

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them ... (Matthew 7:12)

On **Sunday, May 3**, we will collect our **Benevolence Offering**. This offering is used to assist members and people from the community who are going through a challenging time trying to pay rent, utility bills, provide gas, or even to buy food.

Our Benevolence Team prayerfully considers each need and determines how best to help. Your gifts to the Benevolence Fund enables us to meet real needs in Jesus' name.

CELEBRATE THE
LORD'S SUPPER

SUNDAY, MAY 3



May 10

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY



IN THE LOOP

Stay up to date with us!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Nina Moore	1
Susan Paradise	1
David Torbert	2
Linda Parrish	6
Lenore Lantz	7
Stacie Kizziah	9
Kay Reed	19
Cassidy Callaway	22
Denise Bickers	22
Kelly Sandquist	23
Kellie Sharpe	26
Christy Parker	28
Gary Bobo	29
Brad Ellickson	30
Mollie Knowles	30
Ralph Danson	30

Scripture for MAY

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

ANNIVERSARIES

Mac & Kaycee Manley	2
Steve & Traci White	4
Tery & Loydene Wilcoxson	5
Bill & Mary Ann Webb	5
Joey & Brooke Wood	5
Andrew & Jinger McElhannon	6
Matt & Nadene MacLeod	12
Aaron & Heather Harrison	16
Rodney & Tammy Lumpkin	17
Luke & Deborah Miller	23

get ready for vbx
june 3 - july 29



MISSIONS



Item of the MONTH

Each month, I'll share an "Item of the Month" to help reduce holiday and Christmas shopping stress.

MAY ITEM of The MONTH: PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Do you have a comb, a toothbrush, a washcloth and a re-usable water bottle? Well then you already know what personal care items will be helpful and needed in your shoebox!

As promised, I am including some resources that you can purchase items from that will help you fill that box(s) at reasonable prices. You can find everything you need to fill your box(s). I also included some ideas for those boxes.

Thank you for doing all you can to reach these 10-14 year old young people.
Libby Chapman, OCC Coordinator

RESOURCES:

Lionwholesale.com

Westernstarwholesale.com

Amazon.com/shopOCC

WOW Toy

- Soccer Ball (deflated) w/ Pump
- Basketball (deflated) w/Pump

****Not Allowed****

Soap, Toothpaste, Liquids

Camo color anything.

War related items, Food/Seeds

Disinfectant wipes, Hand Sanitizer

Surprise Item Ideas

- Legos
- Yo-Yo's
- Harmonicas
- Sunglasses
- Whistles
- Art Supplies
- Flash Light-small w/extra batteries
- Match Box type Cars
- Small Bounce Balls
- Fidget Spinners
- Socks
- String Backpack
- Ball-cap/Hat/Bandanna

FINANCES & BUDGET

Financial Update

Giving, Expenses, and Budget thru 3/28/26

Budget	\$ 267,296
Giving	<u>\$ 249,641</u>
Variance	\$ -17,656
Expenses	\$ 254,499



In our human understanding, math is simple: if you give something away, you have less of it. But in the Kingdom of God, the logic of the heart overrides the logic of the calculator. This is often called "God's Math," a divine principle where subtraction actually leads to addition and scattering leads to gathering.

We see this "math" throughout Scripture, most famously when Jesus took a young boy's small lunch of five loaves and two fish. In human hands, it was barely enough for one, but in the hands of the Creator, it was divided and multiplied until it fed thousands with twelve baskets to spare. God's Math teaches us that our "little" becomes "much" when it is placed in His service. He doesn't just replace what we give; He transforms it into a miracle that sustains others while enriching our own spirits.

Living by God's Math requires a shift from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance. It is an act of trust that says God is a provider who cannot be out-given. As we choose to be generous with our time, talents, and resources, we move in rhythm with His character. We discover that the true blessing of giving isn't just the return we receive, but the joy of becoming a conduit for His grace, proving that we are never truly diminished by being kind. Little is much with God!

CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY

It's a joy and an honor to serve and teach your children each week. They have hungry minds and it's amazing to watch them learn and grow in the Lord.

We need you! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the children's ministry, please contact Cassidy Callaway at children@gracefellowship.ws to get plugged in or to ask any questions.

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KIDS COVE

This May is another special month in Kids Cove- we get TWO units! '**Lights, Camera, Action!**' and '**Super Duper Sticker Party**'. In the first part of the month, it is quiet on the set! The kids will act out scenes from Bible stories about the early church and when shooting wraps up, they'll have discovered that the church is our supporting cast, but Jesus is the real star of the show! At the end of May, we will begin a unit that uses stickers to reveal stories of the Bible's best friendships, and the kids will discover the beauty of a friend who sticks closer than a brother and the forever friendship we can have when we stick with Jesus.



