

TWAG
This Week At Grace
Grace Episcopal Church
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Port Orange, FL 32127
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Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.
9 am – 1 pm

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 5 – May 11, 2024

Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17; Psalm 98 [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

Monday: Birthdays: Freeda Skillern, Pearl DeLong

Tuesday: Birthdays: Brian Stevenson
12:00 pm 8am Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm BAM with Artie

Wednesday: Birthdays: Brayden Murphy
6:00 pm **PRAYER/PRAISE/ HOLY EUCHARIST**

Thursday: Birthdays: Jackie Dunlap, Juliana Guzzi

Friday: Birthdays: Caleb Millar
9:00 am Vestry Retreat

Saturday:
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:00 am Celebration of Life – Bob Barker

This Sunday's Gospel:



The Flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Maggie Thompson for Grandson David's Birthday and daughter Kim & Todd's Anniversary

The Ambry Candle this Sunday is given to the glory of God for all our ill and hospitalized Grace Family.

REMINDER:

YARDSALE & CRAFT/VENDOR EVENT
This SAT. MAY 4 – 9am to 1pm
Come & bring your family & friends!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH and COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF GRACE!

Many of you have responded to our call to fill the \$9,000 budget shortfall created by a huge increase in the 2024 church insurance premium.

Through April 28 we have received \$6,544 toward this shortfall.

Thank you and God Bless you.

- If you have chosen to pledge a few extra dollars a week to cover this shortfall, we ask that you show this separately on your pledge envelope by designating the extra dollars as **“faith/undesigned.”**
- If you write a separate check with **“faith/undesigned”** on the memo line, the money will go directly to the shortfall.
- Use this QR code (which is also on your bulletin each week). This will connect you to Donor Box which accepts Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and credit and debit cards (in the “write a comment” section, type **“faith/undesigned”**).



JOIN US ON MAY 18 IN BUSCHMAN PARK, PORT ORANGE

Walk with us again this year or come cheer us on!

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.

Last year, team Amazing Grace had 35 walkers and raised over \$4,000 with walker and parishioner donations.


Thank you for helping save children's lives by reaching out into the world with God's arms of love.

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). Use promo code **EMPOWERMOMS** for \$10 off all registrations through May 13.



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  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



WEAR YOUR CURSILLO CROSS THIS SUNDAY, MAY 5

Grace Church was well represented at the two recent Cursillo weekends by both candidates, clergy, and team members. If you are a Cursillista, wear your cross this Sunday to show them your love and support.

The Cursillo Movement emphasizes spiritual formation, community, and evangelization. It encourages believers to live out their faith creatively and share it with others.

<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/>



MOTHER’S DAY – MAY 12

Rev. Susan reminds us to wear our hats in honor of Mother’s Day and in love and remembrance of all the special mothers in our lives.

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.



MAY 19 IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on May 19, everyone is encouraged to wear something Red at our one 9:00 am service.

Red signifies the “tongues of flames” that appeared among the disciples at Pentecost, 50 days after Easter.

Pentecost Sunday reminds Episcopalians of their role as witnesses to the risen Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It marks the birth of the church and its mission to share God’s love with the world.



NEXT LUNCH BUNCH- THURSDAY, MAY at 30 12:30 pm

We will meet at Leanh’s Chinese Restaurant, 1780 S. Nova Rd. South Daytona. Please sign up in the narthex by May 26 so we have enough seats for everyone.

Their menu is here: [Leanh’s Chinese Restaurant](#)

Lunch Bunch meets on the LAST THURSDAY of each month at different area restaurants. All are most welcome.



WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE IN HISTORIC CHAPEL

Join us in person or on Facebook Live at 6:00 pm in the chapel during the month of May for Evening Prayer Service, Praise music and Holy Eucharist.

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



The 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.



ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER OF GRACE CHURCH?

You are officially a member, if you were “physically been transferred from your former church to Grace. Even if you have attended Grace for “a thousand years,” if you have not requested that your records be transferred from a previous church, if you are not in our parish registry, then you are not registered here officially. We can easily take care of that at your request.

To become a member, please fill out our membership form (available in the narthex or church office) and we will take care of the rest.

Even if you choose not to be a registered member, we still consider you part of our parish family.

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.



"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.

T- COIL HEARING AID ASSIST SYSTEM NOW INSTALLED IN THE CHURCH

If you have hearing aids, you probably have telecoils in them. Your audiologist can easily add a button to turn on our Hearing Loop system when you are in the church. People who do not have hearing aids or who do not have access to telecoils in their hearing aids need to use a hearing loop receiver and headphone to connect to the system. We have two sets of headphones available.

Sunday, May 5

Luke 12:13-21 *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”* (vv.20-21 NIV)

When asked how much John D. Rockefeller left when he died, the response was “Everything.” In the parable of the rich fool, Jesus tells us the rich man suffered the same fate. I don’t know about Rockefeller, but the rich fool had no thought that his possessions really belonged to God and his responsibility was to manage them so others would benefit from his wealth. Recently I heard a stewardship message based on four words: “God owns it all.” While pondering this short but powerful phrase, I pray the following thoughts would remain in my heart and keep me rich toward God and generous toward others:

God owns it all. He enables me to hold things of this world with open hands rather than clenched fists.

God owns it all. He enables me to weather the inevitable changes in my life with grace and peace rather than despair.

God owns it all. He enables me to give to others with joy and thanksgiving rather than begrudgingly.

God owns it all. He enables me to live free from greed and its heavy burdens.

