

November 2019



# WORDS OF GRACE

*Monthly Newsletter*

## *Inside the Issue*

### **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BARRY...**

Pastor Barry shares some thoughts on how our worship and giving thanks must go hand in hand...

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

November Ministry Schedules can be found on page 5. Tear off this page and post it on your fridge or next to your family calendar!

### **FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE!**

**8:30am** Prayer and Praise  
**9:30am** Worship Service  
**10:45am** Fellowship Time, Discipleship Classes (for all ages)

## **NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...**

- Nov. 2 - Youth Movie Night @Grace (see pg. 3)
- Nov. 3 - Giving Tree begins
- Nov. 4 & 5 - YFC Comedy Cafe (see pg. 3)
- Nov. 10 - Adopt-A-Soldier begins
- Nov. 11 - Elder Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov. 17 - Congregational Meeting, 2:00pm
- Nov. 18 - Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30pm
- Nov. 28 & 29 - Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed



"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."

A.W. Tozer

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they seek God's face and God's direction for us to join in His mission as the Grace Family, and as they look for God's guidance in shepherding His people.
- Pray for the Deacons to have wisdom as they come along side hurting people, and steward the resources with which we have been blessed.
- Pray for the Ministry Leaders to experience God's presence and power as they lead their ministries.

# PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **8:30-9:15am** Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary
- **11:15am** Grandmothers Prayer Group (every other Tuesday)
- **6:30pm** Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at GRACE
- **6:30am** Wednesdays Men's Prayer - Prayer Room
- **8:00am** Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

# A NOTE FROM PASTOR BARRY

Dear Grace Family,

November is the month when we tend to focus on one of the most important joys of the Christian life...giving thanks. We also are aware that our culture tempts us to be increasingly dissatisfied, making us feel ungrateful and not giving thanks. We are commanded to worship, and through that worship experience we are made aware of how God continually meets our needs, moving us to give thanks as we worship Him. Giving thanks can, at times, be a spiritual battle. So, is it any surprise that we may struggle to be thankful, even in the midst of corporate worship, when we are tempted to give into preferences and personal tastes, especially as it relates to music? I reread an article about the the schemes that the devil continually uses to create division between God's worshiping people over style and music. I am aware that the evil one still uses this scheme here at Grace Church, robbing our Great God of the worship He is so worthy to receive.

Here is the article:

*"Ours is a generation marked by war. I'm not referring to a war with guns and tanks, though we have certainly seen our share of that as well. We are a generation that grew up witnessing the church fight over the very thing that was supposed to unite us: the worship of Jesus. This spiritual war centers on worship, as we are tempted to be consumers instead of worshipers. Few of us emerge from the temptation to be consumers who believe it is our right to want what we want as it relates to worship services. It may be easy for us to dismiss this temptation and think that we are certainly not consumers until we walk out of a church service that didn't meet our own standards. It is easy to become professional critics of corporate worship as we complain about some aspect of the worship service that we did not approve of as it relates to preferences. We can be tempted to complain that the volume is either too loud, or not loud enough. The lighting is either too bright or not bright enough; too showy or too bland. We grumble about song selection, saying things like, "They introduce too many new songs," "Why do we keep doing the same songs over and over," or "I hate that song." From key signatures to instrumentation; from the worship leader's fashion sense to vocal tone – it's all fair game for our consumer-driven critique. We are the fast food slogan-slinging generation of "Have it your way." We are American Idol's panel of expert judges. We don't know how to shut up, and we don't have to because social media gives us constant platform to speak out about anything and everything we love and hate. We tend to assign spiritual value to our preferences. Everything about our world tells us that we are the king (or queen) of the castle. So as humans, it is impossible to avoid having our own personal preferences. Our distinct opinions shape the way we approach every area of life, including how we connect in corporate worship. As such, we tend to assign spiritual value to our*

*preferences. The vast variety of expressions of worship to our ever-worthy Savior is an incredible opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and express praise in new and fresh ways. But these different expressions ought not become the deterrents from or objects of our exaltation. When we gather as the Church, we are not coming as critics. We are not talent judges from The Voice who get to slam a "worship button" whenever we like what we're hearing. We are not entitled to make the call on whether or not we feel like worshipping God and building up His Church. His glory does not wait for us to like the music before He becomes worthy of all our worship. We dare not approach the throne of an objectively great, timeless, unchanging and holy God with a consumer mindset that says we can only worship Him if our subjective preferential demands are met. That mindset only robs God of the glory He is due, robs the Church of the encouragement it needs as it fights the true war of faith, and robs us of being encouraged and shaped by the truth of God's Word as we sing it. We gather to preach and sing the good news to ourselves, one another and those who don't yet know that a sovereign God loved us enough to give us His only Son to rescue us and give us eternal life. We sing that Jesus came willingly as to redeem and adopt us, defeat sin and death and give us the Holy Spirit to liberate and empower us to repent, believe, forsake our comfort, take up our cross and follow Christ."*

That is a convicting article isn't it? So let us repent and give thanks for the opportunity God gives us to worship Him. Let's also be aware of the devil's schemes concerning worship and overcome the temptation to be consumers and critics. Please pray for those who lead us in worship as they seek God each week in preparation for our corporate worship service. As we ask God to help us live out of our identity as worshipers who give themselves to respond to our Great God so that He alone is worshiped, let's worship Him this Sunday and everyday with a heart of thanksgiving for He is worthy of our worship!!!

