

Grace Weekly Email Update

November 26, 2025

Message from Pastor Jeff



The season of Advent begins this week and we have prepared Advent devotionals for you to use in your home during this season. I encourage you to consider placing an advent wreath in your home as well during this time and to light candles as you do your study. You can find more information [HERE](#). This is a great way to keep the focus on Jesus!

Our Deck the Halls/Chili Cook Off/Cookie Bake Off is this Sunday at 5pm. Come enjoy some great chili and delicious cookies, and help us get the church decorated for Christmas. If you are going to bring chili or cookies, please let us know by signing up [HERE](#).

This week is a sacred week of thanks and praise:

1. Fill the Lord's ears with gratitude and praise.
2. Philippians 4:8 the week!
3. Lay down your sword and celebrate what is good and right and true.
4. Write a note of gratitude to someone who has blessed you.
5. Eat some great food and feast because God is good and the Great Banquet is coming!

I look forward to beginning Advent season with you this Sunday!

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICES — November 29 & 30

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: O Come, O Come Emmanuel; O Come, All Ye Faithful

Modern (9:30 & 11:00am Sunday, 6pm Monday)

Songs: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus; Hope Has Come
He Who Is To Come; King of Kings

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

Past Sermons/Materials: Click [HERE](#).

Chili Cook-off/Bakery Bake-off and Deck the Halls, 5pm!

Grace Community Church

4001 Brooken Hill Dr., Fort Smith, AR 72908

479.646.1177

contact@gracefs.com

Office Hours: 9-5 Monday-Thursday

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.*

KIDS MINISTRY

(Infants—PreK)



Contact:
[Christine Turpin](#)



**Kids Church
Thank You**
(Nov 2—23)

In life, we can choose to grumble and be selfish, or we can choose to be grateful. Kids will learn that we should praise God and give him thanks every day.

Memory Verse:
*"Give thanks to the Lord,
because He is good.*
1 Chronicles 16:34a

(K-5th Grade)



Contact:
[Sarah Reykers](#)



**Kids Church
Simply
Loved**
(November)

Something New in Kids Church

Hey parents! Your kids are coming home with a Thankful calendar challenge for November! Help them fill it out each day and bring it back after Nov 30 for a treat!

Our new verse:
*"Be quick to listen, slow to
speak, and slow to anger."*
James 1:19

Grace Kids Needs VOLUNTEERS!!

Grace Kids Ministry has GROWN and we need you! We have volunteer opportunities to teach the lesson and to be a helper in the room. You can serve as little as once a month or as much as every Sunday! [Email](#) or text (479-414-2071) Sarah to start teaching little disciples!

Spring Weekend Retreat (3rd-5th Graders)

Camp Siloam, April 10-12, 2026

Instead of a full week camp in summer 2026, we are doing a spring weekend retreat! It will be at the same location, [Camp Siloam](#). The tentative plan is to leave Grace around 3:30 on that Friday so we have time to stop and eat and arrive by check-in time. We will return Sunday around noon.



Cost is \$130 with a \$35 nonrefundable deposit due at time of registration. The remaining balance can be paid out over the next few months. We will send reminders and a link to pay the installments. PLEASE do not let cost be an issue. We have scholarships available for those that may need it. Please let [Sarah Reykers](#) know if you need financial assistance.

As we get more details closer to time, we will pass them along! Register [HERE](#).

DASH & FM

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

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

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



No Youth Wednesday Night on Nov. 26



Canned Food Drive
Nov. 5-Dec 10
Rewards for the Winner!

Confirmation Class, Sundays, January 11-March 15 9:30-10:30am in the Student Ministry Bldg.

For 6th Graders and Older

Theme: A Deeper Understanding In Our Faith Journey

For more details and sign ups, click [HERE](#).

