

GraceWay Bible Church - Profile**Purpose**

GraceWay Bible Church exists to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever and whenever possible, to teach the Word of God, to share love and fellowship among all Christians, to train them in practical Christian work and in the grace of giving, to uphold and defend the Christian faith as set forth in God's Word and to ordain those whom the Lord has called to the Gospel ministry.

Mission

GraceWay Bible Church exists to glorify God by impacting our community for Jesus Christ through a consistent walk under the control of the Holy Spirit which produces stimulating worship, motivating discipleship, and relevant evangelism.

Vision

To grow, equip, and send disciples to transform our community and world for Jesus Christ.

Beliefs

1. Holy Scripture -Scripture, the sixty-six books of the Bible, being divinely superintended by God in its original form, is the fully authoritative and inerrant word of God, presented to humankind to live in faith and practice according to His wishes, and contains everything necessary for salvation.
2. The Trinity - There is one Godhead existing as three co-equal, co-substantial, and co-eternal persons. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are each of the same substance but distinct subsistence, are each fully God, and inseparable from the Godhead, and fully deserving of all adoration and praise.
3. God the Father - God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is the creator God of the universe and as such the provider and planner of all things. The Father, though co-equal with the Son, is the head of Christ and directed Him to be the savior of humankind.
4. God the Son - God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, is the only begotten, eternal son of God, receives his identity from the Father and does His will. Christ is the Word of God and through whom, all creation was made. He emptied himself, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born the incarnate son of God, taking upon flesh through the Virgin. He existed on earth as both fully human and fully God as one person with two natures.

5. God the Spirit - God the Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is coequal with the Father and Son with a unique voice and personality. The Spirit moved the Bible's authors to write God's Word. The Holy Spirit works to sanctify believers by serving as a helper and teacher to believers, guiding their growth, distributing spiritual gifts, and communicating the will of the Father. Every believer must work to live under the control of the Spirit.
6. Angels - Created by Christ as spiritual beings prior to the formation of the earth, angels reside in Heaven in ranks as eternal spirits to praise and glorify God. They serve as His messengers to mankind and to minister to believers and will administer Christ's judgment. Prior to the man's fall, Satan and a third of the angels rebelled against God and now serve as adversaries to His creation. These demons work to hinder the spiritual growth of believers but will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire for eternity.
7. Creation and Man - Through the Son, God created the material universe from nothing in a literal six days. The last thing God created was the first man whom He placed in the garden. God created man in His image and likeness. Seeing that man needed a suitable companion, God created the first woman from him. They were created in God's image to glorify Him through worshipful obedience and lived without sin enabling them to live in fellowship with Him. God provided them with the terms of obedience, which they violated at the urging of Satan. Born with a body and spirit, upon physical death man's spirit separates from his body and either ascends to Heaven or descends to Hell.
8. Sin - Personal sin, any thought or action contrary to God's nature, committed by humankind and the effects of sin (human suffering, natural disasters, etc), originates in the first sin of Adam and Eve. Through Satan's deception, Adam and Eve voluntarily violated God's conditions and sin entered the world. With this, all mankind descended from Adam enters a sinful world with a sinful nature, spiritually separated from God incapable by any human effort to fulfill His holy Law. Being spiritually dead with a righteous expectation of judgment, mankind can only be redeemed through acceptance of Christ as savior. Sin still exists, but in the life of the believer one must continually seek forgiveness and repentance to maintain proper fellowship with God.
9. Salvation - The only redemption for sin is salvation through Jesus Christ. Requiring a perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of all creation, God the Father sent His son Jesus, being also God, to suffer as a substitute for the punishment that mankind deserved. Being crucified and buried in a tomb, He overcame death three days later. Humankind must willfully choose a relationship with Christ by acknowledging their sins and confessing that only Christ can grant forgiveness. Salvation is by God's grace alone through one's faith in Jesus Christ and no amount of human accomplishment can achieve it. An individual's salvation can never be lost.
10. The Church - The church of Christ, exists in two forms--the one universal church of Jesus Christ of which He is the head and High Priest, in which all believers are joined by the

Holy Spirit, which began at Pentecost and will exist until the Rapture, and the local church consisting of a gathering of believers. Through the local church, believers gather to worship, praise, sing, receive teaching, provide gifts, pray, and participate in ordinances to honor and glorify God.

