



Grace Bible Fellowship

March 2026

March @ Grace...

March 1

Karl & Glynn Peterson Visit

March 6

Game Night @ 6:30pm

March 8

Prayer @ 5pm

Leadership Meeting @ 6pm

March 21

Spring Clean-Up @ 8-Noon

March 23

Full Carpet Cleaning @ 8:30am

March 27

PADS Service @ 5:30pm

March 29

Missions Giving (Detwiler)

April @ Grace...

April 1

No Bible Study

April 3

Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm

April 5

Resurrection Sunday – No SS

April 12

Prayer @ 5pm

Leadership Meeting @ 6pm

April 18

Women's Brunch @ 9-11am

April 26

Mission's Giving (Campos)

Preach the Bible: What is Expository Preaching?

Last month, we revisited Donald Whitney's method of praying through the Bible. Continuing in our key themes of 2026 of *Read the Bible, Pray the Bible*, and *Preach the Bible*, my continued goal is to encourage you in our mutual commitment to God and his words. This month, we will look at the theme of *Preach the Bible* by asking the question, "What is expository preaching?" Some answer by saying it's a method or style of preaching that explains a text by going one verse or even one word at a time. Some others might consider expository preaching to be the "academic" version of preaching that avoids emotion. Still others simply say that it's the opposite of topical preaching. All of these answers miss the true nature of expository preaching.

Imagine with me, for a moment, the Sunday morning worship service as a car ride. We are the passengers (perhaps we need a few church vans!) with the destination set as the glory of the Lord and the good of his people. While there might be a few different vehicles in any given service (singing, reading, the Lord's supper), the lead in the caravan is the sermon. As Martin Lloyd-Jones said, "Preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire, and that the chief end of preaching is to give men and women a sense of God and his presence." The sermon itself is a vehicle for the glory of God.

The next question we must answer for our Sunday road trip is, "Who's driving the car?" Who or what gives direction to the sermon? Who or what has their hands on the wheel? Let's consider our options. The congregation, with its various desires, expectations, and felt needs, could be the driver, but they're already the passengers. There's a reason no one appreciates a backseat driver. Those who call out from the backseat often, sometimes with good intentions, distract, demand, or demean. This is not to say that the preacher himself should drive the car. He is so often tempted to steer the vehicle according to his own soapbox items or to go down a route that is easy to drive. No. Neither the preacher nor the congregation should steer the sermon. Preaching must be driven by the word of God. That is expository preaching. As David Helm said,

Continued...

“Expositional preaching is empowered preaching that rightfully submits the shape and emphasis of the sermon to the shape and emphasis of a biblical text.”

As I, and every other preacher, seek to craft faithful sermons from week to week, our goal should be to exegete and expound that week’s text to find the point that God himself is making. As congregations seek to faithfully sit under preaching, they should search the words of God to see if what is being preached is truly in accordance with what is written. The main point of the text should be the main point of the sermon. The applications, analogies, metaphors, emotions, and even the tone of delivery should all find their form from the Scripture. It is there that God has told us how to glorify him. By following his directions, we can effectively, safely, and accurately arrive at our destination through the vehicle of expository preaching. May all of us be driven, not by our own whims and itching ears, but by the word of God.

*In Christ,
Pastor Nathan*

Praying for Our Family...

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Don Faux as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School, preaching the Word, and shepherding the body.
- Pray for Adler Schreur and Kailee Keighin as they are united in marriage on March 14.
- Pray for Don Faux as he continues to suffer in body. Pray the Lord would grant him long-suffering faith.
- Pray for all those sick in body in the congregation.
- Pray for our time at PADS on March 27.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives would be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God’s Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil
Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique
Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller

Elder – Eric Bjerkaas

Deacons – Don Faux, Dan Kleinau, & Jeff Schenck

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Aaron, Yessie, Valerie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Ethan, Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult

Yessie Yanez: 2nd-4th grade

Amanda Lafferty: Pre-K – 1st grade

Dan Kleinau & Renee Kim: Children’s Church

Kris Wallin & Renee Kim: Wed. Kid’s Bible Study

All the Winners!



**Chili
Cook-Off
2026!!!**

1st Place!



2nd Place!



3rd Place!



2026 Special Events & Dates

March

1: Karl Peterson Visit

6: Game Night

8: Prayer Service

21: Spring Clean-Up

27: PADS

April

3: Good Friday Service

5: Resurrection Sunday

12: Prayer Service

18: Women's Bible Study

May

1: Bonfire

10: Prayer Service

13: PADS

17: Abigail Collection Start

June

7: Graduate Sunday

Church Picnic

14: Prayer Service

20: Women's Brunch

21: Abigail Collection Ends

July

12: Prayer Service

22: Semi-Annual Meeting

24-25: CGN Women's Retreat
(Details to come)

August:

9: Prayer Service

15: Women's Brunch

21: Game Night

September

2: Bible Study Resumes

13: Prayer Service

September continued...

20: Cookout

PADS: TBD

October

CGN Men's Retreat: TBD

11: Prayer Service

17: Women's Brunch

21: Bonfire After Study

November

8: Prayer Service

18: Last Bible Study

PADS: TBD

22: Christmas Luncheon/Décor

29: Advent Begins

December

13: Prayer Service

24: Candlelight Service

Upcoming Women's Retreat!

Ladies, we are excited to announce and invite you to the first ever CGN Women's Retreat! This event will take place on July 24-25 at Grace Bible Fellowship in Peru, Illinois. This two-day gathering is designed to give women of all ages time and space to fellowship, reflect, and be strengthened in the Lord.

In a world that bombards us with sin, expectations, frantic emotions, and endless to-do lists, we must stop and reflect on who the Lord is and who he has called us to be as daughters of the King. Join us for this retreat as we learn how the Bible builds women of wisdom instead of women of the world.

Friday evening will begin with check in, dinner, our first session, and time to gather with other sisters.

Saturday will be a full day of preaching and teaching from the Word, workshops, and fellowship. Saturday includes an à la carte breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There will be a 2 to 2 1/2 hour block of free time on Saturday afternoon. During this time, you can enjoy gym activities, participate in one of two crafts, or explore the Illinois Valley's local boutiques, coffee shops, hiking trails, and walking paths.

This retreat is for any woman desiring to grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom. Young ladies in junior high and high school are also welcome to attend, but there will be no childcare available for younger ages.

All of Friday and Saturday's events and meals are included in your \$50 ticket price.

Online registration and more details to come...

March

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| SUNDAY 7 SCHOOL- 9AM <hr/> WORSHIP- 10AM <hr/> KARL & GLYNN PETERSON VISIT | 2 | 3 PASTOR @CGN | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| SUNDAY 8 SCHOOL- 9AM <hr/> WORSHIP- 10AM <hr/> PRAYER- 5PM <hr/> LEADER MTG- 6 | 9 | 10 | 11 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM <hr/> WORSHIP- 10AM | 16 | 17 | 18 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM | 19 | 20 | 21 SPRING CLEAN-UP @8AM |
| 22 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM <hr/> WORSHIP- 10AM | 23 FULL CARPET CLEANING @ 8:30AM | 24 | 25 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM | 26 | 27 PADS @ 5:30PM | 28 |
| 29 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM <hr/> WORSHIP- 10AM <hr/> MISSIONS GIVING (DETWILER) | 30 | 31 | | | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11TH - ALAINA CHERNY
 11TH - RYLIN EICHELKRAUT
 17TH - DAN KLEINAU

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

28TH - ERIC & ANDI BJERKAAS