

GraceFull Visions

NOVEMBER 2019

From the Deacons' Desk

Recently, a young friend, just 31, married with two children, ages 10 and 2, suffered a massive heart attack and died! Just like that; alive one minute and dead the next. Her family and friends are left shaking their heads and saying, "Oh my God, how can this be?"

Our lives are gossamer-like (super fine and delicate) and so temporary. And most of us just don't "get" the possibility of this happening to us, right now or tomorrow, in our daily lives.

Life is a gift, a gift that should not be wasted. Not one day, not one single minute. We must take nothing for granted; not saying, "I love you" to those we love, not saying, "I'm sorry"

when we are sorry, not helping our neighbor. Not what's in our refrigerators, not a sunrise or a sunset. Not thinking that a loved one or a special friend will be around tomorrow for you to lean on, apologize to, laugh with. Not putting off tomorrow what we can do today.

Hikers know to leave the trail cleaner than they found it. Instead of wasting time and space, we should leave this world a better place than we found it by our having been there.

We spend way too much time on ourselves; our careers, our well-being, what others think of us, our problems. Does it all matter? What if tomorrow, you're gone?

As Thanksgiving approaches, be grateful for every day you're alive. Love more, laugh more, hug more, pray more, worship more, serve more, cry more, sing and dance more.....

Some people go through life saying and thinking, "So far so good". How about we improve on that. Think, say and do, "So far so good; now, how can I make it better?" We are small in the scheme of things. We are only here on this earth for a split second in the spectrum of real time. Thank God, literally, a lot! Be more grateful for what we have been given and less worried about what we don't have. Did you really need it anyway?

Work Day

A work day has been scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Please come and help if you can! That weekend is only

a few weeks before the holidays, and it would be good to have our buildings and grounds look extra nice. Lunch will be provided. There is a

list in the narthex with the various tasks to accomplish, both inside and outside. It would be helpful if you sign up ahead of time so we know how

many to expect for lunch. BUT, if you forget to sign up, you can still come! You are needed.

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My young friend had a great personality, an engaging smile, an undying love for her children and she always, always cared for others. I know she is flying high with the angels in heaven. I know she would say, "Live life to the fullest each and every day, do better and say, 'Thanks Be to God!'"

- Deacons Susi and Frank

Mission and Ministry

Stewardship Participation

Stewardship, we know, is about how we care for what has been given us. One of the finest gifts God grants to each of us is relationships. From the most intimate spousal connections to the casual, "Did you find everything you were looking for?" at the supermarket, our lives are full of interaction with others.

At a funeral service, we find that same gamut of involvement. We may be family, friends of family, co-workers, church members, to the person whose life is celebrated.

Our role as stewards, here, is to be part of a comforting process: whether hugs and kisses, a hand shake, a shoulder touch, we show by our attendance a memorable connection to those who miss the abiding presence of their loved one.

Often, remorse at these events comes when we read the biography of the one who has passed, and regret that we didn't spend more time getting to know of the multiple activities and ministries the person fulfilled in a lifetime.

Never the less, we can still speak with family and others who did know these accomplishments, and may share them with us.

Our upbringing often views funerals as sad or somber, but if we act as "stewards of relationships", the celebration will bring forth lasting connections and an appreciation of the joy that surfaces from the gathering of God's people.

The Stewardship Team

Lydia's Closet

In October, we had a lot of homeless men come through our doors and we were literally wiped out of men's shirts. At this time of year, we look for long sleeved shirts so, if any of you men out there have any casual men's shirts that you no longer wear, it would be very much appreciated.

New and also clean used men's tee-shirts are always needed.

Keep those black socks coming - they fly out the door.

This outreach is one that never stops giving. In the spirit of Christmas, if there is any-

thing you might think about giving to the Closet during this upcoming shopping season but are not sure what to buy, see me. The closet crew and I have lots of suggestions!!!

We appreciate everything that you bring us. Florence B.

Festival of Lights

For January, we have planned a St. Augustine Nights of Lights. We will leave on Wednesday, January 22nd at 8am in the parking lot of Grace. The 3-day bus tour includes hotel, breakfasts, on/off day trolley and Nights of

Lights trolley. The cost for couples is \$239/person and \$356 for a single. Please let me know if you are interested. We return on Friday, January 24th in the late afternoon.

Please feel free to invite any-

one. We are a fun group and always welcome new friends.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, Florence B. at 773-2766.

Recipe Corner

Try this *wonderful* recipe.
Cindy Roehl (in the office)
really enjoyed it.

Now, I know Phyllis isn't the **only** one with great recipes. Everyone, send yours in to the office at office@graceclw.com

Toffee Streusel Coffee Cake

Ingredients:

2 cups AP flour
1 cup packed brown sugar
½ cup sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
½ cup cold butter, cut in small pieces

1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. baking soda
1 egg, beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup milk chocolate toffee bits or 4 Heath bars (1.4 oz. each), chopped

Directions: In a large bowl, combine first four ingredients; cut in cold butter until crumbly. Set aside ½ cup for topping. Stir soda into remaining flour mixture. Combine the buttermilk, egg and vanilla, and stir into flour mixture just until moistened.

