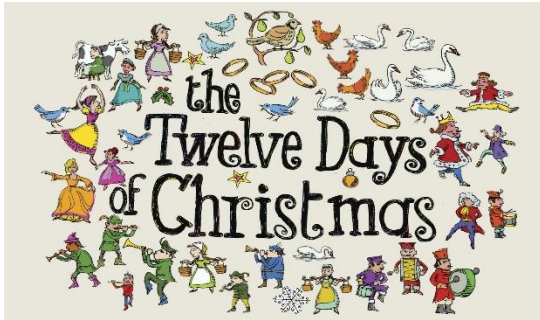


# Growing with grace



A monthly newsletter for the Grace Wesleyan Family and Friends!



*The meaning behind the song "The 12 Days of Christmas"*

The 12 days of the Christmas Season begin with the birth of Christ, which we celebrate on Christmas day, and ends 12 days later at Epiphany. 16<sup>th</sup> century, England was proclaimed a "state church", so parents taught their children about their faith using coded messages. This poem, later a carol, is an example.

- The **Partridge in the Pear Tree** is Jesus Christ.
- The **2 Turtle Doves** are The Old and New Testaments.
- The **3 French hens** are Faith, Hope and Love, the theological virtues.
- The **4 Calling Birds** are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- The **5 Golden Rings** are the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch).
- The **6 Geese A-laying** are the six days of creation.
- The **7 Swans A-swimming** are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- The **8 Maids A-milking** are the eight beatitudes.
- The **9 Ladies Dancing** are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The **10 Lords A-leaping** are the ten commandments.
- The **11 Pipers Piping** are the eleven faithful apostles.
- The **12 Drummers Drumming** are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.



**Oh, come let us adore  
him  
Christ The Lord!**



December Birthdays:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Gail Johnson
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Jenifer Asewicz
- 13<sup>th</sup> – David Zerbee
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Merritt
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Noel Chhieng
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Chris Kelly



December Anniversaries

- 28<sup>th</sup> – Clark & Sue Cogswell

## December Happenings

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

### CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEAR'S SERVICE TIMES

DEC 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
 Family Svc – 6:00 PM  
 Candlelight/Communion  
 Service 10:00 PM  
*No Service on Christmas Day*  
 DEC 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:00 PM  
 JAN 1, 2023 – 9:30 AM

### MY HELPING HANDS FOOD

#### DRIVES:

DEC 10<sup>th</sup> - Davie  
 DEC 17<sup>th</sup> - Plantation

#### *"Adopt a Child"*

DEC 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> - Pick up name of Child  
 DEC 18<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to return wrapped gifts to church

### YOUTH Activities

DEC 16<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night

## PASTOR'S MOMENT

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

[pastor@gracewesleyan.org](mailto:pastor@gracewesleyan.org)

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Every year when I get to Advent I look back and wonder where all the time that a year contains went. Each year seems to go by faster and faster. The year 2022 is no different. It seems like just a few weeks ago we had Easter, then Pentecost, and *ZOOM* we are in Advent!

Many of you likely experience some of the same feelings. Annette and I have three grandchildren now, and as we try to figure out what to gift each of the kids, we marvel at how they grow, develop, and begin to show the personalities that are going to carry them through life. We also come face to face with our own mortality. We can remember when *WE* were the grandkids. Now we are the grandparents. This realization makes us ever more aware of time being short and our time to meet Jesus coming ever nearer.

This makes Advent, as a time of preparation, even more important. As we have grown in our relationship with Christ and our love for God, we see that material things of this world and the demands that the secular society attempts to press upon the church become distractions to our true purpose. Humans were created to be in relationship with God. That is the “why” we exist. We did not crawl out of the primordial ooze, and we did not evolve from Neanderthals. *We were created in God's own image.* And we went downhill from there. The *best* efforts by humans caused a massive rift between us and God. Humans want to do things their own way and with their own self-interests in mind. Left on our own, we have totally messed up the relationship with God, our relationships with each other, and we have damaged Creation.

This Advent, I pray that we can reflect on our own life and experiences and see where God has been present, and also those times when he seemed to be absent. What was the difference in those times? For me, as often as not, the difference is whether I trusted God in the moment and was willing to be obedient to His Word and do the “next right thing.” When we can acknowledge the fact that sometimes we simply do not lean on God but rather rely on our own understanding of things, we can see that there is a very real need for the baby in a manger. We needed God to intervene in humankind's existence. We needed Jesus to walk among us and teach us the truths of God, teach us to be obedient, and to teach us what real sacrifice is all about. Today, we still need God and Jesus to intervene and instruct us on obedience. We live in a world that celebrates disobedience and praises sin in a variety of forms...all while discounting God, if not dismissing him altogether.

