

Grace Weekly Email Update

May 6, 2026

Message from Pastor Jeff



I showed one of the Bible Project's videos this past weekend in worship. They are a great resource for understanding your bible. You can find a whole host of videos [HERE](#). It's good stuff.

People are often surprised to hear that I am in a band. Those who have ever stood beside me in worship and noticed that I am a bit tone deaf and have absolutely no ability to stay on beat are even more surprised (none of that affects my willingness to worship God and make a joyful noise). It makes more sense when people discover I am in a Discipleship Band.

Discipleship Bands are groups of three to five men or women who meet weekly to engage in transformational questions and pray for one another. You can learn more [HERE](#). Being a part of one of these bands is one of the ways that God has worked most powerfully in my life. What many of us long for are some deep relationships that help us truly become the person God has called us to be. Discipleship Bands foster that kind of relationship.

Can you think of at least two other people that you would be willing to meet with weekly at a time that works for you? Maybe there is a group of fellow followers of Jesus you meet already, but those times lack the depth and power that you know your soul desires. If so, JD or I would love to meet with you and help you discover a powerful tool to deepen your walk with Jesus.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday as we dig into 2 John!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICE — May 10 & 11

Happy Mother's Day

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Happy the Home When God Is There
For the Beauty of the Earth

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

Songs: I've Witnessed It; Stand In Your Love
The Image; Goodness of God

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

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 Theme:
May 10, Mother's Day



Kids Church K-5th Grade: Simply Loved—Where
Kids Experience God's Greatest Gift

VBS: "WHAT A MESS"

Sun-Wed, June 7-10

5:30-8:00PM

K-5th Grade

Early Registration Gets You A VBS Shirt

Be sure to register by 5/10/26 (THIS SUNDAY) in order to be guaranteed a VBS shirt—this includes kids and volunteers! Register [HERE](#).



VBS Service Project:
CHANGE DRIVE

Starts this Sunday, May 10

Winner: Becomes Human Ice Cream Sundae

Jeff, Sarah, Braden and Christine will have jars with their picture on them...whoever has the most change on the last night of VBS, will become a **human ice cream sundae!**

Funds collected in the CHANGE DRIVE will go toward kids activities at the Community Rescue Mission.

NEW!

Need Volunteers + 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.

Return Dates of Items from
"paint splat" from the "VBS needs wall":

NON-FOOD ITEMS DUE NOW.

FOOD ITEMS DUE JUNE 1.

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 6-7:30pm

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.

NEW!

FYI: LAST REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH IS MAY 20.

NEW!

SUMMER FUN BEGINS

YOUTH

Summer Schedule

DASH DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT

May 22nd sign up required

NATURAL'S BASEBALL GAME

June 5th sign up required

MOVING UP SUNDAY

June 14th

TOPGOLF

June 24th sign up required

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS OUTING

July 17th sign up required

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TRIP TO NWA

July 12th sign up required

BOYS SWIM PARTY

July 15th

WORSHIP NIGHT

July 22nd

WATER PARK NIGHT

July 24th

GIRLS SWIM PARTY

July 29th

Scan for more info



+ for sign ups!

**Scan code above or click
[HERE](#) for full details
of summer activities.**

CONNECT

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

BIBLE STUDIES: Full details & sign-ups click [HERE](#).



The Journey from Easter to Pentecost
Wednesdays, April 8-May 20, 6-7pm (7wks)
Ezra Room-Kids Church; Co-Ed Bible Study
Facilitator: JD Cunny & Terry Gallamore

This group has already started, but feel free to join us for a class at any time. We move from resurrection hope to Spirit-empowered living.



New Connections Class
Sundays, 11am-12noon, Starts May 3 (6 wks)
Facilitators: **Staci Moore & Amy Sweeten**

Our New Connections Class is a welcoming space to connect with others, learn more about our church, and a chance dive deeper into what we believe. Whether you're new to Grace or just want a deeper understanding of our mission, this class is the perfect place to start! Click [HERE](#) to sign up!



Lunch for Widows & Widowers
Thursday, May 14, 12noon-1p, Activity Center

Join other widows and widowers for lunch on Thursday, May 14, for a discussion on "What Now? Considerations after Widowhood." Whether you became a widow or widower months ago or many years ago, this discussion will help you think through some important legal and personal things that everyone needs to consider. It will also be a great time to meet other people at Grace. Lunch is free but we ask that you sign up so that we have space and food for all. Sign up [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) for details of **ON-GOING GROUPS**

- Upper Room (Women) **May 6 & 20**
- By Hook, Needle & Craft (Women and Men) **May 7 & 21**
- Men's Fellowship Lunch (Men) **May 7**

EVENTS



Garden Party
Saturday, May 9, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Details and to sign-Up [HERE!](#)
Contact [Abbie Tedford](#) with any questions!



Selah Weekend
Church Wide FAMILY Retreat
October 2-4, 2026 (Fri—Sun)
Ozark Natural Science Center,
Huntsville, AR

Selah is a church-wide retreat designed for every age! Join us for a full weekend of activities focused on rest, relaxation, and renewal. Check out full details and to sign up, click [HERE](#).

