



Winter Retreat Recap

Church Planting Partners

A Thrive Class for 5th & 6th Graders

Ways to Serve at Grace

**WHY DO WE GO
ON SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS?**

GRACE INSIDER

APRIL 2024

volunteer fair

**The best way to connect
is to get involved.**

Whether it's welcoming visitors,
playing in the worship band,
helping in kids' classes, in the
parking lot, or at the soundboard,
everyone can serve.

Current volunteers and ministry
leaders will be on hand to explain
options and answer your questions
about the many opportunities to
be involved at Grace.

Stop into the gym after either
service!

**April 21
9:30am & 11:15am
In the gym after each
service**

Questions?

*Contact Ryan McFadden,
Volunteer Engagement Director,
ryanm@graceb3.org, (319) 626-2040*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and sign up for events
by tapping on the events or visit
graceb3.org/events



THRIVE

FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS



TOP TO BOTTOM The Great Grace Bake Off Get your Costco sample fix by trying a variety of our congregation's best baked items and vote for your favorite! 4/7 • **Thrive for 5th & 6th Graders** A 4-week interactive class during 1st service begins on 4/7 • **Membership Class** 4/14 • **Parents Roundtable Discussion** Come get encouraged and equipped to make disciples of the next generation in your own household! 8:30 or 10:15am on 5/5

THE MISSIONS COURSE

volunteer fair

apr 21

CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

TOP TO BOTTOM The Missions Course Discover your God-given mission on Sundays 4/14-5/19 • **Volunteer Fair** Find ways you can serve on 4/21 • **Child Dedication Class** This class is designed to equip parents who wish to dedicate themselves before the church to raise their children in the Lord. 10:15-11:30am on 5/5



THRIVE

FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS
4-week Thrive class

*By Children's Ministry Lead
Coordinator Natasha Miller*

OUR DESIRE IS FOR KIDS TO DIG INTO GOD'S WORD IN ORDER TO KNOW WHO GOD IS AND TO FIND ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS. In the four weeks of class, we will address "optical illusions" that kids may hear from people at school, in their community, or even be thinking themselves:

- *If I mess up, God will reject me*
- *Stuff will make me happy*
- *Jesus was just a good man*
- *There are many ways to heaven*

At this stage of their lives, kids are asking deep questions and the world is offering them many answers, most of which are lies. We use these four weeks of class as an opportunity to work with these kids to dive deeply into God's word for answers. Over the years of offering this class, we have seen kids be vulnerable, share what they are really thinking, and ask good questions. It is a safe place for kids to come and be open and honest in a class of their peers who are usually struggling with the same issues. Please be in prayer for the kids who will attend and those of us who are teaching to impart the truth of the gospel in a deep and meaningful way. 🌿

Class will take place during the 8:30am service in April.

