



P R E S B Y T E R I A N
G R A C E

8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / www.gracewoodlands.org

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff & Officers

David J. Wilcher

Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos

Pastor of Children's Ministries

Todd Crusey

Pastor of Community Life

Grayson Baird

Director of Student Ministries

Elders

Dan Brink

Jon Green

Mike Hume

Mark Moore

Charlton Wimberly

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mike Bellin

Amy Bottorff

Matt Bottorff

Justin Chandler

Jeff Cranford

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Steve Kovach

Rob McIntosh

Mike Ryan

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

"How did these few men, with their pitiful lack of education and resources, make such an effective impact on their civilization with the gospel while we, with far more going for us, are on the whole making so little?"

- Michael Green
Thirty Years the Changed the World

"Key to everything is the sense of our being sent in to our respective contexts as a worldwide, interdependent church. As Jesus predicted in Acts 1:8, across generations he has sent us, his people, throughout the world as his witnesses."

-J. Nelson Jennings
God: The Real Superpower

"The Church is the pilgrim people of God. It is on the move - hastening to the ends of the earth to beseech all men to be reconciled to God, and hastening to the end of time to meet its Lord who will gather all into one... it cannot be understood rightly except in a perspective which is at once missionary and eschatological."

-Lesslie Newbegin
The Household of God

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

July 9, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-4

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

People: with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

People: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever,

and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Praise the Lord!

¹ As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Song of Praise

Steadfast

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Abide with Me

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:10-11

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord,
“and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.
I, even I, am the Lord,
and apart from me there is no savior.

Confession of Sin

Leader:

& People:

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

from Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Song of Thanksgiving

The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

The Peace of God and Announcements

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: *And also with you.*

*If parents prefer, children 4 years old – 2nd grade
are invited to attend Children's Church in the Education Building at this time.*

The Prayers of the People (concluded with the Lord's prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen!

_____ *Commitment* _____

The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give.

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he

was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Sermon

Mr. Todd Crusey

TAKING THE FIRST STEP
WITNESSES AND MISSIONARIES: THE GOSPEL IN BOOKS OF ACTS

Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

Prayer for those not communing:

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Grace Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the outer circle of the tray. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

Song of Commitment

O Church Arise

Benediction²

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

The pastoral staff and other church leaders are available following the service to pray with you or to answer your questions about the Christian faith or Grace Church.

Worship Music³

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Brent Allmon, saxophone
T.J. Darst, bass
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar

David Kang, violin
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

² The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.

³ All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION*®, *NIV*® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by *Biblica, Inc.*™ Used by permission

Sermon Notes

Acts 1:1-11

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

WITNESSES AND MISSIONARIES: THE GOSPEL IN BOOKS OF ACTS

Grace Presbyterian Bulletin Board

Welcome, Guests! We are excited you're here with us today. We hope that you were warmly welcomed and would love for you to be a part of Grace. Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information on the back of the bulletin, tear it off and drop it in the offering plate or give it on to an usher.

Parents of Infants - Three-Yr-Olds: Our nursery and early-childhood classes provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our workers welcome the opportunity to love your child! When using the nursery, please check in and label all items (bags, cups, etc.) with your child's name. If you need assistance or have any questions about the Nursery, please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Natalie Webster, at nursery@gracewoodlands.org.

Cry Room: A cry room is available for the comfort of our new parents in order to ensure that everyone enjoys our services. It is located in the back of the sanctuary and it is well equipped (comfortable rockers, changing table, etc.) but if you are in need of anything, one of our ushers will be glad to assist.

New Database, Mobile App and Online Giving Portal:

- **Database:** The link for the new database can be found on the Church website under the Connect tab. If you were in the old database, new login instructions were emailed to you. If you did not receive them, contact Dianna in the office.
- **Grace Church Mobile App (Elexio Community by Elexio)** is available for iPhone and Android and can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. In addition to giving users access to the church directory and events, the mobile app also offers a mobile check-in option for the Nursery. To log on, replace "Domain" with [gracewoodlands](http://gracewoodlands.org) and use your database username and password for the app.
- **Online Giving Portal.** If you have been giving online or would like to give online, you will need to setup a new account. This link can be found on our website under the Care/Give tab.
- **If you have questions,** please contact the church office at admin@gracewoodlands.org or 281-296-0911.

