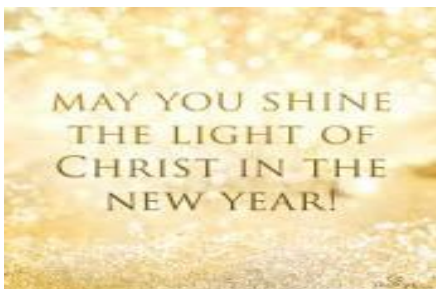


Growing with **grace**



A monthly newsletter for the Grace Wesleyan Family and Friends!



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, NIV)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:15-20, NIV)

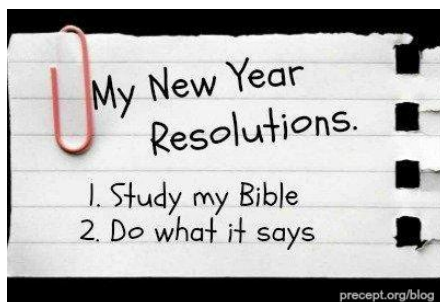
"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." (Colossians 2:6-10, NIV)

Shine His light – He is worthy!!!



We have a new year and a chance to make it better than the year before. How will we do this?

Here's a thought....



January Birthdays:

- 5th – Sandi Bourne
- 13th – Julie Bergstrom
- 13th – Tammy Nilsson
- 23rd – Charlotte Jaramillo
- 26th – Annette Rhodes



No known January Anniversaries

January Happenings

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

EMMAUS NEWS!

JAN 14TH - Oceanside Emmaus Community Gathering
Ebenezer UMC – 6:00pm

GEMS

Gems is collecting Diapers, Wipes

MY HELPING HANDS FOOD

DRIVES:

JAN 7th (Margate)
JAN 14th (Davie)
JAN 21st (Plantation)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Faith-Based Build Dates

JAN 21st – Rick Case

YOUTH Activities

JAN 30th – Games Galore
(6 to 8 PM)
FEB 3rd – Movie Night
(6 to 8 PM)

PASTOR'S MOMENT

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

pastor@gracewesleyan.org

Dear Grace Wesleyan Family,

Another year is upon us as 2022 is now in the rear-view mirror. Last year was a significant year for Grace Wesleyan. In February I was ordained as your pastor, and we consecrated Mr. Tony Ash as our Lay Leader. The pandemic no longer kept us from fellowship and meeting and our church began to grow beyond the original founders to include many more people. By the end of 2022 we were experiencing over 200 unique visits a month! God is growing our membership and new faces show up weekly!

We began the year with a study on "Becoming a Contagious Christian." Well over half of our members attended the six-week study where we learned how to easily tell our "Jesus story" and how to share the Gospel with others. We learned that often it is easier to get to know others over a cookout or a meal before we can invite them to church. The focus of the messages all year was on discipleship.

In November we walked through our neighborhoods knocking on doors to introduce our church to those close to us in proximity. In December we had our first Family Fun Day at Bayview Park where we met over 250 families and kids from our local area. It was a great time with a bounce house (it was filled with kids from set up at noon to break down at 4pm!), live music with Freddie Colloca and a gifted group of teens who played great music for us, and we distributed 200 Chick Fil A meals! It was a fun time in which we were able to introduce ourselves to people we would not have met otherwise.

As we move into 2023, the new emphasis is to turn ourselves outward to try to share the light that God has shined in our hearts. As the world suddenly (or so it seems) now is seeing prayer on TV as sports teams openly pray in the wake of the Damar Hamlin incident, and even sportscasters are praying on TV in prime time, we have an opportunity to be more open about our faith. We should be encouraged even more to be open about our faith because it appears that what we have known all along (i.e., the world needs faith), is becoming recognized. My word for this year is Emmanuel, God with us, not because he suddenly is, but because he always was and we can boldly step forward with the knowledge of that.

This year, we are being more intentional as a church to reach out, speak out, and let our light shine so that those in our community can see that Grace Wesleyan is a place where Christian fellowship is found, celebrated, and lived. Our task is great, for sure, but our God is big enough to help us be what he has told us we are: Children of God, Disciples of Christ, and sinners. While we walk with the humbleness that comes from recognizing our need for forgiveness and transformation in Christ, may we also walk with boldness as those who have found a way to be in relationship with our Creator!

I pray that God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit move you to the next steps in your walk with them so that you may experience the joy, hope, love, and peace that Christ wants for us. Challenges and crucibles come, but God is always with us.

Emmanuel, my friends, God is indeed with us!

Pastor Myron

GDLT



Grace Wesleyan Church, 1901 East Commercial Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

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

MINISTRY MINUTE

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

GWW

Grace Wesleyan Women

Watch this space for upcoming 2023
Women's activities, events and
Women's Bible Studies!

Planning is underway right now!

Emmaus

Next Oceanside Emmaus Community Gathering
Ebenezer UMC, 2001 NW 35th Street
Miami, FL 33142
JAN 14th 6:00 PM

Next Oceanside Emmaus Walks
1st Church of Coral Springs, 8650 W Sample Rd,
Coral Springs, FL 33065
Men's Walk: April 20th – 23rd
Women's Walk: April 27th – April 30th

Questions?

Are you interested?

Can you think of a possible pilgrim?

Contact David Zerbee or
Diane D'Angelo-Zerbee

Habitat for Humanity

There will be 6 opportunities to participate in
Habitat for Humanity Faith-based Builds this
year.

January 21st
March 4th
May 20th
July 8th
September 23rd
November 18th

Please contact Art Applegate if you are
interested, need information or have
questions. art@steelapple.net

My Helping Hands Food Drives South Florida

They had their first food drive of 2023 on January 7th at the Winn Dixie in Margate Florida and what an awesome day it was. Collected 40 large boxes of nonperishable food. All the food then went to Hope South Florida to feed those in need. Big thank you to Violet the store manager and to our wonderful student volunteers and their parents and grandparents.



GEMS!

The **GEMS** ministry finished 2022 by helping HOPE South Florida meet the need for blankets and hoodies for homeless people. Their donations of 100 blankets and 126 hoodies made the chilly temperatures at Christmas time easier to bare.

As in previous years, they are collecting diapers and wipes that will be distributed by HOPE South Florida to families with infants and small children.

In addition, they want to remind everyone that they will be collecting shoes for Men, Women and Children. If you are unable to provide a pair of shoes, they will accept \$20 to \$25 Target Gift Cards, which will help purchase shoes.

All donations of items or cash are appreciated and will be applied to these worthy causes.

**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

What does Scripture tell us

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
(Acts 20:35, NIV)

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



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 Zerbe for more information.

diane_dangelo@yahoo.com
Dzerbee@exec-counsel.com



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

De Colores Friends!

GEMS!

Doug & Barbara Timmerman
954-566-9524
DBTimms@chorus.net

Habitat for Humanity

Art Applegate
art@steelapple.net
Omayra Fuentes
omayra.fatima@gmail.com

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

My 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



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

1st and 3rd Thursday
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Meetings

Executive Council
January 12th
(normally the 2nd Thursday of
every month)

Grace Wesleyan Women

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



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!