

Grace Weekly Email Update

December 10, 2025

Message from Pastor Jeff



Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 6pm.

We will have ONE service on the weekend after Christmas: 10am on December 28. We will go back to our normal schedule on the weekend of January 4.

Thank you to JD for the message last weekend on peace! And remember, it's not all about you. Those who have peace with God and live in the peace of God become peacemakers. Hurt people hurt people. People at peace bring peace. How is God working through you this week to bring peace/shalom?

This January is a special time in the life of Grace. Every three years at Grace we have the opportunity to recommit to membership at Grace. When Grace was founded we wanted a way for people to regularly remember and renew their membership commitment. So every three years our membership goes to zero and everyone has the opportunity to prayerfully consider again supporting the church by worshiping, connecting, serving, praying and giving. We'll spend the month of January talking about this, but if you are like me, you are already pondering your 2026 and I wanted to invite you to add this to your prayers.

I want to praise God for your generosity in this season. In just the last few weeks you bought around \$20,000 worth of food for those in need, filled 213 Christmas gift tags, and are filling our Giving Away Christmas boxes. And that's just the stuff I know about. It is a joy and privilege to serve Jesus with you!

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICES — December 14 & 15

Traditional (8:30am Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Advent

Hymns: Angels We Have Heard on High
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

Songs: Praise; He Shall Reign Forevermore
Joy to the World; Christmas Day

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

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

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



Kids Church Infants—PreK Contact: [Christine Turpin](#)

These next few weeks will help little ones prepare their hearts for Jesus. Each week they will learn a new part of the Christmas story -- Hope from the prophets, Peace in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, Joy from the shepherds who heard the good news, and Love from the angels who celebrated Christ's arrival. Together, they will show children the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus, God's promised Savior.



Kids Church K-5th Grade Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)

Join us as we learn about the true meaning of Christmas through the colors of Christmas!

Our new verse:

"Love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:39



Kids Church Sings at Brooken Hill Health & Rehab this Sunday, December 14, 10:35am

NEW!

Hey parents! Don't forget, this Sunday the kids will walk over to the rehab facility next door at 10:35 to sing a few Christmas songs for the residents. If you attend the 9:30

service, please plan to stay. If you attend the 11:00 service, please plan to come early so your kids can join us! Wear any and all fun Christmas things!



NEW!

Kids Church, Sunday, Dec. 28, One Service at 10am!!! PJs, Pop-Tarts & Prayer Party!



All children in Kids Church are invited to come in their pjs on December 28. Grace is having only ONE service that Sunday. The kids will celebrate with Pop-Tarts and Prayer!

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...two nights at [Camp Siloam](#). Full camp details and sign ups can be found [HERE](#). Contact [Sarah Reyers](#) with questions.

DASH & FM

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

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

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



Youth Wednesday Nights, 6-7:30pm, Student Ministry Bldg



Food Drive

ENDS THIS WEDNESDAY, December 10.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE
DINNER & LOCK-IN**

Upcoming 6th graders through current Seniors!!!

Youth are serving at a NYE dinner for adults!

Date: Dec 31, 2025
Time: 5pm - 8:30 pm
(3.5 service hours)

Youth may leave after clean up
or
Stay for a lock-in!!!
Sign-up is Required!

Or Click [HERE.](#)



Dinner and Lock-in Signup Here!!

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.](#)

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.



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](#).

EVENTS

Family Advent Study, started 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](#).

Christmas Choir

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



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 5yrs and under. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

EVENTS

REVISED

New Year's Eve Dinner

Youth Camp Fundraiser Benefiting Grace Youth Camp

A special evening of food and fellowship as we celebrate the new year—and invest in the next generation.

This event is for adults only. Reserve your spot by clicking on the UPC code below or on the link [HERE](#).

Please Reserve Your Seats By Sunday, December 28.



Benefiting Grace Youth Camp 2026

A special evening of food, fellowship, and celebration as we look forward to a new year—and invest in the next generation!

December 31st

6:30 PM

Grace Community Church

Student Ministry

Free Childcare (4th grade and below) 6-8 pm

Reserve your spot today



Event is for adults only.

Dinner Menu

Chicken Spaghetti

Lasagna

Salad

Corn

Rolls Dessert

\$25/Person

**All proceeds go directly toward
sending students to camp.**

SERVE

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

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

VBS "Wish List"

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.



REVISED

Help Still Needed on Distribution Day for FIT Gifts

Tuesday, December 16, 8:30am-1:30pm

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.



Giving Away Christmas

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



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 moms

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

GRACE

Home Shelter for animals. Please see the [list](#) for the most requested items for these organizations.

Nicaragua Teams Mission Trip

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.



OTHER



Hiring Part Time Position could turn into full time.

Grace Place mission is to provide a loving, Christian environment that builds a spiritual, intellectual, and physical foundation for the development of the whole Child. If you love kids and Christ Grace Place is the place for you.

Stop into Grace Place anytime between 7am-5:30pm to pick up an application, or contact the Grace Place office at (479)646-6503

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

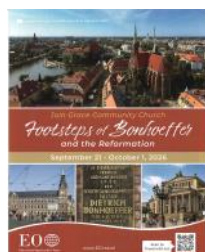
\$100 Register by December 21, 2025

\$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!

Register Early & Save

\$125 Register by December 13, 2025

\$100 Register by January 13, 2026

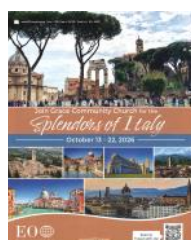
\$75 Register by February 13, 2026

\$50 Register by March 13, 2026

\$25 Register by April 13, 2026

(10 Days in Italy)

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY—continued

**Message from Kerry Underwood,
MS, LPC, LMFT**



Coping with Grief and Loss During the Holidays

The holiday season is often seen as a time of joy and celebration, a time to gather with loved ones, share meals, and create memories. However, for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be a painful reminder of their absence. The emptiness that comes with loss can feel particularly heavy as we witness the festive spirit around us. If you are struggling with grief this season, know that you are not alone, and there are ways to find peace and comfort, even in the midst of sorrow.

Acknowledging Your Grief

The first step in coping with grief during the holidays is to acknowledge your emotions. It's okay to feel sadness, anger, or even numbness. Grief is a complex journey, and it doesn't follow a set timeline. The Bible offers comfort in this regard, reminding us that God sees our pain and is close to the brokenhearted. Psalm 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Remember, there is no right or wrong way to grieve. Allow yourself the space and grace to feel what you feel. Whether you need to cry, take a moment of solitude, or express your emotions with others, give yourself permission to grieve in your own way.

Tips for Coping with Loss During the Holidays

1. Create New Traditions

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The balance of this article can be found in full by clicking [HERE](#).

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

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

Grace Friends

Co-Worker with Cancer

Bobby Jones

Father addicted to alcohol

Sympathies

Family and Friends of Charity Powell Beallis and children

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch for future articles or click on the link.

Women's Event

IF: One Night, Friday, February 27, 2026, 5:30-10pm

CHILI COOK-OFF & COOKIE BAKE-OFF WINNERS

CHILI



COOKIE

1st



Jessica
Cochenour

Natalie
Cole



2nd



Robert
Cole

Jessica
Cochenour



3rd



JD
Cunny

Mary
Carter



Fan Faves



Jeff
Jones

Isabella
& Sydney



GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!