

IN HIS STEPS

20  
25

# DISCOVER GRACE

DiscoverGraceChristian.Church



# Welcome to In His Steps

We are so excited to welcome you to an inspiring new chapter in our journey together! The year 2025 brings us the theme, **Discover Grace**, which invites us to recognize and embrace the incredible power of kindness, love, and compassion as we follow the footsteps of Jesus.

**At Grace Christian - A Shared Ministry**, we believe that this journey challenges each of us to reflect on how we can embody God's grace in our lives and in our community. Together, we'll explore what it means to genuinely **"discover grace"** with one another, drawing inspiration from our shared commitment to serve, love, and support each other.

We're thrilled to share that our church community is alive with over **70 active ministries!** Together, we can make a meaningful impact by participating in these opportunities to serve and grow.

In this booklet, you will also discover details about our **NEW logo**, along with a prayer guide aimed at fostering a future with **Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services**.

**This booklet is not just an overview; it's a prayer guide!**

We encourage you to take time to read, reflect, and pray about how God is calling you in this season. Jot down your thoughts, questions, and inspirations in the margins. As you seek clarity on where you feel led to serve and give, know that the Spirit is guiding you.

Enclosed is a **ministry card** designed to accompany this booklet. This card will give you the chance to pledge your commitment to the ministries that resonate with you. Please return all pledges to the Church Office by **Sunday, January 26**, as we embark on this joyful journey together.

We invite you to join us as we faithfully discover grace, encourage one another, and fulfill our calling together. Let's take this opportunity to live out Jesus' teachings in our daily lives, as His love is truly what binds us together.



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## PRAY

Don't pray about **IF** you should serve; pray about **WHERE!** When you come to God seeking wisdom and are ready to obey, you can be confident your prayer will be heard.

## INVESTIGATE THE OPTIONS

Read through this brochure carefully! Feel free to call the church staff or a fellow church member to find out more about a particular ministry. Even if you have served in the same area for years, **become familiar** with other areas of service so you can remain open to the Holy Spirit's leading.

## DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Every Christian has **spiritual gifts** that are given by God. See Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4.

## CONSIDER YOUR STRENGTHS:

Your natural abilities can influence your choice of service. Your life **experiences** can also give you insight and empathy in helping others going through similar situations. Special knowledge, such as medical training, technical skills, or construction expertise, can open doors for unique aspects of ministry. Musical, artistic, or even athletic talents can, and should, be used to **glorify** God!

## ASK YOUR FRIENDS

Serving with others you know can be a great way to get involved and enjoy fellowship – **but be careful not to limit yourself.** Serving in your unique areas can also be a great way to meet new people!

## DO SOMETHING

Even if you aren't sure what to do, **sign up** for something. God will bless your willingness, and you'll gain more wisdom in the process.



# Worship



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**We seek to lead people in worship by creating an environment for people to experience the presence of God. As you reflect on how God is leading you to serve, prayerfully consider the following:**

- 1. Worship Leader** - Lead in the Call to Worship and Communion Prayer
- 2. Hospitality Team** - Welcome and assist guests and members prior to the start of worship (training provided)
- 3. Servers** - Serve Communion and collect offering during worship
- 4. Communion Set-Up** - Prepare Communion for worship
- 5. Communion Clean-Up** - Clean up Communion after worship
- 6. Audio-Visual Tech Team** - Operate sound, recording, video, and computer during worship or special occasions (training provided)
- 7. Decorate for Advent and Easter** - Help decorate (and un-decorate) the Sanctuary for Advent and Easter
- 8. Sanctuary Flowers** - Order and set-up Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies
- 9. Baptismal Helpers** - Assist baptismal candidates in prayer and provide help to them as needed on the day of their baptism
- 10. Handbells** - Learn to ring handbells (no prior music training necessary) and share the gift of music at various times in worship (rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.)
- 11. Music** - Offer instrumental solos and ensembles during worship and special occasions
- 12. Sanctuary Choir** - Sing with the Sanctuary Choir, which offers anthems regularly in the 11:00 a.m. worship and at special presentations throughout the year (rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and no experience is required)
- 13. Floral Coordinator** - Help decorate our worship space with seasonal floral arrangements
- 14. Communion Bread** - Bake bread for Communion