Leviticus 25:1-17; Psalms 93, 96; James 1:2-8, 16-18

Monday, May 6

Colossians 1:9-14 *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.* (v.9)

The following prayer is attributed to Bobbie Richardson, a former New York Yankee second baseman: “Dear God, your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.” How do we know when we have the knowledge of God’s will for our lives? I recently made Raggedy Ann dolls for our Christmas fair. Because I had the instructions I could embroider the dolls’ faces, sew on their hair, make the dolls’ clothes, and be satisfied that what I made really were Raggedy Ann dolls!

Our manual for knowing God and discerning His will for our lives is the Bible. In the Gospel of John, we see that Jesus never spoke a word except what God told him to speak and he never acted contrary to what the Father asked him do. By his example he showed us how to live in God’s will every moment of every day. Spending time with God in Scripture and in prayer each day are key ingredients to being filled with the knowledge of His will. Once we are filled with the knowledge of God’s will, then, of course, we should obey Him—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Leviticus 25:35-55; Psalm 80; Matthew 13:1-16

Tuesday, May 7

Leviticus 26:1-20 *"I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people."* (v.12)

In today's reading from Leviticus, God has announced His decrees through Moses and tells the Israelites that if they obey His commands things will go well with them. He will reward them with rain for their thirsty crops, their harvests will be bountiful, there will be peace in the land, and they will be safe from their enemies. Why on earth would the Israelites want to live apart from that kind of care and protection? Life was peaceful and full of God's abundant riches, and yet the Israelites had, on more than one occasion, willfully moved into forbidden territory.

In *A Shepherd's Look at the Twenty Third Psalm*, Phillip Keller tells of providing lush green meadows for his flock only to have one of his sheep deliberately push through the fence into an adjoining pasture riddled with poisonous weeds. Sadly, like the Israelites, we have a tendency to stray from the lush fields of God's safety and protection and get ourselves entangled in the poisonous weeds of the world. God, in His infinite mercy, however, is ready at any moment to pick us up and bring us home where we belong. Thanks be to God!

Psalm 78:1-39; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; Matthew 13:18-23

Wednesday, May 8

Psalm 119:97-120 *Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.* (vv.111-112)

A few months ago, we received a call in the middle of the night. We knew it could come but were not ready to receive it. The heart of a beloved brother in Christ had stopped. There had been bypasses, medications, and other procedures over the years, but suddenly his heart failed. Life depends on this amazing organ to pump blood throughout our body and when it stops physical life ends. The psalmist understood the heart as the essence of what it means to be human. It was considered the center of the human spirit, the seat of emotions, wisdom, and understanding, and the source of our response to the grace God lavishes on us.

Whether we think of the heart's physical function or envision it as what makes us unique, it is at the center of our lives. It is not surprising that the psalmist wrote of the Lord's commandments as the joy of his heart and how he longed to keep them. Are the Lord's commandments the joy of your heart? Do you long to keep them to the very end? "My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws" (v.120).

Leviticus 26:27-42; Ephesians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:41-46

Thursday, May 9

Matthew 28:16-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, ...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (vv.19-20)

Jesus gathered his disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gave them their marching orders, "go and make disciples." While surfing the Web recently, I came across the web site of a church in Connecticut. The home page states, "Every member a disciple." Eugene Peterson defines discipleship as: "Anything that causes what is believed in the heart to have demonstrable consequences in our daily life" (*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*).

Christian discipleship begins with our relationship with Jesus. His words apply to us just as much as they did to the early followers with him on the mountain 2,000 years ago. The message is still the same, go and make disciples. This is not simply a great suggestion; it is Jesus' Great Commission and all Christians are called to be Great Commission people.

We are truly his disciples when we follow him and then go out and bring others to our Lord. It is not our responsibility to convert another person, that's the work of the Holy Spirit, but we are commanded to go, to tell and to invite others into presence of Jesus.

Daniel 7:9-14; Psalms 8, 47; Hebrews 2:5-18

Friday, May 10

Ephesians 2:1-10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (v.10)*

I like to contemplate how our Great Designer lovingly and joyfully created our world. The air we breathe is perfectly designed for us. The rotation of the earth is exactly the spin needed to sustain life. If the sun and moon were a bit closer or farther away, our world would be a very different place.

Then there are our amazing bodies! I imagine God lovingly deciding who gets what color hair, skin, and eyes; who is to be tall, or short or in between. God surely loves diversity, and yet beyond the world we live in and our physical bodies, He has written His signature on each and every heart that says, "You are mine. I made you for a purpose and until you come to me you will never be truly yourself." We can try to erase or ignore His signature, but eventually we must come to the end of ourselves. He has uniquely designed us and given us the gifts to do the good works He has prepared in advance for us to do. As we serve Him, we find our true identity and bring glory to God's Holy Name.

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalms 85, 86; Matthew 7:22-27

Saturday, May 11

Ephesians 2:11-22 *He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. (v.17)*

In *What's So Amazing about Grace?*, Philip Yancey writes of the ungrace that is so common in our world. We don't have to look very far to find it. There is ungrace in our relationships with family members and neighbors who choose to argue with each other. One ethnic group treats another in ways that they themselves would never want to be treated. People and nations war with each other, sometimes as the result of feuds that began centuries ago. Sadly, even within members of God's household there are disputes that cause division and the establishment of new churches and denominations. There may appear to be winners and losers, those who are inside the wall and those who are outside, but there is no real peace.

The peace missing in human relationships is only offered to the world by the one who came as the Prince of Peace. He is our peace who has made the two one. We may like to believe that we are good enough and smart enough to devise wonderful peace plans but, in the end, it is only Jesus who is both peacemaker and peace.

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Psalms 87, 90; Matthew 7:28—8:4

by Jack & Gail Potter

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