Love, 

# NEWS & NOTES



Do you or someone you know need food assistance? Ruby's Pantry can help! Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution is for everyone.



**Where: Grace Christian Church 1596 4th St, FDL**  
**When: Thursday, November 14th**

We welcome your church groups to volunteer. There is pre-registration available at [rubyspantry.org](http://rubyspantry.org). You can use a credit/debit card or PayPal. Please bring 6 grocery-sized reusable cloth bags to hold food. No boxes or Laundry Baskets please! **Doors open and registration at 4:30 Distribution: 5:30-7pm, \$21 cash donation per share.** If you have any questions call Rachel at 920-923-5292 or email [rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org](mailto:rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org)

## Thanksgiving Worship Service

Wednesday | November 27, 2019 | 6:30pm

The Church Office will be closed Nov. 28 & 29th!  
*Have a blessed Thanksgiving!*

There is an upcoming opportunity for anyone interested in Believer's Baptism by immersion.

If you are interested please sign up at the Info Booth or contact Pastor Barry with any questions: (920) 948-5702 or [vegter@gracechurchfdl.org](mailto:vegter@gracechurchfdl.org)

## 10 Things the Woman Married to Your Pastor Wants You to Know

AUGUST 10, 2018 | Shari Thomas

Lucas and Mia were a natural fit for the small but growing church in Tribeca. Everyone knew them for their vibrant personalities. Lucas demonstrated leadership finesse. Mia had an exceptional ability to winsomely engage cynics and intellectuals. The couple nurtured a growing network among New York City's business elite. Within 24 months of their arrival the church was thriving. But Lucas and Mia were not. Eight months later Lucas announced they were leaving. They vacated their apartment in five days. Why do couples like this leave the ministry? Of the many rumors that swirl around a pastor's resignation, we don't often consider the hardship that ministry places on the pastor's wife and on their marriage. We easily acknowledge that the happiness of both marriage partners affects marital health. Yet we've been slow to correlate how the well-being of a pastor's spouse affects the long-term vitality of the church. Women married to pastors face unique challenges. Keeping the following in mind (along with a commitment to regularly pray for her and her marriage) could affect your church more than you realize.

To read more go to: [www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-things-woman-married-pastors-know/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-things-woman-married-pastors-know/) or pick up a printed copy of this article at the Info Board.

## YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT | SAT. NOV. 2ND

6:00-10:30PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM  
SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED. BRING A SNACK.  
CONTACT BRAD WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

## Have some questions about Grace, or just looking for more information?

Come to a "CONNECTING WITH GRACE" gathering! We're looking at holding another gathering in the next few months. Sign up today at Info Booth or call the Church Office



YOUTH FOR CHRIST  
COMEDY  
café

The YFC Comedy Café is a unique fundraising event that helps fund the on-going ministry of Badgerland Youth for Christ. This is the 7th year for this event and will be held 2 nights and in 2 locations.

**Monday, November 4th**

Fond du Lac High School Commons, 801 Campus Dr.

**Tuesday, November 5th**

The Union Youth Center, 421 E. Jackson, Waupun

Each event begins at 6:30 pm with doors opening at 6:15. The Comedy Café treats participants to delicious desserts and hot beverages, as well as a creative program that highlights young people and tells the YFC story.

*This year we are excited to have John Branyan leading our laughter!*

To register to attend visit: [www.badgerlandyfc.org](http://www.badgerlandyfc.org)



## NOV. THEMES

Nov. 3rd - Food Pantry Night (1pt. per can)  
Nov. 10th - Red, White & Blue Night  
Nov. 17th - Camouflage Night  
Nov. 24th - Inside-Out Night



# Global Missions & LOCAL OUTREACH

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Yes, we know it may seem a little soon to be talking about Christmas, but the time think of holiday shopping has come! There are two great opportunities this month to reach out to folks living in the Fond du Lac area or are connected with our community. Please see the following page for more complete information.



## WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE...

Our local law enforcement department, in conjunction with the Police Chaplains of FDL, adopts families in need at Christmastime, providing a holiday food basket, as well as gifts for the children in the family. You can help by identifying families who might need "adopting". Please contact Pastor Grant by noon on Monday, December 2nd, to be sure they will be included. We will need names and ages of the children, and contact information for the parents. Thanks for coming alongside our public servants to provide Holiday Cheer for those in our community who need a little help this Christmas.

Each month Pastor Barry will be sharing a "scripturally based" principle which will help free us to joyfully offer of our time, talent & treasure

### Living/Giving Principle

- Before I give any of my material possessions to God as an act of worship, by grace, God wants me to give myself to Him first!
- "...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us...see that you excel in this act of grace also." (2 Corinthians 8:5-7)
- God wants my heart...when He has my heart, He will have the rest of what He in reality already owns in my life..
- Has there been a point in my life when I fully gave my myself to His Loving Lordship and empowering presence...Am I currently giving myself this way?
- Is there any area of my life that I am holding back from God that I need to yield to Him today?

*If we will humble ourselves by giving God our heart first, God will, by His grace free us to be joyful people as we give of our time, talents, and treasure.*

A huge THANK YOU to all who came participated in sewing dresses and shorts for orphans in Haiti!

*Your hard work is appreciated!*



**"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."**

HUDSON TAYLOR

# Missions Highlight: **LOCAL**

ADOPT A SOLDIER & THE GIVING TREE

## The Giving Tree

Help give Christ's love this season!

Through this ministry we provide prayer, gifts, and a reminder of the **TRUE** meaning of Christmas to families in need, and to share the joy of Jesus' love with them by caring for and showing God's love in a personal way. This year we are adopting children & families through the **Charis Pregnancy Help Center** here in Fond du Lac..

To get involved, choose a tag (**or several!**) from the tree, pray for that person, and purchase the gift(s) requested. **\*NEW\* this year we will also be putting together food boxes to give to these families.** There will be various food items listed on tags as well as gifts.

Please wrap the gifts and return them to church. Keep the tag with the gift, to assure that it will get to the correct recipient. Monetary gifts or gift cards may also be donated by dropping them at the Giving Tree, or the information Center.

There may be a need for some Secret Shoppers to fulfill some of the requests. If you would like to participate in this way, please watch for more information, or speak to Jamie Trewin.

Please consider getting involved with this wonderful ministry opportunity, offered by the Global Missions and Local Outreach Team.

Many blessings from your Giving Tree Coordinator  
Jamie Trewin - 920-948-6973



## Adopt-A-Soldier

Beginning Nov. 10th there will be a tree set up in the narthex for our men and women in the service. We are collecting items again this year to bring a little holiday spirit to them as they are away from their families, and need to feel the love of Jesus and family back home.

Be sure to keep your items small (travel sizes) as they are easier to pack. Also, be sure to include a letter with your gifts. If you want to write a letter to a specific soldier we will be sure it gets in their packages. We are asking each Discipleship class if they would be interested in having their kids write a letter or draw a picture. It's also a great opportunity for small groups to work together to create their own care package for a certain soldier.

We will supply boxes and will be taking care of shipping. We are again looking for people interested in baking cookies to go with packages.

**1 Corinthians 9:7 says: "For God loves a cheerful giver."**

If you feel like you are unable to shop but still would like to get involved, we can have someone shop for you or you can give a monetary donation to help with shipping if you prefer. Write a check out to church and mark as: Adopt a Soldier Project and we will take care of the rest. **The cost to ship one box is \$18.45 APO, In Country \$19.95.**

Please pick a tag off the tree in narthex (no need to register) and purchase items and return to church by **Dec. 1**. If you choose to bake cookies they need to be returned to church by **Dec. 1**. Please place your items in the trunk or under the tree in the narthex.

**If you have a loved one serving please call the church office with their name and address or contact Bonnie Springborn (coordinator) [bonnbonn1@charter.net](mailto:bonnbonn1@charter.net) or 923-0500 to update any new addresses.**

# The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

***“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today ... let us begin.”*** Mother Teresa

***Yesterday*** ... I have seen many yesterdays in my life. Yesterday with all its cares...with its mistakes and blunders...it's pains and sorrows. There have been many yesterdays with good times, exciting events, days filled with joy and happiness.

The Yesterdays have passed and all the money in the world won't bring them back.

I think then of those ***Tomorrows***, with all of the anticipation, worry, and concern over what might be. I think too of the promise that tomorrow holds for each of us, whose hope is found in God's grace.

So that leaves us with ***Today***. As Christians, I wonder if we really consider just how important and precious today is for God's plan for our lives. We may be concerned with what this day has in store, yet we cannot let worry rob us of the beautiful blessing God has given us called "Today". Nor can we let the happenings of yesterday and the concerns for tomorrow do anything to ruin today.