**DASH
SUMMER CAMP**

Upcoming 6th-8th graders
June 14-17, 2026
Encounter Cove, MO
Lake of the Ozarks

For more info  to Sign up

Sign up deadline Nov. 30th
Spots are Limited. Sign up soon!
\$100 deposit

**DASH
SUMMER CAMP**

Total Cost: \$500
Lots of Fundraising opportunities

- High-energy worship
- Powerful messages
- Crazy fun activities and games
- New friendships
- Unforgettable memories

A chance to grow deeper in faith and discover who God created you to be

Payment Installment Deadlines:
Nov 30-----Dec 31-----Jan 31-----Mar 31-----May 31

**HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER
CAMP.**

Upcoming 9th graders - graduated seniors

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2026
Cleveland, TN,

SIGN UP DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 30TH TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT \$100



Scan the QR code to sign up or get more information

SPOTS ARE LIMITED
SIGN UP EARLY!

**HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER
CAMP.**

Total Camp Cost: \$500
We'll be doing fundraisers to lower the cost for everyone who participates!

WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS CAMP:

- An awe-inspiring week in Cleveland, TN
- Life changing messages
- Powerful worship
- Crazy fun with students from across the country
- A chance to grow in faith, build friendships, and discover what God has next for you.

Payment Installment Deadlines:
Nov 30-----Dec 31-----Jan 31-----Mar 31-----May 31

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 Ava Imotichey.



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 Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursdays, Dec. 4, 12pm The Egg of Fort Smith 3801 Planters Rd.

Join men from Grace the first Thursday of each month, 12pm at The Egg of Fort Smith for a meal, fellowship and updates on our Men's Ministry. There is no need to sign up. We usually meet from noon-1pm. Invite a friend or co-worker.



Singles Ministry Thrive Monthly Lunch 1st Saturday Each Month, Noon Anthony's Italian Restaurant

Are you looking to find a community at Grace? Join the Thrive- Single's ministry for a monthly lunch full with conversation, connection, and yummy Italian food! Thrive will meet every 1st Saturday of the Month. The lunch will be hosted at Anthony's Italian Restaurant. No need to sign-up, just come when you can! If you have any questions please reach out to [Reagan Newell](#). Dec 6

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Deck the Halls Chili Cook Off and Cookie Bake Off **THIS Sunday, November 30** **5-7pm 'ish, Student Ministry Bldg**

Come join our Grace family for a fun, festive night of food and decorating! We will begin at 5:00pm with our annual Chili Cook Off + Cookie Bake Off in the Student Ministry Building. We'll then divide everyone up to help us deck the halls of Grace with Christmas decor! If you are interested in entering a Chili or Cookie [sign-up now!](#) Childcare will be available during the event up until 7pm.



Family Advent Study, starts Nov. 30

As a church, Advent invites us to remember the first coming of Jesus and to joyfully anticipate His second coming. Sunday, November 30th marks the beginning of the Advent season. Over the

four weeks leading up to Christmas, we will reflect on the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love revealed through the birth of Christ. This is a meaningful time for us to slow down, refocus our hearts, and walk together toward the celebration of Jesus' arrival.

To help guide you through this season, we've created a simple, family-friendly Advent study. Each week includes five daily devotionals with a short reading, a Scripture passage, and reflection questions for young children, teens, and adults. For those who enjoy hands-on activities, each week also includes a weekend challenge designed to help your family practice what you've been learning. Advent guides will be available for pick-up in the church lobby this Sunday November 23rd or in the church office. There are electronic copies available on the front page of the [website](#). If you have any questions please reach out to [Reagan Newell](#).

Join the 2025
**GRACE
CHRISTMAS
CHOIR**



Christmas Choir Practices Have Started

It is not too late to be a part of the Christmas Choir. To find information on rehearsal times, important dates, skills needed, and other things pertaining to the Christmas choir, click [HERE](#). To sign up, click [HERE](#).