Jesus came on that first Christmas because we needed him. He taught us because we had learned to not listen. He died for us because we could not find a way to get over our grief, guilt, anguish, and harmful behaviors. He lives now to show us that not even death can keep God from creating good for those who love him. May you prepare your heart to celebrate not just the coming of the Christ-child, but to be prepared to further accept what Jesus has done for us yesterday, today, and all of our tomorrows. Christ is with us...Our Lord, Emmanuel!

We wish you a most peaceful and meaningful Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany season! Peace,

Pastor Myron and Annette Rhodes

**GDLT**



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

## MINISTRY MINUTE

Grace Wesleyan in Action – Being the Hands, Feet, and HEART of CHRIST to those in need.

### GWW

#### Grace Wesleyan Women

Our first Women's event was a great success (40 Women). Thank you for your participation and support. Watch for more to come!!



**Our Grace Wesleyan Emmaus Community** hosted the Oceanside Emmaus Gathering, Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Members from the Emmaus community in our area came together to share a meal and fellowship! We even had a visit from the Emmaus



### Trunk or Treat!

Several GWC families participated in the Shepherd of the Coast School Trunk or Treat Event. Our own Gary & Kathy Porter's grandson, Jake, won the prize for best costume!



### My Helping Hands Food Drives South Florida

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Members of Grace Wesleyan Church and some of our youth came together to pack bags of food providing Thanksgiving meals for families in need. They packed 250 bags and gave out 220 Turkeys!



### Chrystalis Health "Adopt a Child" Christmas Gift drive.

Again, this year, My Helping Hands Food Drives is gathering gifts and clothing for children and families in need through this organization. They have a list of 48 families. You may get the names from Donna & Patrick December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 18<sup>th</sup>!

### Family Fun Day!

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Grace Wesleyan "Family Fun Day" on December 3<sup>rd</sup> was great! Several members of the church attended and many families in the surrounding community participated in the activities and free food. The children flocked to the bounce house and everyone enjoyed the music provided by Freddie Colloca and his youth praise band, "The Flame"!



**Come and experience the joy of helping others by being the heart, hands, and feet of Christ to those in need!**

## Service Opportunities

[outreach@gracewesleyan.org](mailto:outreach@gracewesleyan.org)

### What does Scripture tell us

#### The Greatest Gift Ever Given

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life  
(John 3:16, NRSV)

#### Reminder:

When you are purchasing things via Amazon 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](https://smile.amazon.com/charity/my-impact?encoding=UTF8&ref=nav_cs_smile)



#### Emmaus

Have you attended a Walk to Emmaus? Are you interested in knowing more about attending an Emmaus Weekend? Please contact... someone you see wearing an Emmaus cross (shown below) or our community directors; David & Diane Zerbee for more information.

[diane\\_dangelo@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_dangelo@yahoo.com)  
[Dzerbee@exec-counsel.com](mailto:Dzerbee@exec-counsel.com)



If you have attended an Emmaus walk, please be sure to wear your Emmaus Cross the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of each month.

**De Colores** Friends!

#### GEMS!

Doug & Barbara Timmerman  
954-566-9524  
[DBTimms@chorus.net](mailto:DBTimms@chorus.net)

#### Habitat for Humanity

Omayra Fuentes  
[omayra.fatima@gmail.com](mailto:omayra.fatima@gmail.com)  
Art Applegate  
[art@steelapple.net](mailto:art@steelapple.net)

#### My Helping Hands Food Drive

Patrick & Donna McCarthy  
954.487.8514  
Website: [myhelpinghandsfl.org](http://myhelpinghandsfl.org)  
[helpinghands.fooddrives@gmail.com](mailto:helpinghands.fooddrives@gmail.com)

#### Helping Hands – handyman ministry -

Tony Ash  
[Omega65@bellsouth.net](mailto:Omega65@bellsouth.net)  
954-326-2177

#### Hope South Florida

Dr. Fred Scarbrough – Grace Wesleyan Church  
T (954) 242-2016 email: [Fredscar@gmail.com](mailto:Fredscar@gmail.com)  
Pery Canan – Hope South Florida  
T (954) 812-3882  
email: [Pcanan@hopesouthflorida.org](mailto: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)

#### **Prayer Meeting**

last Tuesday each month in place of  
Bible Study

#### **Wesley Study**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
7:00pm – 8:00pm

#### Meetings

**Executive Council  
December 8th**  
(normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
every month)

#### Grace Wesleyan Women

[women@gracewesleyan.org](mailto:women@gracewesleyan.org)  
Contact: Annette Rhodes  
TBA – “Restless” Women's Bible Study  
by Jennie Allen

#### Children and Youth Minister

Contact: Mimi Rutherford  
[youth@gracewesleyan.org](mailto:youth@gracewesleyan.org)



Our Youth have the opportunity to join with the youth from Community Church of Davie and the youth of The Shepherd of the Coast church!