

Dear Grace Church Board,

What a fantastic Easter season! The sounds were so fun to hear. The sounds of voices singing, people laughing, kids celebrating, baptism waters moving, and the silence of people reflecting and responding. All of that led to the sound of life change!!

Unleash kicked off the season with 500 people choosing to discover their gifting, develop their leadership, and multiply their influence for Kingdom work. What a fantastic morning challenging us to live out our calling as a part of the body of Christ.

The day after Unleash we started a "Journey to the Empty Tomb" devotional study on [www.everydaywithgod.com](http://www.everydaywithgod.com). Over 1,000 subscribers (plus others) joined together and began a reflective journey of the life, work and ministry of Christ all the way to the cross and the empty tomb. Praise God, He is risen and there is hope for my life! Then, as Holy Week began we began the #JesusFinalHours project on our twitter feed, giving live updates of Jesus' journey to the empty tomb tweeted in real time. It was powerful to relive the greatest story.

During the "Journey to the Empty Tomb" study, the Grace Kids/Students and Next Steps team pulled off a wonderful



community wide Egg Drop event where we saw 1,000s of people enjoying the kids activities, the helicopter, the donuts and all of the candy-filled eggs. It was a wonderful event full of powerful positive moments that really propelled our Easter initiative forward. One of my favorite things from the morning was our Sensory Sensitive field hosted for children with special needs. Parents and kids alike were playing and having a blast on their level. What an incredible opportunity to bless our community!

On Thursday and Good Friday the three communion services were meaningful and rich times as a church. Thank you to all who served and led. We won't soon forget the illustration of the wonderful work of the cross!

Then the seven Easter services were awesome as well! 49 people indicated a response to the gospel!!! Amen! The stories of life change as people were baptized each hour was inspiring. Thank you for inviting! Thank you for serving! Thank you for leading! I saw you praying with people, meeting new guests, & serving to meet the needs of others.

I thank God for His grace to be given access to the hearts and lives of so many. 3,663 in all to be exact. Let's join together in praying for each and every story and life represented in that total. Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God. May His Spirit move amongst these stories and may we see each one take a next step in faith!!

As amazing as this season, because of the resurrection we know...

The best is yet to come!

Pastor Nick

**IMPORTANT DATES COMING:**

March 24	Easter Egg Drop	May 12	Parent Child Dedication
March 29/30	Easter Communion	June 6	Vision Night/Annual Meeting
March 31	Evening Easter Service	August 3	GS Missions Celebration Dinner
April 1	Easter Services	Aug 9-10	Global Leadership Summit
April 18	GLS Lunch & Learn		

**SUNDAY SERIES:**

## HOW ARE YOU... REALLY? [April 8 – May 6]

We've all passed someone in public and asked, "Hey, how are you?" This series is designed to spend a few weeks asking the follow up question, "How are you... really?" Each week we will ask a soul level question and dive into God's Word to find a soul-level solution and answer.

## ELEVATE [May 20 – June 3]

What if you could raise your standard on living rather than your standard of living? This 3-week series is designed to help us elevate our lives - to raise them above the normal, ordinary, rat race, buy-more, consumer lifestyle. The first week we will talk about elevating our hearts, the next week our trust and then, our generosity

## TASTE OF THE SUMMIT [APRIL 18]

Business/Nonprofit Leaders will gather for a "Lunch & Learn" for 50-75 local business, civic, and nonprofit leaders on April 18<sup>th</sup> for lunch and a short leadership video training from a past Global Leadership Summit. We hope this provides us a space to connect, gain influence and provide something valuable for our area!

## PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION [MAY 12]

We love when parents declare their intention to raise their children in a home that honors Christ first. That's what Parent/Child Dedication is all about. This is the first time we're hosting this celebration on a Saturday due to the new Student Center service on Sundays.

## VISION NIGHT/ANNUAL MEETING [JUNE 6]

This year we plan to celebrate what God has done in and through Grace and look forward to what's to come. We'll have a dinner beforehand, a time of celebration, a review of next year's budget, a members' vote, and a VISION night of what's to come.