Rehearsal times are as follows:

- Sundays, Nov. 2—Dec 14, 12:30-2pm, Chapel
- Wednesday, Dec. 17, 5:30-7:30pm, choir and band, worship center
- Sunday, Dec. 21: (Day of service) 7:30-9am, final run-through with full band and choir in the worship center



The Christmas Bells Conversation About Personal Tragedy and Cultural Turmoil

Facilitator: Kathryn O'Brien

This isn't a Bible study; it isn't even an Advent study —> this is a conversation about how personal tragedy and cultural turmoil can lead us to a place of hope and peace. Henry Wordsworth Longfellow, wrote the poem, "Christmas Bells" under just such circumstances and his story will lay the foundation of our discussion. His beautiful poem inspired the writing of the beloved Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

Come join us for three Wednesday mornings in the chapel:

December 3 & 10: 10-11:30 am

December 17: 9-11:30 am

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the study and to register.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Ladies Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 6
10-11:30am
Worship Center



Jenn Jett Barret
Speaker

Join the ladies of Grace for a festive Christmas tea/brunch. We will worship together and hear a wonderful message from our speaker **Jenn Jett Barret**. Our theme this year is "A Thrill of Hope". In the midst of all of life's struggles we want to begin the Christmas season grounded in the Hope that the birth of Christ brings us. We are women who have the privilege of living with a hope that the world cannot offer, we want to celebrate that truth together! Register [HERE](#).

Deadline to sign up is
THIS FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 28!

Drop & Shop, Saturday, December 6, 12-4pm

Need a few hours to get your Christmas shopping done without little eyes watching? We've got you covered! Drop your kiddos off for a fun-filled afternoon while you check off that gift list. Kids will enjoy a day packed with holiday fun: hotdogs for lunch, cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, and Minute to Win It games that will keep them laughing and busy! Drop-off & Pick-up will be in the Student Ministry Building main entrance. Spots are LIMITED, so don't wait to register! The Cost is \$10 per child. It's a win for parents and kids -- you shop, they play! Sign up [HERE](#).



Christmas Eve
Services
Wednesday
December 24
4 & 6 PM

Join us for our special Christmas Eve Service! Come celebrate

the joy of Christmas with worship, a message, and our traditional candlelight moment to close the evening. Kids Church will be available for children 5 and under. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

SERVE

Contact [Michelle Thomas](#) for more information on local mission efforts.

Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) for more information on mission efforts outside of our community.



Community Rescue Mission (CRM) Still Needs 3 Volunteers for Thanksgiving Day

The Community Rescue Mission is still in **need of 3 people** on Thanksgiving Day: 1 from 11:00-2:00 and 2 from 2:30

-4:00 or clean up completed. The children and families living at the Mission are thankful for so much and created their table centerpieces with notes of gratitude. Thank you to our volunteers for cooking, serving, cleaning, and sharing in this opportunity for fostering thanks in troubled times.

Please contact [Jeanne Carroll](#) for sign up and times.

VBS "Wish List"

As you are taking advantage of "Black Friday" upcoming sales, go out to the ["Wish List"](#) for our VBS program

happening this summer. Amazon has some great sales on a few items right now! When you place your order, the items will be shipped directly to Sarah at the church address with a notation

of who purchased the item. If you see these same items in other stores at a better price, feel free to purchase them and drop these items to the kids checkin station or at the church office.



Families in Transition Gifts—**NEW!** Help Still Needed on Distribution Day

Angel Tree tags were whisked away and gifts are returning!

Thank you to our generous congregation and the servants who manage this endeavor! We need volunteers to help distribute gifts as the families come to Grace and pick them up. A prayer and invitation to our Christmas Eve service is a wonderful way to share the Good News and to love people in our community. Please contact [Erin DeLassus](#) for more information.



Heart to Heart Gift Tags— All Taken! Thank You, Gracers!

Heart to Heart Pregnancy and Family Center gift tags quickly disappeared by our loving church family. Gifts are to be returned by December 3. Thank you for your generosity for these children .

SERVE

Contact [Michelle Thomas](#) for more information on local mission efforts.

Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) for more information on mission efforts outside of our community.



Giving Away Christmas Starts This Sunday, Nov. 30

Giving Away Christmas boxes will be available for your donations in the worship center. We are collecting items for 1st Choice Pregnancy and Medical Center, Heart to Heart Pregnancy and Family Center, and Almost Home Shelter for animals. Please see the **list below** for the most requested items for these organizations.