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.



Mental Health
Ministry

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 best next step is? Talk to our mental health team! This form is confidential.

Scan this QR code or go to [franklin.com/mental-health](#)

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 personal next steps.

[Meet Our Team](#)
[Mental Health Resources](#)
[Mental Health Page](#)



Message from Rick Ralston, MS, LAC, NCC Director of Mental Health Ministries

Recently I was blessed to assist [Erin DeLassus](#) in leading a study related to thought life. The book used was Every Thought Captive by Kyle Idleman. The study was fruitful for all of us who participated and a lot was learned. The author did a great job of combining current neuroscience with biblical principles. Even as a therapist it's difficult to give the proper attention to my thoughts on a consistent basis, considering the impact that thought life has on my overall operation in the world.

After finishing the study, I thought about my big takeaway. If I am honest there was not much new for me to learn from this study, but new ways of framing things I had already acquired in graduate school and beyond. With that said, there is always a new connection and an opportunity to grow from these experiences.

It's easy to think about spiritual warfare as an "out there" battle, an external conflict. But scripture clearly designates our minds, or thoughts as a central and primary battlefield for the fight between good and evil. This is the place where beliefs without evidence gain traction, where temptation created by the loss of innocence gains hold, and our overall worldview becomes colored by the misunderstanding of who we are and who God is. .

We have often quoted the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:2 "be transformed by the renewing of your mind", or 2 Corinthians 10:5 where he states "take every thought captive to obey Christ". We hear these verses and struggle with the practical application of them in day to day life.

What if we got really basic and we just started with the premise that the primary spiritual battleground is in the mind and it is **subtle**. It is not always loud, obvious, and most of the time it's not external. The spiritual weapon of evil is not the judgemental, cruel and hatred language someone used against me. It is the way I internalize it and how the evil one uses the strongholds created by a fallen world and my previous experiences, to keep me perpetually stunted and unable to respond as a representative of my KING.

To read the balance of this article click [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.



Thank You, Grace Youth!

Our youth collected over 90 small personal items for mothers that visit the Baby Boutique at the 1st Choice Pregnancy Medical Center. These are needed items for mothers participating in the services of this organization.



Thank You Messages from Ministry Partners



We receive many thank you cards and letters from our Local Missions throughout the year. Thank you, Grace Community Church congregation, for your generous financial support. Our missions are always needing volunteers for short-term events

and weekly functions. Please [contact our Serve Team](#) to connect with our Liaisons and see where you may serve.



May Is National Foster Care Awareness Month!

Our church supports children in foster care through several organizations. The CALL, Arkansas Family Alliance and Care Portal, and Court Appointed Advocates (CASA) are local missions connected with foster children in our area. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 17 to meet with The CALL Affiliate Director Stephanie Beadle and our own Grace Community Church Serve Team Liaison Jeanne Harvey for more information before or after services in the lobby.



Teacher Appreciation Week!

Our Partner in Education, Cook School, is having a Block Party this Friday evening, May 8, 5:30-8:30. Grace is providing lunch for all teachers one day this week. Come and support our Cook Crusaders and show how Grace Community Church loves these children and families in our local community. Contact our Liaison Christine Turpin for more information.



Blood Drive, Sunday, May 31, 8a-12p Student Ministry Building

“Love your neighbor as yourself” takes many forms and this is a simple way to live it out. Join us for our church blood drive and help bring hope and healing to those in need. Our community is in desperate need for blood and we want to do our part! If you have any question please contact [Michelle Thomas](#). Click [HERE](#) to sign up for a time slot.



Eight Days of Hope Buffalo, NY Outreach July 18-25, 2026

Sign-Up Deadline: May 15

Click [HERE](#) for full details and to sign up.

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

Barbara Braswell

Ron Adams

Mary Carter

Grace Friends

Dillon Lewis

Savanna Schaffer & Baby Reese

James Virgil (Bill James friend)

Collin Douglas (Bill James friend)

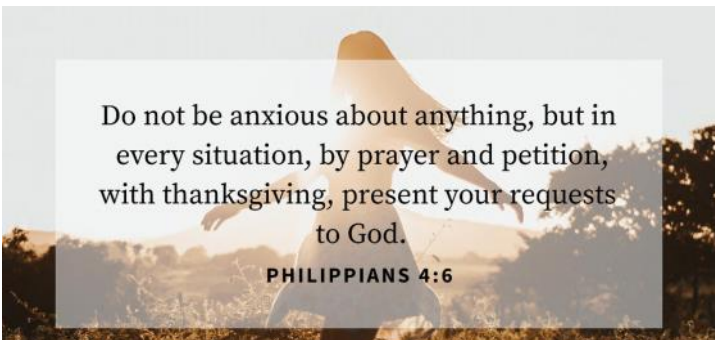
Sympathies

Tracy, Jeff, & Lexi Mosby

(death of Tracy's mother, Kayvron "Kay" Hammond)

Sherry Hart and Diane Nix

(death of Pam Nutter: Sherry's sister and Diane's cousin)



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6