One day, for all believers, the yesterdays, todays, and tomorrows will be no more. We will be left with eternity. Eternity in our heavenly home with the Faithful God who created us. The only measure of time will be... *forever*. The God who has promised to see us through all of the yesterdays, todays, and tomorrows of our earthly walk, has promised this reward to all who walk in His light, all who accept God's Son Jesus as Lord of their lives.

It isn't the experiences of today that stand in our way of having a great day. It is the remorse and bitterness of something that happened yesterday and the dread of what might happen tomorrow that will bring us down. Instead, let's look at today for what it is ... a blessing from God. ***“We have only today ... let us begin.”***

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***Sometimes ... all you can do is leave it in God's hands ... and wait.***

At some point, in each of our lives, we will be faced with decisions so difficult, that we don't know where to turn or what to do. There will be times when God will make our pathway very clear, with a picture of what we should do. Then there will be those times when the God's silence and the lack of direction will leave us confused and perplexed. It is at times like this when we need to remember that God is never absent from a believer's life, and though we may feel alone ... WE ARE NEVER ALONE.

At times like these, we need to rely on the word of God for strength and the grace to keep us going. Jesus made it very clear, for He said in John 16:33 ... ***“In this world you will have trouble ...”***

But, remember these few things ...

God is involved in every detail of our lives ... not just the big stuff. His word promises ... ***“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.”*** Psalm 23:4 God reigns over all things ... nothing can happen unless He allows it first. What God says ... goes, and we can't change His plan for our life, even if we wanted to. Remember too that God is our good, good Father, who loves us and works all things for our benefit, even if we don't understand. ***“For God so loved us, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish ... but have eternal life.”*** John 3:16

Lastly, remember that God has a plan, and its much, much bigger and better than we could ever begin to comprehend. ***“For I know the plans I have for you”, says the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you ... plans to give you hope and a future.”*** Jeremiah 29:11

Don't understand what God is up to? That's OK, we're not supposed to. We serve a God whose ways are way too mysterious and lofty for us to understand. But we can lean on Him for healing, direction, hope, and peace ... and He will never fail to give us comfort and reassurance. Your Anchor will hold, even when you don't understand the storms you are going through!

***Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!***



# Ministry Schedules

## PRAYER PARTNERS

9:30 am		(Only ONE service)
11/03	Tony & Ginny Ferdinand	Diane Nick
11/10	Diane Nick	Chuck & Toni Stanley
11/17	Chuck & Toni Stanley	Judy Albert
11/24	Judy Albert	Greg & Robin Fuhrman
11/25	Greg & Robin Fuhrman	

## FIRST IMPRESSION GREETERS

11/03	Blue Team
11/10	Brown Team
11/17	Green Team
11/24	Purple Team
11/25	Orange Team

## TUESDAY PRAYER

11/05	<i>Rick Titel</i>
11/12	<i>Dan Roberts</i>
11/19	<i>Bill Schuerman</i>
11/26	<i>Alex Kolb</i>

## NOV. USHERS

Keith Bestul
Byron Van Egtern
Craig Kastein
Mark Tryon - sub

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

9:30

11/03	Traci Soeller & Leo Soeller
11/10	Mary Senn & Russel Murphy
11/17	Tracy Roggentine & Amelia Vegter
11/24	Jenny Smet & Rebekah Titel



Please remember there is only  
**ONE SERVICE**

## WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

	COMPUTER	VIDEO	SOUND
11/03	Keith Bestul	Dy Fairbanks	Ty Fairbanks
11/10	Dane Vegter	Cole Vegter	Grant B & Josh S
11/17	Rob Murphy	Micah B & David R	Sergio Hernandez
11/24	RB Murphy	Michael Rutherford	Josh Switzer
11/27	TBD	THANKSGIVING	EVE



163 18th Street  
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
 office@gracechurchfdl.org  
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

## GRACE CHURCH STAFF

**Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ***

**Lead Pastor - *Barry Vegter***

cell: 948-5702 email: vegter@gracechurchfdl.org

**Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart***

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.org

**Family Pastor - *Brad Rutherford***

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org

**Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain***

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.org

**Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Tittel***

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.org

**Office Assistant - *Beth Rutherford***

**Custodian - *Mark Jopling***

**Pastor on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

(920) 948-9262

### Offering & Attendance

9/1/2019	\$11,471	251
9/8/2019	\$7,529	205
9/15/2019	\$7,080	226
9/22/2019	\$14,451	238
9/29/2019	\$7,857	186

August Weekly Ave: \$9,677.60 221

**Weekly average needed to meet budget  
 \$10,117**

Year to Date Givings \$124,998

Year to Date Expenses \$128,945

***Totals reflect September month-end totals***

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the  
**DECEMBER Words of Grace**  
 to the church office by **November 15th.**  
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or  
 office@gracechurchfdl.org

**Office Hours are:**  
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm  
 Friday 7:30am-11:30am