Heart to Heart Pregnancy Center

- Diapers, Size 4-6
- Baby wipes
- Shoes: Boys and Girls sizes 4 – 9; can be gently used, no holes
- Clothing: Sizes 2T and 3T; can be gently used

1st Choice Pregnancy Medical Center

- Diapers, Size 4-6
- Baby wipes
- Shoes: Boys and Girls sizes 4 – 9; can be gently used, no holes
- Clothing: Sizes 2T and 3T; can be gently used
- Small sized personal hygiene products for

Almost Home Animal Shelter

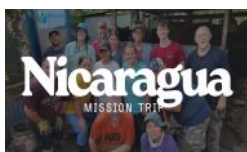
- Clorox wipes
- Dawn liquid soap
- Paper towels
- Trash bags (45/55 gallon)
- Puppy pads
- Pedigree Choice Cuts in Gravy
- Dry Pedigree dog food
- Dog treats (no rawhide, pig ears, or beef hide)
- Blankets—small, low cost
- Towels
- Peanut butter
- Vienna Sausage
- Cat food
- Cat litter
- Cat toys



Nicaragua Teams Are Filling Up Fast

Teams 1 & 2 are now FULL!

We have had a tremendous response to our 2026 Nicaragua Mission opportunities. We have opened the dates for Team 3 on August 1-8 and will add a Team 4 the following week if needed. If you are interested in going, please don't wait to [sign up](#). We will be doing a few fundraisers to help offset costs and scholarship assistance is available. If you aren't interested in going on the trip but want to be a part of someone's story, contact Kathleen to discuss the possibilities. Please pray for our Teams, the people still considering going, the families in Nicaragua that we will be serving and for the El Porvenir staff. Please contact [Kathleen](#) if you have any questions.



9 Baskets Donated for The CALL Give-a-ways

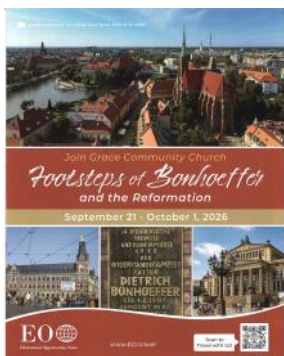
Grace folks donated 9 gift baskets to The Call for their 12 days of Christmas give-a-ways. Huge thanks

goes to Monkey House and the ladies in The Chosen Bible Study, Misty Cunny and a sweet lady in the Tuesday morning class. Grace families stepped up again!



OTHER

Two Trips to Europe in 2026 with EO Travel
Leaders: [Staci Moore](#) and Jim Acklin
Info Meetings Coming Soon
Click on the name of the tour to read more.



[Footsteps of Bonhoeffer & the Reformation](#)

(Sept. 21—Oct. 1, 2026)

Join Grace Community Church for the Footsteps of Bonhoeffer and the Reformation, starting at \$5,196* from Fayetteville, on September 21, 2026. You will see the Church of St. Elizabeth, the original village of Lehde, Cecilienhof Palace, the Church of Peace, the picturesque old city of Potsdam, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, the door of the Castle Church, Eisleben, Erfurt, St. Nicholas Church, Weimar, Frankfurt area, St. Thomas Church, the Church of St. Peter and Paul, St. Andrew's Church, St. Anne's Church, Wartburg Castle, and much more!

(11 Days in Germany & Poland)

Register Early & Save

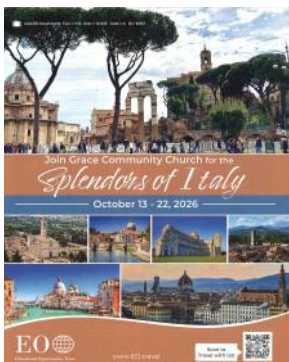
\$100 Register by December 21, 2025

\$75 Register by January 21, 2026

\$50 Register by February 21, 2026

\$25 Register by March 21, 2026

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.