# Children's Ministries

**The mission of Children's Ministry is to help each child develop an intimate, lifelong relationship with Jesus.**

- 1. Children's Sunday School Teacher** - Commit to teaching children (K-2nd and 3rd-5th) during the Sunday School hour. Teachers rotate among various volunteers and are asked to teach no more than once a month
- 2. Shepherd for Children's Sunday School** - Commit to being the "constant" adult for the children in one age group (either K-2nd or 3rd-5th) for at least 6 weeks
- 3. Second Story** - Serve during the worship hour as a storyteller or greeter
- 4. Children's Sponsor** - Be a sponsor for Wednesday evening programming
- 5. Nursery Worker** - Fill in as a nursery worker as needed
- 6. Vacation Bible School** - Spend a week in the summer sharing the love of Jesus with children of our community
- 7. Children's Choir** - Serve as a chaperone for the children's choir during the 9 o'clock worship hour
- 8. Camp Counselor** - Serve as a camp counselor at a four day summer camp for children who have completed 3rd-5th grades
- 9. Cook Team** - Cook a meal for Wednesday evening activities and/or VBS
- 10. Bus Driver** - Drive children to special activities, camp, and other events (CDL required)
- 11. Enrichment Leader** - Work with children in certain areas, such as art, cooking, woodworking, and handbells



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# Youth Ministries



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**We seek to grow in community, spirituality, and openness, as we nurture youth toward being faithful, lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.**

- 1. Youth Sponsor** - Have direct involvement with the spiritual formation of students through our vast range of weekly programs
- 2. Sunday School Teacher** - Help lead Bible Study for youth grades 6th-12th during the Sunday School hour, or be a substitute teacher
- 3. Senior Luncheon Helpers** - Help make Senior Sunday a special day for the youth of Grace Christian by decorating, cooking, or cleaning for the annual luncheon honoring our graduating seniors
- 4. Fundraiser** - Help raise funds for the annual youth mission trip by joining the youth fundraising team
- 5. Host Home** - Be a neighbor and open your home for youth gatherings, pool parties, lake days, and other events throughout the year
- 6. Cook Team** - Cook a meal for Wednesday evening activities
- 7. Bus Driver** - Drive youth to special activities, camps, and other events (CDL required)
- 8. Rally Sponsor** - Join our Jr. High and High School students for a jam-packed weekend retreat as an adult counselor
- 9. Camp Counselor** - Serve as a summer camp counselor for a week for Jr. High and/or High School Students
- 10. Mission Trip Sponsor** - Participate in mission trips that reach beyond the walls of the Church to be the hands and feet of Christ

# Adult Care



**Adult Education seeks to connect to people in groups that are building caring relationships with meaningful study.**

- 1. Sunday School Class Leader** - Lead or teach a college, young adult, or adult class on Sunday morning
- 2. Sunday School Substitute** - Serve as a substitute teacher for an adult class
- 3. Sunday School Participant** - Attend a college, young adult, or adult Sunday school class
- 4. Adult Weekday Studies Teacher** - Teach a college, young adult, or adult class
- 5. Life Groups-** Join a Life Group to get better connected! Life Groups launch in January and August each calendar year
- 6. Book Club** - Participate in our book club which meets once a month to discuss a book chosen the month before
- 7. Mosaic** - Volunteer for our growing College Ministry. Specific needs will be matched with your abilities and willingness to serve
- 8. Advent by Candlelight** - Serve as a host and provide other support for a special evening of food and fellowship during the Advent season
- 9. Small Group Leader** - Facilitate a group in a study, prayer, or fellowship





# Mission and Outreach

**We seek to spread the gospel through words and deeds across our city, nation, and world.**

**1. Christmas Basket Ministry** - Help celebrate the birth of Christ by adopting a child in need

- **Serving Opportunities:** contribute money, purchase and wrap gifts, and/or deliver gifts and food boxes

(Other similar outreaches include Thanksgiving and Easter Food Baskets)

**2. Food Pantry** - Help unload trucks and stock shelves, serve on Tuesday to assist clients, help clients get the food to their car, restock shelves/bags as needed, work at the intake desk, and/or close up the pantry

**3. Church in Society** - Serve on our outreach team to plan and lead mission work locally and globally

**4. Downtown Trick-or-Treat** - Join others in creating a safe community Halloween event in the downtown area

**5. Breakfast with the Grinch & Friends** - Help create this community event for children and their families

- **Serving Opportunities:** Set up/take down, food prep/serving, arts and crafts, and/or participate as a character

