

# Grace Weekly Email Update

## February 19, 2025

### Message from Pastor Jeff



Gather 25 is approaching quickly and I am excited about the opportunity for the global church to gather and encourage one another. Hopefully, you know what's going on by now, but if not, check out the website [HERE](#).

We've got a night of worship coming up this Monday night at 6pm. Our Monday night service is going to become a night of prayer and worship for the whole church. God moved powerfully and beautifully in our last worship night and I have been eagerly looking forward to this one. Come join us!

Do you know what the "Serve Team" is? Do you know who is on the Serve Team? Are you curious about who our community partners are and the difference we make in the community? Then join us at the Serve Ministry Lunch and Learn (It's free, you just need to sign up). One of the best things I get to do every month is to work with our Serve Team to give back to the community 10% of what has been given to our church's general fund. We have amazing community partners that are bringing life and blessing, and this is a great opportunity to learn more. Childcare is available, but the deadline to sign up is February 24. Sign up [HERE](#).

We've got a couple of new bible studies starting soon: Elijah begins on March 4 (this is a women's group) and Epic of Eden Deborah (for everyone) begins on March 5. Go to the [events page](#) of the website to learn more.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

### WORSHIP—February 23 & 24

#### Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty  
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#### Modern (9:30 & 11:00am Sunday)

Songs: Battle Belongs; Let It Be Jesus  
He Who Is To Come; Graves Into Gardens

#### Special Monday Night Worship/Prayer Service (6pm)

Live Stream @ 9:30am Sunday: [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

#### Grace Community Church

4001 Brooken Hill Dr., Fort Smith, AR 72908

479.646.1177

[contact@gracefs.com](mailto:contact@gracefs.com)

Office Hours: 9-5 Monday-Thursday

[www.gracefs.com](http://www.gracefs.com)

*Grace Community Church exists for the glory of God,  
to make visible the kingdom of God, and  
to declare the grace of God to all the world.*

# WORSHIP



**Monday, February 24 at 6pm**  
**Join us for a night of worship and prayer! All are welcome as we sing and prepare for Gather 25!**



**Gather 25**  
**Friday, February 28 @ 6:30 pm thru**  
**Saturday, March 1 @ 8:30 pm**

In Matthew 28, Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all nations.”

Now, for the first time in history, technology has connected the Global Church in ways that were never before possible. This is an unprecedented moment to invite Christians to gather together for the sake of the gospel and the Great Commission.

For 25 hours, we'll be led by international leaders sharing the stories of what God is doing on each continent. Through captivating storytelling, earnest worship, and powerful prayer, we hope that everyone who attends will leave with a renewed desire to take the gospel to their families, schools, homes, workplaces, and communities.

The goal of Gather 25 is to mobilize the 2.5 billion Christians on Earth to participate in the mission of God and to “go and make disciples” of the 5.5 billion people who are not yet believers.

**You're invited to be apart of this historic moment for the global church! Childcare will be provided on February 28 from 6:30-8:30pm and March 1, 6:30- 8:30pm.**

For more info about Gather 25 click [HERE](#).



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**Wed., March 5, noon & 6pm**

Join us as we begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at noon and 6:00pm. This is a short service where we commit to using the 40 days of Lent as

preparation to grow deeper in our walk with Christ. We spend a few moments in worship, have ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and dependence upon God for life, and we spend time in prayer.

What is Lent? Lent is a season of 40 days that begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. (The Sundays of Lent are not part of the 40 days of Lent and so remain “little Easters”). Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not you prepare for Easter. However, without your heart and life being ready, you may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. Lent is not about being miserable or sad, but about preparing to celebrate the greatest news the world has ever received. Fasting and giving up something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on some things. Click [HERE](#) for a few suggestions.

## KIDS MINISTRY (Infants—5th GRADERS)

Contact [Christine](#) for Children's Ministry.

Kids Page on Grace Website—Click [HERE](#).

### This Month's Biblical Theme Is: Jesus Knows Us

The message that God knows us is reinforced over and over again in the Bible. Jesus told a group of His followers not to worry because God knows what they need. Jesus knew the heart of the woman who anointed His feet with oil and loved her deeply despite her sin. Knowing Peter's fear when they were walking on water together, Jesus rescued him. Jesus wanted His disciples to know Him and see Him as their Rescuer just like God wants us to know Him.



### Kids Summer 2025 Camp at Siloam Spring

July 21, 8am—July 25, 5pm

(3rd-5th Grades)

#### Signups Begin

Kids Camp sign ups have officially begun for Summer 2025. Kids who have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade as of May 2025 are eligible.