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT [AUG 9-10]

Your influence matters, and our influence in our community matters. Take a minute and register today for this world-class leadership event, and invite a colleague to attend with you. Grace Member Priority Code: 18HSFAMILY [Buy your ticket at a reduced rate.]

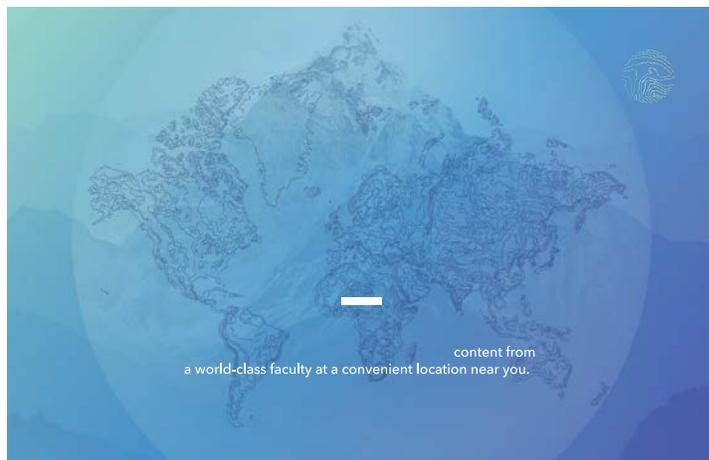
## GRACE KIDS / GRACE STUDENTS UPDATE

Grace Kids is fresh off of the Helicopter Egg Drop and is experiencing incredible numbers on Sunday mornings. We've seen 82 new families on Sunday mornings and 140 new kids this year. In January they recorded an average of 317 kids per Sunday, in February an average of 326 per Sunday and in March an average of 388 kids per Sunday! Then, on Easter Sunday we had 517 kids between Saturday evening and Sunday! Kids are learning about Jesus on their level and loving every minute of it. They're gearing up for Merge Camp, Soccer Camp and Grace Kids Camp this summer.

Grace Students is currently in a new series called, "Identity Crisis." The two big ideas in this series are: 1) Who I am is defined by who He is and 2) My identity defines my activity. Grace Students is gearing up for a jam-packed summer full of camps and mission trips for those in grades 7-12. There have been 145 new students that have attended Grace Students this year!

## GK/GS SUMMER CALENDAR

June 4-9	GK Merge Camp	June 20-22	GK Soccer Camp
June 6-10	GS Columbus Mission Trip	June 26-29	Grace Kids Camp
June 10-16	GS Los Angeles Mission Trip	July 8-14	Philly Mission Trip
June 10-16	GS Atlanta Mission Trip	July 29-Aug 3	Middle School Camp
		August 3	Celebration Dinner



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## Take 5

### **1. New Sunday Series, "How are you, really?"**

A new series beginning after Easter designed to get past the question, "How are you?" and straight to the deeper question, "How are you, really?" This series will be walking us through feelings like, fear, anger, emptiness and frustration. Pray for our church to begin and continue asking these soul-level questions and to find soul-level solutions from God's Word.

### **2. Easter Weekend and Egg Drop Follow-up**

Be praying for all of the people that interacted with Grace Church this Easter season. Pray for God to continue to move in their hearts and pray that they would continue taking their next steps.

### **3. Grace Kids and Grace Students Leaders**

Pray for the hundreds of volunteers that are pouring into the next generation at Grace Church! Currently our kids are studying patience (Psalm 27:14) and our students are in a new series called, "Identity Crisis". Pray for our kids and students to develop an authentic faith that shapes the next generation of Christ followers!

### **4. Global Leadership Summit [August 9-10]**

The Global Leadership Summit is coming back to Grace Church. Pray for God to use this 2-day leadership conference to allow our church to gain access, influence and favor in Wayne County. Register now and invite your colleagues to join you at this year's event at [www.woostergrace.org/gls](http://www.woostergrace.org/gls)

### **5. Your Five!**

Pray for God to continue to show you where he is working in and around you so that you can join Him! Pray that our hearts would be steadfast and that we would live our lives on purpose and with clarity sharing the good news of Jesus! Ask God to give you opportunities to share with others about the hope that you have.