KIDS @ GRACE



This month will begin with a **Communion Sunday** on May 3rd, so we will not meet for class. You can find resources at the back tables in the worship center. For the rest of May we will learn how God's word is complete and how you shouldn't change it. Then we'll learn how the Gospel is the good news and central theme of the Bible, and end the month with the 7 C's of History (a review for those of you who were at Jungle Journey!) If you have a child in 1st -4th grade who is not yet plugged into Kids@Grace, please feel free to come with them to class at the dismissal announcement! You can also contact Cassidy Callaway at children@gracefellowship.ws to get them set up and ask any questions. Reminder: Kids@Grace offers a Sunday school class as well, from 9-10am. If you would like your child to be in this class, stop by the kid's check-in desk to be directed there.

CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY



Mark your calendars for our **VBX kickoff** as we celebrate the beginning of summer, carnival-style! We'll have games, bounce houses, ice cream truck, popcorn, face-painting, contests, and more! **FREE** cookout dinner at 6pm and the fun starts at 6:30.

June 3-July 29 Nursery-
Dinner: 6 pm 5th grade
VBX & Adult Water games, slip-
Small Groups: n-slide, science,
6:30-8pm treats, and more!
Contact children@gracefellowship.ws

VBX is coming this summer, a twist on traditional VBS! **Every Wednesday evening from June 3-July 29** the kids will embark on an Irish adventure through Psalm 23 to learn how the Lord is our Shepherd, Leader, Comforter, Provider, and Promise Keeper. We'll have a slip-n-slide, water games, treats, science & crafts, and more for kids (nursery-5th grade).

Dinner at 6pm, VBX and adult small groups 6:30-8pm. Invite your family and friends to come along this summer (no drop-offs please)! You don't want to miss this... kids AND adults! Church- we need your help to teach the next generation about our Good Shepherd! Contact [Cassidy Callaway](#) or [Lisa Cronin](#) for questions or to sign up!

ELDER UPDATE

The Elder Communication for the May 2026 Newsletter

The Elder Council met on April 21 in our regular monthly meeting. Nolan Callaway opened the meeting in prayer and presented the devotion.

As always, the Elders set aside a time of discussion for the known prayer needs of our membership, as well as the needs of each elder. Following this, Pastor Jimmy prayed for the names and needs in the church as well as for the Elders and his family.

A number of improvements to our church campus were discussed by the Elders. Items included an onsite storage building, replacement of our church sign near the highway, the addition of a dedicated children's restroom on the B hallway, and the addition of a portico to provide a covered drop-off area at the entrance. Cost estimates from these projects were discussed, and additional planning is needed on many of these projects.

The Elders did vote to move forward with one of the projects - the onsite storage building. Donnie Chapman is leading the effort to get this project from concept to completion. The total cost is \$25,000, and the funds are available to complete it. The 25x29 metal building will be located in the gravel parking lot near the dumpster, so it will be convenient to use but will not hinder any future building plans. In order to keep church members informed, Chairman Randy Scott will share the details in our Quarterly Business Meeting.

The transition to a new IT service will be complete by month's end, according to Hank Raehn (Administrative Coordinator). This change will continue to provide the church with a high level of security and will also lower our monthly costs.

Pastor Jimmy reviewed the Elders' role in receiving and following up with new members. We want to be responsive to the needs of all our members, but we recognize that we need to be very intentional in helping new members get connected.

The next scheduled Elder Council meeting is May 19. If there are any issues that you would like addressed, please contact any of the elders to request it be placed on our agenda.

Don't Forget Your Nametag

It may seem like a small thing, but wearing your name tag on Sunday morning helps both guests and members get to know you better. Stop by the name tag board each week and grab yours!

If you have misplaced your nametag, call Nancy Miller in the church office or sign up for a new name tag at the Welcome Desk.



YOUTH

MINISTRY



Contact Jarvis Freeman for more information - jarvis@gracefellowship.ws

SUMMER CAMP!

JUNE 4-8

Lookout Mountain, Georgia

Mark your calendars
and make your plans today!!!!

Contact Jarvis Freeman for more information - jarvis@gracefellowship.ws

kidzlife
@ GRACE
6PM ON WEDNESDAYS!

GRACE YOUTH

Join us every Wednesday at
6:00 PM for a night of
connection, fun, and faith!
It's a great time to hang out
and fuel up before we dive
into worship, games, and
meaningful conversations.

