

Grace Weekly Email Update

9-30-2026

Message from Pastor Jeff



Grace Community Church Family,

We got 20 years out of the HVAC units that heat and cool our Worship Center and the Lobby, but they have come to the end of their life. Huge shoutout to Jeannette Sterling for nursing them along in their elder years and getting every drop of heat and air possible out of them. Most of you can't fathom the Sundays that Jeannette has been doing miraculous work to ensure that we are comfortable.

On Sunday, October 11, we will not have heat or air. That's the bad news. The good news is that summer has finally come to an end and we have a fantastic weather forecast. Our plan is to have worship in the worship center on October 11 with the doors opened and some fans moving the air. I suggest dressing in layers that Sunday. It may be cold or it may be warm. Whichever it is, God will be worshiped and I think our suffering will be minimal.

If you can't live without A/C, you can give blood that Sunday, October 11. The air should be working fine in the Student Ministry Building.

If you get a chance, grab a bag of candy while you are at the grocery store and drop it off on Sunday or Monday when you come to church so that we have lots of candy for all the kids who will come to trunk or treat. We are still looking for a few folks to host trunks at Trunk or Treat as well. You can sign up [HERE](#).

See you this weekend!

Jeff



Grace Families

Forrest Marvin

Ken McClain

Rusty Jones

Cindy Hughes

Vicki and Ron Brixey

(death of Vicki's daughter Kerri Garr)

(Service will be here at Grace this

Saturday, October 3, at 3pm,

Worship Center.)

*Full
prayer
request
listing
on
last
page.*

WORSHIP SERVICE — October 4 & 5

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Love Lifted Me; My Jesus, I Love Thee

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

Songs: House of the Lord; The Lord Will Provide; Worthy; Great Are You Lord

Live Stream @ 9:30am Sunday: [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

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

KIDS MINISTRY

Jr. Kids: Infants—PreK
Kids Church K-5th Grade

Contact: [Jessica Cochenour](#)

Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)



Launch-The Starting Point
Kids 1st-5th Grades

Wednesday Nights, 6-7:30pm

Includes dinner, games and a deeper dive into the Bible.



Trunk or Treat Time!!!!

Sunday, October 25, 4-6pm

Trunk or treat is two months away!

[Sign up now](#) to host a trunk or game at our annual community wide event!

CANDY DONATIONS BEGIN NOW!

Christmas Play Practice

Begins next Wednesday, October 7 at 5:30pm

Revelation Room



DASH & FM

(6-8th grades)

(9-12th grades)

Contact [Dana](#) for DASH and FM

Dash/FM page on Grace website—Click [HERE](#)



Wednesday Evening Youth, 6-7:30pm, StuMin

We have dinner, games, worship, biblical lessons, and small groups. Small groups are split by grade level and male/female. Kids are encouraged to bring a friend.

Grace Tshirts, Sweatshirts COMING !

Youth will be selling t-shirts and sweatshirts, with proceeds going toward Youth Summer Camp 2027. Items will be ready for sale on Youth Sunday, October 11 in the lobby

Fields of Faith, Wednesday, October 21, 6-8:15pm

Meet at Northside Stadium

For full details, click [HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATE — NEW YEAR'S EVE

Youth will host our 2nd annual Fundraiser Dinner/Silent Auction on New Year's Eve, December 31. Any and all are invited for food, fellowship and festivities! Dinner (with take-out options) will begin at 6pm in the Student Ministry Building. Childcare provided 5:30-8pm. The menu will be published November 1. Reservations will be up and available Sunday, October 11.



Trunk or Treat Youth Volunteer Sign Ups—click [HERE](#)!

Confirmation Class Enrollment—click [HERE](#)!



CONNECT—STUDIES

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

Sermon Recap Groups (click [HERE](#) for more info)

- Sunday mornings following the 8:30 service in the Grace Place meeting room (kids wing). Men & Women
- Men's group. Wednesdays, 6pm, Church Office, Pastor's office

Tuesday Morning Ladies Group - Armor of God

Tuesdays, Oct 27- Dec 15, 10-11:30am, Activity Center

(No class week of Thanksgiving); Cost: \$20

Facilitators: Martha Cochenour & Cassey Browning

For detailed information click [HERE](#). Signups can be found [HERE](#).



Misquoted: Things We Think Are in the Bible By Russell Muilenburg

Facilitator: Kathryn O'Brien

Wednesday mornings 10-11:30am

October 28 - November 18 (4 weeks)

Activity Center

The upcoming fall study will be about some of the most popular/common clichés touted as Scripture.

Are You Misquoting God? Christians often share platitudes and clichés in ways that aren't Biblical but are spoken confidently with scriptural authority. Eight common misquotes will be viewed through a Scriptural lens using a framework of three basic questions:

What's true about this?

Where does it get off track?

Is there better news in the gospel?

Participants will need to purchase the book on their own. Books are available through Amazon in paperback for \$12.99. Please register [HERE](#).

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

-Upper Room (Women) **Oct 7 & 21**

-By Hook, Needle & Craft (Women/Men) **Oct 8 & 22**

-Men's Fellowship Lunch (Men) 1st Thursdays, **Oct 1**

-Women's Lunch (Women) 2nd Thursdays, **Oct 8**

-Mama Meetups, click [HERE](#) for more info, **Fridays, 9-10am**

EVENTS

Grace To Host River Valley Master Gardners "Fall Is Fabulous!"



THIS Saturday, October 3; 8:30am-12noon

Worship Center; Free

This will be the second year that Grace has offered our facility for the River Valley Master Gardners community event "Fall Is Fabulous."



Dr. Greg Grant, PhD Forestry, M.S. Horticulture, will speak about "Stitching an Heirloom Garden: How my grannies' old quilts used the same basic design principles as landscaping."



