

Grace Weekly Email Update

December 17, 2025

Message from Pastor Jeff



Grace Community Church Family,

I hope you have kept your eyes on Jesus this week. Are you rolling out of bed onto your knees to pray "Jesus, You are my King and I am yours"? Have you taken your 15 minutes to ask Jesus if you are making room for Him or squeezing Him in? Are you making His kingdom visible today? Let Him bless you with His joy as you surrender to Him!

We've got an amazing choir joining us for worship this Sunday morning at 9:30 and 11:00. They have been working for weeks to prepare to give God the glory as we celebrate the gift of Jesus. Bring a friend. It's good stuff and the topic for this Sunday is Advent Love.

Remember: Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 6pm. (If you can come to either, come to 6pm and make room for those who can only come to 4pm.)

Don't Forget: We will have one service on Sunday, December 28, at 10am.

Many of you are familiar with the Wake Up Call devotional, JD Walt, and Seedbed. JD Walt is going to be speaking at the Refresh Conference in Fayetteville on January 30-31. The conference is open to anyone who would like to attend. Find the information in the OTHER section of the newsletter or click [HERE](#).

May every Christmas light and every Christmas song cause you to look up in awe at the One whose love has saved us all!

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICES — December 21 & 22

Traditional (8:30am Sunday) 4th Sunday of Advent

Hymns: Away In A Manger; What Child Is This; The First Noel

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

Songs: The Joy/Joy to the World; How Many Kings

Behold/O Holy Night

He Who Is To Come/O Come O Come Emmanuel

Holy Communion celebrated at all services.

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, 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](#)



No Youth on December 24. We hope to see you at one of the Christmas Eve services, either at 4 or 6pm.

**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!!

The poster has a dark blue background decorated with yellow stars and a string of yellow lights. The text is primarily in white and yellow. A large yellow rounded rectangle contains the main event details. At the bottom, there is a white box with a QR code and a white banner with the text '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.

EVENTS

Christmas Choir Sings

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:30 AND 11:00 SERVICES



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

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.**

EVENTS

NEW!



In the Garden
Thursday, January 15
6-7:30pm
Worship Center

Women are invited to an evening of worship, testimony, and sweet fellowship. Come enjoy a shared meal, lift your heart in worship, and be encouraged by the testimony of Debbie Goux. We want to start the year off acknowledging God's faithfulness as we gather together in community. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, January 8. Childcare is available upon request. Contact [Reagan Newell](#) with any questions!

NEW!



Finishing Strong:
Making Final Plans
Sunday, January 25
2-3:30pm
Activity Center

While most people avoid thinking about their death and funeral plans, the bible actually says we gain wisdom by considering the number of our days. I (pastor Jeff) work with lots of families at the moment of death, and there are some clear things that make death and dying a powerful witness to God's love and which bless your family in that moment. Join me as we think through how you can prepare to love your family well in your death. We will look at practical things that everyone needs to have in place for when they die--from a living will to songs for the funeral service. Register [HERE](#).

NEW!



IF: One Night
Friday, February 27
5:30-10pm
Grace Worship Center

IF: One Night is a gathering of Christian women from all over the country. Some will join in person in Dallas, while the rest are connected virtually! This evening will be filled with worship, teaching, and connection with women from Grace. Dinner will be provided! If you have any questions contact [Reagan Newell](#).

List of Confirmed Speakers:

- Jennie Allen
- Christine Caine
- Francis Chan
- Lauren Chandler
- Jada Edwards
- Davy Flowers
- Layla de la Garza

Fee for If: One Night is \$10. Register [HERE](#).

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.



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 Home Shelter for animals. Please see the [list](#) 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 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



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



Refresh Conference

Friday, January 30

1:30-8pm

Saturday, January 31

8:30am-12noon

Join us for a powerful time of worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship as we gather for The Refresh Conference—an event for individuals and churches longing for an awakening to Christ and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Featured Speakers:

J.D. Walt — Founder and Sower-in-Chief of Seedbed Publishing and the primary author of the Wake Up Call devotional.

Andrew Forrest — Senior Pastor of Asbury Church in Tulsa, OK

You'll also get a preview of the 2025 New Room Conference, and speakers will share select teachings from the 2025 Seedbed Conference.

Conference is held at Christ Church, 4201 N. Shiloh Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703. Cost: \$30 adults, \$20 students. Register [HERE](#).

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.

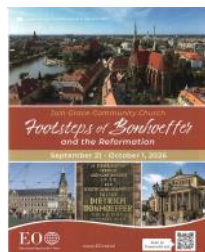
Footsteps of Bonhoeffer & the Reformation

(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!

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

(11 Days in Germany & Poland)



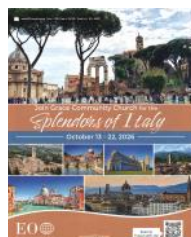
Splendors of Italy

(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!

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

(10 Days in Italy)



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

Wyatt Cox

Bobby Jones

Father addicted to alcohol

Sympathies

Family and Friends of Cheryl McCoy