



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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.*

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*Church Staff & Officers*

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**David J. Wilcher**  
*Lead Pastor*

**Kyle Bobos**  
*Children's Ministries*

**Elders**  
*Dan Brink  
Jon Green  
Mark Moore  
Andy Yung*

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

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

## Reflections

“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*

Nothing is little in God’s service.

– George Herbert (1593-1633)

A diakonos! A busboy! This is the Christian pattern of greatness and the pattern of Christ’s work....Do we consider it “menial” service to change bedpans in the name of Jesus? Then we are thinking in a worldly way.

– Timothy J. Keller  
*Ministries of Mercy*

Blessed is the servant who esteems himself no better when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, simple, and despicable; for what a man is before God, that he is and nothing more.

– St. Francis of Assisi

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*The Second Sunday in Lent*

March 17, 2019

10:30 a.m.

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

## Preparation for Worship<sup>1</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ *Praise* \_\_\_\_\_

## Call to Worship

**Romans 11:33-36**

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!

*People: Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?*

Leader: Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay them?

All: *For from him and through him and for him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

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

**Song of Praise**

*Jesus, Everlasting King*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

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*Renewal*

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**Scripture Reading**

**Psalm 139:23,24**

Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Confession of Sin**

*Minister &  
People:*

*God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us.*

**Private Confession and Reflection**

## Words of Encouragement

Psalm 130:7,8

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.  
He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*Lord, With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

## 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

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3 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. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 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; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 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.

## Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

### *Living in the Church* *THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS*

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## COMMUNION

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### *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

*Make Me a Servant*

### Benediction<sup>2</sup>

**Romans 15:5,6**

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 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 Music<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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

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*Sermon Notes*

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**Romans 12:1-8**

*Living in the Church*

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

*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](mailto: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	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.

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes:** Join us in a Sunday Morning class next week as we seek to better know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

• **Distinctives of Reformed Doctrine**

**Rob McIntosh**

Does Reform = Rehab? Maybe in a certain light, but for the next 6 weeks we will be looking at the call to the Gospel, our first love, and the things that set our doctrines apart and provide assurance, hope, and comfort. Please join Rob McIntosh for this review.

• **Knowledge Isn't Enough: The Necessity of Spirituality**

**Mark Moore**

- "You can never find your happiness by looking in the place where you lost it."
- "Without the spiritual awakening, we are asleep to the wonders that are right before our eyes."
- "...sometimes my thirst for knowledge can be an attempt to exercise power where I am powerless."
- "How I come to understand God is not nearly as important as knowing that God understands me."

Intrigued and perhaps provoked by these quotes? Join Mark Moore for six weeks of exploring the necessity for which our God designed us.

**Join us weekly at 9:30 - Rooms 201 & 209 in the Education Building**

**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 on Sundays and throughout the week. If you are interested in joining a group or need more information, please email the church office at [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org).

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

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Thursdays morning group meets at 9:30 am in room 207, Linda Martinez is leading and childcare is provided. The Thursdays evening group meets at 7 pm in room 207, Jan Johnston is leading.
- **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. Rain Walks meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am at Black Walnut Cafe in The Woodlands. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Café (9000 New Trails), Thursday, April 4th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott..

**Men's Fraternal:** John Weimar is leading our Men's Ministry Team.

- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast Bible Study** Our next meeting will be on March 26th at 6:30 am at the Egg and I. For more information please contact Steve Wilmoth.
- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, March 21st for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Join us at Wings 'N More (16580 I-45 South) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.

**Student Ministry** is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade. If you have any questions, contact Courtney Lott.

- **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 Sundays 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. If you have any questions, contact Courtney Lott. March 17th there will not be SNF due to Spring Break.
- **Movie Date:** The youth will be going to see Captain Marvel on March 23rd, please see Courtney for details.

**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. Invite your friends and neighbors! There is no SNiCK/56ers tonight, March 17th, due to Spring Break. We will resume next Sunday on March 24th.
- **VBS will be June 3rd-7th.** Mark your calendars! Registration is open and is there is limited space available, so sign up your children today! We will have two work days on Saturday, April 6th and May 4th from 9 am - 12 pm. VBS Set-Up Week will be May 27th - May 31st. See Kyle if you are interested in volunteering in any way.
- **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 Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.

**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. 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)
- **By email:** abfarm@consolidated.net (Al & Barbara Adams)

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 at 936-494-8631.**

• **March Prayer Partners:**

- Rev. Juan Carlos & Ms. Samara Martínez, RUF, Rice University
- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, Beirut, Lebanon

• **ESL Ministry Help Needed:** English as a Second Language classes resume this week! If you are interested in helping with this vital ministry to our community, there are several short-term volunteer opportunities available each Tuesday evening from 7-9pm. No teaching or foreign language experience is required, only a willing heart to love our neighbor. Contact Bailey Patel at [esl@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:esl@gracewoodlands.org) for more information.

• **Local Missions Partners**

- Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling | The Woodlands, TX
- Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
- Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
- Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
- Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
- Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
- Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX
- Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
- Brooks & Meredith Harwood | RUF | University of Houston
- Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry
- Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Missions Partners**

- Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship Dallas | Dallas, TX
- David & Kelly Richter | Somerville Project | Boston, MA
- Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
- William & Katherine Bondurant | RUF | Texas A & M University
- Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
- Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University
- John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
- Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio
- Francis A. Schaeffer Institute, Covenant Theological Seminary | St. Louis, MO
- Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX

• **International Missions Partners**

- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary / Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development | Beirut, Lebanon
- 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
- Mission to The World | Atlanta, GA

**Banners Explained:** The change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.

**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](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org).

- **Website:** Grace Online directory link, [gracewoodlands.org](http://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](http://gracewoodlands.org) 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 February 2019.

	February	YTD
Projected Budget	62,666	125,332
Actual General Fund	55,070	103,259
Variance	(7,596)	(22,073)

**Steps to access your complete Giving statement.** **Step 1-** Log on to our church website at <http://www.gracewoodlands.org/>. **Step 2-** On the home page click on the connect tab/member login. A new window will open. **Step 3-** Click on login **Step 4-** Fill in your username **Step 5-** If you don't know your password click on forgot the password and the computer will send you a temporary password. Once you are on your page, you can reset the password to one that you will remember. Please email Dianna if you have any problems or questions at 281-296-0911/[admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org).

**Missed a Recent Sunday Worship?** MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Office Hours 8:30 am-3 pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911  
Email: [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org) Website: [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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 & Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse, Email & Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Children, Age & 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          Membership

Prayer Request

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

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

*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.*