

Grace Weekly Email Update

January 14, 2026

Message from Pastor Jeff



Thank you to Pastor JD for bringing the message last week on connection. I don't want to be one of those goldfish bowl goldfish! If you are looking to get more connected, check out the ["connect" tab on the church website](#). If you don't know where to start, why not start with the New Connections class that Staci Moore is leading? You can find that class under "community groups" after you click on the connect tab.

One of the ways in which I have seen God build real connections within the body of Christ is through Discipleship Bands (Plus, it's fun to tell people I'm in a band). You can learn more about Discipleship Bands [here](#). One of the things I love about bands is that it is not a church program or driven by church staff. It's you finding a couple of other people who love Jesus and want to pursue the fullness of life in Christ together. If you are interested, Pastor JD or I would love to tell you more about it.

Whether you are 25 or 95, it is good to have a plan in place in the case of your passing from this earth. The bible says we gain wisdom, not anxiety and fear, by considering the number of our days. I've got a great workshop planned for Sunday, January 25, that will be helpful for everyone. It's called [Finishing Strong](#). Come join me!

I look forward to worshipping with you this weekend!

Jeff

WORSHIP SERVICE — January 18 & 19

Traditional (8:30am Sunday)

Hymns: Songs of Faithfulness, Shine Jesus Shine

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

Songs: Gone; Same God; Worthy; The Image

Live Stream @ 10am Sunday: [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

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

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.*

KIDS MINISTRY

Jr. Kids: Infants—PreK
Kids Church K-5th Grade

Contact: [Christine Turpin](#)

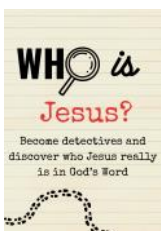
Contact: [Sarah Reykers](#)



Jr. Kids January Theme: Finger Painting with God

With just paint and their little fingers, our kiddos can create amazing pictures from their own imaginations. With just his voice, God created the world -- the sky, the animals, and each of THEM! Each week, toddlers and preschoolers will get hands-on as they finger paint their way through the creation story, learning about God's world in a fun, creative, and kid-centered way!

Memory Verse: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1



Kids Church K-5th Grade

Kids Ministry is bigger and better than ever in 2026!

We are kicking off the New Year learning about prayer and Who Jesus is. We will become detectives and discover who Jesus really is in God's word by answering questions and collecting clues. What will we discover about Jesus?

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength." Psalm 46:1



Painting + Pastries, Feb. 21, 9-11am Activity Center

Join us for a sweet morning of creativity and fun just for the gals! Girls K-5th are invited to come paint, eat some yummy pastries, and hear a short devotional. We hope you can join us! Sign up [HERE](#)! Contact [Sarah](#) with any questions!



Nerf Wars + Nachos, Feb. 21, 1-3pm

Boys (K-5th) are invited to an action-packed afternoon from 1–3 PM in StuMin! We'll battle it out in epic Nerf wars, enjoy nachos, and wrap up with a short devotional. Sign up [HERE](#)! If you have any questions contact [Sarah](#).



Spring Weekend Retreat (3rd-5th Graders) Camp Siloam, April 10-12, 2026

Instead of a full week camp in summer 2026, we are doing a spring weekend retreat...two nights at [Camp Siloam](#). Full camp details and sign ups can be found [HERE](#). Contact [Sarah Reyers](#) with questions.

DASH & FM

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

Contact [Dana](#) For DASH and FM

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



Join Us on Wednesday Evenings in 2026!

During the school year, DASH and FM meet routinely every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm.

We have dinner, games, worship, biblical lessons, and small groups.

Small groups are split by grade level and male/female.

Only 9 spots open!

**DASH
SUMMER CAMP**

Upcoming 6th-8th graders ✓
June 14-17, 2026
Encounter Cove, MO
Lake of the Ozarks

For more info →  → to Sign up

Sign up deadline Nov. 30th
Spots are Limited. Sign up soon!
\$100 deposit

**DASH
SUMMER CAMP**

Total Cost: \$500
Lots of Fundraising opportunities

High-energy worship
Powerful messages
Crazy fun activities and games
New friendships
Unforgettable memories
A chance to grow deeper in faith and discover who God created you to be

Payment Installment Deadlines:
Nov 30-----Dec 31-----Jan 31-----Mar 31-----May 31

Only 15 spots open!

**HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER
CAMP.**

Upcoming 9th graders - graduated seniors

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2026
Cleveland, TN,

SIGN UP DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 30TH TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT \$100



Scan the QR code to sign up or get more information

SPOTS ARE LIMITED
SIGN UP EARLY!

**HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER
CAMP.**

Total Camp Cost: \$500
We'll be doing fundraisers to lower the cost for everyone who participates!

WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS CAMP:

- An awe-inspiring week in Cleveland, TN
- Life changing messages
- Powerful worship
- Crazy fun with students from across the country
- A chance to grow in faith, build friendships, and discover what God has next for you.

Payment Installment Deadlines:
Nov 30-----Dec 31-----Jan 31-----Mar 31-----May 31

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.

CONNECT—Community Groups

For all groups listed below:
Full details and sign up click [HERE](#).

Contact [JD Cunny](#) for any questions.

New Connections Class, Sundays, 10:35-11:45am

January 25-March 1, (6 weeks) Church Office

Facilitator: Staci Moore

Type: Co-Ed, all are welcome! Status: Open

If you're new to Grace or looking to take your next step, our New Connections Class is a great place to start.



Sunday Sermon Recap, Sundays at 4:00pm-5:30pm

January 25- March 15 (8 Weeks), Meets in JD's Home

Facilitator: JD Cunny

Type: Couples Status: Open

The purpose of our Community Group is to create space specifically for couples to go deeper into Sunday's sermon—taking time to reflect, ask questions, and wrestle together with how God's Word connects to everyday life—marriage, parenting, work, and what it looks like to live out our faith at home.



Sunday Sermon Recap, Tuesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

January 20th- March 17th (9 Weeks)

Upstairs Blue Room at Grace

Facilitator: Amanda Maxwell

Type: Women's Community Group Status: Open

The purpose of this small group is to create a space where women can build genuine, meaningful connections with one another.



Sunday Sermon Recap, Tuesdays 6-7:30pm

January 27-March 17 (8 Weeks), Church Office

Facilitator: Scott Tidwell

Type: Men's Community Group Status: Open

This Men's Weekly Sermon Recap Group exists to create space for that kind of connection as we gather to revisit Sunday messages, ask honest questions, and talk through how God's Word applies to real life.



Sunday Sermon Recap, Wednesday Evenings 6-7:30pm

January 28-March 18 (8 Weeks), Upstairs Blue Room at Grace

Facilitators: Robert + Natalie Cole

Type: Couples Status: Open

The purpose of our community group is to create a space for couples/married people to come and build lasting relationships with others who want to center their marriage around God.



Sunday Sermon Recap, Wednesday Evenings 6-7:30pm

January 28-March 18 (8 Weeks), Church Office

Facilitators: David + Michelle Thomas

Type: Co-Ed Study, all stages of life welcome! Status: Open

We will facilitate the discussion on the weekly sermon and are not Bible scholars or experts. We will all learn and grow together in a relaxed fellowship atmosphere. We will seek joy as we grow! We would love for you to join us—especially if your children will be attending youth activities. Location will be at Grace—room to be determined.



CONNECT—Bible Studies

**For all groups listed below:
Full details and sign up click [HERE](#).**

Contact [JD Cunny](#) for any questions.



The Book of James, Wednesdays, 5:45pm

Starts January 14, Activity Center

Facilitator: Erin DeLassus

Type: Women's Bible Study Status: Open

True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord.



Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight, Tuesdays 10-11:30am

January 13, Activity Center

Facilitators: Martha Cochenour and Cassey Browning

Cost: \$20

Type: Women's Bible Study Status: Open

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life.



Jonah, Amos, Hosea: The Faithfulness of God

Sunday at 10:45am-12pm (after the 9:30am service)

Beginning January 11, Activity Center

Facilitator: Terry Gallamore

Cost: \$10 for paperback or you may purchase on your own

Type: Co-Ed Bible Study Status: Open

Through the lives, examples, and messages of these three prophets, we see God's constant love and forgiveness for Jews and Gentiles alike in spite of blatant disobedience, spiritual adultery, inappropriate worship, and a lack of justice.



