject a factious man after a first and second warning" (Titus 3:10). Psychologists have long recognized that we are most likely to feel irritated by traits in others that are also characteristic of ourselves. Jesus also knew this; so, he said we should make sure we've purged ourselves of any flaw we might seek to correct in others. If I act resentful and grouchy, then I have no right to correct someone about not being loving enough towards me.

What he meant was that we should judge others only with great care and that such carefulness begins with self-judgment. I believe any kind of criticism or correction of others should be rare and taken only when necessary to correct sinful or thoughtless behavior and prevent future repercussions on others.

Leviticus 23:1-22; Psalm 106:1-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Saturday, May 4

Matthew 7:13-21 *"Beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."* (v.15)

Many of us have witnessed our share of Christian leaders who fell into public disgrace. The Bible warns Christians of the necessity of distinguishing between the true and the false prophets: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." (1 John 4:1). The Bible gives three important clues to aid in this discernment. First, does this leader honor Jesus? John goes on to say, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God." Talking about Jesus isn't enough, however. Next ask whether this person lives an everyday life that is full of good deeds. Does he or she produce the "fruits of the spirit" Jesus speaks of when he says, "You will know them by their fruits"? Third, what kind of relationships does this leader have with close associates? Do those who know him or her in daily life express love and admiration? Jesus says, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

It may not be our job to expose the false prophets in church leadership positions. We should, however, recognize the signs clearly enough so that we can ignore them and look elsewhere for our leadership.

Leviticus 23:23-44; Psalms 75, 76; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

by David Sumner

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