



GRACE NOTES

MARCH 2024

SHARING THE FAITH

We will have, by the time you read this, stepped off on the spiritual adventure that the church universal calls Lent. In “churchy language,” Lent is a season of forty days that begins with Ash Wednesday and culminates in Holy Week. During this season, “the church in joy and sorrow, proclaims, remembers, and responds to the atoning death of Christ.”

Two distinct periods at the end of Lent are: Holy Week which begins on Palm or Passion Sunday, and the three days preceding Easter comprising Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. The liturgical colors for Lent and then Easter include purple, black or no color for the three days prior to Easter, and then white for Easter. In church history, the season of Lent has been celebrated by the faithful in many variations and traditions.

Some believe that the Sundays “of” Lent are part of the days “in” Lent. But if one were to count the Sundays “of” Lent as part of the days “in” Lent, then Lent would be 46 days and not 40 days. Variations of the understanding of the 40 days of Lent can also be interpreted differently with tradition and liturgical orientation. Some believe that the 40 days of Lent are representative of the 40 years in the dessert that Moses and Israelites endured as they attempted to get their faith right with God. Others cling to the idea of Lent more with the 40 days that Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

Our Roman Catholic friends and many Protestants have focused on the tradition giving up certain pleasures during Lent, while more the Protestant tradition, we have focused on doing more acts of charity and kindness in the name of Jesus Christ during Lent. Other various traditions around the season of Lent are interesting. In my first church instead of Ash Wednesday, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday with a wonderful pancake and sausage church dinner – YUM! The custom there was a derivation of Mardi Gras, whereby in early Protestantism, communities of faith would have a great feast the day before Lent began in order to clean-out their cupboards of all the fats and excesses that Lent would call them to eat a more modest or simple fare.

Another tradition in worship during Lent that I have just learned about, involves the elimination of any the use of the word Alleluia during Lent. The idea being that joy or “alleluia” is in conflict with the deeper contemplation of our sin that Lent calls us to explore. My personal view of this practice is that it is bad theology because it causes us to neglect the fact, that even when we consider our transgressions which is an appropriate orientation for Lent, it removes our overarching responsibility to be always thankful to our loving God for allowing us to consider our wrongful actions, and to praise God to receive God’s mercy and grace.

All that said, and regardless of your personal or our corporate spiritual practices at Lent, as members of the body of Christ, Lent ought to cause each and every one of us to think and pray about how we can, through God’s grace, improve our lives, confess our transgressions to God, reach out to others, and in so doing, “Grow in Faith and Discipleship For Jesus Christ!”

May God Bless you all in your Lenten journey this year!

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; 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; Don Woodward; 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

Elders on Call

**Elders on Call
for March are:**

**Lois Butler 352-262-5893
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.

Session Meeting Highlights

February 12

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MISSION

St Francis Dinner - Delivered meal on Friday, 1/19 for 40 people (25 of them children)

Superbowl of Caring - 2/11 - Collected soup

Family Promise - Bed Race Fund raiser 2/24- we will contribute \$100

Grace Giving Mission for Feb – baby food/wipes/diapers

One Great Hour of Sharing special offerings will be taken during Lent

Easter Breakfast is being planned before the worship service on Easter Sunday, March 31st - Sign-up sheet will be put up closer to the date.

Visitor Bags continue to be assembled and are kept on or in the credenza in the Narthex

Good Samaritan Fund getting low - plan to “promote” contributions after Easter

Committee will meet on 3/5 at 11:00 am

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

Subcommittee is looking for a new church secretary

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Committee working on obtaining new property and liability insurance because our current insurance carrier is no longer insuring churches

WORSHIP & MUSIC

3/3 - Communion will be served - Rev. Don Mossa

Ash Wednesday Service and Imposition of Ashes 2/14 at Westminster Presbyterian at 6 pm - Pastor Don is bringing the message.