Sunday Mornings at Grace

8:30 am Prayer	10:30 am Worship
9:30 am Christian Education Classes	11:45 am Intercession
10:15 am Coffee Break	

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry: To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. We would like to invite you to be a part of this uprising at 8:30 each Sunday morning in the Prayer Room (114). Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

Community Groups are on Summer break and will return in the fall. If you would like to learn more about leading or hosting a group, please contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

GraceLife - 5th Sunday Fellowship Cookout: Our next Fifth Sunday Fellowship is scheduled for July 30th. Please join us immediately after worship for a church wide Cookout. GraceLife will provide Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Drinks! Please sign up in the Narthex to bring sides and dessert. Fifth Sunday Fellowship is a church wide luncheon held at the end of every month with five Sundays. All are welcome!

Adult Christian Education Classes: New Sunday Morning Classes begin next week. This morning was the last of our amazing summer one- off series. Much much thanks to those who taught and shared, encouraging us to more deeply enter into the grace of God. New series begin next week, which promise to be equally inspiring. We hope you will join us.

- **From Eden to New Jerusalem: A Thematic Overview of the Bible** Charlton Wimberly
The Bible contains 66 books written over the course of centuries by dozens of authors. Yet in its entirety it tells a single story about a God who relentlessly pursues his children, and is preparing a home for himself among them. Please join Charlton for 6 weeks of tracing important themes that tie Scripture together from Genesis to Revelation. As we go, we will seek better understanding of God's mission in the world and how it bears on our mission.

- **Gospel Rescue from Secret Shame** Damon Webster
God promised through Isaiah "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced". If you are like many of us, you often feel ashamed, confounded, and your disgraces run a "Greatest Hits" reel in your mind as soon as you are convinced that you have gotten over them. Join Damon Webster in this 6 week course about how the Gospel sweeps in to lift the pain of worthlessness, giving us tools to speak into the lives of our friends and family, many of whom may feel deeply rejected. We'll talk about the honor culture that can cause us to feel, as the Avett Brothers eloquently sang, boatloads of shame. Whether you are steeped in unspoken pain or just curious as to what the Bible says on the subject, we hope you will join us.
Join us weekly at 9:30 – upstairs in the Education Building

Children's Christian Education classes are offered for Preschoolers (2-3yrs old), Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1st-2nd Grade, 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade. Classes meet in the Education Building at 9:30 am 2nd Grade and under are on the 1st floor, 3rd Grade and above meet on the 2nd floor.

- **Children's Church** is offered for children ages 4 years old through 2nd grade. During passing of the peace, the children line up with their leader in the back of the sanctuary to exit worship. During the song of communion, children will rejoin their families to observe communion with the rest of the church body. We gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's sermon. We also collect a children's offering during the service. This format is designed to model worship for our children and teach them the importance of meeting together as the body of Christ.
- **SNiCK and 56ers:** We are on break for the summer! We will resume in September!
- **PlayGroup** is an active gathering of moms and dads making space for fun, friendship, and adventure for our young children. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. To get involved, contact Deborah Kovach or Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.

Student Ministry:

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15, we gather to know more deeply about our Lord and Savior and who are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings! Jr. High in room 206 and Sr. High in room 205.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship):** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat together, laugh together, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm and Sr. High meets 7-8:30 pm. **SNF is on summer vacation, join us for some great fellowship opportunities throughout the summer.**
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **July 10-15-** As high school students leave for RYM Florida, please be in prayer for our group as we travel, deep enjoyment and fellowship with one another and the gospel truth to illuminate in all of our lives in a very real and powerful way.
 - **July 17-** Joint 56ers/Youth Astros game- We are going to head down to Minute Maid Park for an evening game with the Astros playing the Mariners. Please RSVP to Grayson for an accurate headcount for seats in cars and ticket orders. RSVP by Tuesday, July 11th to secure a ticket!
 - **July 19-** Girls' Crafternoon- Calling all girls who like painting or baking cookies. Join Grayson up at Grace for an afternoon of arts and cookies!
 - **July 20-**Dude's Paintball- If you're a guy looking for something fun to do on Thursday, July 20th-join Luke for a paintball game. More information to come.
- **Summer Intern Contact Information:** We are so excited to have Luke Johnston join us for the summer serving our Student Ministry.

Women's Ministry Events and More! Please join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), **Thursday, August 3rd** we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Kristen Power.

Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for **Tuesday, July 18th**. Join us for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.

