

Grace Weekly Email Update

August 27, 2025

Message from Pastor Jeff



For those of you who are travelling over the weekend, don't forget that we will have our Monday night service at 6pm on Labor Day Monday. As a bonus, we'll be eating some BBQ after worship that night.

As a pastor, I am super blessed by those who serve as the overseers of our church. We call this group the Church Council (you can see the list of those on the Church Council [HERE](#)). This group carries the ultimate responsibility and authority to see that our church remains faithful to Jesus Christ. The Church Council has been slowly working our way through consideration of joining the Antioch Connection. If you missed my first introduction to the Antioch Connection, you can read that [HERE](#). We have a "Frequently Asked Questions" page [HERE](#) that addresses some of the questions people might have about the connection. The important thing to note is that this is a voluntary association where all the churches remain independent without any legal entanglements that would prevent any church from leaving if they wish. I am personally excited about the opportunity to build more connections with other churches and pastors.

Congratulations to Justus Brown on receiving the seminary scholarship from the church. Justus is a student at Talbot School of Theology. Justus and his wife, Baylee, have two girls (Eliza and Lilly) and they can most often be found at our Monday night service. We are excited to be able to support him as he prepares to be a leader in Christian ministry.

I look forward to worshiping with you this weekend as we continue our spring through 1 Corinthians!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICES — August 31 and September 1

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: To God Be The Glory; Open My Eyes That I May See

Modern (9:30 & 11:00am Sunday) (6pm Monday)

Songs: Lord I Need You; Move Your Heart; Holy Forever; Gratitude

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

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

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.*

KIDS MINISTRY (Infants—5th GRADERS)

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



CHRISTINE TURPIN

(Infants—PreK)



SARAH REYKER

(K-5th grade)



Kids Church (Infants-PreK) **EMOTIONS**

Now through September 22

We think of some emotions as good and others as bad. But God made every part of us, and no matter how we are feeling, we can always turn to Him for help.

MEMORY VERSE: "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5



Kids Church (K-5th Grade)

MAKER'S WORKSHOP

Month of August

SOMETHING NEW FOR KIDS CHURCH....



Hey parents! Your kids will be coming home with weekly bible verses to memorize. Get excited with them because there are some pretty cool prizes! Each week they memorize a verse, they get a small prize. They also get a sticker. As a group, the more stickers we get, the bigger and better the incentives get. Ice cream? Yep. Pie in the face? Oh yeah! Monkey House? SO FUN!! Help them memorize the verse each week!

This week's verse is:

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Family Movie Night Friday, September 12 The King of Kings

Join us for Family Movie Night in the Worship Center. Popcorn, water and lemonade provided. Kids are welcome to bring their pillow and a blanket. Movie starts at

7pm! Doors open at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact [Sarah](#).

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!

Mark Your Calendars

Trunk or Treat—Sunday, October 26, 4-6pm

DASH & FM

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

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

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



Wednesday Night Youth

6-7:30pm

StuMin Building

Each Wednesday we come together for food, fun, fellowship, small groups and worship. Had 70 kiddos last week for opening day! Bring a friend!.

Alpha Group

(FM students 9-12th grade)

Sunday, September 7, 10:45-noon

A safe place for youth to ask questions, explore and learn more.

Weekend Retreat November 1st & 2nd
(WHERE TO? 242)

ASK !!!!!!!!!

Sign up [here](#).



Wonderfully Made

(DASH students 6-8th grade)

Sunday, September 21

Lunch is Provided.

Student Session: 10:45am-4pm

Parent Session: 2:30-4pm

A Christian perspective on human sexuality, values and relationships.
Deadline to enroll Monday, September 1.

Sign up [here](#).



TRAIL LIFE USA

(K-12th grade boys)

Contact [JD](#) for Trail Life.

Troop 316, First 3 Mondays of Each Month

6:15-7:30pm, StuMin

Starts Back on September 15

Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship ministry that speaks to the heart of a boy. Set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.



