

Grace Weekly Email Update

January 7, 2026

Message from JD Cunny (Associate Pastor)

We're excited to announce the launch of the new ["Connect" page](#) on the GraceFS website! At Grace, we believe that Worship, **Connect**, Serve, Pray, and Give are key commitments that lead us into a fuller life in Christ—and this week, our focus is on **Connect**.



Many of you know that our Bible Studies/Grace Classes have traditionally been found under the "Events" page. With the new [Connect page](#), we've made it easier than ever to find a "[Bible Study](#)" to join. We are now adding ["Community Groups."](#)

Groups are called by many different names—Small Groups, Life Groups, and here at Grace, we have chosen "**Community Groups.**" While the name may differ, the heart behind them is the same: to build a community that reflects the love of Christ. At its core, a Community Group is simply a place where someone is known, valued, prayed for, and reminded they do not have to walk alone. No matter what we call them, our hope is that you'll find a place where you belong—and that you'll join us. This is a new page, and we are actively working to get all of our studies and groups listed, so please take a moment to look around and see if joining a study/group might be right for you.

Of course, joining a study/group is just one way to **connect** at Grace. There are women's and men's gatherings, events for couples, and plenty of opportunities to build relationships along the way. Or—if you're feeling bold—you might even look around on a Sunday morning and introduce yourself to someone you haven't met yet.

However you choose to **connect**, we're excited about this next season of growing relationships and meaningful community within our Grace family.

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. This month we pause to recognize the reality of human trafficking, pray for victims and survivors, and commit ourselves to awareness, compassion, and action. Together, we can help bring light where there is darkness and stand for the dignity and freedom of every person. Please take a moment to read the article Kathleen has shared in the Serve section of the newsletter.

God Bless,

JD

WORSHIP SERVICE — January 11 & 12

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: We Three Kings of Orient Are; As With Gladness Men of Old

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

Songs: Great Things; Promises Never Fail

The Heart of Worship; Make Room

Live Stream @ 10am Sunday: [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

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

Grace Community Church

4001 Brooken Hill Dr. / Fort Smith, AR 72908 / 479.646.1177

Email: contact@gracefs.com / Office Hours: 9-5 Monday-Thursday

Website: 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



Jr. Kids: Infants—PreK

Contact: [Christine Turpin](#)



Kids Church K-5th Grade

Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)

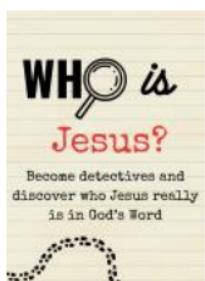


Jr. Kids January Theme:

Finger Painting with God

With just paint and their little fingers, our kiddos can create amazing pictures from their own imaginations. With just his voice, God created the world -- the sky, the animals, and each of THEM! Each week, toddlers and preschoolers will get hands-on as they finger paint their way through the creation story, learning about God's world in a fun, creative, and kid-centered way!

Memory Verse: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1:1



Kids Church K-5th Grade

Kids Ministry is bigger and better than ever in 2026!

We are kicking off the New Year learning about prayer and Who Jesus is. We will become detectives and discover who Jesus really is in God's word by answering questions and collecting clues. What will we discover about Jesus?

Memory Verse: *"God is our refuge and strength."* Psalm 46:1

K-5th Grade—Coming in February!!

For the girls: Painting and Pastries

For the boys: Nerf Wars and Nachos

More info coming soon!



VBS — Right Around the Corner!

Are you ready to get Messy?

Mark your calendars for June 7-10.

Volunteer opportunities coming soon.

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](#).

DASH & FM

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

Contact Dana For DASH and FM

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



Join Us on Wednesday Evenings in 2026!

During the school year, DASH and FM meet routinely every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm. We have dinner, games, worship, biblical lessons, and small groups. Small groups are split by grade level and male/female.

Confirmation Class

Begins Sunday, January 11, 9:30am, Student Ministry Bldg

If you did not get signed up yet, please contact Dana immediately. If you have already registered, Dana will be sending you info with all the necessary info.



CONNECT—On Going Groups

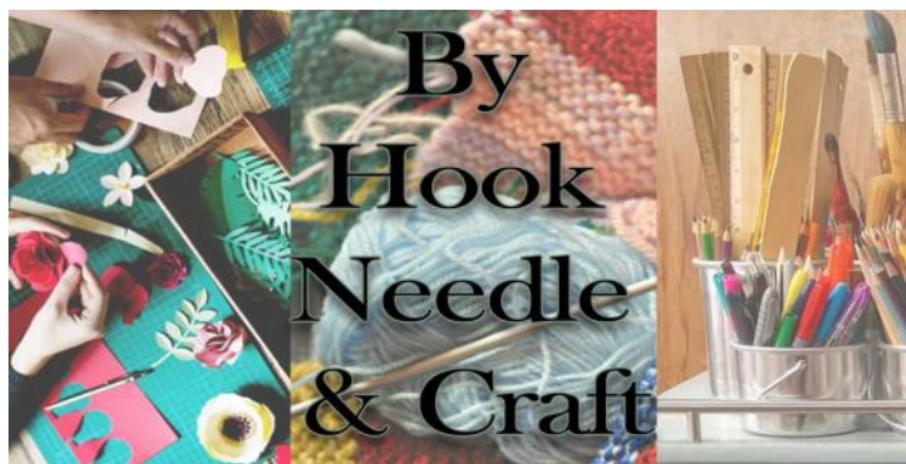


Upper Room Daily Devotional Discussion Group

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

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



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. Sign up [HERE](#). Contact [Reagan Newell](#) with any questions!



