

Grace Weekly Email Update

September 17, 2025

Message from Pastor Jeff



"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

Can you hear Jesus this week inviting you to trust Him and to follow the most excellent way. The enemy of your soul wants you to focus on who is winning or losing, who did what last, and the wrongs of your obnoxious coworker or your political opponent. Jesus says, "Look at me. Be who I say you are. Follow me. And though it may cost you everything, and those around you may call you foolish and declare that your life has been wasted, there will come a day when you will see that your life was gloriously beautiful, powerful, and effective."

Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:2

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICES — September 21 & 22

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

I Surrender All (All to Jesus I Surrender)

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

Songs: Come to Jesus; Goodness of God

The Heart of Worship; Christ Be Magnified

Modern (6pm Monday)

Songs: Goodness of God; Christ Be Magnified

The Heart of Worship; Good Plans

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—PreK)

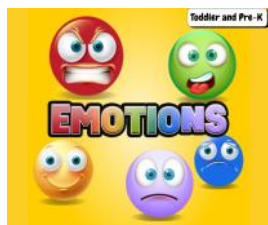
Contact: [Christine Turpin](#)

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



Mark Your Calendars

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



(K-5th Grade)

Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)

Kids Church (K-5th Grade) SIMPLY LOVED Month of September



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!

*Our new verse for the next couple of weeks:
"Do everything in love". 1 Corinthians 16:14*

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. Bring a friend!.



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.

Enrollment is still OPEN.

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

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



Isaiah's Influence on Luke/Acts Bible Study—Open to All

Starts THIS Sunday Sept. 21

8 weeks, No Cost

10:35-11:30am, Activity Center

Join Terry Gallamore as he walks

through the books of Luke/Acts. This study will explore the influence of Isaiah on Luke/Acts.

The goal is to come away from this study with a deeper understanding of these two books and their theology. Whether you are new to Bible study or have been studying for years, this study is a great place to grow in faith, ask questions, and build community. Come ready to learn, share, and be encouraged as we see how God's story continues to unfold through His people. Bring your Bibles. Register [HERE](#).



Young Believers

(College Small Group)

Starts THIS Sunday, Sept 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 you're 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

STUDENT MINISTRY BLDG.

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](#).



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](#).

CONNECT/EVENTS/STUDIES



Trunk or Treat Planning Begins NOW! Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, October 26, 4-6pm

Grace Parking Lot

Bring out the whole family for a safe, fun, and festive evening! Kids can dress up, enjoy our parking lot filled with decorated trunks ready to fill your buckets with candy, play games, and make sweet memories. This free community event is open to everyone. We'd love to see you there!

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

If you are interested in hosting a trunk or game, click [HERE](#). (We will help you with candy.)

Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat—start NOW!

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 NOW 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, Oct. 2, 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](#). Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

Nicaragua Recap and Interest Luncheon

THIS Sunday, September 21 at Noon, Church Office

Join our 2025 Nicaragua teams for a come and go lunch in the church office after the 11:00 service. We will serve a simple, informal lunch which will allow team members to visit and share their experiences. (For those who are attending earlier services and cannot make the luncheon, the team will be in the lobby to visit with you after the 9:30 service.) 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 **tomorrow, Thursday, September 18** if you are attending the luncheon. Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) if you have any questions.



Blood Drive, Sunday, September 28 8:30am—noon, Lobby

Every donation can save lives and share Christ's love in a practical way. Select a time to donate before, during, or after service. Sign up prior to the 28th and receive a Grace Community shirt! To sign up for a time slot, click [HERE](#).

Sign up NOW and receive an exclusive Grace t-shirt!



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention



River Valley

**Out of the Darkness Walk
September 27**

**Celebration Garden &
Wellness Park, Barling**

Register at
afsp.org/rivervalley
or use the QR code here.



Crawlin' for Kids

CASA Fundraiser

October 25

FREE

**Ben Geren Pk
Safe Room**

Register using UPC
code.

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.

OTHER

River Valley Master Gardeners “Fall Is Fabulous” Saturday, October 4 9am-noon, Worship Center

Grace has offered our facility for this event hosted by the River Valley Master Gardeners. The event is free of charge and open to the public. If you enjoy gardening, you will surely want to attend. Shown below are the guest speakers.



Steve Dobbs,
MS Horticulture
*Seasonal Color
Design & Plant
Ideas*



Katlyn Nolker,
City of Alma
Horticulturalist
Native Plants



Courtney Witt,
Blossomberry
Nursery
*Preserving Cut
Flowers*

*Follow River Valley Master Gardeners
on Facebook*



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

Mary Carter

Donna Newbold

Sandy Rye

Pam Brixey

Grace Friends

Jennifer Shaw

A Father addicted to alcohol

Cancer Fighters—Grace Family

Nora Lowe

Men Attending 4KK Retreat in the next couple of weeks:



Kyle Been



Sean Martin



Zach Johnson



Kevin Dye



Howard Walton



Forrest Marvin



Damon Rye



Chad Treadaway



Brandon Green