

Grace Weekly Email Update

May 20, 2026

Message from JD Cunny (Associate Pastor)



Grace family, we want to remind you that our modern worship times will look a little different this weekend. **This Sunday, May 24, our 9:30am and 11:00am modern services will combine into one worship service at 10:00am.** Our 8:30am traditional service and Monday night service will remain the same.

Before the 10:00am service, we will gather in front of the stage at 9:30am to pray together. We would love for you to come early and join us as we seek the Lord, pray for our church, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill, renew, and lead us.

After worship, everyone is invited to stay for our Pentecost Potluck as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the family of God. Please bring a dish to share and come ready to enjoy fellowship around the table.

Scripture tells us that after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days, speaking to them about the kingdom of God. Before He ascended into heaven, He told them to return to Jerusalem and wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. For ten days, the disciples prayed together. Then, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out, and the Church was born.

Over the last several days, a few of us have been gathering in the Chapel to pray. We will continue to meet and pray in the Chapel at 4:30pm each day from today until the Day of Pentecost. I pray you would consider joining us as we seek the Lord together.

Pentecost reminds us that the Church was never meant to live in our own strength. We are formed, filled, and sent by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's gather, worship, pray, and celebrate together!

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God Bless,

JD

WORSHIP SERVICE — May 24 & 25

Memorial Weekend

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: The Comforter Has Come; Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Modern (10:00 AM Sunday, 6pm Monday)

Songs: Living Water; Been So Good; Who Else; Jesus Be the Name

Live Stream @ 10:00am THIS 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.*

SPECIAL WEEKEND EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SPECIAL SERVICE TIMES

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PENTECOST POTLUCK

May 24

Join us on May 24 at 11:15am in the Student Ministry Building for our Pentecost Potluck. The birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit are worth celebrating, and sharing a meal together is a wonderful way to do that. We do not have many opportunities throughout the year to gather around the table as a church family, so we hope you will make plans to join us.

Since Pentecost falls on Memorial Weekend this year, please note that our service times will be different. Our two modern worship services, normally held at 9:30am and 11:00am, **will be combined into one 10:00 am service.** The 8:30am traditional service and 6:00pm Monday night service will remain the same.

Grace will provide drinks and several meat options, including pulled pork, chicken tenders, ham, and turkey.

There are five main food categories: appetizers, soup/salad, side dish, main course/casserole, bread, and dessert. You are welcome to choose one category or bring items from more than one. Please plan to bring enough to serve about 15 people. We are hoping for plenty of variety, so it is perfectly fine if the item you would like to bring is already listed.

You can sign up using the Meal Train link below, which will also allow you to see what others have already signed up to bring. You may also contact JD at JD@gracefs.com or 479-806-8711 by text or email to let him know what you plan to bring.

Click [HERE](#) for the Meal Train link.

KIDS MINISTRY

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

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



Jr. Kids Theme:

Our series for summer is GIANTS!

We face many Giants in life, like Loneliness, Fear, and Shame. But our God is greater than them all. As the life of David shows us, when we put our Faith, Hope and Love in God, He will give us the power to defeat any giant.

Memory verse: "My faithful God, answer me when I call out to you. Give me rest from my trouble. Have mercy on me. Hear my prayer." Psalm 4:1



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

Register [HERE](#).



VBS Service Project:

CHANGE DRIVE

Starts NOW!

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.

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 For Our Last Wednesday Evening
For this Semester, May 20, 6-7:30pm**



Summer Fun Begins

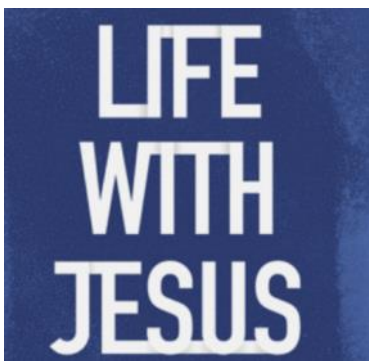
Click [HERE](#) for full details of summer activities.

Getting Serious in Scripture: Life with Jesus

June 7 - September 20

Sundays, 10:45am-Noon

Any Youth interested in truly gaining more Bible knowledge and living your life for Christ, PLEASE join us !!!



This summer, we're diving deeper into what it really means to follow Jesus. "**Getting Serious in Scripture: Life with Jesus**" is a youth class focused on understanding God's Word, asking real questions, growing in

faith, and learning how to live out the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.

Whether you're new to reading the Bible or ready to go deeper, this class is for you. Come ready for meaningful conversations, practical lessons, and a chance to grow closer to God together.

Bring your Bible, invite a friend, and join us this summer as we get serious about Scripture and discover life with Jesus.

Sign up [HERE](#).

CONNECT

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

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

Bad Girls of the Bible (Women's Group)



Facilitator: Erin DeLassus

Wednesdays, June 3-August 26, 5:45-7:45pm, Activity Center

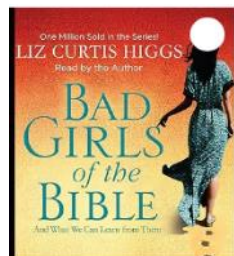
Women often admire the “good girls” of Scripture—Sarah, Mary, and Esther—but many days, they relate more to the brokenness of Sapphira, Delilah, Jezebel, Eve, Bathsheba, or Herodias. Like women today, they faced temptation, pride, exhaustion, and the weight of their own desires.

