

November 2023

**GRACE FELLOWSHIP**

**DECEMBER**

**NEWSLETTER**



# IN THE LOOP

Stay up to date with us!

## BIRTHDAYS

Rick Ward	12/2
Joey Ward	12/3
Joey Wood	12/3
Miracle Ward	12/4
Suzanne Rankine-Mohammed	12/9
Emily Crumbley	12/10
Stuart Harris	12/11
Pam Wells	12/12
Delores Clark	12/12
Stacy Dissmeyer	12/14
Nancy Long	12/17
Cassie Warwick	12/18
Kim Cash	12/20
Charles Brown	12/24
Deborah Miller	12/24
Stefanie Andrews	12/24
Jonathan Human	12/26
Lynne Bedsole	12/27
Curtis Crumbley	12/29
Carol Kuhn	12/30
Miranda Mitchell	12/30

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## ANNIVERSARIES

Joel Grant, Sr. & Karen Grant	12/4
Nolan & Cassidy Callaway	12/13
James & Inez Cox	12/19
Michael & Pam Wells	12/30



**LOTTIE MOON**  
**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**  
**PG. 4**





# HIGHLIGHTS

**Grace Fellowship Family,**  
As we enter into the Christmas season, the pastors and staff of Grace Fellowship want to thank you for the privilege of serving you this year. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with joy!



*The best IS yet to come!*



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you Grace Fellowship for providing 155 shoeboxes. Each box represents the opportunity to bring great joy and the Good News of

*Jesus Christ to children and to their families. Ask God to prepare the recipients' hearts to be open to hearing the Gospel and to be willing to be disciplined. Your box will be used to advance the Kingdom of God.*



# LOTTIE MOON

## WEEK OF PRAYER *for International Missions*

DECEMBER 3-10, 2023

### GOD'S WORK IN 2022

THROUGH THE WORK OF YOUR  
IMB MISSIONARIES

122

Countries

728,589

People heard the gospel

178,177

New believers

21,231

New churches

102,417

Baptisms



FROM THE GREAT COMMISSION  
UNTIL THE GREAT MULTITUDE,  
WE MUST UNITE IN THIS  
GREAT PURSUIT.



# GRACE'S GOAL

# \$18,000



# MINISTRY UPDATES



## NO SMALL GROUPS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us for Worship  
@ 10:30am



# MINISTRY UPDATES

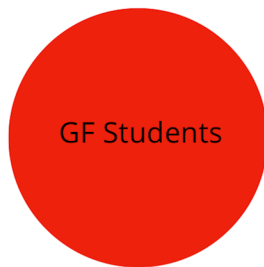
**URGENT!** WE HAVE AN **IMMEDIATE** NEED TO ADD TEAM MEMBERS TO OUR TECH TEAM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE SUNDAY SERVICE FROM BEHIND-THE-SCENES OPERATING SOUND, LIGHTS, CAMERAS, PROJECTION, OR STREAMING. WE WILL TRAIN IN ALL AREAS. CONTACT NANCY LONG ([NLONG30669@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NLONG30669@GMAIL.COM)) OR PASTOR MATT ([MATT@GRACEFELLOWSHIP.WS](mailto:MATT@GRACEFELLOWSHIP.WS)) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



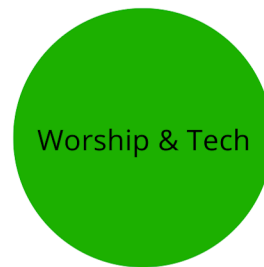
KIDS @ Grace!



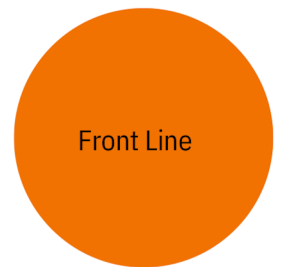
Small Groups



GF Students



Worship & Tech



Front Line

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Your help is needed in various areas of our church. Every part must function for us to act as a unified body. Check out these 5 areas that would greatly benefit from your support:

## **Kids @ Grace!**

Are you someone who loves working with kids? Kids @ Grace needs caring and enthusiastic child care workers for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Join our team and make a difference in the lives of our young ones! Cassidy Calloway at [children@gracefellowship.ws](mailto:children@gracefellowship.ws)