[Splendors of Italy](#)

(Oct. 12-22, 2026)

Grace Community Church on a Splendors of Italy tour, starting at \$5,196* from Fayetteville, AR on October 13, 2026. You will see Lake Garda, Verona, Venice, the Piazza San Marco, the Basilica of St. Mark, the romantic Bridge of Sighs, Pisa, Lucca, Florence, San Gimignano, Siena, Assisi, the magnificent Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Circus Maximus, the Arch of Titus, the famous Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Constantine, and much more!

(10 Days in Italy)

Register Early & Save

\$125 Register by December 13, 2025

\$100 Register by January 13, 2026

\$75 Register by February 13, 2026

\$50 Register by March 13, 2026

\$25 Register by April 13, 2026

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.



Feelings of Loneliness & Isolation

A Message from Rusti Holwick, LPE-I, LADAC, AADC



Many of us experience feelings of loneliness or feeling lonesome, especially during the holiday season. It's common to experience a deep inner sense and feeling of loneliness and feeling isolated and alone, even when in a crowded room such as a party or gathering with other people even if they are friends and loved ones. You may notice the feeling during daily activities such as driving your car, while working or going through the motions of your day.

This experience can often resemble depressive symptoms with a heaviness, negative and self-deprecating thoughts might occur, feelings of sadness or emptiness and a heavy physical experience as well as a general low feeling or ebb. Sometimes this experience seems to touch and impact our spirit within as an emptiness resulting in feeling spiritually empty and void; being low in spirit.

This phenomenon has been addressed in Existential Theory as a core part of the human condition and reflects this paradox that while we are connected as a human species, each person's subjective internal experience occurs in isolation alone and unique to that individual. A well known Existential statement for example, "Together, we are alone."

In young adults, 57% of 18-24 year olds reported feeling alone in early 2025; a significant increasing trend. One in four young people globally experience loneliness. In adults: around one-third of all U.S. adults experienced loneliness at least once a week in the past year.

Technology is frequently cited as a cause of loneliness for mainstream Americans, although also cited to help maintain relationships. Social media trends with endless scrolling, watching Tik Tok or scrolling on Facebook and/or Instagram with the experience of watching others' lives from a disconnected outside looking-in view, I think, is the element that adds to isolation rather than connection. Even without technology, loneliness is an age-old problem.

Side note: A good book to read for insights into changes in youth with increased anxiety, mental health issues and isolation: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt.

This topic is easy for me to write about as I experience this from time to time. I am very familiar with the occurrence of feeling internally isolated and alone as I live a busy life with family, friends, a very busy and meaningful work life, exercise, hobbies and all. Even with so many people near me that I love intensely; it's still easy to feel isolated within my mind.

The good news and remedy for this ailment and occurrence is found in the Word of God. The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of the Holy Spirit dwelling within each of his children. I am a child of God. I/We are never alone as believers in Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4(Easy Version) says it nicely: It is true that we live in this world as humans. But we do not use our human ideas to fight against what is wrong. It is like we are fighting in a war, but we do not use human weapons. Instead we use God's weapons. Those weapons are powerful enough to destroy the enemy's strong places. We use those weapons to destroy people's wrong ideas.

These scriptures reminding me of His promises give me hope and peace. They change my perspective and experience to allow me to live more fully in each moment. The Word is alive and helps us to fight the schemes and lies of the evil one. Hope and fulfillment is in The Lord and the Word he's given us.

I hope you find this helpful,

Rusti

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Mental Health Ministry



Scan this QR code or
go to 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

Meet our team: Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health Resources: Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health page on our website: Click [HERE](#).

PRAYER

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

Community & World

Unsaved

United States

Countries in Turmoil

All Military

Foster and Adoptive Parents

Victims of Violence

Weather Disaster Victims

Eight Days of Hope Ministry

Those who are sick

Those struggling w/mental illness & addictions

Those struggling with grief

Christians in Nigeria

Holiday Travelers

Grace Families

Jim Sharp

Tim Vair

Tuckers' new grandson, Rhet

Brenda Hamilton

Grace Friends

Melba Sargent

Bobby Jones

Tonya

A Father addicted to alcohol

Sympathies

Allison Butler and family (death of her mother TeLoa Butler)



Give
Thanks
to the
Lord
He is good

Psalm 103:1