In *Bad Girls of the Bible*, Liz Curtis Higgs helps readers learn from these women's mistakes and choose a better path. With humor, honesty, and biblical insight, she retells their stories and walks verse by verse through Scripture, showing how God's grace meets women right where they are.

These “bad girls” remind us that studying the Bible can be honest, hopeful, and even fun.

Purchase book on your own (*Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs)

Register for the class [HERE](#).



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

- Upper Room (Women) **June 3 & 17**
- By Hook, Needle & Craft (Women and Men) **May 21, June 4 & 18**
- Men's Fellowship Lunch (Men) **June 4**

EVENTS



Mark Your Calendars:

[Grace Waterpark Night](#)—Alma Waterpark
Friday, July 24

Pizza served at 6:30pm

Park open to us from 7-9pm



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](#).

SERVE

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

MEN—CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET!

The Next Step Homeless Services is in need of men's jeans, sizes 32 to 34 waist. Also needed: shoes for walking for both men and women; can be gently used. Donations of men or women's underwear is needed (only new). We will have a collection box in the Worship Center lobby to collect items. Please contact Jeanne Carroll for more information.

Love to Cook? Local Mission Opportunities Available

1. Community Rescue Mission Meal Prep and Serving
Thursday, May 21, 4:30-6:30pm
Contact Carol Kirby for more information.
2. Ronald McDonald House Meal Prep
Thursday, May 28, 2:00-4:30 pm, Team 1
Contact Susie Hill for more information.

June – Mark your calendars for Ministry Partner Events!

1. Heart to Heart Pregnancy and Family Care Center offers the Heart of the Mission Event at Kay Rodgers Park, Saturday, June 13, 10:00-2:00. [Heart of the Fort—A Family Fun Day!](#)
2. [World Changers](#) Lunches: Grace Community Church is providing lunches for 2 working crews of people in our area, June 16-19.



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.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.



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



Message from Kerry Underwood, MS, LPC, LMFT



God Cares About Your Mental Health

In many church communities, people feel comfortable asking for prayer for physical illness, financial struggles, or family concerns, but mental and emotional struggles are often carried quietly and alone. Anxiety, depression, burnout, grief, loneliness, and overwhelming stress affect people of every age and background, including faithful believers. The good news is this: God cares deeply about your mental health!

Scripture reminds us repeatedly that God is concerned not only with our spiritual lives, but also with our emotional well-being. In Psalm 34:18, we read, “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” God does not distance Himself from pain; He draws near to it.

Throughout the Bible, we see faithful people experience intense emotional struggles. Elijah became so overwhelmed and discouraged that he asked God to let him die. David wrote openly about fear, despair, and anxiety in the Psalms. Job wrestled with grief and suffering. Even Jesus experienced deep sorrow and anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. Emotional pain is not a sign of weak faith. It is part of the human experience.

Sometimes Christians feel pressure to “just pray more” or “have more faith” when struggling mentally or emotionally. Prayer is powerful, and faith is essential, but God often works through practical support as well. Just as we seek medical care for our bodies, it is okay to seek help for our minds and emotions. Counseling, supportive relationships, rest, healthy boundaries, and professional care can all be part of God’s provision for healing.

We also live in a world that moves quickly and demands constantly. Many people are exhausted—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. God never intended for us to carry every burden alone. Galatians 6:2 tells us to “carry each other’s burdens.” The church can become a place where people feel safe to be honest about their struggles instead of hiding behind the appearance of “having it all together.”

One of the most healing things we can offer each other is compassion without judgment. Sometimes people do not need quick answers or spiritual clichés; they need someone willing to listen, sit with them in their pain, and remind them they are not alone. The love of Christ is often experienced most clearly through caring community.

If you are struggling today, remember this: you are not failing spiritually because you feel anxious, overwhelmed, sad, or emotionally tired. God sees you FULLY and loves you COMPLETELY. Your struggles do not disqualify you from His grace, His presence, or His purpose for your life.

Mental health matters because people matter. And people matter deeply to God.

As a church family, may we continue to create spaces where honesty is welcomed, burdens are shared, and healing is pursued together. Sometimes the strongest thing a person can do is simply say, “I need help.” And sometimes the most Christ-like response we can offer is, “You don’t have to walk through this alone.” If any of this resonated with you, a great place to start at Grace is our Mental Health Ministry, where you can connect with resources within and outside of our church community!

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

Jeff and Susan Jones

Barbara Braswell

Darrell Elliott

Ron Adams

Mary Carter



Grace Friends

Officer Kyle Newman and family

Jessica McCance (Ann Synoground's sister)

Two brothers fighting cancer

A father with addiction issues

Sympathies

Dan Strathman (death of his brother Jeff)

Donna and Gerald Hartman (death of Donna's father)

OTHER

Items Needed for VBS Decorations

We are looking for the following items to use as decorations for VBS this year. If you want your item(s) returned, be sure to write your name on it...

old paint cans
paint brushes (used & new)
paint rollers & trays
spray paint
drop clothes
easels
water color sets
paint palette

Drop off items at the kids
check-in area or at the
church office.