**6. Meals for the Elderly** - Deliver hot meals to community homebound residents during the months of November and April

**7. Sunshine Project**- Help bring a ray of sunshine to our downtown neighbors with random acts of kindness during the fall

**8. Ramp Builder** - Join a ramp build or ramp team to build a ramp for a family in need

**9. Helping Hands** - Help repair a senior citizen's home in April

**10. Shoe Voucher** - Buy a \$50.00 shoe voucher for school-age kids in August



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# Church Family Care



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**Our goal is to strengthen and support our current and future members through intentional Christian community.**

- 1. Special Meal Cooking** - prepare, serve, or deliver a meal (meals are often provided for funerals or memorial services, for those who are homebound, returning home after a stay in the hospital, or for those who are ill.)
- 2. Fellowship Dinners** - Help with church lunches and fellowship meals
  - **Serving Opportunities:** decorate tables, bring food, set up/clean up
- 3. Flowers to Homebound** - Deliver flowers that remain after a wedding, funeral, or special service to the ill or homebound
- 4. Wedding Coordinator** - Serve as a representative of Grace Christian as you assist wedding parties before and during the ceremony
- 5. Note Writer** - Join a team to write handwritten notes to members of Grace Christian
- 6. Lenten Devotional** - Write a devotional for the 2025 Lenten season
- 7. Special Events Coordinator** - Serve as a representative of Grace Christian when groups use church facilities for baby showers, concerts, or other events
- 8. Care Connections** - Join members of Grace Christian as we reach out and visit members in our congregation who are no longer able to be actively involved in church due to medical challenges or age. We divide into groups to visit one or two members and offer communion (training provided)





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# Property Ministries

**1. Work Day Team** - Help with light maintenance and repairs to the church grounds and facilities, including painting, minor carpentry work, or miscellaneous small repairs

**2. Vehicle Care and Maintenance** - Assist with routine maintenance and if needed, deliver and/or pick up the vehicles to be professionally serviced

# Stewardship

**1. Ministry Moment** - Share your experience of service through your personal encounter with Prayer, Service, Gifts and Presence

# Didn't See Your Ministry?

**1. Wherever I Am Needed** - Be available to help in a variety of ways

**2. My New Ministry** - You tell us where you want to serve! What new passion and dreams are welling up inside of you?



# Giving

In addition to selecting one or more areas of volunteer service, **In His Steps** is also your opportunity to make a **commitment** to give financially to the church in the year ahead. Giving is one of the fundamental ways that we demonstrate our love and gratitude to God; provide for the poor, the widows and the orphans; and support the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our city and around the world.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING:

### 1. What is the purpose of a giving pledge on the commitment card?

Making a commitment to give is an act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God. On a practical level, your commitments allow us to better budget and plan our ministries.

### 2. What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?

A tithe is the first tenth of your income. An offering is any gift above and beyond that amount.

### 3. What if I'm not sure what my income will be?

Your pledge is ultimately between you and God. Make your best estimate of what you feel led to give by faith, and then trust God to provide for your needs. If your income changes unexpectedly, God will certainly know and understand what you are able to give.

### 4. In what ways can I give?

You may place cash or checks in the collection basket during worship services or mail, drop off your gift during the week to the church office, or give online! Gifts of stocks, endowments, and other assets may also be set up through our Endowment Fund.

### 5. Will I receive a contribution statement?

Yes, provided you do not give anonymously, statements will be mailed to you at the end of the calendar year.

# 2025 Budget Narrative

In recent years, we have launched new ministries, welcomed new members, and are actively engaging with our community by staying true to our mission to embrace everyone and share the love of Christ! On the following page, you will find our proposed budget for 2025. Similar to managing household expenses, we recognize that costs typically rise each year. As our programs expand, so do the associated expenses. We kindly ask you to consider your pledge with prayerful thought.

## **Pastoral/Other Staff**

All salaries and costs associated with the ministers of our church and non-ministerial staff

## **Administrative**

All costs related to publication, printing, postage, and office technology

## **Worship**

All costs of music and supplies for our worship services and special programs

## **Property**

All costs related to day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of the church's physical assets and utilities

## **Nurture**

All costs for luncheons and fellowship events

## **Children/Youth/College Ministries**

All costs related to Children/Youth/College ministries, events, and activities

## **Education**

All costs related to adult education for Sunday school and weeknight programming

## **Church Growth**

All costs related to the promotion of the church and its programs

## **Outreach/Mission**

All costs related to funding outreach, plus all costs for the weekly food pantry and other church outreach events

## **Pledged Mission**

The pledged support from Grace Christian to Disciples Mission Fund, House of Faith, Lake Brownwood, Presbyterian Children's Home, Southwest Good Samaritans Ministry, Tres Rios Presbytery, and others.