(do not overmix)

Pour into greased 13"x9" pan. Add toffee bits to reserved topping mix; sprinkle over the cake and using a knife, swirl the topping through the cake.

Bake at 350 for 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

(Because my oven bakes hot, I only baked mine about 28 minutes)

Shared by Phyllis Dumdie

Adult Sunday School

On November 10, we will begin a new study on the books I Samuel and II Samu-

el. At his time, on November 10, we will be starting at **8:45**

AM each Sunday in the Highlander Room. Come join us!

Sunday Falco's Recent Activities

- Grace Lutheran Church is now listed on The Joy FM website in the selection of churches available for those looking for a Lutheran church in this area. The listing shows information for both of our services along with a picture of our beautiful sanctuary.
 - Working with our various monthly renters through a good system each week helping with tables and chairs as we have events and church service.
 - Hospitality and set-up is being provided on Sunday morning for the second service, as well as providing cookies for both services and organizing volunteers.
 - Making appointments with people outside our congregation, walking them through the property, discussing prices, rules and times available.
 - Managing cleaning people
 - Setting up for congregation events when needed.
 - Working with Mike Smutko with property issues
 - Helps in office as needed.
- Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service:
- ◊ Talking with multiple assistant living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.
 - ◊ Talking with local newspapers. The Adaptive Service will soon be featured in the Tampa Bay Times!
 - Talking with other venues for wedding receptions, etc. (When Grace Lutheran needs to refer to another venue for any reason.).
 - Sunday Falco has a list of musicians, DJs, videographer, photographers and caterers if you need a reference.
 - Updating the Church Website Calendar Daily. Stay Connected!

Regular Event Updates

Elizabeth Circle

Our Circle will meet on **November 21st** from 1:00-3:00 PM. The 4th Thursday of the month is our regular schedule, but since that's Thanksgiving Day, we'll meet the 3rd Thursday. We use the Garden Room and the "Gather" magazine, and will start with the September issue. If you want to join in, but don't have a subscription to "Gather," call me at 727-446-4091 and I will get a copy to you. All women are invited. We have coffee and dessert. - Deacon Connie Puls

Movie Time

Like to go to the movies? Come join us on Thursday, November 7th at 3:00 p.m. in the Highlander Room and watch "The Great Debaters" with Denzel Washington. This event takes place on the first Thursday of each month. Refreshments will be served. - Gary Neal

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

November Book Club

DID YOU KNOW THAT GRACE BOOK CLUB WILL HAVE FINISHED 20 BOOKS AT DECEMBER'S MEETING!

We have not finished reporting on and discussing 7 Men and 7 Women by Eric Metaxas so we will continue that for November. Also, Chapter 2 in Inspired by Rachel Held Evans will be discussed. Come join us for a lively discussion. November's Book Club will be 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6.

Questions? Email
veis49@yahoo.com -
Thanks, Vicki Eis

Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, November 7th.

12 Steps Tranquil Mind

... is a Women's Closed Step and Big Book study of Alcoholics Anonymous. This means that any woman who is having a problem with alcohol and desires to stop is welcome. We meet on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Highlander Room.

Young at Heart

Our November luncheon will be held at Duff's Original Buffet on Thursday, November 14. Duff's is on Enterprise right near Chick Filet. You will be asked to pay at the door. Many of you have already signed up and would appreciate anyone who did not, to give me a call or see me at church to sign up.

In December we will head to the EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE. This playhouse is on 49th Street and Ulmerton. The date is on Thursday, December 12th and the name of the play is Spirit Level. It is their holiday show and should be a winner. The cost is \$36 per person. You pay at the door either by check or cash. Many of you have signed up, but if you wish to go, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, Florence B. at 773-2766.

Community Breakfast & Lydia's Closet

... will be held on Saturday, **November 9th** at 9 am.

November Birthdays

11/01 David McClenning
 11/02 Daniel Cote
 11/05 Christopher
 Granados
 11/11 Cliff Bittner
 11/18 Anne Burson

Wendy Roth
 11/23 Susi Roessler
 Shirley Saitta
 11/28 Carol Ann Nygard
 11/29 Ralph Burson

Nov. Anniversaries

11/21 John & Kathleen Johnson

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Ralph Burson, Jean Schlegel, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Marc DuPaul, Brad Snyder, Iris Valentin, the family and friends of Pastor David Larson, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson, is stationed in San Diego. She is a mechanic in charge of maintaining aircraft.

- Kyle Wassen gave 4 years to the Navy and is home now and attending St. Pete College. Not sure what he will be. He is currently a vet tech and is back to part-time work with a veterinarian.

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne

Hauschild is in the Air Force

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally. He works at Bayfront Health Hospital and attending college. No longer living at home.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart's grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24th at 7 PM, tentatively scheduled to be held at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church on Sunset Point Blvd. Rev. Donna Oberkreser of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be preaching.