Please click the link for more information or to sign up, spots are limited! This is a great opportunity for children to be

with other believers their age and enjoy fellowship and fun. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Christine](#). To register, click [HERE](#).

## TRAIL LIFE USA (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade boys)

Contact [JD](#) for Trail Life.

**Troop 316, First 3 Mondays of Each Month (Feb.3,10,17)**

**6:15-7:30pm, StuMin**

Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship ministry that speaks to the heart of a boy. Set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.



# DASH & FM

(6-8th grades) & (9-12th grades)

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

Dash/FM Page on Grace Website—Click [HERE](#)



## Weekly Gatherings: Wednesdays, 6:00pm!

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

## Getting Ready for Senior Sunday, May 4!

We will celebrate in the Student Ministry Building with a luncheon after the 11:00 worship service. Invite friends and family to celebrate. Be sure to sign up for the luncheon [HERE](#) as well as provide Senior information for the “Senior Brochure.”



**Parents: Important....**Please send three pics to Dana no later than Sunday, March 16. Two pictures of the senior when he/she was younger and one senior picture. Email these to [Dana](#).



## Summer Camp—Few Spots Left 6th –12th Grade

We only have a few spots still available. Must [register](#) ASAP. First and second deposits will be due...\$200 total. If you need financial assistance for camp, please contact [Dana](#).

**Scholarship Donations Appreciated**—If you would like to help a student(s) go to camp this year, we would greatly appreciate full or partial scholarships. Donations can be made by clicking [HERE](#) (instructions in second paragraph of “Youth Summer Camp 2nd Installment” page)



All confirmands, family and friends are invited to join us to celebrate this journey. What a journey these kids have already been on! What a journey they have JUST BEGUN!!

### Message to Our Confirmation Parents....

Please click on this [link](#) to sign up for the celebration luncheon following worship services on March 9th.

# CONNECT/EVENTS



**Cancelled**  
**Due to Inclement Weather**



**Elijah "Faith and Fire"**

**Tuesday Morning Women's Study**

**Cost \$18**

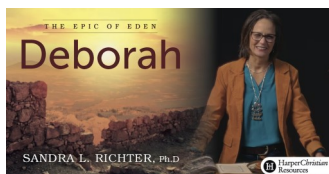
**Starts March 4, 10-11:30am, Activity Ctr**

**Facilitated by:**

**Martha Cochenour & Cassey Browning**

Elijah emerged as the voice of unapologetic truth during a time of national crisis and moral decline. His ministry was marked by tenacious faith and holy fire—the same kind we need in order to remain steadfast in our current culture.

Join our study as we look to bible teacher Priscilla Shirer for a fresh look at Elijah and the difficult choices of obedience that kept him anchored, sharpened his faith, broadened his impact, and invited heaven's fire to fall. Register [HERE](#).



**The Epic of Eden:**

**Deborah — Unlikely Heroes & the Book of Judges**

**Begins Wednesday, March 5**

**Facilitated by:**

**Kathryn O'Brien; Cost \$15**

**Two Class Options: Wednesday, 10-11:30am, Activity Ctr**

**Wednesday, 6-7:30pm, Children's Wing**

The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel's story. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah.

This study draws you immediately into the grand tale of Deborah and challenges you, as a Christ-follower, to ask yourself where God wants to expand his kingdom in your realm of influence today. Register [HERE](#).



Here are the planned dates and guide for study:

March 5 — Session 1: Class Participants will receive study guides, view video and complete orientation & introduction.

**(No preparation required for this first session.)**

March 12, 19 — Session 2, 3

March 26 — BREAK

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — Sessions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

After the first week, participants will spend about 60 minutes in independent study and gather on Wednesdays for viewing the video and group discussion.

# CONNECT/EVENTS



## Youth Summer Camp Lunch Fundraiser

**Sunday, March 16, 10:30am—12:30pm**

Enjoy a delicious pasta lunch while supporting our youth going to summer camp. Your meal will help send kids to church camp, where they'll grow in faith, make lasting friendships, and experience unforgettable adventures. You can eat your lunch in the Stu-Min with other church members or take it to-go! Click [HERE](#) to pre-order your meal! (Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta) \$10/plate



## Men's Night at Grace — Fish Fry **NEW!**

**Tuesday, March 18, 6-7:30pm**

**Student Ministry Building**

Chris Young, Greenwood High School Head football coach will be our guest speaker. Chris is leading young men every day on how to be the best they can be, not just on the football field but in life. Invite friends and come enjoy a night of food and fellowship! Cost \$10. Register [HERE](#).