Steve Dobbs, M.S. Horticulture, will share his favorite plants to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds to your landscape.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Strong Roots:
A Parenting Conversation
Sunday, October 18, noon-1:30pm
Activity Center**

Childcare is available. Lunch will be provided for both adults and children.

This presentation is led by Rick Ralston, MS, LAC, NCC and Sarah J. Gibbons, MS LPC-S, RPT-S.

For more details and to register, click [HERE](#).



**Trunk or Treat Time!!!!
Sunday, October 25, 4-6pm**

Trunk or treat is 1 month away! [Sign up now](#) to host a trunk or game at our annual community wide event!

Trunk or Treat Candy Donations

We will have containers in the lobby for candy donations. We assist the families hosting a "trunk" with these donations. We will also accept funds and buy additional candy...mark your donation with Trunk or Treat Candy.



**For King and Kingdom Men's Retreat
November 11-15**

Full details and to get more information click [HERE](#).

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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, Sunday, October 11 8:30am-12:15pm; Student Ministry Bldg



We are hoping to have 18 blood donors on October 11! The [Blood Drive](#) will take place in the Student Ministry (StuMin) building during our morning services. We hope to see you there to support another of our local missions and great need in our community.

To register for a time slot, click [HERE](#).

October Serve Opportunities

Are you looking for something to do in October to serve our neighbors in need? Contact our Liaisons with links from the webpage or contact [Michelle Thomas](#) for more information.



Sunday, October 11, 8:30am–12:15pm
Blood Drive at Grace!



Tuesday, October 13, 4-7pm
Riverview Hope Campus meal prep and serving!



Thursday, October 15, 4:30–6pm
Community Rescue Mission meal prep and serving!



Sunday, October 18-26
Grace Community Church—Feed the Multitude!



Thursday, October 29, 2-4:30pm
Ronald McDonald House meal prep!

Grace Servants for The CALL



Do you know these lovely servants?

When you see them, please tell them how much you appreciate all they do for our community! They volunteered at The Call banquet to raise awareness and support. We had many people from Grace that attended the event and supported one of our local missions.



Please let these ladies know how special they are. If you are interest in taking part in this ministry, find on of these ladies on Sunday/Monday and ask how you can join them! Left to Right: Sherry Jones, Becky Daley, Lindee Colburn and Jeanne Harvey.

SERVE

Contact [Michelle Thomas](#) for more information on local mission efforts.

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



Nicaragua Mission Trips Set for 2027 — 4 Trips

Grace has been partnering with El Porvenir since 2013. We have sent numerous teams of people to work alongside villages in Nicaragua to improve their living conditions and sustainability.

Grace will be hosting four trips in 2027. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,200 per person. This covers the cost of lodging, travel, guides, tips and all meals once we reach Managua. Airfare is not included. Our scope of work will be determined as we get closer to the trip.

Team 1: May 29 - June 5, 2027

Team 2: June 5 - June 12, 2027— FULL

Team 3: July 31 - August 7, 2027

****** Team 4: August 7 - August 17, 2027

******(This is an extended trip and reserved for experienced team members due to the extensive travel times and lack of accommodations, price TBD.)

Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) for more details.

You can also check out our Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

Visit the [El Porvenir website](#) to learn more about their work in Nicaragua.

Interested? Sign up [HERE](#).

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.



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

Message from Rick Ralston

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” — Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

God is always at work around us, inviting us to join Him in what He is doing. Our congregation is filled with people whose gifts, skills, and life experiences have tremendous value for the Kingdom. Often, God is simply waiting for us to place those things in His hands and make ourselves available.

When we do, the Holy Spirit can take what we offer and use it in ways far beyond what we could accomplish on our own—transforming lives and bringing glory to God. What is required of us is a willing heart, a willingness to join Him, and eyes fixed on Him. He is faithful to lead us through the rest.

One of our congregants recently responded to that invitation. After sensing the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she reached out to me about becoming involved in our Mental Health Ministry. Her willingness to step forward is a wonderful example of what can happen when we recognize where God is working and simply say, “I’m willing.”

I asked her to introduce herself and share a little of her story and what led her to take this step.

Meet Anna....

Hey, I’m Anna!

And I believe God can use even the messiest parts of our stories to help someone else find hope.

My name is Anna Viles, and I’m an Arkansas-certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC), a wife, a mom, and someone who is deeply passionate about addiction recovery, mental health, and helping people discover that their past does not have to determine their future.

I have two core beliefs on this subject:

- 1. I was saved from the grips of addiction in order to Turn around and help pull others out.*
- 2. I must recover LOUDLY so others don’t suffer silently.*

My heart for this work comes from more than education or professional experience. It comes from lived experience,

Click [HERE](#) to finish Anna’s message.

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
Victims of Earthquake Disasters
Eight Days of Hope Ministry
Those who are sick
Those struggling w/mental illness & addictions
Those struggling with grief
Christians in Nigeria
Those struggling with job layoffs

Grace Families

Forrest Marvin
Ken McClain
Rusty Jones
Cindy Hughes

Grace Friends

Brandon and Emily Childers
Christie Dillon
Lilly Cameron & family Ryan, Alex, & Noah
Sam Settle's mother
Rocky Burriss' mother
David West
Mark & Ginger Nichols
Jane Smith
Robert Grimm
Dian Sharp and daughter Aria
Melanie Sharp

Deployed

Dustin Flaspohler and family Charlie and Gus

Sympathies

Vicki and Ron Brixey
(death of Vicki's daughter Kerri Garr)
(Service will be here at Grace this
Saturday, October 3, at 3pm, Worship Center.)

Family and Friends of Little Lucy Davidson

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.*