## **Small Group**

If you thrive in creating a welcoming environment, Small Groups is looking for hosts and facilitators for the coming year. Help foster a life of discipleship and support our community through meaningful conversations and Christ-like growth. Pastor Joey at [joey@gracefellowship.ws](mailto:joey@gracefellowship.ws)

## **GF Students**

Calling all mentors! GF Students is seeking dedicated people to assist with our teens on Wednesday nights and middle schoolers on Sunday mornings. Make a lasting Kingdom impact on young lives. Pastor Joey at [joey@gracefellowship.ws](mailto:joey@gracefellowship.ws)

## **Worship & Tech**

Are you a tech-savvy individual with a passion for audio-visual production? Or a vocalist or have instrumental talents? Worship and Tech needs your skills! We're looking for willing individuals to assist with live streaming and sound booth operations as well as the front house music! Be a part of creating an immersive worship experience for our congregation. Pastor Matt at [matt@gracefellowship.ws](mailto:matt@gracefellowship.ws)

## **Front Line**

Put on your friendly face and join Front Line! We need enthusiastic greeters and seaters to serve on Sundays. Help create a warm and inviting atmosphere as our congregation gathers to worship. Lisa Brondyke at [lbrondyke@gmail.com](mailto:lbrondyke@gmail.com)



# 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](mailto:children@gracefellowship.ws) to get plugged in or to ask any questions.

## KIDS COVE

OUR DECEMBER UNIT FOR KIDS COVE IS 'TIPPY'S MERRY MOUSE HOUSE'. IT'S CHRISTMASTIME AT TIPPY'S MOUSE HOUSE! TIPPY HAS TIPTOED INTO THE CLASSROOM AND SCURRIED OFF WITH THE CHRISTMAS STORY PICTURES. TOGETHER, THE CHILDREN WILL PEEK INTO TIPPY'S FESTIVE HOUSE TO LOOK FOR THEM! IT'S A YULETIDE SEARCH THAT CULMINATES IN THE DISCOVERY OF GOD'S GREATEST GIFT- BABY JESUS. WE WILL BE SPENDING THIS MONTH LEARNING THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BOOKS OF LUKE AND MATTHEW. PARENTS, ASK YOUR KIDS TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE WEEK'S LESSON! YOU CAN ALSO CHECK OUT WHAT THEY ARE WORKING ON EACH WEEK AT THE BULLETIN BOARD BY CHECK IN, AND FROM THEIR TAKE-HOME SHEETS. FROM ALL OF US IN KIDS COVE- WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**We will not be meeting for the month of December, so that your 1st-3rd graders can join you in celebrating Advent with the rest of the church!**

WE WILL RESUME IN JANUARY WITH MALACHI'S PROPHECY OF JESUS. WE WILL NOT GET TO THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH UNTIL FEBRUARY, AND AFTER THAT WE WILL BE CAMPING OUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TO FOLLOW THE LIFE OF JESUS! AFTER SPENDING THE YEAR IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK AT HOW IT ALL POINTED TO JESUS. IF YOU HAVE A CHILD IN 1ST -3RD GRADE WHO IS NOT YET PLUGGED INTO KIDS@GRACE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME WITH THEM TO CLASS AT THE DISMISSAL ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT MONTH! YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT CASSIDY CALLAWAY AT [CHILDREN@GRACEFELLOWSHIP.WS](mailto:children@gracefellowship.ws) TO GET THEM SET UP AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS. FROM ALL OF US AT KIDS@GRACE- WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



# STUDENT

MINISTRIES

## GE YTH

Christmas  
PARTY

12/13



# LARGE GROUP

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL AGES, BRING A FRIEND!

9AM

SUNDAY MORNINGS | GAME ROOM



## KIDS COVE

# NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please email Cassidy Callaway  
to help with the children's  
ministry on Sunday Mornings

[children@gracefellowship.ws](mailto:children@gracefellowship.ws)



# ELDER UPDATE

## **Elder Communication for the December 2023 Newsletter**

The regular elder meeting was held on Tuesday, November 14th. Bobby Thomas led the devotion and opening prayer, and this was followed by the approval of the minutes from the October meeting.