GraceCares:

- **Autumn Grove:** Just a few minutes drive from Grace, Autumn Grove Cottage, a sixteen resident assisted living home, provides care to men and women with Alzheimer's. A small group from Grace visits roughly once a month for about 30 minutes or so to sing, pray and visit with the residents. Children are always welcome.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are many seasons and events in life when we all need the help and encouragement of our community. The Meals Ministry seeks to enter into these times by providing meals and other means of support. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Rhonnie Bellin.
- **Serve and Care for Grace Church members and congregation.** If you would like to know the best way to support and help those who might have financial or physical needs in our church and community, we would encourage you to consider giving to the Deacon's Fund. It is through the deacons and their ministry that Grace church provides for, supports and comes alongside those who are in need. If you have questions, please contact Matt Bradshaw
- **Prayer Ministry:** Our desire at Grace is that we take seriously the privilege of prayer and there are several ways you can participate. If you become aware of a prayer need, please communicate this to us in one of the following ways:
 - In writing: Fill out the back page of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
 - By phone: 281-296-0911 (Church Office)

Your requests will be communicated to our Church Staff, Officers, and our Prayer Team. If you would like to be on our Prayer Team, please let us know.

Missions Service Opportunities & Events: Contact John Zeigler for more information or to be added to our GraceMissions email list or to connect with a missions team advocate.

- **July Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of July.
 - Bill Thomas, PCA Southwest Church Planting Network
 - Rev. Jason & Sarah Pickard, RUF Int'l @ Texas A&M University
- **The PCA Global Missions Conference** in Dallas, November 10-12, 2017 - Grow your heart for missions by hearing from experts how to effectively support and encourage missions and missionaries. Learn about some of MTW's more specialized missions as well as where they work in the world. Come early for Welcoming the Refugee, a timely pre-conference that will lead you to dive deep into this critical global need. Nov. 9-10, 2017. Contact Wendy Dempsey to register with our group no later than July 24th!! For more information or to register, contact Wendy.
- **Study Tour to Israel** February 25 - March 6, 2018. Come with Jan Johnston and Revealing Journey Ministries to Israel. 10 Day tour includes flights, lodging, tour and more. \$3695 from LAX. Visit the Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, the Jordan River, Dead Sea, Jerusalem and more. Contact Jan for more info. Seats are going fast.
- **Local Mission Partners**
 - Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
 - Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
 - Cornerstone Recovery | The Woodlands, TX
 - Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
 - Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
 - Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
 - Three Local Refugee Pastors: Pastor Thong Lun & Pastor Mang Tiak -Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, Pastor Bhadra Rai & wife, Ruth -Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston, Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang -International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | Houston, TX
 - Blake & Ryan Arnoult | RUF | University of Houston
 - Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
 - Ben & Beth Hailey | RUF | Texas A&M University
 - Dennis & Jane Hermerding | King's Cross Church | Cypress, TX
 - Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX
 - Bill Thomas | PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX
 - Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX
 - Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Mission Partners**

- Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
- John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
- Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
- Open position | RUF | Trinity University
- Nathan & Falon Moretto | New City Presbyterian Church | Royal Oak, MI
- David & Kelly Richter | Christ the King Presbyterian Church | Somerville, MA
- Francis A. Schaeffer Institute | Covenant Theological Seminary | Saint Louis, MO
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) | Atlanta, GA
- Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio

• **International Mission Partners**

- Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University
- Open position | RUF International | University of Texas
- Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Toyosu, Tokyo, Japan
- Charlie & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
- Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
- David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon
- Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
- Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for June 2017.

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	61,500	369,000
Actual General Fund	69,611	368,460
Variance	8,111	(540)

Banners Explained: In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The Banner on right symbolizes the Trinity, the belief that God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet, one God. No part of the Trinity is ever out of alignment (moving independently) from the other parts of the Trinity. The circle represents eternity. The circle is frequently seen with the Trinitarian symbol, representing the eternal qualities of each part of the Godhead.

On the left, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God’s love as shown through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. The IHS in the center is the abbreviated name of Jesus in the greek and is a very old symbol, dating back to the first century. Each panels focuses on a central aspect of His work. The cross is framed with grapes, a symbol of our Lord's blood shed on the cross for us.

Missed a Recent Sunday Worship? MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at www.gracewoodlands.org under Media. You can listen online, download them or subscribe to the Podcast. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office @ 281-296-0911.

Church Office Information: Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M – F | Phone: 281.296.0911 | Fax: 281.419.4345
Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org | Website: www.gracewoodlands.org

We are glad to have you as our guest today. Please use this page to let us know of your visit and to make us aware of any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. You may deposit this page in the offering plate as it comes by, or give it to an usher or greeter. Have confidence that no one will call or drop by your home; this is for us to have a record of your visit or your prayer requests.

Name & Email: _____

Spouse & Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Children & Grade: _____

Please let us know if you are:

- Visitor Regular Attendee One time visit from out of town

I am interested in learning about:

- Community Groups Music Usher, Greeter Sunday Volunteer
 Children's Ministry Women's Ministry Student Ministry Men's Ministry

Prayer Request:

- I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

- I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: _____.

Prayer of Belief...

*Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more
sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am
more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.*

*I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, bearing my
punishment and offering forgiveness.*

*Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn
from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.*