

Grace Weekly Email Update

August 6, 2025

Message from JD Cunny (Associate Pastor)



As summer winds down and the school year begins, backpacks are being filled, lunch boxes packed, and alarm clocks set just a little earlier. This season brings excitement and nerves, challenges and opportunities—not only for our children but for the parents and teachers who guide them every day.

At Grace, we want to take this moment to encourage and uplift the families in our community as we enter the back-to-school season.

To Our Parents:

You are doing holy work. Every morning drop-off, late-night homework check, and hurried dinner around the table is a chance to shape hearts and minds. The pressure can be real, but so is God's grace. Lean into Him. Pray over your kids. Speak life over them. And remember: you don't have to have all the answers—you just have to keep pointing them to the One who does.

To Our Teachers:

Whether you teach in a public school, private academy, or homeschool setting, your calling matters deeply. You're not just educating minds—you're planting seeds of character, compassion, and courage. The classroom is your mission field, and God has equipped you for such a time as this. We're praying for strength, creativity, and the kind of joy that overflows even on the hardest days.

To Our Kids and Students:

You are not alone! God goes with you into every classroom, every test, and every new friendship. Be brave, be kind, and know that your church family is cheering you on and praying for you every step of the way.

As a church, let's commit to surrounding our families, students, and educators with prayer and encouragement this school year. Whether it's writing a note of thanks, offering a helping hand, or lifting someone up in prayer, we all have a part to play in supporting the next generation.

Let's make this school year one covered in faith, anchored in purpose, and filled with God's presence.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” —Proverbs 22:6

Blessings,

JD Cunny

Grace Community Church

4001 Brooken Hill Dr., Fort Smith, AR 72908

479.646.1177

contact@gracefs.com

Office Hours: 9-5 Monday-Thursday

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 SERVICES — August 10 & 11

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Love Lifted Me; Jesus Saves!

Modern (9:30 & 11:00am Sunday)

Songs: Glorious Day; Promises Never Fail; King of Kings; Build My Life

Modern (6pm Monday)

Songs: Kings of Kings; Our Father; Promises Never Fail; Build My Life

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

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

KIDS MINISTRY (Infants—5th GRADERS)

Kids Page on Grace Website—Click [HERE](#).



CHRISTINE TURPIN

(Infants—PreK)



SARAH REYKER

(K-5th grade)



Kids Church in August Maker's Workshop



Back Pack Blessing, August 10

On August 10, all kids and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church for blessings of the backpacks to kick off the new school year! Everyone will receive a Bible verse bag tag.

Grace Kids Needs VOLUNTEERS!!

Looking for a place to get plugged in? There's no better way than sharing the love of Jesus with kids! Exciting new curriculum coming in August! Once a month serve opportunities.

Email or text Sarah: sarah@gracefs.com; 479-414-2071

Come join the FUN!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT.....

Grace Family Night @ Alma Waterpark

THIS Friday, August 8, 7-9pm

We'll be having a night of fun, fellowship, and refreshing excitement at the Alma Water Park. Bring the whole family and connect with others in our church community. The park is located at 731 City Park Rd, Alma, AR 72921. This is a free event.



DASH & FM

(6-8th grades) & (9-12th grades)

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

Dash/FM Page on Grace Website—Click [HERE](#)



ALPHA GROUP
9th-12th grade
Beginning
Sept. 7th
Weekend Retreat following
our course
Every Sunday
10:45-noon



Sign up here

A safe place for youth to explore, ask questions, and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith.


"Alpha" symbolizes a beginning or starting point of a journey

WONDERFULLY
MADE

A Christian Perspective
on
human sexuality, values
and relationships

6TH - 8TH GRADE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST,
10:45AM-4PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)
PARENT SESSION 2:30-4PM

Enrollment deadline
Sept 1st



CONNECT/EVENTS/STUDIES

This Friday!

GRACE FAMILY NIGHT ALMA WATERPARK

Grace Family Night @ Alma Waterpark
Friday, August 8, 7-9pm

We'll be having a night of fun, fellowship, and refreshing excitement at the Alma Water Park. Bring the whole family and connect with others in our church community. The park is located at 731 City Park Rd, Alma, AR 72921. This is a free event.



Ministry Expo
Sunday, August 17
9:30am-noon
Grace Lobby

Nearly everyone has been to a "Job Fair" or "Trade Show" where booths are set up to sell

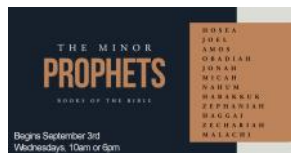
or promote certain things. On August 17, Grace is going to have our very own "Ministry Expo." As summer winds down and schedules become more predictable, we are excited to have an event that promotes upcoming activities, studies and ways to serve at Grace and in the community. We have done this the last two years but this year will be a little different. We are going to host the Expo in the Worship Center Lobby (instead of the StuMin as it has been). We are going to focus on four specific areas; Group Studies, Connecting Ministries, Serve Opportunities, and Communication. Although we will not have as many individual tables, rest assured that we will do our best to make sure all the different opportunities to connect and serve at Grace are promoted.



