

Grace Weekly Email Update

January 28, 2026

Message from Pastor Jeff



I missed getting to worship with you all this past Sunday and Monday, and I am extra looking forward to us all being back together again this weekend. A little extra time spent watching the news over the last weekend would leave me thoroughly unhopeful for the future of our nation and our world except for Jesus. He is alive and at work in and through the Church creating new kinds of humans who live for Him and whose lives transcend the politics and power struggles of this present moment. We don't gather for worship to retreat, we gather to be empowered to bring Him glory, make His kingdom visible, and to declare His grace to all the world. The gates of hell will not prevail against this. See you this weekend as we learn to thrive in the midst of chaos!

If you missed the snail mail letter I sent out about membership at Grace, you can find it [HERE](#). If you are ready to commit to helping us live out the mission God has given to us by worshiping, connecting, serving, praying, and giving, you can find membership cards in the backs of all the seats. Fill that card out and place it in the offering basket at any of our worship services. Some people have asked if there is an online option to use. There is not. We wanted you to have something physical to place in the basket as a tangible sign of your commitment.

I rescheduled the Finishing Strong: Making Final Plans class for this Sunday at 2pm. I'd love for you to join me and become intentional about loving those close to you and giving witness to Jesus in your passing from this life!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICE — February 1 & 2

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Come as Guests Invited; What A Friend We Have in Jesus

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

Songs: My Testimony; Stand In Your Love; Been Go Good; Our Father

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

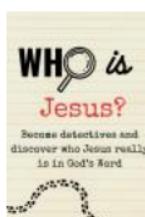
Jr. Kids: Infants—PreK Contact: [Christine Turpin](#)
Kids Church K-5th Grade Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)



NEW!

Jr. Kids February Theme: Bubbles: Jesus' Love Is Clear To Me
Bubbles are endlessly fascinating to look at, to blow, and to pop! In this series, toddlers and preschoolers will play with bubbles, and through their play learn some important lessons about the love of Jesus.

Memory Verse: "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love." 1 John 4:16a



Kids Church K-5th Grade

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



Painting + Pastries, Feb. 21, 9-11am Girls K-5th Grade, Activity Center

Join us for a sweet morning of creativity and fun just for the gals! Girls are invited to come paint, eat some yummy pastries, and hear a short devotional. We hope you can join us! Sign up [HERE](#)! Contact [Sarah](#) with any questions!



Nerf Wars + Nachos, Feb. 21, 1-3pm
Boys (K-5th) are invited to an action-packed afternoon from 1-3 PM in StuMin! We'll battle it out in epic Nerf wars, enjoy nachos, and wrap up with a short devotional. Sign up [HERE](#)! If you have any questions contact [Sarah](#).



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.



VBS — Coming Up Soon—June 7-10
Need Volunteers + Old T-shirts/Towels
What A Mess VBS is underway! Sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer. Have questions?

Text (479-414-2071) or email [Sarah](#)! Also, looking for donations of old towels and old adult size t-shirts.

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 on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30pm.

We have dinner, worship, biblical lessons, and small groups.

Small groups are split by grade and male/female.

Only a few spots open!



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

Only a few spots open!



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—Community Groups

For all groups listed below: Full details & sign up click [HERE](#).

Contact [JD Cunny](#) for any questions.

Sunday Sermon Recap, On Going

Sundays following the 8:30 service until about 10:15am

Facilitator: Becky Ruth

Type: Co-Ed, all are welcome! Status: Open

New Connections Class, Sundays, 10:35-11:45am

January 25-March 1, (6 weeks) Church Office

Facilitator: Staci Moore

Type: Co-Ed, all are welcome! Status: Open

If you're new to Grace or looking to take your next step, our New Connections Class is a great place to start.

Sunday Sermon Recap, Sundays at 4:00pm-5:30pm

January 25- March 15 (8 Weeks), Meets in JD's Home

Facilitator: JD Cunny

Type: Couples Status: Open

The purpose of our Community Group is to create space specifically for couples to go deeper into Sunday's sermon—taking time to reflect, ask questions, and wrestle together with how God's Word connects to everyday life—marriage, parenting, work, and what it looks like to live out our faith at home.

Sunday Sermon Recap, Tuesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

January 20th- March 17th (9 Weeks)

Upstairs Blue Room at Grace

Facilitator: Amanda Maxwell

Type: Women's Community Group Status: Open

The purpose of this small group is to create a space where women can build genuine, meaningful connections with one another.

