

Growing with grace



A monthly newsletter for the Grace Wesleyan Family and Friends!

He has risen!

Christ has risen, Indeed!

Have you ever wondered about this traditional Easter greeting? Some claim it is an affirmation of what Jesus predicted and promised in the Gospels of Matthew 17: 22-23, and Mark 9: 30-32.

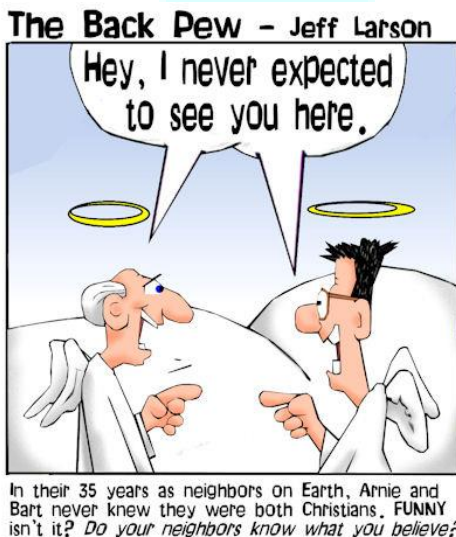
Others believe it originated with a statement made by "Mary Magdalene when she supposedly addressed Emperor Tiberius with the words, 'Christ is risen'" (Riggleman, 2021). However, others claim it is taken from a declaration by the two disciples who Jesus revealed himself to on the road to Emmaus, "...It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." (Luke 24:34, NIV).

Regardless of its origin, the truth of Jesus' resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith. So, with the 1st century Christians, let us declare,

Christ is risen!
He is risen, Indeed!

A Prayer for Easter

Dear Lord,
As you drew near to the cross, you knew what you were facing, and why. As you hung on the cross and felt the full weight of our sins, you knew why. As you gave up your life, you knew why. As you were laid in the tomb, and when the stone closed the door locking out the light, you knew why. As you approached the gates of Hell and took back the keys that would set the captives free, you knew why. As you walked in the garden in the cool morning hours on the 3rd day, you proved, You Knew Why. As you stood among the disciples showing you had risen, they knew why. Today, as we look at the cross, remember your crucifixion, death, and resurrection, may we hear the voice of your Spirit telling us that We are the Why! Jesus, we bow in humble gratitude for all you did out of your love for us. Hallelujah! Amen



Worship Team Notes



Do you have experience singing in a Praise Team? Do you play an instrument; drums, keyboard, or guitar, etc.? Do you have a desire to worship God using your musical gifts? Are you willing to commit to practices every week? Yes? Great! Grace Wesleyan is forming a Worship Team and we would love for you to join us. Contact Annette Rhodes annetterhodes1@aol.com

Happenings

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Upcoming Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday

Weekend:

Saturday

April 9th, 6:00 pm

Sunday

April 10th, 9:30 am

Holy Thursday

April 14th

7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 15th

6:00 pm

Easter Weekend

Saturday

April 16th

6:00 pm

Sunday

April 17th

9:30 am

PASTOR'S MOMENT

A message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Myron Rhodes, Jr.

Greetings, Grace Wesleyans!

As we reach the end of Lent and the start of Eastertide, it is a good time to recap where we are in the church calendar. For many Christians, there are “high water” marks of Christmas (celebrated at the end of Advent), Easter (celebrated at the end of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday), and maybe Pentecost (celebrated 50 days after Easter). There are many lesser-known important dates on the church calendar, but most Christians just know them as “words” spoken sometimes during the year. These words usually include Epiphany, Transfiguration Sunday, All Saints Day, Christ the King Sunday, and perhaps Annunciation and Ascension. No doubt, you have heard of all of these things in your Christian life. Perhaps you know what they all are, or maybe not.

I plan to address all of these through *Growing with Grace* in the coming year. It is my goal for you to become knowledgeable of all of the important holy days, and days of significance to our Christian faith. For this, the first issue of *Growing with Grace*, I want to focus on the significant dates we will encounter in the month of April. These begin for us with Palm Sunday, and the Holy Week events of Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Palm Sunday is the date we celebrate Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover. It is one of three traditional Jewish annual pilgrimages. Passover is the week-long celebration of the people of Israel being freed from bondage to Egypt and is mostly associated with putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of the Hebrew people so the angel of death will “pass over” their homes. Jesus enters Jerusalem with people shouting “blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,” which is normally shouted “Hosanna.” There are many events detailed in the gospels about Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Holy Thursday is the day we celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, in the upper room. It is sometimes called Maundy Thursday, but the latter designation is normally only applied when there is actually foot washing during the service. When only Holy Communion is celebrated, it is called Holy Thursday.

The next event of the week is Good Friday. Many people wonder why it is called “good” when it is the day Jesus was killed on the cross. It is called Good Friday because of the ancient meaning of the word good, which was “holy” or “pious.” Thus, it is the holy activity of Jesus taking our sins upon himself and to the cross that is good about Good Friday. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday make up what is called the Triduum and are the three most important days up to Easter. We do not normally celebrate Holy Saturday in the faith tradition that many of us are most familiar with, but perhaps we will do so in the future sometime since we have services on Saturday anyway. But not this year.