Women's Bible Study:
Revelation by Jen Wilkin
Tuesdays, starting Sept. 2, 10am-12pm
10 Sessions, Activity Ctr, Cost \$20
Facilitators: Martha Cochenour
& Cassey Browning

Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for you today. Over 10 sessions of verse-by-verse Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible—the culmination of God's great story—speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age. To read more about this study and to register, click [HERE](#).

CONNECT/EVENTS/STUDIES



The Minor Prophets Bible Study **Wednesdays, starting Sept. 3** **2 Opportunities: 10am & 6pm** **Facilitator: Kathryn O'Brien** **9 Sessions, No Cost**

The Minor Prophets (last 12 Books of the Old Testament), also referred to as The Book of the Twelve, often receive little notoriety. However, they are no less important than the Major Prophets of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. They are only called “minor” because the writings are shorter than any of the “major” writings. These short Books provide insight into God’s character and His desire for relationship with His people. They contain important messages for both the people then and believers today — messages of justice and mercy for sin and rebellion, along with messages of hope and God’s faithfulness to those who seek Him.

Opportunities: Both morning and evening groups are available.

AM group will meet 10-11:30 in the Activity Center

PM group will meet 6-7:30 in the Children’s Wing

There is no cost associated with this study; a study guide will be provided. To register, click [HERE](#).

Practicing the Way—John Mark Comer **Tuesdays, starting Sept 9-Oct 28, 6-7:30pm, 8wks** **Facilitated by JD, Open to Everyone** **No cost. Materials will be provided.**

Our culture is distracted, fragmented, and hurried. Many people are simply too busy and exhausted to have a meaningful life with God. We need a clear path to being formed by Jesus in the modern era, rather than being counter-formed by a culture that skims near the surface.

Based on the book "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer, this study is designed to help us

integrate the practices and rhythms of Jesus and his earliest followers, creating space for the Holy Spirit to form us into a people of depth and love. Register [HERE](#).



For King and Kingdom Men’s Retreat **Oct. 1-5, Burning Bush Lodge** **Wrightsville, AR**

This retreat experience is designed to inspire, unite, and free men to pursue their Kingdom destiny in a community of like-minded men. To read full details and to register, click [HERE](#). Filling out this form does not commit you to the retreat. It is for men who are interested in learning more about the retreat. JD Cuny will contact you with more details.



Young Adults Passion 2026 **January 1-3, 2026; Arlington, TX** Passion is for 18-25 year olds. [Check it out and sign up.](#) If you have questions, contact [Reagan](#).

CONNECT—On Going Groups



Upper Room Daily Devotional Discussion Group **1st & 3rd Wednesdays** **1-2pm, Activity Center**

Using the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide, ladies discuss the daily reading and the Bible verses as a launching pad for in-depth discussions to include sharing personal experiences. Class is led by Ava Imotichey.



By Hook, Needle & Craft Women's Group **1st & 3rd Thursdays** **1pm, Activity Center**

Join a group of women who love crafts and visiting with each other. Crafts include knitting, crewel, needlepoint, cross-stitch and any other craft you wish to do. If you are gifted with these talents or want to learn, join these ladies in this wonderful ministry. On the few occasions when the first day of the month falls on a Thursday, meetings will be on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Class is led by Mary Carter.



Men's Fellowship Lunch **1st Thursdays, August 7, 12pm** **The Egg of Fort Smith** **3801 Planters Rd.**

Join men from Grace the first Thursday of each month, 12pm at The Egg of Fort Smith for a meal, fellowship and updates on our Men's Ministry. There is no need to sign up. We usually meet from noon-1pm. Invite a friend or co-worker.



Singles Ministry **Thrive Monthly Lunch** **1st Saturday Each Month, Noon** **Anthony's Italian Restaurant**

Are you looking to find a community at Grace? Join the Thrive- Single's ministry for a monthly lunch full with conversation, connection, and yummy Italian food! Thrive will meet every 1st Saturday of the Month. The lunch will be hosted at Anthony's Italian Restaurant. No need to sign-up, just come when you can! If you have any questions please reach out to [Reagan Newell](#). Aug 2, Sept 6, Oct 4

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 next right step is? Talk to our mental health team! The form is confidential.

Scan this QR code or go to Gracefs.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 potential next steps

Meet our team: Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health Resources: Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health page on our website: Click [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

Eight Days of Hope Ministry

Those who are sick

Those struggling w/mental illness & addictions

Those struggling with grief

All those affected by recent floods

Grace Families

Mary Carter

Nicaragua Mission Teams

Women's Cruise Group

Grace Friends

Tom Fenn (Donna Sharp's nephew)

Scott and Martha Price (Avillion/Kimbrough family)

Kirk Price, Judy Morgan, Tom Doherty

A Father addicted to alcohol

Cancer Fighters—Grace Family

Nora Lowe