Sunday Sermon Recap, Tuesdays 6-7:30pm

January 27-March 17 (8 Weeks), Church Office

Facilitator: Scott Tidwell

Type: Men's Community Group Status: Open

This Men's Weekly Sermon Recap Group exists to create space for that kind of connection as we gather to revisit Sunday messages, ask honest questions, and talk through how God's Word applies to real life.

Sunday Sermon Recap, Wednesday Evenings 6-7:30pm

January 28-March 18 (8 Weeks), Upstairs Blue Room at Grace

Facilitators: Robert + Natalie Cole

Type: Couples Status: Open

The purpose of our community group is to create a space for couples/married people to come and build lasting relationships with others who want to center their marriage around God.

Sunday Sermon Recap, Wednesday Evenings 6-7:30pm

January 28-March 18 (8 Weeks), Church Office

Facilitators: David + Michelle Thomas

Type: Co-Ed Study, all stages of life welcome! Status: Open

We will facilitate the discussion on the weekly sermon and are not Bible scholars or experts. We will all learn and grow together in a relaxed fellowship atmosphere. We will seek joy as we grow! We would love for you to join us—especially if your children will be attending youth activities. Location will be at Grace—room to be determined.

CONNECT—Bible Studies

For all studies listed below:
Full details and sign up click [HERE](#).
Contact [JD Cunny](#) for any questions.

The Book of James, Wednesdays, 5:45pm

Starts January 14, Activity Center

Facilitator: Erin DeLassus

Type: Women's Bible Study Status: Open

True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord.

Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight, Tuesdays 10-11:30am

January 13, Activity Center

Facilitators: Martha Cochenour and Cassey Browning

Cost: \$20

Type: Women's Bible Study Status: Open

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life.

Jonah, Amos, Hosea: The Faithfulness of God

Sunday at 10:45am-12pm (after the 9:30am service)

Beginning January 11, Activity Center

Facilitator: Terry Gallamore

Cost: \$10 for paperback or you may purchase on your own

Type: Co-Ed Bible Study Status: Open

Through the lives, examples, and messages of these three prophets, we see God's constant love and forgiveness for Jews and Gentiles alike in spite of blatant disobedience, spiritual adultery, inappropriate worship, and a lack of justice.

Into the Heart of Romans

2 opportunities - January 28-March 18 (8 weeks)

Wednesday — mornings 10-11:30 (Activity Center)

Wednesday — evenings 6-7:30 (Children's Wing)

Facilitator: Kathryn O'Brien

Type: Co-Ed Bible Study

Cost: \$15.00 (purchase of book on own — not required)

Status: Open

In this deep dive into Romans 8 author N.T. Wright, widely regarded as the most influential commentator and interpreter of Paul, unpacks this chapter in Paul's dense and sometimes elusive letter.

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

Men's 3rd Annual Buffalo River Float Trip

Wednesday-Saturday, April 22-25

Steel Creek Campground, Ponca, AR

Men are invited to arrive when they are able. We have reserved Spots 9-11, on the river, three sites for 18 tents. There are restrooms and water on site.

There will be Camping, Food, Fire, and Fellowship!

Canoeing on Saturday (Steel Creek to Kyle's Landing @ 8 mi)

Renting canoes, paddles, PFDs

May bring your own boat.

Cost \$120...covers food, canoe, firewood and supplies.

Pre-registration with

Grace is HIGHLY

ENCOURAGED !!

Registration Link Coming

Soon.

Looking Forward to
another Special Time !!

Questions: Call or
text KEN DUNCAN
479-285-9600.



EVENTS



Finishing Strong: Making Final Plans Sunday, February 1 2-3:30pm, Act. Ctr.

UPDATED

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](#).



Super Bowl Snack Sale, Sunday, February 8 8:15am-12:15pm during & after Worship Services Worship Center Lobby

Chips-Dips-Appetizers—Stock up for kick-off!!

Benefiting Youth Summer Camp

Get game-day ready with our Super Bowl Snack Sale! From chips + dips to crowd-favorite appetizers, we've got everything you need for kickoff. Every purchase helps support sending our youth to summer camp! Make sure to stop by so that you can snack for a great cause!



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

We will be hosting the IF: One Night Gathering for women. The event will be from 5:30PM-10:00PM, you are of course free to leave early if needed. We will be providing dinner and refreshments throughout the night. We have always enjoyed the IF: Gatherings in the past and are excited for what the Lord will do this year. I am so thankful for the technology that allows us to virtually worship with other women from around the nation and world. We will not be providing childcare for this event but would welcome youth aged girls to join us if they would like! I think they would really enjoy it.