CONNECT/EVENTS/STUDIES



The Book of Mark Small Group Study
Co-Ed Bible Study
Wednesdays, Sept 3-December, 6-7pm
Brown Residence (Fianna Hills)

(childcare at the church)

Join Justus and Baylee Brown as they lead their group through an in depth study of the book of Mark. Together you will unpack the powerful account of Jesus' life, ministry and mission. Together you will dig deeper into the historical context of Mark and how the message still speaks to us as Christians today. This group will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. This group is open to both men and women, individuals and couples. Childcare will be available at Grace, be sure to sign up [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](#).



Young Believers
(College Small Group)
Sundays, September 21, 4-5pm

This small group is for young believers ages 17- 24! Our current study is exploring the Book of Daniel. Each week we'll be digging into the Sunday sermon and discussing how the words of Daniel still speak to us today. Whether you've been in church your whole life, are a new believer, or your just curious about the Bible, we would love to have you! Contact [Reagan](#) with any questions! Register [HERE](#).

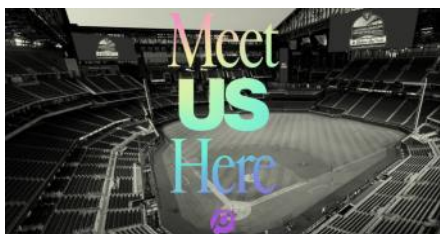


Women's Craft Night
Thursday, October 9, 6-8pm
Activity Center



Join the women of Grace for a fun night of crafting, conversation, and friendship! We will be painting outdoor doormats, all supplies are provided. If you aren't the most artistic person don't worry, we have all the things necessary to make it easy on you! The cost is \$10 per person, I hope you can join us! Contact [Reagan Newell](#) with any questions! **Deadline to sign-up is Thursday, October 2.** Register [HERE](#).

CONNECT/EVENTS/STUDIES



**Young Adults
Passion 2026
January 1-3, 2026
Globe Life Field
Arlington, TX**

Join the gathering of a generation united for

Jesus at Passion 2026 in Arlington, TX on January 1-3, 2026. At Passion 2026 18-25 year olds from across the country and around the world are coming together, lifting one voice, declaring one name—JESUS. And the invitation is open: meet us here.

Grace Young Adults will travel down to Arlington on Thursday, January 1 and return the evening of Saturday, January 3. Hotel + Ticket included in \$150 fee. [Click HERE to sign up](#). If you have questions, contact [Reagan](#).



Trunk or Treat Planning Begins NOW! (Mark Your Calendars! October 26, 4-6pm!)

This event is always fun for our church family as well as those in our community. Please consider hosting a “Trunk” or a “Game” for this event. You can provide your own candy, but the church will also have candy for you to use. Please let us know if you are interested in participating this year by completing the form [HERE](#).

Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat—start September 14

If you are not able to host a “Trunk” or “Game,” you can help out by supplying candy. Either purchase the candy and bring it to the church starting Sunday, September 14 or you can give a monetary donation (be sure to mark your donation “Trunk or Treat Candy”).

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, Sept. 4, 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](#). Sept 6, Oct 4

OTHER

Grace Place Preschool Has Job Opening for Aftercare Worker

Grace Place is looking to hire an aftercare worker Monday-Friday, noon-5:30pm availability, good with kids, can pass a background check, childcare experience preferred. Contact Grace Place office: 646-6503 or graceplace@gracefs.com.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Family Movie Night Friday, September 12 The King of Kings

Join us for Family Movie Night in the Worship Center. Popcorn, water and lemonade provided. Kids are welcome to bring their pillow and a blanket.

Movie starts at 7pm.
Doors open at 6:30pm.

If you have any questions,
please contact [Sarah](#).



Blood Drive

Sunday, September 28

8:30am—noon, Lobby

Summer months always find blood supplies extremely low. Consider giving the gift of life at our next Blood Drive.

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

Nicaragua Recap and Interest Luncheon September 21 at Noon, Church Office

Revised

Join our 2025 Nicaragua teams for a come and go luncheon on Sunday, September 21 at noon in the Church Office. We will serve a simple, informal lunch which will allow team members to visit and share their experiences. Bring your questions and come and learn how you can be a part of our teams in 2026. Childcare will be provided if needed. Please register [HERE](#) by Thursday, September 18. Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) if you have any questions.

NEW!