# 2025 Budget Proposal

## 2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL

*Pending approval from the congregation*

## 2024

### 2025 EXPENSE

Pastoral Staff \$312,312  
Other Staff \$195,734  
Administration \$22,200  
Worship \$30,360  
Property \$179,430  
Nurture \$6,600  
Children/Youth/College \$28,000  
Education \$4,700  
Church Growth \$5,000  
Outreach/Mission (Internal) \$30,000  
Pledged Mission (External) \$20,000

**TOTAL \$834,336**

### 2025 REVENUE

Congregational Giving \$548,144  
  
FCC Carson/Shaddix Fund \$209,192  
  
FCC Russell Building Fund \$34,500  
(Designated for building insurance)  
  
FCC Endowment Reserve Fund \$30,000  
  
FCC Memorial Fund \$7,500  
(\$2500 designated for Choir scholarships)  
  
Grace Presbyterian Foundation \$5,000

**TOTAL \$834,336**

### 2024 EXPENSE

\$295,325  
\$175, 635  
\$21,600  
\$12,580  
\$145,700  
\$5,600  
\$30,800  
\$4,700  
\$5,300  
\$20,000  
\$20,000

**TOTAL \$737,240**

### 2024 REVENUE

\$558,655  
  
\$126,200  
  
\$25,000  
  
\$20,000  
  
\$7,500  
  
\$5000

**Total \$742.365**

# Missions & Outreach Giving

## **Missions \$106,145**

Breakfast with the Grinch: \$1,745

Camps: \$4,099

Christian Church in the Southwest: \$2,000

Christmas Baskets: \$250

Christmas Offering: \$275

Compassion International (child sponsorship):  
\$215

Disciples Mission Fund: \$2,000

Easter Baskets: \$73

Family Shelter: \$261

God's Storehouse (Food Pantry): \$27,129

Helping Hands Blitz Worship: \$381

House of Faith: \$4,000

Individual in Community: \$117

Lake Brownwood Retreat: \$7,077

Mosaic: \$3578

Project Dignidad- Shoes for School: \$5,350

Presbyterian Children's Home: \$4,000

Special Offering: \$280

SW Good Samaritan Ministries: \$2,000

Tres Rios Presbytery: \$2,800

Vacation Bible School: \$3,040

Snack Bags: \$5,590

Be The Neighbor: \$750

Global Mamas: \$1,074

Passport: \$26,255

**Mission and  
Outreach given by  
Grace Christian  
over the last 12  
months!**

## **Gifts-in-Kind (\$20,000)**

Approximate value and items collected for various mission projects including: Easter Baskets, Christmas Baskets, Food for the Pantry, and use of the facilities by outside organizations, as well as hours put into building ramps with the Texas Ramp Project.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED MISSION/OUTREACH: \$126,145**

# 2025 Leadership

## **2025 PARISH COUNCIL**

Julie Wheat  
Duff Hallman  
Trish Aylor  
Dace Stockman  
Kristin Ellis-Dearborn  
Sarah Schulz  
Leslyn McManus  
Georgia Edwards  
Randy Gardner

## **TREASURE**

Chas Rogers  
Kristin Ellis-Dearborn  
Mentor: Tom Early

## **DEPARTMENT CHAIRS**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
Maribeth Scott

Dana Glossbrenner

OUTREACH

Evan and Kendra Morton

NURTURE

Mike O'Donnell

PROPERTY

Duff Hallman

STEWARDSHIP

PC Treasurer

WORSHIP

Margaret Porter

Becca White

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Ali Ogburn

Evan Morton

## **FCC TRUSTEES**

Kathleen Brasfield  
Trish Aylor  
Britta Todd  
Randy Scott  
Greg Gossett  
Gina Karr

## **GPC SESSION**

John Ballard  
Leslyn McManus  
Georgia Edwards  
Peggy Sterling  
Randy Gardner  
Shawn Koger

