



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
Children's Ministries

Elders
*Dan Brink
Jon Green
Mark Moore
Andy Yung*

Deacons
*Matt Bradshaw
Mike Bellin
Justin Chandler
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Steve Kovach
Rob McIntosh
Mike Ryan
Sunny Yung*

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

Reflections

Nothing is little in God's service.

– George Herbert (1593-1633)

“The more I love humanity in general the less I love man in particular. In my dreams,” he said, “I have often come to making enthusiastic schemes for the service of humanity...and yet I am incapable of living in the same room with anyone for two days together.... In twenty-four hours I begin to hate the best of men: one because he's too long over his dinner; another because he has a cold and keeps on blowing his nose. I become hostile to people the moment they come close to me... Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams.”

– Fyodor Dostoevsky
The Brothers Karamazov

Jesus has laid aside his life for us all, and the debt which we owe to him is to be discharged by our subjection to our neighbors in loving service. Our neighbor is the appointed agent authorized to receive what we owe the Master.

– Lesslie Newbigin
The Light Has Come

The common life is a means of Christian formation and discipleship for faithful expression of the church's participation in how people care for one another, generate new patterns of relationship, and take seriously the call to serve their neighbors – that sets the church apart, even more than its building, its programs, its pastor, or its preaching... When people know they are deeply loved, cared for, accepted, and wanted by a community, they are transformed by the experience... Biblically defined, the church is not merely a collection of individuals but a social body built around Christ that focuses on God's reign.

– Mark Gornik
To Live in Peace

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

August 19, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 9:1,2

Leader: We will give thanks to you, Lord, with all our hearts;
We will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

All: *We will be glad and rejoice in you;
We will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*

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

Song of Praise

God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Fairest Lord Jesus

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

*Heavenly Father, you asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of others. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you –
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.
Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.*

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Song of Thanksgiving

Thy Mercy My God

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

Matthew 25:14-30

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

INVESTING & INTEREST
THE STORIES OF JESUS

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!

Song of Communion

Here in This Place

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. Gluten free wafers are provided in cups in the center of the cup trays. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

Song of Commitment

We Are the Body of Christ

Benediction²

May our Lord Jesus Christ,
the One who came with grace and truth,
also fill your hearts with grace and truth,
as you serve him in the days ahead.
And may the joy of the Lord – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –
be your strength. Amen.

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.

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.

Worship Music³

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

Brent Allmon, saxophone
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar
David Kang, violin

Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

Sermon Notes

Matthew 25:14-30
INVESTING & INTEREST
THE STORIES OF JESUS

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

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, Kate Weimar, at mothersdayout@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.

Sunday Mornings at Grace

8:30 am Prayer

9:30 am Christian Education Classes

10:15 am Coffee Break

10:30 am Worship

11:45 am Intercession

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.

Stated Consistory Meeting: The Consistory is the combination of all the elected officers (deacons and elders) of GPC. On August 23rd, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will be having a stated meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Community Groups: To be part of the church is to be part of a community. Community is where we connect, build relationships, study, and serve together. Groups consisting of 8-15 people meet regularly from September to May.

- **August 26th:** During the Christian Education hour, there will be an extended fellowship time. Join us in the Fellowship Hall where you can sign up for Community Groups. If interested in hosting or leading a group, please contact the church office.

Promotion Sunday for all Children's Christian Ed classes is scheduled for August 26th. New classes will begin on Sunday, September 9th.

Adult Christian Education

- No Sunday morning classes for the next two weeks: August 26th and September 2nd.
- Join us on September 9th for New Sunday Morning Classes at 9:30 am - upstairs in the Education Building.

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 Café (9000 New Trails), Thursday, September 6th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.
- **Rain Walks** is a grief support group for women who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, either recently or in the past. Please come to listen (and share if you like) as we discuss our journeys and ways to "walk" through our loss. We meet once a month, year round. Dates, times and locations vary each meeting. Our upcoming meeting will be at Black Walnut Café on Wednesday August 22nd at 8 am. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.
- **Women's Bible Study** is on summer break and will begin a new study in September.

Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, August 21st. Join us at Wings 'N More (16580 I-45 South) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast takes a break during the summer months. We will resume in September.

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** All children, 8 weeks through 6th Grade, are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. We eat and laugh and play during our time together. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship. We are on break for the summer and will resume in the fall.
- **Teacher Training:** If you are teaching or assisting in Sunday School during the 2018-2019 year, please plan on attending our teacher training on August 26th, during the Sunday School hour. We will begin at 9:30 am. We look forward to being with you!
- **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. * August 24th- Jessica Smith's House

Student Ministry is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade.

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15, we gather to know more deeply about our Lord and Savior and who we are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in room 206.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship):** On Sunday evenings during the school year we gather to eat, fellowship, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. **Sr. High meets 3:30-4:30 pm and Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm. SNF will resume on September 9th.**

GraceCares - Caring for the church and the community: If you are interested in helping with GraceCares and the needs of the church and the community, please contact Joe Tison.

- **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. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are 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. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Rhonnie Bellin.
- **Giving:** If you would like to know the best way to support those who might have 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.

- **August Prayer Partners:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of August.
 - **Bailey Patel, Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry:** Pray that God raises up new teachers and volunteers. Also pray for registration night on Aug 21st and for the first night of class Aug 28th.
 - **Rev. Nathan & Falon Moretto, New City Presbyterian Church, Royal Oak, MI:** Nathan has requested prayer for the next church plant in Detroit scheduled to launch around Easter 2019, for fund-raising and for his leadership of the church plant.
- **English as a Second Language:** Our ESL ministry seeks to serve and love our local community by offering free English language classes to adults. Flyers are available to help spread the word to neighbors and acquaintances who wish to improve their conversation skills. Open Registration Night is Tuesday, Aug 21st, from 7-9 pm. We anticipate a large turnout, and volunteers are needed to help greet new students as we guide them through enrollment. No foreign language skills are required. Contact Bailey Patel for more info at esl@gracewoodlands.org.

- **Local Mission Partners**

Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling | The Woodlands, TX
Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
Brooks & Meredith Harwood | RUF | University of Houston
William & Katherine Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University
Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX
Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX
Pastors Thong Lun & Mang Tiak | Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship | Houston, TX
Pastor Bhadra Rai | Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston | Houston, TX
Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang | International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | TX
Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry
Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

- **National Mission Partners**

Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University
Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio
Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship | Dallas, TX
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
PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX

- **International Mission Partners**

Titus & Crystal Bagby | RUF International | Texas A&M University
Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas
Charles & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, Japan
Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon

Banners Explained: The banner on the right is inscribed with the Latin phrase “Ego sum vitis vera” meaning “I am the true vine”, an expression Jesus used to describe himself in John 15:1. The grapevines

that make up the cross symbolize abundance and fruitfulness; Jesus is the only way to a truly fruitful life. The "IHS" in the center of the cross is an ancient monogram for Jesus.

The banner on the left is inscribed with the Latin phrase " In cruce salus" meaning "In the cross is salvation". Passion flowers symbolize the suffering and death of Christ, and forming a circle in the center is a crown of thorns which Jesus wore on the cross. In the center are the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the alphabet. In Revelation 21:6, Jesus describes himself as the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End.

Grace Online gives users access to the church directory and event calendar. Users can also join groups, print giving statements and give online. If you need any online instructions contact Dianna in the office at 281-296-0911 or admin@gracewoodlands.org.

- **Website:** Grace Online directory link, gracewoodlands.org under the Connect tab.
- **Mobile App (Elexio Community):** can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. To log on, replace "Domain" with gracewoodlands and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **Online Giving:** If you would like to give online, you will need to set up an account, the link is under the Care tab on our website.

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for July 2018.

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Projected Budget	70,858	496,006	
Actual General Fund	66,036	469,010	
Variance	(4,822)	(26,996)	*Based on a 2018 budget of \$850.300

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 office⁴.

⁴ Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911
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.*