Please sign-up as soon as possible so that we can begin making final plans for food! **The deadline to sign-up is Friday, February 20.** Speakers are: Jennie Allen, Christine Caine, Francis Chan, Lauren Chandler, Jada Edwards, Davy Flowers, Layla de la Garza. Fee is \$10. Register [HERE](#). Questions contact [Reagan Newell](#).



The Ark Encounter, Nashville, TN Thursday-Sunday, April 23-26

Join a group of ladies from Grace for an exciting trip to Nashville to experience the Ark Encounter! On Friday the group will visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky and visit the Creation Museum on Saturday. Travel will be provided by Grace. The price includes hotel for three nights in Nashville and admission to both attractions. You will be responsible for food and souvenirs. Price is \$400. The limit is 28 women, first come first serve. To sign up, contact [Erin DeLassus](#). Deadline to register is Sunday, February 1.

SERVE

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

Where are YOU being called to Serve?

We have a summary of our Local Community Partners and their Mission on our Grace Community Church [website's Serve page](#). You can look at the age of people the organization supports, or category, such as families, pregnancy support, etc.

We are blessed to have a Mighty "Serve Team" as dedicated liaisons. These Grace volunteers can provide so much information about what they do with their Partners, and you likely know some of the people that serve with them. It's a great way to meet others from Grace and people in our community.

Please look at the [website](#) to see if a mission speaks to you. Click on the [Serve Team liaison's name](#) and drop them an email. Ask more about it! Ask if you can help. Let Jesus help lead you to serving by taking the first step.

Serve Delivery Team Volunteers Needed

Do you have time during the week to help Serve by delivering items to our community partners? We are updating our Delivery Team members. Items like food, household items, baby and child supplies, and other miscellaneous things need to be delivered to our community partners and people in need. Please let [Michelle Thomas](#) know if you would like more information.



The CALL Bunny Breakfast and 5K & Family Fun Run

Saturday, March 21

BUNNY BREAKFAST & RABBIT RUN

THE CALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

5K & FAMILY FUN RUN AT 8 AM
BREAKFAST AND EVENT FROM 9 AM - 11 AM
RIVER PARK BUILDINGS 121 RIVERFRONT DR, FORT SMITH

Rabbit Run 5K and Family Fun Run will provide even more opportunities to showcase your business.

The CALL in Crawford & Sebastian Counties is part of a state-wide organization whose vision is to see no more waiting children in foster care. We work diligently to recruit new families, train them, and support them. We also support biological parents to reunify them with their children. The CALL is funded by contributions from individual donors, churches, foundations and corporations. We provide all of our services at no cost to our families or the Division of Children and Family Services.





Learn More About Human Trafficking

As we continue learning more about human trafficking during the month of January, you are invited to listen to [Molly's story](#).



Eight Days of Hope Responding in Mississippi

Eight Days of Hope is deploying our Rapid Response team to serve the Oxford, MS community after Winter Storm Fern caused much devastation in their area. Over the next two weeks, we will be removing dangerous trees, cleaning up debris, mucking homes, and more.

We will be headquartered and lodging at North Oxford Baptist Church during this response, from Friday, January 30 to Saturday, February 14.

Please be praying for our neighbors in Oxford, Kathleen and EDOH Ministry as they rally the troops to love and serve in Oxford. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to the [EDOH website and sign up](#). All the information is listed there. Kathleen Halliburton will be serving until February 11 before moving on to another assignment. Don't hesitate to contact [Kathleen](#) if you have any questions.



Ice storm damage in Oxford, MS. Photo Date: Jan. 25, 2026. Source: City of Oxford/Facebook.

OTHER

You Are Invited to the Celebration of Life for Tim Vair Saturday, January 31, Noon-2pm, Activity Center

Tim was born on October 22, 1960 and passed away at age 65 on December 1, 2025 at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Tim was a faithful member of Grace Community. Grace changed his life.



Tim was mostly known for his smile as he served as an usher/greeter. When he could he served as a parking lot greeter and welcomed many of you onto the campus with a big smile and passionate hand wave. He was a faithful supporter of our kids and youth ministry.

During his celebration we will have a light lunch. Several folks have already planned to share stories and what he meant to them. We will open the floor to anyone who wants to share.

Because Tim loved animals and took many (of all kinds) into his home, his family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the Almost Home Animal Shelter or an animal shelter of your choice.



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

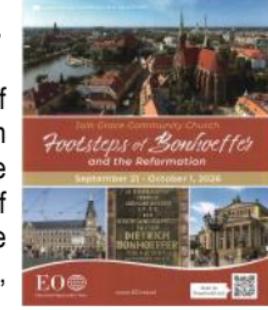
Leaders: [Staci Moore](#) and Jim Acklin

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!



