2018-2023

5 YEARS OF GRACE

21 Harristown Reflections

GRACE REDEEMER
CHURCH

Looking Back

When you've dreamed of a goal, and prayed for it to come about... when you've seen your community rally to serve wholeheartedly and to give sacrificially... and when "crossing the finish line" is as real as walking into a purchased-and-renovated church building... it's extremely tempting to think that "We've arrived."

Five years after moving into 21 Harristown Road, I continue to be encouraged that there's no sense among GRC leaders or core members that it's ever time to sit back and enjoy creaturely comforts. All of life, let alone our square footage, belongs to the King to use for His eternal purposes! And so we continue to ask the Lord to give us the privilege of seeing Him apply healing, renewing, resurrecting power in and through us... until He brings us home to the glory of the new Jerusalem!



PETER WANG
SENIOR PASTOR

"BUT ARE WE HOME?... IF WE FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH... IF WE PERSIST IN TRUSTING THAT WE WON'T TRULY BE HOME UNTIL WE STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, JESUS HIMSELF... THEN WE'LL PROPERLY ENJOY 21 HARRISTOWN ROAD HERE IN GLEN ROCK. WE'LL SEE IT AS A RESOURCE TO BE USED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES. WE'LL APPRECIATE IT AS A GENEROUS GIFT, BUT ONLY AS A TEMPORARY REALITY ON THE PILGRIM ROAD TO GLORY, WHEN THE LOVING FATHER HIMSELF WILL GIVE US THE GRACIOUS AND OVERWHELMING GIFT OF TRUE AND LASTING REST! THEN WE'LL BE HOME. PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM!"

Rev. Peter Wang
First Worship Service at 21 Harristown
March 18, 2018

"THERE REMAINS, THEN, A SABBATH-REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD..."
Hebrews 4:9

Our Core

WE SEEK TO BE A COMMUNITY DEFINED BY GRACE, COMPELLED BY CHRIST'S LOVE TO BRING GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION TO NORTHERN NJ AND BEYOND.

Our Purpose

We exist to glorify God and make Him known.

Our Vision

To join God in bringing life-changing transformation to individuals, families, and communities, wherever we live and serve.

Our Values

1. **GOSPEL-CENTERED BIBLICAL TRUTH:** We rest and rejoice in Jesus alone for our salvation, significance, and security, and look to His power to change us and to make all things right, as guided by His truth, revealed in Scripture.

2. **DEPENDENT PRAYER:** We seek to experience the presence and power of God through his Spirit by making kingdom prayer central to the way we relate to God as individuals and as a gathered community.

3. **AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:** We seek to be an ethnically-diverse community for real people from every tribe, language, people, and nation with real stresses and life challenges, who faithfully worship God together, lovingly care for each other, and mercifully reach out to those in need.

4. **KINGDOM REPRODUCTION:** We join God in His mission to make disciples through evangelism, facilitating spiritual growth, developing leaders, planting churches, and participating in cross-cultural and global missions.

5. **CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT:** Heeding the words of Jesus that we are not of the world but are sent into the world, we seek to speak the truth in love as we engage with contemporary issues in culture and society.

Our Mission

Transformed disciples live UP, IN, and OUT: cultivating relationships with God, one another, and with the world to which we are sent. Therefore, we will carry out our ministry by:

- **PRAYING:** Because we join God in His mission, we commit to encouraging kingdom-prayer in all gatherings.
- **PREPARING:** Because transformation occurs through discipleship, we will equip individuals and families to live up, in, and out where they live, work, and play.
  - **UP:** By cultivating God-glorifying and Christ-centered worship.
  - **IN:** By enriching relationships within the body of Christ through intentional community, hospitality, assimilation of newcomers, and regular play and celebration, AND by shaping and equipping God's people so that they increasingly bear the likeness of our Savior.
  - **OUT:** By personally and communally engaging in evangelism and outreach AND by sacrificially investing our personal and church resources to advance God's Kingdom.
- **PARTICIPATING:** Because disciples are ambassadors for Christ, sent for the sake of the world, we will engage and partner for community and global impact.

21 Harristown Timeline



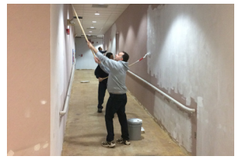


2017

We purchase 21 Harristown Road in Glen Rock, NJ after years of searching. Work begins!

2018

- Dedication service at our new home on March 17!
- In May, Pastor of Discipleship, Steve Sage, joins the staff of GRC. What an answer to prayer!




2019

- Public Reading of Scripture is held for the first time.
- We celebrate 20 years of God's Faithfulness!
- Life Groups begin at GRC.

2020

- Life changes forever with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Father's Cupboard food pantry moves to GRC.
- GRC's leadership refreshes our Vision, Mission & Values.







2021

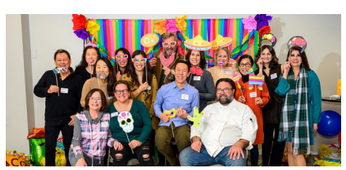
Restrictions start to loosen, more people return to in-person worship at GRC. Opportunites for fellowship are welcomed after a long season apart!

2022

We begin a new normal with groups and ministries meeting in-person. Drew Heftye is hired as the full-time Director of Family Discipleship.