Into the Heart of Romans

2 opportunities - January 28-March 18 (8 weeks)

Wednesday — mornings 10-11:30 (Activity Center)

Wednesday — evenings 6-7:30 (Children's Wing)

Facilitator: Kathryn O'Brien

Type: Co-Ed Bible Study

Cost: \$15.00 (purchase of book on own — not required)

Status: Open

In this deep dive into Romans 8 author N.T. Wright, widely regarded as the most influential commentator and interpreter of Paul, unpacks this chapter in Paul's dense and sometimes elusive letter.

EVENTS



Men's Ministry Kick Off Night Tuesday, January 20, 6pm Activity Center

Join us as we kick off a new year of Men's Ministry at Grace

for 2026. This evening is about gathering as men of Grace (and friends) to grow in faith, strengthen brotherhood, and step into our God-given purpose. We'll share the vision and direction of Grace Men's Ministry and highlight opportunities to get connected through discipleship, community, and service. Whether you're new to Grace or have been here for years, this night is for you. Cost: \$10 per person. If you bring a new guest, you and guest eat free!! Register [HERE](#).

Finishing Strong: Making Final Plans Sunday, January 25 2-3:30pm, Activity Center

While most people avoid thinking about their death and funeral plans, the bible actually says we gain wisdom by



considering the number of our days. I (Pastor Jeff) work with lots of families at the moment of death, and there are some clear things that make death and dying a

powerful witness to God's love and which bless your family in that moment. Join me as we think through how you can prepare to love your family well in your death. We will look at practical things that everyone needs to have in place for when they die--from a living will to songs for the funeral service. Register [HERE](#).

Super Bowl Snack Sale, Sunday, February 8 8:15am-12:15pm during and after Worship Services Worship Center Lobby

Chips-Dips-Appetizers—Stock up for kick-off!!

Benefiting Youth Summer Camp

Get game-day ready with our Super Bowl Snack Sale! From



chips + dips to crowd-favorite appetizers, we've got everything you need for kickoff. Every purchase helps support sending

our youth to summer camp! Make sure to stop by so that you can snack for a great cause!

EVENTS

IF: One Night

Friday, February 27, 5:30-10pm

Grace Worship Center

IF: One Night is a gathering of Christian women from all over the country. Some will join in person in Dallas, while the rest



are connected virtually! This evening will be filled with worship, teaching, and connection with women from Grace. Dinner will

be provided! Questions contact [Reagan Newell](#). Speakers are: Jennie Allen, Christine Caine, Francis Chan, Lauren Chandler, Jada Edwards, Davy Flowers, Layla de la Garza. Fee is \$10. Register [HERE](#).

The Ark Encounter

Thursday-Sunday, April 23-26

Nashville, TN



Join a group of ladies from Grace for an exciting trip to Nashville to experience the Ark Encounter! On Friday the group will visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown,



Kentucky and visit the Creation Museum on Saturday. Travel will be provided by Grace. The price includes

hotel for three nights in Nashville and admission to both attractions. You will be responsible for food and souvenirs. Price is \$400. The limit is 28 women, first come first serve. To sign up, contact [Erin DeLassus](#). Deadline to register is Sunday, February 1.

SERVE

Contact [Michelle Thomas](#) for more information on local mission efforts.
Contact [Kathleen Halliburton](#) for more information on mission efforts outside of our community.



Nicaragua Meeting
Sunday, January 18
NOON

CORRECTION

Activity Building

Our trips will be here soon! Come meet other team members as we discuss details of the trip as well as possible ideas for fundraising. We still have 2 spots available on Team 3 (August 1-8). Feel free to invite a friend. Contact [Kathleen](#) if you have any questions.



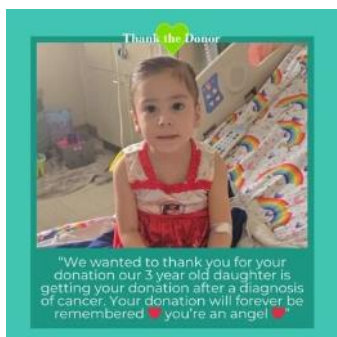
CONNECTION: Be sure to thank these mighty volunteers!