Palm Fronds have been ordered for Palm Sunday Service on 3/24

New Christ Candle will in place for the 11 am Easter Service on 3/31

Organist John -Peter is holding choir practice at 9:45 am on Sundays - he and the choir are preparing special music for Easter and other services at various intervals

Committee will not meet on 2/18—members are encouraged to attend Pastor Don's theological seminar after the morning worship service

Committee will meet 3/17 after the worship hour

OTHER BUSINESS

Pastor Don will donate the picture that he used in his sermon on 3/4 to the church

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE, FL INC

The following officer were reelected:

President - Debbie Harris

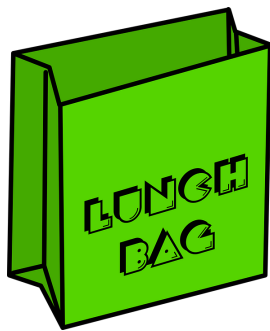
Vice-President - Jay Collins

Treasurer - Lois Butler

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



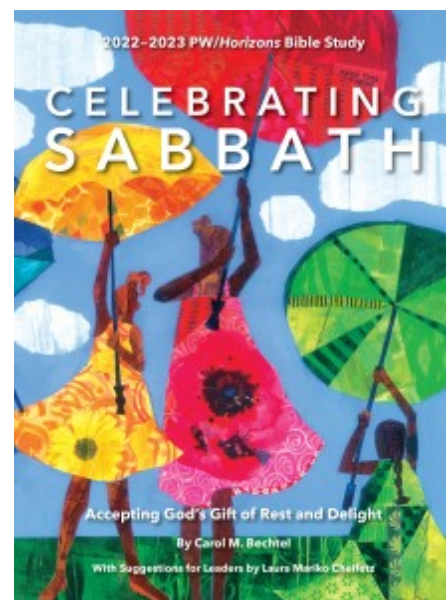
Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship



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, March 12 at 12:00 noon in the library. Diane Millican will lead our study of Lesson 7 "Sabbath and Self-Care" in *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol M. Bechtel. Please bring your study book, Bible and your own brown bag lunch and beverage. All women are welcome. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



3146 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609
352-376-5654
www.gpconline.org
March 2019

The Congregational Life and Mission Committee is in the process of updating our pictorial directory. If you would like to submit a new picture or have a new picture taken or if any of your information has changed, please contact Lois Butler at treasurer@gpconline.org or 352-262-5893.

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).

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 11:00 – Worship Service Communion</p> <p>1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:00 pm – Square Dance Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00 am Congregational Life & Mission</p> <p>7:00 pm – Barbergators</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 noon – Men's Lunch</p> <p>7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4:30 – 7:30 Lenten Fish Fry Montgomery Center</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10</p> <p>11:00 – Worship Service</p> <p>1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:00 pm – Square Dance Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 noon – Anna Circle</p> <p>6:00 pm – Session Meeting in Church Office</p> <p>7:00 pm – Barbergators</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 noon – Men's Lunch</p> <p>7:00 – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4:30 – 7:30 Lenten Fish Fry Montgomery Center</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 pm - Mary Lucile "Cile" Pfahler Memorial Service</p>
<p>17</p> <p>11:00 – Worship Service Worship Committee</p> <p>1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:00 pm – Square Dance Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm – Barbergators</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 noon – Men's Lunch</p> <p>7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4:30 – 7:30 Lenten Fish Fry Montgomery Center</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24/31</p> <p>11:00 – Worship Service</p> <p>1:00 – Korean Service 7:00 – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4:00 pm – Square Dance Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 pm – Barbergators</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00 noon – Men's Lunch</p> <p>7:00 pm – ESWT(AA)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Grace Notes Articles Due</p> <p>6:30 pm – Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

24 - Palm Sunday

31 - Easter Sunday


MARCH
2024

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 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 January through March will go to Family Promise.

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 March we will be collecting pasta, noodles, and sauce.



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.

	January	Through 1/31
Income	\$ 19,463.17	\$ 19,463.17
Expenses	\$ 3,589.47	\$ 3,589.47
Pass Through Donations Two Cents a Meal	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00