Grace Weekly Email Update
11-18-2026

Message from JD Cunny (Associate Pastor)



Dear Grace Families,

I pray that over the past couple of weeks, we have all found ways to be more intentional in expressing our gratitude to God. Thanksgiving should never be just a one-day holiday on the calendar, but rather a posture of our hearts toward God throughout the entire year.

As we move from Thanksgiving into the Christmas season, we have a wonderful opportunity to continue celebrating God's goodness together as a church family!

Join us for our **Christmas Kick-Off (formerly known as the Chili Cook-Off) on Sunday, November 29, from 5:00–7:00 PM!** This year, we're bringing together some of our favorite traditions as we kick off the Christmas season at Grace!

-Annual Chili & Soup Cook-Off: Bring your favorite recipe and join in some friendly competition!
-Dessert Bake-Off: Show off your baking skills and share something sweet!
-Christmas Card Making: Help us spread the love of Christ by creating Christmas cards for residents of local nursing homes.
-Lighting of the First Advent Candle: We'll take time together to reflect on the hope we have in Jesus Christ as we begin the Advent season.

What a wonderful way to celebrate God's blessings, enjoy fellowship, and prepare our hearts for the Christmas season! Please take a moment to sign up **HERE** and let us know you're coming! This helps us know how many people to expect so we can prepare appropriately. When signing up, please also let us know if you plan to bring a chili, soup, or dessert for the friendly competitions.

Whether you're bringing a dish or simply coming to enjoy the fellowship, we'd love to have you join us!

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Reagan Newell**.

We look forward to celebrating with you and your family!

JD



Full prayer request listing on last page.

Grace Families

Mary Carter	Lucile Gattis
Kimberly Dye	Bob Cochenour
Jim Wiley	Noah Welch
Wes Moore	Harold Braswell
Shelby Quiroga	Janice Winford

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 22 & 23

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)
Hymns: We Gather Together
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Modern (9:30 & 11am Sunday, 6pm Monday)
Songs: I Thank God
I've Witnessed It
Who Else
Gratitude

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

Past Sermons/Materials: Click HERE.

Holy Communion at all services.



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact Rick for more information.



Meet Our Team

Mental Health Resources

Mental Health Page

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.
Launch dates to remember:

Nov. 25, No Launch
Dec. 2 & 9, wear festive clothes, Grinch theme
Dec. 16, Christmas Party at the Monkey House
Dec. 23 & 30, No Launch
Jan. 6, normal schedule starts back



Outdoor Family Movie Night "The Grinch"
THIS 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**.



Christmas Play: "CSI: Bethlehem"
Practice: Wed., 5:30pm, Revelation Rm
Production: Sunday, Dec 13, 9:30/11:00am
Monday, Dec 14, 6:00pm
A comedic detective skit where a Bethlehem investigator is on the case to find out who the mysterious baby in the manger is. Interviewing the wise men, shepherds, and animals, the detective pieces together the miracle of Jesus' birth, all while making humorous misinterpretations along the way.



Kids Summer Camp
July 19-23, 2027, Camp Siloam
3rd-5th Grades
For more details and to register, click **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
TOMORROW, 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.



"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.



Confirmation Class
(6th Grade and older)
Sundays, Jan 10-Mar 14
10:45am
Confirmation is an opportunity for students in 6th Grade and older to explore what it means to follow Jesus and grow in their own faith. Together, we'll learn about God, Jesus, the Bible, prayer, Christian community, the Holy Spirit, and the basics of Christian faith.
The class will meet every Sunday morning at 10:45am. Through discussion, Scripture, activities, and reflection, students will have a chance to ask questions, deepen their understanding, and begin to claim their faith as their own. Contact Dana Davis with any questions!
Deadline to enroll is Friday, January 1st. Sign up **HERE**.



Middle School Summer Camp 2027
June 7-10, 2027, Encounter Cove, MO
For more information and to register, click **HERE**.



High School Summer Camp 2027
July 5-10, 2027, Colorado Springs, CO
For more information and to register, click **HERE**.

CONNECT—STUDIES

Contact JD Cunny for any questions.