Holy Week ends with the foundational part of the Christian faith story, and that is Christ resurrected on the third day...Easter Sunday morning! Jesus provides us with the great hope of our faith: a promised future with God via Christ's victory over sin and death. As we make our way through Holy Week this year, we might find time daily to read in Luke, beginning in 19:29, so we can be reminded of Christ's activity day by day in Jerusalem. Scripture can make this special time come alive for us if we will take the time to “tune in” and be a part of the story. That is my hope for you this month during Holy Week. Allow it to come alive for you!

Happy April...happy Holy Week...and happy Easter to you! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Myron

MINISTRY MINUTE

Each month we will highlight one of our 5 ministries here at Grace Wesleyan. For the month of April, we are highlighting the GEMS (Gracious Energetic Motivated Servers) Ministry. As you will see below, they are involved in so many things that benefit the working poor, homeless, and now our special four-legged friends in the Ukraine and here in Florida. This ministry is from the hearts of Doug and Barbara Timmerman, but many other GEMS members and YOU are involved in meeting the needs of the individuals and animals under their umbrella.



To those who donate \$\$\$, we use these funds to fill in a project as we see how the in-kind donations are coming in. Because of each of you, GEMS™ is alive and thriving.

Several have asked if GEMS™ accepts \$\$\$ donations at times other than when we are focused on a specific project. ABSOLUTELY! Just send a check made payable to Grace Wesleyan Church (with GEMS on the memo line). Put it in an offering envelop and drop it the offering plate, or send to our treasurer: Sharon Merritt 3200 Port Royale Drive N, Apt # 808 Fort Lauderdale FL 33308-7804. It's tax deductible!!

GEMS™

2021 Highlights

We provided

- (1) 156 pairs of eyeglasses for Dr. Lang's program for the homeless at Hope South Florida. And we are still collecting!
- (2) 6,167 diapers+ wipes for God's Little Lambs and Hope South Florida. We collected in May and December.
- (3) Judy Ambrose's shoe project resulted in 75 - \$15 Target Gift Cards that were part of the May diaper collection.
- (4) August saw us fill 109 Backpacks with necessary school supplies plus T shirts w/ collars for the children of families working with Hope South Florida.
- (5) October was our "hoodie" month as cooler weather set in. The support was outstanding as 91 hoodies of all sizes were received.

Two in-person meetings were held. Working around COVID was a challenge. However, the Holy Spirit was at work to make 2021 a success! A HUGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

2022 is already off to a great start!

This was GEMS™ first time to support the project to collect items needed for the portable showers at Hope South Florida, and so many joined in. It's time to report the results; we collected 461 towels plus an even greater number of wash cloths, 36-gallon size detergent containers + 15 smaller size bottles. Pery Canan tells us that this will cover at least the next 8 to 9 month's needs. A HUGE Thank You to all!

We now have an opportunity to help some very special furry friends in Ukraine and in Florida through IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) and the Broward Humane Society. Please check the bulletin insert for more information about donating items or cash to this worthy cause. Let's help those who cannot help themselves

We will also participate in Judy Ambrose's annual shoe project for Mother's Day, watch for more information in future.

Service Opportunities

outreach@gracewesleyan.org

What does Scripture tell us

Memory Verse

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
(Ephesians 4:16, NIV).

When you are purchasing things to help some of our worthy ministries, don't forget to **SMILE!** Amazon smile that is... (use the link below)

https://smile.amazon.com/charity/my-impact?encoding=UTF8&ref=nav_cs_smile



Emmaus

Have you attended a Walk to Emmaus? If you have attended a walk in the past, we want to know. We are seeking to build an Emmaus Community at Grace Wesleyan. Please contact...

Kathy Porter at

win1471@comcast.net

Or

Tony Ash at

omega65@bellsouth.net



Be sure to wear your Emmaus Cross on the 1st weekend of each month

GEMS!

Doug & Barbara Timmerman
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Habitat for Humanity

Omayra Fuentes

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Art Applegate

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Helping Hands Food Drive

Patrick & Donna McCarthy
954.487.8514

Website: myhelpinghandsfl.org
helpinghands.fooddrives@gmail.com

Helping Hands

– handyman ministry -

Tony Ash

Omega65@bellsouth.net

954-326-2177

Hope South Florida

Dr. Fred Scarbrough – Grace Wesleyan Church

T (954) 242-2016 email: Fredscar@gmail.com

Pery Canan – Hope South Florida

T (954) 812-3882

email: Pcanan@hopesouthflorida.org

What's going on in your corner?

Studies Available

Men's Accountability group

Monday nights
7:00pm

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesday nights
7:00pm-8:00pm (in person or via Zoom)

Wesley Study

(Every Other Thursday night)
April 7th & April 21st
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Children and Youth Minister

Contact: Mimi Rutherford
youth@gracewesleyan.org

Plans are in the works for an Ice Cream Social for May. Watch for details!

Teen Topics

We will have service hour opportunities for teens again this summer. Watch for details



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Telephone: 954-235-4664

Website: www.gracewesleyan.org Facebook: GraceWesleyanSF

We meet at, but are not affiliated with the Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church

Reference: Item on page one

Riggleman, H., (2021, Feb 18). *Why do we say 'He is risen, Indeed!' on Easter?* Retrieved from Crosswalk.com: <https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/easter/why-do-we-say-he-is-risen-indeed-on-easter.html>