## Adoption/Foster Care Support Luncheon **NEW!**

**Sunday, April 6, 12:15-1:30pm, Activity Center**

The goal of this lunch is to create awareness and develop support systems that better serve our Grace families who are fostering or in the adoption process.



Who is invited to this lunch?

1. Anyone who is in the adoption process or serving as a foster family
2. Anyone who has adopted/fostered in the past who would like to lend wisdom

and support to these families

3. Anyone who would like to support our adopting/fostering families  
Please register [HERE](#) so we can make the appropriate accommodations.

## For King and Kingdom – Men's Retreat

**Wednesday-Sunday, April 9-13**

**Burning Bush Lodge, Wrightsville, AR; Cost: \$300**

A "For King and Kingdom" retreat experience is designed to inspire, unite, and free men to pursue their Kingdom destiny in a community of like-minded men. We grow in our faith by knowing God, knowing self and knowing others on a deep and personal level, this retreat experience is designed to do that. Too often, men in the church need something to arouse their

hearts, to awaken a sleeping warrior for the King and his Kingdom mission. The church of Jesus needs men of strength and courage who are willing to surrender their lives to King Jesus and His Kingdom!

[Filling out this form](#) does not commit you to the retreat. It is for men who are interested in learning more about the retreat. JD Cunny will contract you with more details.

Scholarships/payment arrangements are available. Space is limited.

# 4K

FOR KING & KINGDOM  
MEN'S RETREAT EXPERIENCE  
APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2025



# CONNECT—On Going Groups



## Upper Room Daily Devotional Discussion Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
1-2pm, Activity Center

Using the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide, ladies discuss the daily reading and the Bible verses as a launching pad for in-depth discussions to include sharing personal experiences. Class is led by Sherry Grimm.



## By Hook, Needle & Craft Women's Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays  
1pm, Activity Center

Join a group of women who love crafts and visiting with each other. Crafts include knitting, crewel, needlepoint, cross-stitch and any other craft you wish to do. If you are gifted with these talents or want to learn, join these ladies in this wonderful ministry. On the few occasions when the first day of the month falls on a Thursday, meetings will be on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Class is led by Mary Carter.



## Men's Lunch Huddle

Thursday, March 6, 12pm

The Egg of Fort Smith

3801 Planters Rd.

This is a great way to connect with other men at Grace. Invite a friend or coworker. (First Thursday of each month)



## Moms Growing in Grace

(2nd Tues each month—Sept-May)

Remaining Dates:

Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13

6-7:30pm, Kids Church Classroom

Moms Growing with Grace is a group where mothers can come together. Whether you are raising children now, are pregnant, are fostering, or have grown children, all are welcome. We come together each month to discuss topics that matter to us and use our faith and experiences to encourage each other. Our study this session will be "Reclaiming Motherhood: Embracing the Untamed, Beauty, Fun, Passion & Vitality of Motherhood" Questions, contact Jessica Michael 479-322-2164 or Ariana Gallamore 417-274-4671 (free childcare provided)



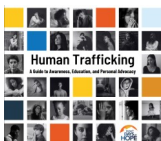
## Serve Ministries Lunch & Learn Roundtable March 2, 12:15pm, Activity Center

From financial giving to delivering much needed supplies, Grace actively works at supporting our many Community Partners each month. One of the most challenging things I am tasked with is getting the word out about the endless opportunities we have to love and serve people right here in the River Valley. It is our hope that these Roundtable sessions will be an exciting and new way to learn what our Serve Ministries at Grace is all about. I hope you will join us for lunch on Sunday, March 2. Please check out our [website for more details and for sign up information](#). As always, you can also contact [Kathleen](#).



## Care Portal Training/Informational Lunch March 16, noon, Activity Center

Simply put, the Care Portal is a technological system that connects people who can help with people who need help...right now, in real time. Join us for this training and informational lunch. Please check out more [details on our website along with sign up information](#). Contact [Kathleen](#).



## Human Trafficking Awareness

What can you do about human trafficking? Below are a few resources and information to get you started. The most important way to counteract human trafficking is to raise awareness for those being targeted and to know how traffickers engage with those at risk. We encourage you to begin the journey of educating yourself and those around you by checking out our [Human Trafficking Guide](#) and subscribing to the [EDOH Safe House](#)



## Ministry Newsletter.

For more information about the ministries of Eight Days of Hope, contact [Kathleen](#).