11. Jesus' Return - At the end of the present dispensation, Jesus Christ will return in the sky, according to the Father's timing, to gather His church to Him, first the deceased believers raised from their graves followed by the living believers to join Christ. His return is physical, can occur at any moment, and precedes a seven-year tribulation period after which He returns to defeat Satan, beginning His millennial reign on the earth.
12. Judgment - Prior to the millennial kingdom, all believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ where their works on Earth will be evaluated and rewarded. They will go on to live for eternity in heaven. The angels will administer Christ's judgment both at the end of the tribulation and the end of the millennial kingdom. Those that do not believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be judged and cast into the lake of fire for eternity.
13. Ordinances - There are two ordinances of the church. First, after accepting salvation through Christ every believer should be baptized by immersion as an outward sign and confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, routine celebration of the Lord's Supper maintains a persistent memory of Jesus' sacrifice as well as consistent fellowship with the Lord and Savior. Because of the nature of communing with the Lord, it should only be celebrated by those walking with Him.
14. Marriage - God created marriage as a permanent union between one man and one woman, a bond which can only be broken by infidelity, abandonment by a non-believing spouse, or the death of a spouse. Remarriage is permissible as noted above.
15. Gender - An individual's gender is that which matches his or her biological gender and any attempt to modify it, whether in thought or practice, is sinful.
16. Human Dignity - God created every person in his image. Regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, background, belief, health status, or whether born or unborn, individuals must be treated as God's image-bearer. Individuals lost in sin must be prayed for, not condemned, and never exploited. Behaviors such as pornography, prostitution, gender reassignment (in thought or physical), addictions, discrimination or any activity that can be physically and emotionally devastating are destructive to the image of God.
17. Spiritual Gifts - The Holy Spirit provides every believer with gifts for the building of the body of Christ. Some gifts were present only during the apostolic age and others continue today. Gifts such as glossolalia and faith healing were utilized by the apostles for the growth of the church but are not present today.

History

GraceWay Bible Church began in 1934 in Trenton, NJ. The church moved to its current location in 1962 and has been expanded twice, the last being in 2012. Plans exist for a two-story addition to expand the worship center and increase classroom and office space.

Operation

The leadership of the church resides in the pastor with the support of the board of elders, who assist with the spiritual welfare of the church, and the board of deacons, who assist with the buildings and grounds. The pastor is approved by the elders and deacons and presented for calling by the membership. The members also vote on the annual budget, elders, deacons, and other officers as well as expenditures over specified amounts.

Administration

GraceWay maintains a 3.4 acre campus consisting of a 17,000 square foot building with a 240 seat worship center, attached offices and classrooms, dedicated children's and youth areas, gymnasium, and on-site 1,940 square foot parsonage.

Staff positions include:

- Executive Pastor (full-time)
- Speaking/Teaching Pastor (part-time) - Vacant
- Children's Directors (full-time)
 - Responsible for all nursery - 5th grade ministries
 - Responsible for church evangelism training
- Youth/Worship Director (full-time)
 - Responsible for all 6th -12th grade ministries
 - Responsible for all worship and music ministries.
- Camp Director (part-time)
 - Directors all summer camp functions
 - Responsible for all social outreach (emails, social media, etc.)
- Bookkeeper (PT), Administrator (PT), Counselor (PT)

Service

We provide three services: 9 and 10:45 AM and 6 PM. Morning services include contemporary and traditional worship, announcements, prayer, and message. Pre-covid service attendance averaged 275 (both AM services) and post-Covid attendance averages 165. The morning service is streamed to our YouTube channel with average views of 165. Evening service provides different opportunities for fellowship, praise, prayer, or teaching with average service attendance of 70.

GraceWay Ministries

- Sunday School - We offer children's, youth, and adult Sunday school running concurrent with worship services. Average Attendance: 100.
- Camp Mercyville - A full-day summer camp for K-6th grade students. Average attendance: 50.
- Grace Groups - Grace Groups are weekly, small group gatherings in the spring and fall to discuss the upcoming Sunday's morning message.
- AWANA - Weekly children's (pre-k to 6th grade) program meeting on Friday nights.
- Mothers of Preschoolers - MOPS meets twice a month for worship, devotion, and fellowship. This includes age-specific lessons for children through kindergarten.
- Youth Group - XMPLFY youth ministry meets weekly on Wednesdays.
- Keystone - Older-adults' ministry comprising nursing home outreach, service outreach, and monthly luncheons for the community.
- UPWARD - Faith-based basketball ministry to K-5th graders
- ChristmasLive - a tour through the Bible from creation to the Resurrection.
- Other ministries include a weekly men's Bible study, monthly men's breakfast, VBS, Push the Rock basketball camp, Sunday morning prayer, choir, and bowling and softball teams.

All ministries are open to any individuals in the church and community to engage in fellowship and service to honor and glorify God.

Missionaries

We seek to balance local and foreign mission fields. Our primary local mission is through Restoring Hearts Ministries, a homeless and addiction ministry in Trenton, NJ. Throughout the month we will collect, prepare, and distribute needed supplies in the city. This also includes prayer and evangelism. Other supported local groups include ChoiceOne, InterVarsity, New

Life Island camp, and Cairn University. Our supported foreign missionaries serve in Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, and South America.

Community

With 87,000 people and 36 square miles,. Hamilton Township is the largest town (population and area) in Mercer County. Hamilton is a mix of urban, suburban, and rural housing as well as significant retail and commercial areas. Bordering towns constitute another 164,000 people.

GraceWay is known in the community as a Bible-teaching church with congregants coming from over ten towns. ChristmasLive has significantly increased the church's exposure to the community.