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Cam Hartson  
Trish Aylor  
Kelly Mullins  
Peggy Sterling  
Patty Gardner  
Bitsy Stone

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Dace Stockman  
Sam Edwards  
Terry Sterling  
Kendra Morton  
Patty Gardner  
Erin Cassidy

## **SAFETY TEAM**

Randy Gardner  
Kristin Ellis-Dearborn  
Duff Hallman  
Beaver McManus  
Garrett Mills  
Julie Wheat

## **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

Gail Stillwell  
Pam O'Donnell  
Vivian Aylor

## **NEW ELDERS**

Margaret Porter  
Julie Wheat  
Becca White  
Laura Behrens  
Patty Gardner  
Mike O'Donnell  
Fran Early

# Presbyterian Children's Home and Services

2025 brings an exciting opportunity for partnership that could significantly **impact** the lives of vulnerable children and families in our area. The Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) has a rich history of clinical ministry and is dedicated to caring for those who are most at risk, not just in Texas but across neighboring states.

At the end of 2024, the leadership of Grace Christian voted unanimously to explore a significant **partnership** with PCHAS. Our hope is to collaborate with this incredible organization to establish a much-needed program in San Angelo and the surrounding areas.

We invite you to join us for worship on **Sunday, January 19**, to learn more about this meaningful ministry opportunity.

In essence, our goal is to work alongside PCHAS to **employ a social worker** who will engage with local churches, community leaders, and school personnel. This partnership aims to identify families at risk of abuse before it occurs and to **provide vital support** to those who are struggling, helping them transition from merely surviving to truly thriving.

As we consider committing to a **five-year partnership**, we believe this will allow PCHAS to establish a lasting presence in our community while securing permanent funding. This initiative requires a total investment of **\$500,000 over five years** to ensure adequate staffing and resources for programming. Furthermore, our church and other local congregations will be trained to walk alongside families in need.

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.PCHAS.ORG](http://WWW.PCHAS.ORG)**



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services<sup>SM</sup>



# PCHAS - Next Steps

To pray daily about this potential partnership, we encourage you to **reflect** on the following guiding questions:

1. How can this partnership serve our community in meaningful ways?
2. What unique gifts and resources can our church provide to support this initiative?
3. How can we help ensure the program's sustainability and effectiveness in the long term?
4. In what ways can we mobilize our congregation to engage with families in need?
5. What prayers can we offer to seek wisdom and guidance from God throughout this process?

For daily prayer, you might find the following scriptures helpful:

- **Proverbs 31:8-9** “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”
- **James 1:27** “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress”
- **Isaiah 1:17** “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed”
- **Psalms 82:3** “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed”
- **Matthew 25:40** “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”

Thank you for taking the time to consider this impactful partnership. We look forward to discussing it further during our worship service and exploring how we can be vessels of hope and support in the lives of those in need.

# The WHY behind our NEW logo!

Our logo conveys the **story of our ministry** and consists of two symbols: a circle and a cross.

**At its center is a cross**, symbolizing grace and designed simply to reflect our commitment to following Jesus. This guiding principle aligns with the heart of **Grace Presbyterian Chapel**, which was established in 2015.

**The cross is encircled by a ring**, representing the unity of our **two churches** and our coming together.

**The outer rim represents a river**, honoring the faithful followers of Jesus who gathered for prayer at the Concho River in 1882 and who laid the foundation for what would become **First Christian Church**.

**The words "Grace" and "Christian"** in our logo are displayed in distinct fonts, symbolizing the **many backgrounds within our congregation**. Despite these differences, we are united as Grace Christian, sharing a core belief in Jesus Christ.

Our mission resonates with the idea that **grace is for everyone—every person of every type**. As Scripture reminds us in Romans 15:7 (NIV), "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." We believe that everyone is welcome here. Regardless of background or journey, there is a place for you to gather with us. This is the foundation upon which we build our community.



# What to do now?

Pray and ponder how God is calling you to serve in 2025 and complete a MINISTRY CARD (**or scan the QR code below**) and indicate your commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

## Helpful Information:

Every youth (grades 6-12) and adult completes their own separate card for ministries, but you can pledge finances jointly.

All information is confidential. The card separates so that the different portions of the card (ministry and financial) are handled by only the appropriate people.

Please bring your completed **MINISTRY CARD to worship on January 26**. If you are unable to be present, you may bring them the next week or mail them to the church office.



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