As we do each month, the elders then entered a time of discussion for the known prayer needs of our membership (F-H), as well as the needs of each elder. Jimmy prayed for the names and needs on the list, as well the needs of each elder and his family.

During the months of October and November, Cassidy Callaway, our Children's Ministry Director, has been in the process of updating and organizing the preschool rooms, which included picking paint colors and coordinating on a date for the work to be done. The painting was completed the week before Thanksgiving. Each room has its own theme and new décor. Along those lines, a list of volunteer expectations has been posted in each classroom, as well as reworked classroom schedules. Cassidy has also incorporated a new age-appropriate curriculum for the toddlers from Answers in Genesis. With this new simplified curriculum, the hope is to have youth volunteers leading this class once the proposal is worked through regarding current policy.

Joey Wood, our Discipleship Pastor, has actively engaged in strategic planning sessions for the upcoming year. This included brainstorming ideas, setting goals and objectives, and outlining a comprehensive roadmap to guide our youth group's activities and initiatives in a meaningful manner, that includes continuing a study of the entire Bible as well as a summer and a winter camp. The budget for the Youth, Children, and Discipleship areas has been finished. The proposed budget will focus on growth over the next year. Joey and his team have also begun a Discipleship Strategy Implementation, which includes a one-on-one mentorship program (IMPACT), and intentional discipleship initiatives that aim to nurture the spiritual growth and maturity.



# ELDER UPDATE

Matt MacLeod, our Worship Pastor, is glad to report that weekly choir rehearsals are back underway. Those interested in participating in the choir are asked to contact Matt. Grace Fellowship also hosted a Night of Praise & Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 19, to prepare us for the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day. The night was designed to point people to hope and joy, and to give them time to reflect on God's blessings and celebrate His goodness to us! We are excited for the Advent season that begins December 3.

Budget preparation is progressing on the time schedule. Thank you to each ministry team for following up and getting your requests/needs submitted for our budget request.

Pastor Jimmy reported that October saw the biggest on-campus outreach event that we have ever had - our Fall Family Fun Day on October 29th! Although we do not have an exact count of all who attended, based on registrations, bags given to children, and the number of hot dogs cooked, we estimate 500-600 adults and children on our campus in a 2 ½ hour span. Our Evangelism/Outreach Team did an outstanding job of planning a great event, our volunteers stepped up and were so positive, and the Lord gave us unseasonably warm weather. Each person who came heard the gospel message and received gospel literature. We ask you to pray that the Lord will use those gospel seeds to reach people for Jesus!

Pastor Jimmy added that over the past few weeks, we have also begun our Master Planning process. A team formed by the Elder Council has been meeting. We are using our approved strategic plan and expanding it to set long-range goals for the next 5+ years. The target is to have this plan completed in January to be able to present it to the Elder Council in the February meeting. Pray for team members: Tim Gallops, Melanie Milburn, Steve Whitcomb, Charles Brown, Luke Miller, Suzanne Mohammed, Steven Brondyke, and the church staff.

Our Joshua Project-led pancake supper and movie night was a great success. The movie shown was Lifemark, another inspiring movie from the Kendrick Brothers and is based on a true story. We had a great turnout with over 70 people attending.

With the Elder approval of the Children and Youth Protection Policies, the staff has begun meeting to discuss implementation of those policies. Young people are vital to who we are as a church, and we have an obligation to all that is within our power to protect them and give them a safe place where they can be loved and taught God's truth. We will provide updates and seek guidance from the Elder Council as we move through the process.



# ELDER UPDATE

Since December 24 is a Sunday, we will have our regular Sunday morning worship service and one Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:00 p.m. The church office will be closed from December 25 through January 1, 2024. Prior to that, we hope to have a new lockable mailbox to allow people to safely leave tithes and offerings at the church.

Last but certainly not least, the Elders are in the process of selecting a new group of elders to begin a 3-year term in 2024 serving our Grace Fellowship family. We are currently interviewing 4 men for this new group and hope to present the new elders to the church soon. Please be in prayer for the men who are considering serving.