DINNER AT 6!

Kids & Youth eat free!



DISCIPLESHIP



No Sweat Evangelism

When many Christians hear the word evangelism, they think of pressure—having the perfect words, winning an argument, or approaching strangers with a rehearsed script. But the evangelism we see modeled in Scripture often begins much more simply: real conversations and ordinary faithfulness.

This May, our **No Sweat Evangelism** class will focus on everyday evangelism—learning how to engage people naturally and truthfully in the context of real relationships. We'll explore how the gospel connects to everyday questions and how God often uses ordinary obedience rather than techniques.

This class is not about turning you into a salesman or theologian. It's about helping you grow in confidence and clarity as you live out your faith among friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members. We'll spend time in Scripture, discuss practical scenarios, and encourage one another to trust that God is already at work in the people around us.

If you've ever felt hesitant or unsure when it comes to sharing your faith, this class is for you. Evangelism doesn't start with having all the answers—it starts with being present, faithful, and willing.

Join us on Wednesday nights coming in May as we learn together how God uses simple conversations for eternal purposes.

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL

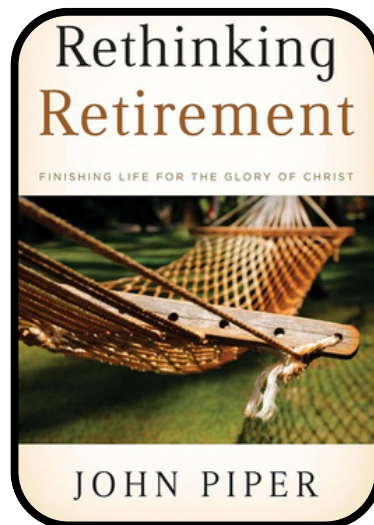
***6:00 PM WEDNESDAYS
DONATIONS APPRECIATED
18 & UNDER EAT FREE!***

GRACE @ HOME

Just a reminder,

We've restocked our *Grace@Home* resource table with a wide variety of new books and discipleship tools covering marriage, parenting, grandparenting, adult children, missions, personal growth, and more.

All resources are available for just \$10.



-RETHINKING RETIREMENT-

John Piper challenges fellow Baby Boomers to forgo the American Dream of retirement and live out their golden years with a far greater purpose in mind.

They say it's a person's reward for all those years of labor. "Turn in your time card and trade in your IRAs. Let travel plans and golf-course leisure lead the way." But is retirement really the ideal? Or is it a series of poor options that ignore a greater purpose – and will kill a person more quickly than old age?

John Piper responds: "Lord, spare me this curse!" And his resounding message is for anyone who believes there's far more to the golden years than accumulating comforts. It's for readers who long to finish better than they started, persevere for the right reasons (and without fear), experience true security, value what lies beyond their cravings, and live dangerously for the One who gave his life in his prime. With this brief book, Piper is sure to spur fellow Baby Boomers in their resolve to invest themselves in the sacrifices of love – and to grow old with godly zeal.

Stop by the *Grace@Home* Resource Center this week!

MISSIONS

Looks what's coming in Missions this Spring & Summer!



WEARS VALLEY RANCH MAY 4-8

Pray for our team as they travel to Wears Valley Ranch this month. They will spend a week in construction, painting, and serving in a variety of ways. They will also have the blessing of enjoying fellowship with the staff, children, and one another. And join us this Sunday (May 3) as we set apart this team for service!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP JUNE 10-18

Pray for our team as they travel to the Dominican Republic to serve with BIG HOPE Ministries. This year's trip will focus on construction on the church beside the clinic in Bateye 7. Our work will also include Bible distribution, evangelism, and support of the Good Samaritan Clinic there. Pray that all that is done will bring glory to God and people to Jesus.



ZAMBIA MISSION TRIP AUGUST 5-18

Pray for our team as they travel to Zambia to serve with Global Samaritans. Their main focus will be to assist with ZamJam day camps. ZamJam teaches children from the orphanage and surrounding villages about Jesus in a fun and interactive way. Pray for our team to lovingly engage with the children and staff and to effectively teach them about Jesus! Your prayers can reach Africa even if your feet never do.

KICKIN' FOR THE KINGDOM SEPTEMBER 19

Mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual "Kickin' for the Kingdom" to be held at the Greene County Recreation fields. The event last year raised over \$20,000 for missions, and we are looking forward to doing even more this year!

Pray for the planning going on right now. If you know businesses or individuals who would like to be a sponsor, or you would like to put a team in the kickball tournament, contact Carrie Human or Nancy Long.