Dennis and Emma Lamb, Nancy Monaco, and Susan Wright



are awesome volunteers, along with many others, that serve our homeless community. They whip up meals and serve on the second Tuesday of EVERY month at the Riverview Hope Campus in Fort Smith. They can use your help and to reflect

the Love of Christ. Food preparation begins at 4:00pm, serving at 6:00, and **no clean up** involved! CONNECT with [Emma Lamb](#) for more info!



Many thanks to our recent blood donors!

Our donation efforts have saved 4023 lives over time, and our last drive alone the past Sunday helped save **39 lives**, including very young ones! Donors CONNECT with the community.



Please PRAY for our YOUTH

Our youth are learning more intently how to CONNECT with our local community partners and to see beyond themselves. Thank you, Dana and Mighty Team, for leading this effort! Want to know or do more? CONNECT with [Dana](#)!

SERVE...continued



Restoring Dignity: A Call to Action for National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

This January, as our nation observes National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we are called as a community of faith to look "beneath the surface" of a tragedy that often remains hidden in plain sight. Human trafficking is a crime against humanity and, for many in our community, an affront to the Gospel that denies the inherent value of every life created in the image of God.



Sex Trafficking 101: An Introduction

Human Trafficking is the fastest growing crime worldwide. Why? Simply put, drugs can be sold only once, but a human being can be sold multiple times a day. Unlike drug trafficking where the product has to be restocked, traffickers only have to keep victims alive to gain profit from them no matter their condition.

Since 2019, God has called Eight Days of Hope to stand in the gap for those who have been victims of sex trafficking. One of the ways we can do that is by helping you understand exactly what trafficking is.

So, what is sex trafficking?

Sex trafficking: a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

Through the Lens of a Victim

1. Force: When a victim is physically restrained, kicked, sexually assaulted, beaten, and/or strangled if they did not perform a commercial sex act.
2. Fraud: When a victim is deceived by false promises of employment, protection, love, marriage, or a better life and then forced to perform a commercial sex act.
3. Coercion: When a victim is threatened with serious harm, confinement, and/or rape if they do not perform a commercial sex act.

*The term "commercial sex act" means any sex act on account of which anything of value (money, rent, food, etc.) is given to or received by any person.

SERVE...continued

Human Trafficking....continued

Supply and Demand

Sex trafficking is all about supply and demand, and involves a trafficker, a victim and a buyer. As long as there are people wanting to buy sex and pornography, there will be people looking to groom the next victim.

The average age of a victim in trafficking is 15 years old. (2021 *Federal Human Trafficking Report*)

The average "John," or buyer, is a 40-year-old, married father of two who makes an average annual income of \$75,000–\$80,000. (*Familial Trafficking in the US, SAFE*)

How do we get to the point where a 15-year-old can be sold for sex?

The Trafficking Cycle

Traffickers literally play the "long game" by using proven methods of manipulation that can be described as a trafficking cycle.

Believe it or not, there are books that teach you how to become a trafficker. Right now, traffickers are actively looking for vulnerabilities and future victims to pull into the trafficking cycle.

1. Recruitment: traffickers identify men, women, or children who are vulnerable. They are looking for individuals that they can build an emotional connection with, and then manipulate that connection to repeatedly abuse the victim. **Common vulnerabilities: children in foster care, homes with substance abuse or financial hardship, single mothers, vulnerable adults.

2. Grooming: the process of establishing a relationship and emotional bond with a target victim to manipulate, exploit, or abuse them. These relationships may have the disguise of lover, provider, or protector.

3. Exploitation: a foundation of trust has been built by the trafficker, abuse begins, and the victim is sold for sex to benefit the trafficker.

The heartbreaking reality?

Somebody's son or daughter is being sold over and over and over again...

A trafficking victim can be sold 5-6 times a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. That equals more than 12,000 sex acts a year.

The average quota per day is \$2,000, making the trafficker \$730,000 a year from just one victim.

Many never escape the cycle, but for those who do, hope and healing can be found through safe houses around the country. Eight Days of Hope has partnered with 13 organizations fighting for survivors to have a redeemed life each and every day.

We understand that this information is heartbreaking, but it's crucial for us to learn about what is happening to so many right this second. We must, as the body of Christ, keep our eyes wide open.

For more information, contact [Kathleen](#).