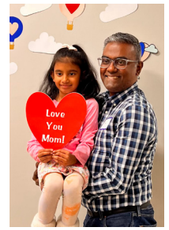
2023

We praise God for the 5 years we have spent in Glen Rock! We continue to see the Gospel change people's lives and impact our church community.

5 Years at "HOME"

In the Old Testament, the sin of God's people was linked to forgetting God's faithfulness. It's no less true of us. So let's rehearse God's blessing upon GRC in the gift of 21 Harristown Road. This "permanent" home is "immeasurably more than all we asked or imagined" back in 2014 when our first Vision Campaign began. Enjoy looking back on photos as we praise God for the last 5 years of His faithfulness!









How We Have Grown

The past five years have been filled with discipleship growth as we have built a "discipleship pathway" that seeks to meet people wherever they are in their spiritual journey and help them move toward becoming more mature and equipped followers of Jesus. On one end of the continuum, GRC has held several evangelistic Bible studies through Christianity Explored and Life Explored, and many GRC people have been encouraged and equipped to reach out directly to those who do not yet know Christ.

On the other end of the continuum, our Life Group ministry, which began in 2019 and has grown to 14 groups serving over 60 men and women this year, seeks to mature and equip them to be able to disciple others. Throughout this time we have continued to offer women's and men's Bible studies and Growth Groups for individuals or couples, and Celebrate Recovery continues to serve people within and outside of our church. Between these various discipleship efforts, over 200 men and women are currently engaged in Bible study, fellowship, application, and missional living for the kingdom. We have also revamped our Officer Training process during this time enabling us to focus more deeply on personal spiritual development and ministry training, in addition to biblical and theological training. All of these efforts are expressions of our vision and mission to see God bring life-transformation through growing missional disciples.

We have also seen the growth in our youth as over 50 are taking part in New Life Fridays, as well as middle & high school discipleship groups. The hiring of Drew Heftye as the Director of Family Discipleship has been another long-prayed for blessing.

Grace Kids continues to thrive and grow as Director Karen Jacobsen, Assistant Director Alina Samu, and many, many volunteers bring over 150 of our littlest ones Gospel-filled lessons each Sunday. We praise God as adults, youth and children are growing in faith on a weekly basis!














In 2020, the GRC Diaconate took over the food pantry of Father's Cupboard from another local church that was unable to continue this important ministry for our community. This bi-weekly distribution of food to over 120 families gives us a regular opportunity to love our neighbors. We also continue to provide space for our ministry partners of Star of Hope and Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center. Only God's wisdom anticipated these significant needs for more facility space than we ever dreamed!

25 ADULT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS IN 2022-2023

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

OVER 150 CHILDREN REGULARLY TAKING PART IN GRACE KIDS






OVER 500 JOINING IN SUNDAY WORSHIP WEEKLY

One of our **Values** is **Kingdom Reproduction**. We have added missionary partners working among some of the world's least-reached people groups over the last 5 years. This year we had the privilege of sending our very own Son family onto the foreign mission field in the Middle East. And one of our elders, Peter Hwang, accepted a call to full-time pastoral ministry to replant a PCA church in San Diego. Our Heavenly Father is so gracious to allow us to partner with making the gospel known to those who have not heard. We pray that the next 5 years will mobilize even more GRC members on God's mission to reach the world with the life-changing message of the Gospel!









Where We Are Going

Did you notice on pg 3 that "Our Values" added a new element? At the Session's annual retreat in late August, we sensed the Lord exposing our insufficient prayer focus here at GRC, and resolved to make "Kingdom Prayer more central to the way we relate to God as individuals and as a gathered community." This will be a major focus this year as we explore how to put this newly-expressed value into practice in specific ways, beginning with reintroducing a monthly in-person Kingdom Prayer meeting.

Only through dependent prayer will we be able to discern the Lord's leading of GRC. Only through dependent prayer will we see the Holy Spirit continue to change lives through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The back cover of this booklet provides suggestions for Kingdom Prayer, patterned after Jesus' answer to his disciples' prompting: "Lord, teach us to pray!"

> "THEY ALL JOINED TOGETHER CONSTANTLY IN PRAYER..."
>
> ***Acts 1:14***

Praying THE Kingdom Prayer



GOD'S HONOR

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"

- Praise God for who he is and what he has done!
- Connect relationally with God as you begin your prayer.



GOD'S KINGDOM

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

- Pray that God's truth would shape you into the image of Christ.
- Pray for the salvation of unbelievers, particularly those in your relational circles.
- Ask for a Spirit-enabled fruitful harvest by missionaries.
- Pray against injustice, especially toward the most vulnerable.



GOD'S PROVISION

"Give us this day our daily bread"

- Ask the Father to meet your needs: employment, health, friendship, wisdom in decision-making, etc. Pray for the needs of family and friends.



GOD'S FORGIVENESS

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

- Examine your own heart and confess sin!
- Gratefully claim the forgiveness that is yours, through faith in Jesus.
- Ask the Lord to make possible Gospel-reconciliation where needed.
- Pray for grace to forgive others and to rid yourself of bitterness.



GOD'S POWER

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

- Pray for Spirit-power to protect you from temptation and to strengthen you in the battle against besetting sins.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of God's truth, in the face of the devil's lies and deceptions.

GRACE REDEEMER CHURCH

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