



# Grace Presbyterian Church

"To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ."

Adriana Pariz

## Embracing God's Story

On November 17th, 2023, we kicked off our first ever Missions Conference! You may wonder why it has taken us so long to have a missions conference. The answer is simple, for the past sixteen years, we have been the mission. We have been focused on growing our church both in numbers and in spiritual maturity. We are thrilled with how God has faithfully established Grace Church on the East End! We also know that scripture calls all believers to "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the people!" (1 Chronicles 16:24).

Our theme for the missions conference was Embracing God's Story. We had five speakers come (one virtually) to share over the course of the weekend, how God has used their ministry to reach many with the Gospel. We heard from Frank, who ministers to Arab speakers in the Middle East, Greg Hills, who directs Mission to the World (our denomination's international missions organization) in the North East, Jeff Kyle, who works with China Partnership to bring the gospel to China, Andrew Barber, who just began working with RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) at Northwestern University, and Julie Fehring who is the Director of Development with Soundview Pregnancy in Riverhead, NY.

The goal for our weekend was twofold – first, to educate our congregation about world missions and secondly, to recruit for a missions committee at Grace Church. The need for a missions committee is especially necessary as we embark in our Kurdistan Partnership with the goal of planting grace-centered churches, led by local, Arabic speakers across Kurdistan. The feedback we received was wonderful! Our church was encouraged by the way God is at work in hard to reach countries and we were also challenged to be more active in sharing the gospel with our neighbors and to prayerfully consider how we can personally be involved in reaching the world with the good news of our Savior. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we are reminded that "Christ came into the world to save sinners..." (1 Timothy 1:15) and we look to him for wisdom on how we as a church can bring that message to our neighbors, our community and throughout the world!



**EMBRACING  
GOD'S STORY**  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Missions Conference 2023



Worship at the First Annual Missions Conference



Greg Hills with the Sunday School students



Ladies Night Out: Bike Ride!



Guys Day Out: Paintball



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party  
featuring Boxina



Grace Youth Group

Lesley Middlekauff

## New Members at Grace

We are so blessed to see the family of God growing here at Grace Presbyterian Church! Last month we had the joy of welcoming another group of new members to our congregation. Each person took part in a five week course led by Pastor Mark where they had a chance to study and discuss a wide range of topics in order to learn more about the heart and mission of Grace Church before taking the step to commit to membership. They took time to dive into topics like essential truths of the gospel, reasons for church membership, doctrine, core values, church history, and much more. This class provides a wonderful opportunity to learn and ask questions, whether one decides to make the commitment to become a member or not. As the course concluded, each participant confirmed their desire for church membership and then on November 18th, during the worship service, they came forward to publicly state their membership vows and formally joined the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church. Included in this ceremony was the baptism of two adult new believers into our family here at Grace! Both of these individuals were ministered to by many in our congregation who gently and lovingly planted seeds of gospel truth which landed and grew into saving belief. What a joy, as this is our calling as a church! We pray that more and more from our community will come and experience the love of Christ in our midst, hear the gospel clearly, and affirm their need of Jesus Christ as their savior. And for all who are a part of Grace Church, may we also continue to pursue spiritual growth in the church, in the context of community, as God's ordained means for maturity.



## Moving Grace Forward

The vision statement of Grace Presbyterian Church is "To See Long Island Awakened to the Glory of Jesus Christ." Long Island is home to over 3 million people who are made in God's image, but very few know Christ. As we serve Christ by making him known, Long Island will become more alive to Christ, and a greater presence of the glory of Christ will manifest itself here.

### How are we doing that?

Our mission statement (or the way we will fulfill our vision) is "To REACH the lost, BUILD community, GROW disciples, SERVE our neighbors, and in all things WORSHIP God." The five prongs of our mission statement have become our five ministry teams at Grace Church (along with the Children's Ministry Team and the Youth Group Team). Through these teams, we are actively making disciples, reaching our community, caring for our church family and our neighbors, teaching our children and youth about God's love, and in all things, worshiping God. But there is still a lot of work to be done!

## How You Can Help

Whether you are an active part of Grace Church or a friend who is thankful to God for us, **would you pray** for our vision to see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ? And if able, **would you consider regular monthly giving** or a year-end offering to help us towards our vision? Whatever you decide, may the treasure of Christ capture your heart this Christmas!

## END OF YEAR GIVING - Our total need for December is \$104,000.

Please consider helping us finish 2023 in a strong financial position.

To give online, visit [gracehamptons.org/giving/](https://gracehamptons.org/giving/)

To give via check, please make sure your envelope is postmarked by Dec. 31st.

To donate stocks, please email [adriana@gracehamptons.org](mailto:adriana@gracehamptons.org) for details.

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