Men's Ministry Kick Off Night

Tuesday, January 20, 6pm

Activity Center



Join us as we kick off a new year of Men's Ministry at Grace for 2026. This evening is about gathering as men of Grace (and friends) to grow in faith, strengthen brotherhood, and step into our God-given purpose. We'll share the vision and direction of Grace Men's Ministry and highlight opportunities to get connected through discipleship, community, and service. Whether you're new to Grace or have been here for years, this night is for you. Cost: \$10 per person. If you bring a new guest, you and guest eat free!! Register [HERE](#).



Finishing Strong: Making Final Plans

Sunday, January 25 2-3:30pm, ActCtr

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](#).



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! Questions contact [Reagan Newell](#). Speakers are: Jennie Allen, Christine Caine, Francis Chan, Lauren Chandler, Jada Edwards, Davy Flowers, Layla de la Garza. Fee 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.



Blood Drive THIS Sunday, January 11

8:30am-noon, Lobby

Your gift of blood does more than save lives—it lifts families, inspires patients, and restores HOPE when it's needed most. This particular blood drive will help Millie, a 5-year old fighting leukemia. When donors give blood on Millie's behalf between Dec26 –Jan12, OBI will bless her family with \$5,000 to help give them hope in 2026. To hear Millie's story first hand, click [HERE](#). To sign up in advance for a timeslot on Sunday, January 11, click [HERE](#).

CORRECTION



Congratulations Scott Wallace!

Scott is the “real” **GetREAL Volunteer of the Year!** What does **Scott** do? ASK him! Maybe you can help, too. Thank you, **Scott**, and to our numerous Local Community Partner volunteers that help make the Kingdom of God visible to others. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the GetREAL ministry. (Scott is pictured here with his mentee Devin.)



Fundraiser for the CALL
Whataburger, Phoenix Ave.
Monday, January 12
5-8pm

NEW!

Giving Away Christmas Gifts—So Appreciated!
Your donations to our Giving Away Christmas organizations have been so very generous! The Almost Home Shelter was blown away by your gifts for both dogs and cats. They can always use volunteers to help the dogs awaiting their forever homes. The pregnancy centers greatly appreciated the additional gifts for young mothers and children. Thank you, Grace Community Church, for your love and care. You are making a difference in our community!



NEW!

SERVE...continued



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.



Nicaragua Meeting Sunday, January 18 11am Activity Building

Our trips will be here soon! Come meet other team members as

we discuss details of the trip as well as possible ideas for fundraising. We still have 2 spots available on Team 3 (August 1-8). Feel free to invite a friend. Contact [Kathleen](#) if you have any questions.

SERVE...continued



Restoring Dignity: A Call to Action for National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Stronger connections.
Stronger futures.

This January, as our nation observes National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we are called as a community of faith to look "beneath the surface" of a tragedy that often remains hidden in plain sight. Human trafficking is a crime against humanity and, for many in our community, an affront to the Gospel that denies the inherent value of every life created in the image of God.

Understanding the Reality

Sex trafficking is not just a global issue; it happens in our cities, suburbs, and rural areas. It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to engage in commercial sex acts.

- **Vulnerability:** Traffickers often target those who feel unsupported or alone. Children in foster care, runaway youth, and individuals with disabilities are at a significantly higher risk.
- **The Scope:** Globally, an estimated 28 million people are in situations of modern slavery, with women and young girls making up a disproportionate 99% of sex trafficking victims.
- **The Industry:** This illicit industry generates an estimated \$150 billion annually, thriving on the exploitation of the vulnerable.

Recognizing the Signs

Awareness is the first step toward prevention. While there is no "one size fits all" profile for a victim, common red flags include:

- Showing signs of being physically or emotionally controlled.
- Losing control of personal identification or having few personal possessions.
- Anxiety, depression, or being unable to answer questions about where they live.
- Unexplained bruises or signs of physical abuse.

How We Can Respond as a Church

As followers of Christ, we are called to "rescue the poor and helpless" (Psalm 82:3-4). Here is how you can help this month:

1. **Pray:** Pray for the safety of the vulnerable, the healing of survivors, and for the eyes of our community to be opened to those in need.
2. **Educate:** Take time to learn the indicators of trafficking and share this information with your family and coworkers.
3. **Wear Blue:** On January 11th, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, join others across the country by wearing blue to symbolize our commitment to fighting this crime.
4. **Report:** If you suspect someone is being trafficked, do not confront them directly. Instead, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" (233733).

By building stronger relationships and creating a welcoming, observant community, we can protect those at risk and help bring hope to those in the shadows.

For more information and resources, you can contact [Kathleen](#) or visit [the Human Trafficking Prevention Month Toolkit](#) or [Eight Days of Hope](#).

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.

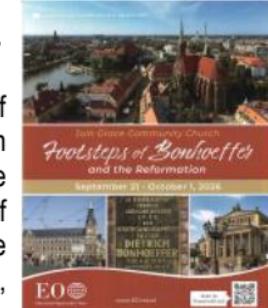
[Footsteps of Bonhoeffer & the Reformation](#)

(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)



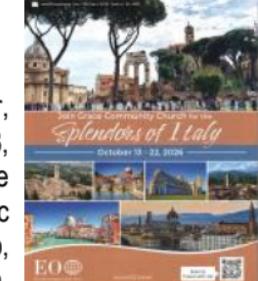
[Splendors of Italy](#)

(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)



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

Rylie Edgerton
Olivia McManus (Mullikin)

Grace Friends

Odom family (house fire-Muldrow)
Ron Haines
Bobby Jones
Father addicted to alcohol

Sympathies

Fred and Monica Naucke
(death of Fred's father)

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



[Meet Our Team](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[Mental Health Page](#)