OTHER



Refresh Conference

Friday, January 30

1:30-8pm

Saturday, January 31

8:30am-12noon

Join us for a powerful time of worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship as we gather for The Refresh Conference—an event for individuals and churches longing for an awakening to Christ and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Featured Speakers:

J.D. Walt — Founder and Sower-in-Chief of Seedbed Publishing and the primary author of the Wake Up Call devotional.

Andrew Forrest — Senior Pastor of Asbury Church in Tulsa, OK

You'll also get a preview of the 2025 New Room Conference, and speakers will share select teachings from the 2025 Seedbed Conference.

Conference is held at Christ Church, 4201 N. Shiloh Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703. Cost: \$30 adults, \$20 students. Register [HERE](#).

Two Trips to Europe in 2026 with EO Travel

Leaders: [Staci Moore](#) and Jim Acklin

Info Meetings Coming Soon

Click on the name of the tour to read more.

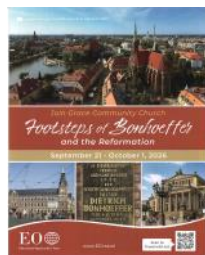
Footsteps of Bonhoeffer & the Reformation

(Sept. 21—Oct.1, 2026)

Join Grace Community Church for the Footsteps of Bonhoeffer and the Reformation, starting at \$5,196* from Fayetteville, on September 21, 2026. You will see the Church of St. Elizabeth, the original village of Lehde, Cecilienhof Palace, the Church of Peace, the picturesque old city of Potsdam, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, the door of the Castle Church, Eisleben, Erfurt, St. Nicholas Church, Weimar, Frankfurt area, St. Thomas Church, the Church of St. Peter and Paul, St. Andrew's Church, St. Anne's Church, Wartburg Castle, and much more!

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

(11 Days in Germany & Poland)



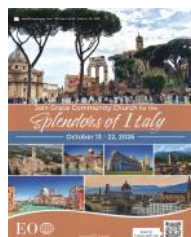
Splendors of Italy

(Oct. 12-22, 2026)

Grace Community Church on a Splendors of Italy tour, starting at \$5,196* from Fayetteville, AR on October 13, 2026. You will see Lake Garda, Verona, Venice, the Piazza San Marco, the Basilica of St. Mark, the romantic Bridge of Sighs, Pisa, Lucca, Florence, San Gimignano, Siena, Assisi, the magnificent Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Circus Maximus, the Arch of Titus, the famous Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Constantine, and much more!

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

(10 Days in Italy)



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



[Meet Our Team](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[Mental Health Page](#)



New Year Message from Landon King

Hello, Grace Family!

If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I'm Landon King, a member of the Mental Health committee. Over the past few weeks, I've been taking the time to reflect on what I want for the new year. It is difficult to settle on one word or phrase that I feel pushed on my heart, but over and over again, I find myself coming back to the word "progress."



Jeff has spoken time and time again about the mindset of redirecting our trajectory in life towards God. He never asks us to meet a certain goal or tackle a specific aspect of our lives. God only asks that we come as we are. We turn ourselves towards Him even when we do not feel worthy. I see myself in this, thinking if I could ever be worthy of such love or understanding. The truth is, none of us are. However, when I look back on my life, the thing that sticks out the most is progress. At times, it is slower than I would appreciate, but present is the progress I've made.

I live by this word currently to remind myself that I'm pushing to be better mentally and physically. How can we do this spiritually? For me, it means setting aside my morning to start with God. It looks like me praying to God after I've completed a specific task versus when I just feel like it. It's building in those routines to grow my relationship with Him.

Doing this alone is hard, but it's why I have a Discipleship Band to keep me accountable for my actions. We celebrate the progress each of us have made while continuing to push each other's trajectory towards God. It is hard to build those routines, but having others to keep me going makes it much easier. I encourage each of you to reflect on your life. What progress have you made? Where are you trying to be? Who is going to help you along your journey?

With Love,

Landon

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

Christians in Nigeria

Holiday Travelers

Grace Families

Jim Jeffery

Rylie Edgerton

Olivia McManus (Mullikin)

Grace Friends

Odom family (house fire-Muldrow)

Ron Haines

Bobby Jones

Father addicted to alcohol

Sympathies

Jim Glidewell and family (death of his wife Carol)