



# A Place of Grace

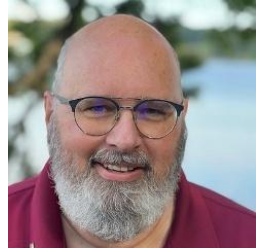
## A Newsletter for and about Grace Church

January 21, 2026

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Church Family,

In times of uncertainty and challenge --- as the world is always --- let us hold fast to our faith and desire for peace and joy. Remember that hope is never far from us and is in fact deep within, residing in the presence of God that lives in us. Together, we are strengthened by God's love and the support we find in one another. Let us continue to encourage each other and serve our community with compassion. Trust that when you act from the Holy Spirit's prompting, you will bring joy to others, and strength and peace in yourself. Lean on the hope that lives in you. It is the light that will shine in any darkness you might encounter! May God's love and hope fill your hearts today and always.



You are in my prayers each week,

Pastor Ken

### THIS MONTH AT GRACE

#### Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

We are on Facebook Live and YouTube!

#### Mondays

AA meeting - 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesdays

TOPS – 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesdays

Service at MediLodge – 10 a.m.

Pastor's Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.

Service at Village Manor - 4:00 p.m.

Exodus 90 Men's Ministry - 5:30 p.m.

Open Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

#### Thursdays

New Creations – 4:30 p.m.

Council Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.

#### Fridays

AA Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



## WHAT DOES GRACE MEAN?

In the Bible, grace (Greek: Charis) means God's unmerited favor, love, and kindness shown to undeserving people, resulting in forgiveness, salvation, and blessings that can't be earned by works, but are freely given through faith in Jesus Christ. It's the divine help that empowers believers to overcome sin, experience transformation, and live for God.

### Key aspects of grace:

**Undeserved Favor:** Grace is God extending favor to those who are guilty and don't deserve it, rescuing them from punishment and offering a relationship with Him.

**The Gift of Salvation:** Ephesians 2:8-9 highlights that salvation comes by grace through faith, not by human effort, so no one can boast.

**Source of Transformation:** God's grace changes people from the inside out, transforming their hearts and enabling them to live righteously.

**Rooted in Jesus:** The ultimate demonstration of grace is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, paying the price for sin.

**Beyond Just Forgiveness:** While forgiveness is central, grace also includes God's ongoing help, strength and presence in believers' lives (e.g., "common grace" given to all people).

## MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL

Life has a way of surprising us with sudden storms, unexpected challenges, disappointments or changes we didn't see coming. In those moments, it's easy to feel shaken. But just as a lighthouse stands firm against crashing waves, we too can remain steady when our foundation is Christ.

When Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water, he began to sink the moment he took his eyes off Jesus. The same is true for us—our peace and strength come from keeping our focus on Him, not the wind and waves around us.

Whatever storm you may be facing this month, remember: God's presence is your anchor, His promises are your shelter, and His love will carry you through.

*"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." —  
Isaiah 26:3*

## LADIES ADVENT TEA

The Fellowship Committee once again hosted a wonderful evening filled with fellowship, fun, food, and meaningful information. We were delighted to welcome 65 attendees, and together we raised \$533 in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. Our speaker, Dr. Carmen Stokes, was outstanding — knowledgeable, engaging, and truly inspiring. We're already looking forward to next year's event!



## Valentine's Day

Saturday, February 14, 2026



Saint Valentine was a 3rd century Roman Saint, commemorated in Western Christianity on February 14 and in Eastern Orthodoxy on July 6. From the High Middle Ages, his feast day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of Terni, epilepsy, and beekeepers. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE?

The Outreach Team has been busy! Thank you Pastor Ken, Greg Stiles, Karen Warsop and Tom Shallhorn for all you are doing! This is amazing!

Your Good Gifts contributions are making a difference! One Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$1,050.00) was raised and spent on the following items:

1. Family farm \$715: Includes a cow, 2 goats, 12 chicks, 2 pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training.
2. Medical clinic supplies \$150: Stock for 2 weeks.
3. Water filter \$30: For clean, disease-free water.
4. Sunday school startup kit \$65
5. Bibles \$60: 6 at \$10 each
6. Mosquito nets: Family net \$20, Individual net \$10

WOW!

At the Congregational Meeting in November, the congregation designated \$5,000 from the Lou Siefkes fund to be used to support those in need from our community. Pastor Ken and Dave and Karen Bird will talk to Dave Siefkes (son) about our proposed plan. More information to follow.

The Team is delivering cookies and fruit to the Challenger's teacher's lounge on Thursday, January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. to show our appreciation for all they do and being good neighbors.

Tom Schallhorn and another member of Grace will be attending a Home Plate 2026 kickoff meeting on the evening of January 22, 2026.

## Look What's New!

**Dinners for 8-ish** is an easy, fun way to get to know each other at Grace! It connects you with a group of 5-8 people who share casual meals together, once a month for 4 consecutive months. Each group decides the specifics of when and where they will meet. Try a new restaurant or an old favorite. Or gather at the home of one of the group's people for a potluck. The first session will run from February through May.



Keep an eye out for more information and to sign up.