Grace Weekly Email Update
11-4-2026

Message from Pastor Jeff



Grace Community Church Family,

As we move through this season of gratitude and thanksgiving, we are just a few short weeks away from the beginning of Advent. While most people call the Sunday after Thanksgiving the beginning of the Christmas season, the early Christians had a different name for this season: Advent. It is the four-week season leading up to the day we celebrate Christ's birth. During Advent, Christians look backward and forward. We look back and remember that Christ came and dwelt among us. And, we look forward to that day when Christ will come again and make all things right.

We are providing Advent devotional books for anyone who would like one. They will be available to be picked up on Sunday, November 22 and 29. The books provide five daily devotions for each week of Advent. This is a great way to keep the focus on Christ during this time and to be joined together as a church family. The Advent devotional books go along with the lighting of the Advent wreath in your home. If you are one of those people who prepares early, you can begin gathering supplies for your advent candle wreath now.

We are going to begin Advent as a church family together on Sunday, November 29 at 5pm. We are going to share a meal together enjoying some delicious chilies, soups, and desserts (and yes, we'll be crowning some champion chili/soup and dessert artisans), and then we are going to do our first Advent devotion and light our first Advent candle together as a church family. I hope you will make plans to join us! Please let us know that you are coming so that we can set up adequate seating for all. You can do that **HERE**.

I look forward to seeing you in worship with us this weekend!

Jeff



Grace Families

Men Attending 4KK Retreat
(See list of names with picture in Prayer Section on last page.)
Harold Braswell
Janice Winford
Patty & Ron Robertson
Gerald Schaefer
Johnny (Sgt) Martin
Angela Graham
Mari and Stan Stille
Family, Friends, Co-Workers, and Students of Loren Kennedy

Full prayer request listing on last page.

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.

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 8 & 9

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)
Hymns: My Faith Looks Up To Thee
Nearer, My God, To Thee

Modern (9:30 & 11am Sunday, 6pm Monday)
Songs: I Believe; Same God; Holy Forever
How Great Is Our God

Live Stream @ 9:30am Sunday: Facebook & YouTube

Past Sermons/Materials: Click HERE.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact Rick for more information.



Meet Our Team

Mental Health Resources

Mental Health Page

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

Click HERE for details of ON-GOING GROUPS

-Upper Room (Women) Nov 4 & 18
-By Hook, Needle & Craft (Women/Men) Nov 5 & 19
-Men's Fellowship Lunch (Men) 1st Thursdays, Nov 5
-Women's Lunch (Women) 2nd Thursdays, Nov 12
-Mama Meetups, click HERE for more info, Fridays, 9-10am

KIDS MINISTRY

Jr. Kids: Infants—PreK Contact: **Jessica Cochenour**
Kids Church K-5th Grade 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.

Christmas Play Practice
Wednesdays at 5:30pm, Revelation Room



Outdoor Family Movie Night "The Grinch"
Friday, November 20, 7pm, Courtyard
Join us for a cozy movie night under the stars! Bring the whole family, grab your blankets and lawn chairs, and enjoy an evening together. S'mores and hot chocolate will be provided!



Fort Smith Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 12, 3pm
We're spreading Christmas cheer!
Grace is excited to be part of the 2026 Fort Smith Christmas Parade! We would love for everyone to join us as we celebrate the season and spread a little Christmas joy throughout our community! Whether you want to ride on our float or walk alongside us, all are welcome! Children in 2nd grade and younger must have a parent accompany them. If your child is riding on the float, you're welcome to walk alongside!
Have questions? Contact Sarah at 479-414-2071.
We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you! Sign up **HERE**.

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.



Youth Campfire Worship
Thursday, Nov 19, 6-8:30pm, Glidewell Home
Come hungry for good food, ready for fun, and excited for a powerful night of music and worship. Contact **Dana** for more information.

Confirmation Class, Sundays, Jan 10-Mar 14, 10:45am
Deadline to Enroll is January 1. For full details and to enroll, click **HERE!** (Confirmation Sunday is March 14.)

SAVE THE DATE — NEW YEAR'S EVE (see Event Section)
Fundraiser Dinner/Silent Auction

EVENTS



A Call to Auto Craftsmen
TOMORROW, Thursday, November 5
6pm, Activity Center
Love working on cars? Whether you're a hobbyist, professional mechanic, hot rodder, or just someone who enjoys turning wrenches, we invite you to join us for an evening of free pizza, fellowship, and all things automotive!
This gathering is an opportunity to connect with fellow car enthusiasts, share stories, talk about current projects and builds, and learn from one another.
We're also hoping to explore the possibility of future hands-on workshops where experienced enthusiasts can share their knowledge and introduce others to the joy of working on cars.
No matter your skill level, you're welcome! Whether you've been rebuilding engines for decades or have never picked up a wrench but want to learn, there's a place for you.
Come hungry, bring your car stories, and let's see what we can build together! Register **HERE**.



Sacred Spaces—Women's Event
Saturday, November 21, 8am-1pm
Fort Smith State Park
Step away from the noise and make space to notice God in the beauty around you. Join us for a guided hike where we'll walk together through nature, reflecting on Scripture and pausing along the way for short devotionals, prayer, and conversation. Come ready to relax, reflect, and recognize the beauty of God's creation with other women!
We will meet at Grace at 8am, drive to the hike together and return around 1pm. Only 10 spots available! Sign up **HERE**.



New Year's Eve
"Boots, Bling & BBQ"
Dinner/Silent Auction
Thursday, December 31, 6-8pm
Student Ministry Building
Ring in the new year with a fun night of games, silent auction, door prizes and lots of laughs! All proceeds go toward sending our Youth to Summer Camp 2027.
Bar-B-Q Meal (More details to come) $25 per plate. To-Go orders available! Childcare provided from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.
Sign up **HERE**. Youth camp fundraiser.