Advent Study (facilitated by Kathryn O'Brien)
Wednesdays, 10-11:30am, Dec. 2/9/16, Chapel



Come join others in the Chapel each Wednesday morning to discuss these timeless stories of love, sacrifice, forgiveness and hope. As we gather to enjoy a few Christmas treats while we discuss and ponder the spiritual themes presented in these classic Christmas tales, we will be drawn into a deeper experience of the season.

While the recommended book contains four stories, we will only engage in these three:

Dec. 2: The Gift of the Magi

A moving story of love, sacrifice and the priceless gifts we give to those we love, which often have nothing to do with what is under the tree.

Dec. 9: The Story of the Other Wise Man

A powerful journey of faith, perseverance and compassion, as we discover anew that God's purposes are often much greater than we can imagine.

Dec. 16: The Burglar's Christmas

A surprising story of kindness, second chances and the possibility of redemption.

Purchase of the book isn't necessary — all of the stories are available under public domain and can easily be accessed online. However, if you want to purchase the book, it is available thru Amazon for about $13; click **HERE**.

Some Christmas stories entertain us. The best ones, like these three, stay with us—reminding us of love, sacrifice, generosity, forgiveness, hope and the gifts that matter most. Our time together will help us to focus our hearts and minds on the greatest story of all, the redeeming and relentless love of Jesus.

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) Dec 3 & 17
-By Hook, Needle & Craft (Women/Men) Nov 19, Dec 4 & 18
-Men's Fellowship Lunch (Men) 1st Thursdays, Dec 3
-Women's Lunch (Women) 2nd Thursdays, Dec 10
-Mama Meetups, click **HERE** for more info, Fridays, 9-10am

EVENTS



Sacred Spaces—Women's Event
THIS 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**.



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.



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!



Fort Smith Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 12, 3-5pm
See details in Kids Ministry section.



Christmas Eve With Grace
Thursday, December 24
4:00 and 6:00pm
Join us for our special Christmas Eve Service! Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with worship, a message, and our traditional candlelight moment to close the evening. Kids Church will be available for children 4 and under. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

EVENTS...continue



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.



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.



Families in Transition (FIT) Toy/Clothing Drive
Starts THIS November 22

Be on the lookout **THIS SUNDAY** for **Angels** on the Families In Transition gift tree for toy and clothing gifts. 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.



Church Bake Sale
To Benefit the FIT Toy/Clothing Drive
THIS Sunday, Nov 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**.

Upcoming Recurring Serve Opportunities

- Hope Campus: Tuesday, Dec 8 prep/serve food
- Community Rescue Mission
  Thursday, Nov 19 & Dec 17 prep/serve food
  Contact **Carol Kirby** for details.
- Ronald McDonald House
  Thursday, Nov 26 & Dec 31 meal prep
  Contact **Kathryn O'Brien** for details.

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.

Eight Days of Hope Rebuild XXI
January 15-22
Avoyelles Parish, LA

Eight Days of Hope Rebuild XXI is coming to Avoyelles Parish, LA, after the remnants of Tropical Storm Arthur dropped over 2 feet of water in 48 hours, causing massive flash flooding across the state. In Avoyelles Parish alone, over 200 homes were impacted by the rapidly rising waters, displacing many as they work to rebuild.

We will be taking a team of people to Louisiana to serve people who suffered from this severe flooding. This is a family friendly event and it is FREE. Lodging, materials and meals are all covered. Please go to our website for all the **details.** Bus. If you would like to travel with Grace, please sign up **HERE.** If you do not sign up to ride with Grace, you will be responsible for arranging your own transportation. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15 and return in the afternoon of Friday, January 22. If you have any questions please contact Kathleen Halliburton.



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
Mary Carter
Kimberly Dye
Jim Wiley
Wes Moore
Shelby Quiroga
Lucile Gattis
Bob Cochenour
Noah Welch
Harold Braswell
Janice Winford

Grace Friends
Christie Dillion
Will Williams
Shanyn Dedmon
Tom Fenn
Dian Sharp and daughter Aria
Melanie Sharp

Deployed
Dustin Flaspohler and family Charlie and Gus

Sympathies
Cody and Sonya Elliott (death of Cody's brother)
Kathryn Stokes Lewis and family (death of her mother Carolyn Thomas)

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.