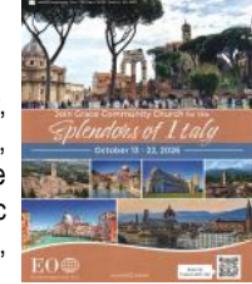
Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

(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



Meet Our Team

Mental Health Resources

Mental Health Page



The Art of Wintering: Caring for Our Souls and Minds in the New Year

Message from Kerry Underwood

As a new year begins, many of us feel an unspoken pressure to start strong. New Year, New YOU! We set ambitious goals, fix what feels broken, and push ourselves toward constant improvement. Yet winter has the ability to offer us a quieter, healthier invitation. The season of winter reminds us that slowing down is not a failure of faith or effort, but a vital part of how God designed us to heal and grow.

In the natural world, winter is a season of rest and conservation. Growth does not stop; it simply happens beneath the surface. In much the same way, our minds and spirits need seasons of reduced pace in order to recover from stress, grief, and exhaustion. Scripture affirms this rhythm when Jesus invites the weary to come to Him for rest (Matthew 11:28). Rest is not a luxury; it is a necessity for mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Wintering allows us to tend gently to our mental health. By honoring quieter rhythms, we give ourselves permission to pause, reflect, and acknowledge our limits. This can reduce anxiety, prevent burnout, and create space for emotional healing. Practices such as prayerful stillness, honest self-examination, and intentional rest help calm the mind and remind us that we are not alone in our struggles. God meets us not only in our strength, but also in our fatigue.

Spiritually, wintering nurtures trust. When we release the need to constantly produce or perform, we learn to rest in God's presence rather than our own abilities. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) becomes an invitation to breathe, to listen, and to allow God's peace to steady our anxious thoughts. In this stillness, faith is often strengthened, not diminished.

As we enter this new year, wintering may look different for each person. It might mean simplifying schedules, setting healthier boundaries, seeking support when needed, or choosing rest without guilt. These are not signs of weakness; they are acts of wisdom and faithful self-care. When we honor winter seasons, we prepare our hearts and minds for renewed strength and future growth.

God's promise remains: "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31). Winter will not last forever. But when we embrace this season with intention and trust, we allow God to restore us—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—in ways that sustain us for the journey ahead. Now that is a "New Year, New You" I can get behind!

A Prayer for the New Year

Gracious and loving God,
As we step into this new year, we come to You weary, hopeful, and in need of Your peace. Teach us to embrace seasons of rest without guilt and to trust that You are at work even when life feels slow or uncertain. Quiet our anxious thoughts, heal our tired minds, and restore our spirits. Help us to care for ourselves as You care for us—with compassion, patience, and grace. May this season of wintering draw us closer to You and prepare us for the new life You are bringing forth. Amen.

Kerry Underwood

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

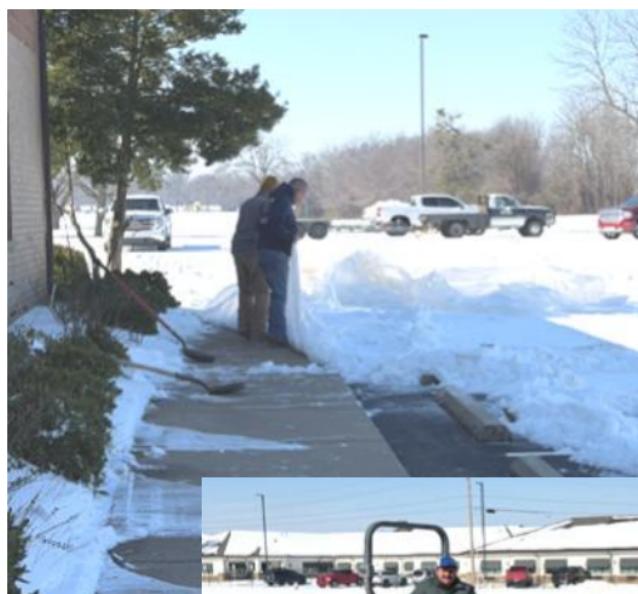
Grace Families

Macy Lloyd
Larry Woodham

Grace Friends

Russ and Cassie Thurston
Mac and Garry Vineyard
Russell and Chevy Burkhardt
Bobby Jones
Father addicted to alcohol

Grace Men Tackle Clearing the Sidewalk & Parking Lot!



Thank you,
Steve Walter,
Scott
Synoground,
Arron
McCallister,
Kenneth
McClain, and
JD.