## Eight Days of Hope Buffalo, NY Outreach July 19-26



Are you looking for a mission trip, but don't want to travel outside the United States? Maybe Buffalo is just the opportunity you are looking for. We will be serving people in a district that has substantial needs. This is a great trip for families and people of all ages to serve together. Projects will include all skill levels. Lodging and meals are provided while serving with EDOH. If riding on the church bus seems to be too much for you, you can fly at your own expense and arrangements for transportation to and from the airport will be available. There are lots of variables to this mission opportunity. If you can't be gone for that many days but still want to serve, please contact [Kathleen](#) to discuss alternatives. Details are still being finalized, please sign up [HERE](#) if you are interested.



**SERVE**

Contact [Kathleen](#) for more information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**SUPPORTING SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**The CALL's Bunny Breakfast & 5K**  
**Saturday, April 12**

If you are interested in being on Team Grace for the 5K (walk or run), please contact [Christine Turpin](#). Click [HERE](#) for a link to the Sponsor Packet.



**First Choice**  
**Pregnancy Center**  
**Walk for Life**  
**Saturday, April 19**

Click [HERE](#) for more information about this event.



**Community Services**  
**Clearinghouse**  
**True Grit Ride**  
**Benefiting Backpack**  
**Food Program**

**Saturday, June 28**  
Click [HERE](#) for more information about this event.



**MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY**

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.

**Mental Health**  
*Ministry*



Scan this QR code or go to [Gracefs.com/mental-health](https://Gracefs.com/mental-health)

Are you concerned about your personal mental health or that of a family member? Do you struggle with knowing who you can talk to? Do you carry the common concern that others cannot know? Perhaps you are ready to discuss it, but are just not sure what the next right step is? Talk to our mental health team! The form is confidential.

Once the form is received, the director will contact you to set up a confidential meeting to further understand your needs and assist in the options for your potential next steps

# OTHER



## Grace Place Preschool Summer and 2025-2026 Enrollment Begins February 10 For Grace Community Church Families

On Monday, February 10, Grace Place will begin enrolling new kids from Grace Community Church families for Summer 2025 and the 25-26 school year.

Summer age bracket is: 8 weeks - 5th grade

25/26 School Year age bracket is: 8 weeks - PreK

To receive an enrollment package, please stop by the Grace Place Office between 7am-5:30pm Monday thru Friday. Packets must be turned in at the Preschool not the church office. This will allow the Preschool to tell the family if there is an open spot or if the family will go on the waitlist.

For questions or more information please contact Grace Place Preschool Director Natalie Cole or Assistant Director Brandie Haynes at (479)646-6503.

### Receiving Text Messages from Grace

If you are not receiving text messages from Grace and you want to, be sure to send a text message to this #: **87447** and type in the message the word **START**. Once this is completed, you will receive a message back that says you are enrolled to receive these messages.

As winter approaching, this is the best way for us to notify the church whether services/events are delayed or cancelled. Also, messages are sent to small/study groups through this feature. Don't miss out on important messages/reminders that are sent through text messaging.

# GIVING

### Automatic Giving to Moving Forward Fund Needs Revising

If you have automatic checks or PayPal recurring payments still being sent to the church marked for "Moving Forward Fund," we ask that you make corrections on your end. As Pastor Jeff shared in his email message to the church on October 18, we have paid off our building loan! If you would like to re-direct your giving to other needs, here are some suggestion Pastor Jeff gave:

Facilities Maintenance Fund

Mission Fund

Seminary Scholarship Fund

Gracie Van Fund

Or any other area of the church you desire to support

Contact [Jeannette](#) if you have any questions.

# PRAYER

If you have prayer needs, please submit request [HERE](#).

## **Community & World**

Unsaved

United States

Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza

All Military

Foster and Adoptive Parents

Victims of Violence

Weather Event Victims

Eight Days of Hope Ministry

Those who are sick

Those struggling w/mental illness & addictions

Walker & Jessica Lowe (YWAM Missionaries)

## **Grace Families**

Carla Hilliard

Rowe Carter

Ron Adams

Barbara Braswell

Brandon Childers

Sarah Phillips

Kevin Robertson

Bob Cochenour

Ken Harvey

Chuck Goux

Jim Sharp

Becky Basinger

Jeremy Strunk

## **Grace Friends**

Terry Porter (former Grace member)

Melanie Woody (Teacher in Greenwood)

## **Cancer Fighters—Grace Family**

Nora Lowe

Tom Kaufenberg

## **Sympathies**

Family and Friends of Rev. Don Hutchings