



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
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Rob McIntosh
Mike Ryan
Sunny Yung*

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

Reflections

For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity. The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determine and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life.

They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and restored to life. They are poor yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things and yet abound in all; they are dishonored and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of and yet are justified; they are reviled and bless; they are insulted and repay the insult with honor; they do good yet are punished as evildoers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. To sum it all up in one word – what the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world.

– Epistle to Diognetus (c. 130 ad)

Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers, are citizens under the same governments, pay the same prices for groceries and gasoline, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground.

The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are ruled by God, and therefore no matter what doubts we endure or what accidents we experience, the Lord will preserve us from evil, he will keep our life.

– Eugene H. Peterson
A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

The call of the church has never been to be political analysts. We're called to be cultural catalysts [who will act as] salt and light. But there are dangers. Salt, if you use too much, becomes embittering. If you sprinkle it, it flavors. Light is annoying if it glares in your face. If fact, you try to push it away. But if you let the warm glow of the light show, people will come to it.

I don't think Jesus called us to rub salt in the world's wounds, or to glare the light a foot from their eyes with a million-candlepower spotlight. He called us to be the warm glow of His love, and the flavoring quality of His nature....God has not called me to be morally indignant. He's called me to be spiritually vibrant.

– Jack Hayford
in Religion Report

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-3

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

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

Song of Praise

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Private Praise and Adoration

_____ **Renewal** _____

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:12,13

“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming those who return to you with open hearts. Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you. Seat us at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, we may feast with deep joy on all that satisfies our hunger. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Romans 8:1-3

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

Sacrament of Baptism

Jack Reddick

Song of Blessing

The Blessing

Song of Thanksgiving

Isaiah 43

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 13:1-14

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

Citizens of the State THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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

Come Ye Sinners

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

The Church's One Foundation

Benediction²

Ephesians 6:23,24

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love

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
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar

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

Romans 13:1-14

Citizens of the State

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Community Group Questions

1. When you hear the word policeman, what is your instant response? IRS? President?
2. What was the political system during the time that Paul wrote Romans? How is that particularly important when looking at verses 1-14?
3. What should be the Christian response to the government and those in positions of power? Is that our attitude? Why or why not?
4. When is it appropriate to disobey a government or some in authority? Give examples of a government or an authority figure forbidding what God requires or commanding what God forbids.
5. What are the state's responsibilities to the people under them? How and why does the state bear the sword? What does it mean that the state is God's servant for your good?
6. What are some of the ways that the state can promote goodness?
7. What does it mean for Christians to live incarnationally? What are we to put flesh on? Why does this take intimate involvement in our communities?
8. What does it mean that we owe a debt to our community? How is that the opposite of using a community for what we can get out of it?
9. What are some ways that we could love our community better?

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.

New Door Locking Procedure During Worship: We will be locking the two entrances in the education wing (the one by the elevator and the main office entrance). This is primarily to increase the safety and protection of our children and those serving in the nursery and Children's Church. That means if you, or anyone, arrives after 10:45 am, they will be guided by signs to enter Grace through the main sanctuary doors where there will be someone from the Usher Team there to assist them.

Grace Easter Egg Hunt – Hop on over for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Invite your friends and neighbors to join our community tradition.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 20th **Time:** 10:00 am– 12:00 pm
- **Location:** Cranebrook Park, 11800 Cranebrook Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77382
- **Food and Entertainment:** – Easter Egg Hunt – Inflatable Bounce Houses – Food and Fellowship
– Get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny (10 am and 11:30 am)
- **Easter Eggs Needed:** Please bring donations of plastic Easter Eggs and candy, they can be filled with **only prepackaged candy or small toys** (no chocolate, not peanuts please). You may drop your eggs off in the baskets located in the church Narthex.
- **Easter Egg Brunch:** Brunch food needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. We appreciate muffins, breakfast tacos, donuts, fruit or any other Brunch treat. Please see the sign-up sheet on table in the Church Narthex.

Singers for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday: Anyone interested in joining us to sing on Palm Sunday and Easter meet in room 108 at 9 am on Sunday mornings. High School students through adult are welcome, and we would love to have you join our ensemble. Contact Debra Moses for further information.

Easter Lilies: If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to place in the sanctuary for Easter morning, in honor of or in memory of someone, please pick up an order card from the table at the back of the sanctuary. Place the card and your check, earmarked lily, in the offering plate. Sunday, April 14th is the deadline to place your order. Please remember to take your lily home after the Easter Service.

Adult Christian Education: New classes begin next Sunday! Join us weekly at 9:30 in rooms 201/209.

- **Imagine the Unimaginable - The Resurrection Narratives** Andy Yung
"He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried." How empty that would be if the story ended there; how hopeless. This is where we find the followers of Jesus on Holy Saturday. But then something happened that radically upset the expected outcome. How often have we immersed ourselves in the reality of these events, placed ourselves in the shoes of His followers, and been captivated by the unimaginable wonder of the empty tomb? Join us as we explore the Resurrection through the eyes of the disciples on that first Easter.
- **A Study of Hell - That We Might Better Know the Light** Dan Brink
Our Lord had much to say about what He termed "outer darkness". Yet, understandably, we rarely think about the doctrine of Hell, but neglecting it is to our detriment. C.H. Spurgeon said, "Think lightly of Hell, and you will think lightly of the cross." No doubt it is a difficult subject, but you may be surprised as to how this study can give you a deeper appreciation for our Lord's work on our behalf and a greater heart for those who do not yet know Him. Come join Dan on this worthwhile journey to see what Scripture says (and doesn't say) about this important doctrine.

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.

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 April 9th 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, April 18th 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.

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!
- **VBS will be June 3rd-7th.** Mark your calendars! Registration is open and 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.

GraceKids is a Mother's Day Out program for children ages 8 weeks to 4 years old. Classes are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 2 pm. Registration is currently open for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information you can email Kate Weimar at mothersdayout@gracewoodlands.org.

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)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.

- **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 are in session through May 21st. 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 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

- 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.

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for February 2019.

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

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.

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.*