Carol Kirby Shares Her Nicaragua Experience

If you are unsure of whether you should participate on one of our 2026 Nicaragua teams, take a minute to read [Carol Kirby's newsletter](#). This is a great overview and gives you some insight on what you can expect. This was Carol's first trip to Nicaragua and she did an excellent job recapping her week. Please contact [Kathleen](#) if you would like to meet in person and discuss the opportunities in 2026. Our exact dates will be announced soon.

NEW!

Trunk or Treat Planning Begins NOW!

(Mark Your Calendars! October 26, 4-6pm!)

Complete the form [HERE](#) if you are interested in participating this year.

If you are not able to host a Trunk this year, you can help out by providing candy. We also accept monetary donations and we will purchase the candy...mark your check, on-line transaction or cash envelope with the wording "Trunk or Treat Candy."



El Porvenir News

Look who made the Smile of the Month for El Porvenir! Maya Carter and Andrea Maldonado were part of Grace's second team that served in San Isidro.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Contact [Rick](#) for more information.



Meet our team:

Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health
Resources:

Click [HERE](#).

Mental Health page
on our website:

Click [HERE](#).

September's Suicide Awareness By Rusti Holwick, LPE-I, LADAC, AADC



I am humbled and feel honored to participate in Grace's Mental Health Ministry's September focus on Suicide Awareness & Prevention.

Suicide: It's a devastating reality in our world. The church body, unfortunately, is not insulated or protected from this phenomenon as scripture clearly says, "In this world you will have trouble." John 16:33.



There is nothing more heartbreaking than the loss of a child or other loved one, especially to what seems so unnecessary such as an act of completed suicide. Those left behind relentlessly wonder and question, "What could I have done differently?" "What did I miss?" "Why didn't I see it?"... and continue to beat themselves up over it and often end up in a downward spiral mentally and emotionally themselves. Some will say, "It's such a selfish act."

The truth is that those who become suicidal, having thoughts of "I'd be better off dead." or "I just need to end everything.", etc are responding to a sense of hopelessness and helplessness to whatever has become the battle within their mind and emotion.

Although we as loved ones can clearly see and know someone is loved and has much to live for, the mind of someone battling suicidal thoughts and having other mental health issues such as depression or other becomes stuck (for a lack of a better description) on this thought, feeling pattern: wash, rinse, repeat.

In other words, they are not acting in a selfish manner in their minds, but trying to find relief.

We will be providing information, education and resources for you throughout the month to help you better recognize signs of someone having suicidal thoughts and ways you can be better equipped to recognize not only the signs but also approaches you might use and have opportunities to ask very direct loving questions that might change the course of action for someone. It's important to remember there's never a quick fix. One intervention is usually only a beginning or a step along the path.

Notes from Church Council Meeting—August

(You can see a list of all the church council members [HERE](#))



The church council met on August 21 of this month. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

Tom Smith, who serves as the treasurer of the church council, reported that the finances were in good order and that giving to the church was ahead of projections.

Pastor Jeff talked about three property issues that are being addressed: 1) We are looking at replacing the storage building on the back corner of the property. 2) We are in the process of repairing walls and repainting the student ministry building. 3) We are in the process of replacing four of the HVAC units in the student ministry building.

Damon Rye gave the serve report and reported that last month a total of \$8,144 had been split between the following ministry partners: Get Real 24, Community Services Clearinghouse, CASA, Arkansas Family Alliance, Families in Transition, The Community Rescue Mission, The CALL, Next Step Homeless Services, Hope Campus, Heart to Heart Pregnancy Center, First Choice Pregnancy Medical Center, and The Arc. He also reported that 25 people served on mission in Nicaragua and that they completed 25 latrines and 18 stoves for the San Isidro community.

The seminary scholarship team reported on the awarding of a scholarship to Justus Brown.

Pastor Jeff led a discussion about how the Antioch Connection would function and he discussed the possibility of partnering with some other churches in our area that are supporting church planting and evangelism in Cuba.

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

Grace Families

Pam Brixey

Grace Friends

A Grandmother with Kidney Failure and her family

A Father addicted to alcohol

Cancer Fighters—Grace Family

Nora Lowe

Sympathies

Ron and Donnetta Smith and family

(death of Ron's father Perry Smith)