Christmas Kick-Off
Sunday, November 29, 5-7pm
Student Ministry Building
Join us as we gather to kick off the Christmas season together as a church family! We will be hosting our Annual Chili/Soup Cook Off, we'd love for you to join the friendly competition. Then we will host a Dessert Bake-Off, and make Christmas cards for local nursing homes. We'll also light the first Advent candle together, marking the start of this special season as we reflect on the hope we have in Christ. Please make sure to sign-up **HERE** and let us know you're coming!
If you have any questions reach out to Reagan Newell.

EVENTS...continue



Ladies Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 5, 10-11:30am
Worship Center
Join us for our annual Ladies Christmas Tea! We'll gather to celebrate the joy and hope we have in Christ. In the midst of a busy season, we'll take time to slow down, enjoy sweet fellowship, a yummy brunch, and be reminded that true joy comes from the Lord. Come be refreshed by His presence and encouraged by the promise that "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).
Childcare is available! Please make sure to register **HERE** by November 27!



4th Annual
Grace Men's Camp/Canoe Trip
Buffalo River/Ponca
Steel Creek Campground
Wednesday-Sunday
April 21-25, 2027

We have 3 adjacent sites with plenty of room for tents !!
Water and restroom on site.
For GRACE MEN and Friends!
Enjoy Fellowship, Food, Fire, Fun!
Canoe on Saturday
(rentals available)

Come when you can!!! Even for the day!!!
We NEVER RUN OUT OF COFFEE or FIREWOOD !!!

For additional information or if you have questions, call Ken Duncan 479-285-9600.

SERVE

Contact **Michelle Thomas** for more information on local mission efforts. Contact **Kathleen Halliburton** for more information on mission efforts outside of our community.

2nd Annual Honor & Duty Pickleball Tournament to End Veteran Homelessness
this Saturday, November 7, 7:30am
@ the Hangout Fitness & Sports
5400 Gary St., Fort Smith, AR 72901
$30 Per Person



Love to play Pickleball? Maybe you have NEVER played pickleball. Calling everyone interested in pickleball of all skill levels to help support the Next Step Homeless Services for Veterans in the program.
Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles. 5 Game bracket play. All levels from never hit a pickleball to high level experts. No partner? No problem, we will pair you up! Breakfast and lunch provided.
Grace Community Church is a sponsor! Register by email at terrybogner@icloud.com. Contact Jeanne Carroll for more information.

NEW!

$15,000+ Donated in Non-Perishables to Help Local Ministry Partners Fill Their Pantries



The local missions we supported for Feeding A Multitude are extremely grateful for your outpouring of love and generosity for those in need. We have helped fill the pantries for:

- Community Services Clearinghouse
- Community Rescue Mission
- Riverview Hope Campus
- Next Step Homeless Services

We estimate our initial investment was at least TRIPLED to over $15,000 in helping those in our community. Your generosity and love reflect the Mission of Grace Community Church:
Our mission is to bring God glory, to make His kingdom known, and to declare His grace to all the world. The way that we accomplish our mission is to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind and to love all people all the time.
Several youth, some dads, and church staff helped move food to designated tables and then into delivery trucks. Many thanks to all those who pitched in and to our congregation for shopping and blessing so very many.

NEW!



Families in Transition (FIT) Toy/Clothing Drive, starts November 22
There will be two trees set up in the church lobby. One tree will have tags for clothing items and the other tree will have tags for toy and gift items. Each tag represents a child in the Fort Smith Public School system that does not have a consistent place to call home. We suggest keeping toy purchases at $75 or less. If you choose a clothing tag, you may plan to spend as much as $100. All items are due back by Sunday, December 6. If you are interested in helping with this year's toy drive or have other questions, please contact **Erin Delassus**.
You can bring items back wrapped or unwrapped, it is up to you! If you are wrapping items, please put a tag with the Family # and Name of Child on the gift. Remember, this is the only Christmas these children will receive. Please be conscientious about their wish lists.

SERVE…continue

Contact **Michelle Thomas** for more information on local mission efforts.
Contact **Kathleen Halliburton** for more information on mission efforts outside of our community.



Church Bake Sale
To Benefit the FIT Toy/Clothing Drive
Sunday, November 22, 8am-12:30pm
Church Lobby

Grace will be hosting a bake sale to raise money for Families in Transition (FIT) this Christmas. All proceeds will be used to help provide Christmas gifts for those who lack permanent housing. We need donations of baked goods and people to purchase baked goods. If you are able to donate baked goods please bring them to the church at the following times:

Friday, Nov. 20 from 3:00-6:00pm
Saturday, Nov. 21 from 12:00-3:00pm
Sunday, Nov. 22 from 7:30-8:30am

On the day of the sale, Credit card, Venmo, and cash will be accepted! If you have any questions reach out to **Erin DeLassus**.



Nicaragua Mission Trips
4 Trips Set for 2027

Full details HERE.

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**.

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
Election Results

Grace Families
Harold Braswell
Men Attending 4KK Retreat (picture w/names at the bottom)
Janice Winford
Patty & Ron Robertson
Gerald Schaefer
Johnny (Sgt) Martin

Grace Friends
Shanyn Dedmon
Tom Fenn
Dian Sharp and daughter Aria
Melanie Sharp

Deployed
Dustin Flaspohler and family Charlie and Gus

Sympathies

Family, Friends, Co-Workers, and
Students of Loren Kennedy
Angela Graham and family (death of her mother)
Mari and Stan Stille (death of Mari's sister)