backyard bible club 2024
coming soon

happy Campers

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH GOD

volunteers needed

interested? contact Natasha at
natasham@graceb3.org





SUNDAY, APRIL 7 AFTER 2ND SERVICE

THE GREAT GRACE BAKE OFF

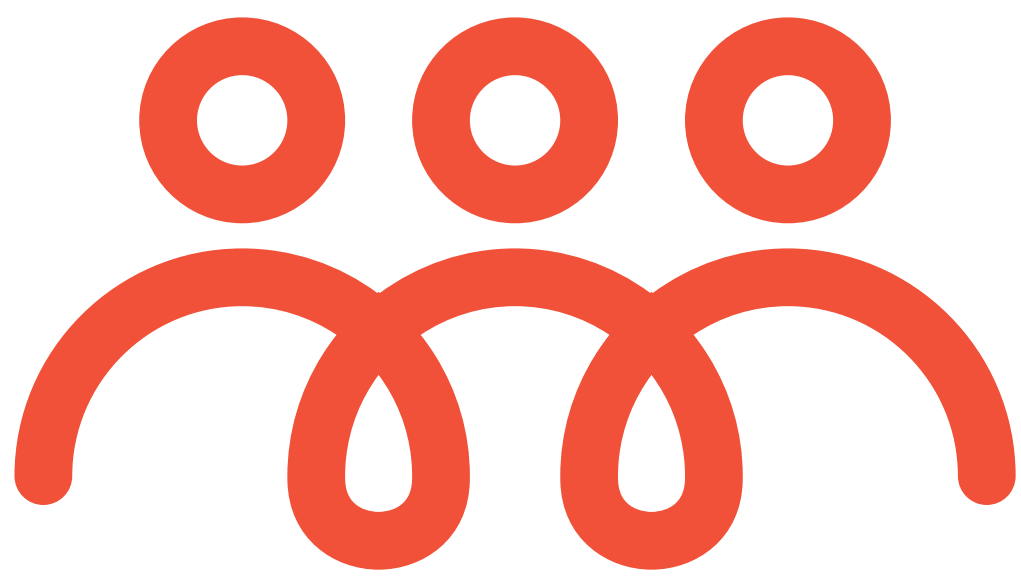
**IF YOU BAKE IT, YOU CAN ENTER IT!
TRY 'EM ALL AND VOTE FOR
YOUR FAVORITE!**



**WANT TO BAKE?
SIGN UP AT [GRACEB3.ORG/COOK](https://graceb3.org/cook)**

**JOIN US FOR THE GRACE BAKE OFF IN THE
GYM AFTER 2ND SERVICE ON APRIL 7!**

**Get your Costco sample fix by trying a variety
of our congregation's best baked items and
vote for your favorite! Enjoy some good food,
good company, and conversation.**



CHURCH PLANTING PARTNERS

By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE LEADERSHIP OF GRACE CHURCH, INCLUDING THE ELDER BOARD, THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM, PASTOR BROOKS, AND ME, HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO JOINING HARBOR NETWORK.

Harbor is a non-denominational association of churches from across the country with the goal of seeing churches thrive. They say on their website, *“Our vision is to see the gospel of Jesus Christ bring renewal to people and places across the United States and beyond through movements of thriving churches.”* Grace values these things as well, and Harbor has experience in planting churches as a means of bringing renewal and growth. In January, Grace became a member church of Harbor Network.

We joined because we wanted to partner with other churches and believers. Our connection to Harbor is completely voluntary, and if at any time we decide we would like to leave, we can. While Harbor has doctrinal guidelines, they are not a denomination or primarily concerned with guarding our doctrine. Instead, they focus on providing resources, training, equipping, and providing encouragement. As part of the network, Grace will both receive and give.

First, Harbor will help us better equip ourselves to plant churches. Grace Community Church is on the path to planting a church on Kansas Avenue by Interstate 380 in the next few years. Our recent efforts to plant a church in Riverside and assist the group that is planting in Amana have shown us that we have a lot to learn about the church planting process. **Harbor has over ten years of experience** in planting churches and helping communities of believers come together around a common purpose. Through personal connections, teaching, one-to-one guidance, and other support, Grace will benefit from our membership in Harbor Network as we take on church planting again in the near future.

Next, Grace staff and lay leaders will have opportunities to assist other network churches. Though we don't have significant church planting experience, we do have expertise in various other areas: counseling, safety and security, preaching and teaching, and more. Many of our staff and some of our elders and volunteer leaders will have the opportunity to connect with other churches in the network to train, teach, support, and equip them.

We will address the financial cost of joining the network in the annual business meeting handouts and during the meeting discussion time. Until then, if you have questions or would like to know more, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Josh (joshh@graceb3.org) or visit the Harbor Network website (www.harbornetwork.com). 🌿

CHILD DEDICATION CLASSES

MAY 5 • 10:15-11:30AM
REGISTER AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

This class is designed to equip parents who wish to dedicate themselves before the church to raise their children in the Lord. It will address the biblical foundation for dedication, the parent's role, the church's responsibility, and the rationale for why we do not practice infant baptism. This class must be taken before parents can participate in the dedication ceremony.

*North Liberty ceremony will be Sunday, May 12
during morning services.*

membership class

april 14 • 10:15–11:30am

register at graceb3.org/events





By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn

We hosted our annual Winter Retreat at the end of January and I wanted to take a moment to share some of the highlights with the church! On Friday night, roughly **95 students and volunteers gathered** for worship, games, and an introductory session on the weekend's theme, Embrace. We began with a call to embrace Christ as Lord and submit ourselves to him, either for the first time or for anyone who has proclaimed to be believers but has embraced other things as their source of identity, to truly walk in obedience. Over the course of the weekend, students had the opportunity to hear from many different speakers on various topics, including fighting temptations, practicing spiritual disciplines, recognizing the marks of godly friendships, family and dating relationships, and sharing their faith, to name a few. It was an amazing weekend filled with laughter, worship, teaching, and building deeper (and new) relationships. It was awesome to see **students actively participating and discussing how God's word impacts the way we act, think, and believe** as we relate to the culture and the world around us. We also discussed how we could navigate these areas with wisdom and hope as we embrace Christ, biblical community, and the call to love and reach the lost with the gospel, especially where there is little or no desire to honor God. 🌿

support & encouragement in disciplining your kids

PARENTS ROUNDTABLE* SERIES



May 5 8:30 OR 10:15AM


Parents, you've heard us say "Grace partners with you to disciple your kids." What does it mean for you to disciple your kids? What might it look like?

Come get encouraged and equipped to make disciples of the next generation in your own household! We are in this together!

Questions?

Contact Cindy at cindys@graceb3.org

**no registration required*



Are You Ready to Take Your Next Step?

*By Volunteer Engagement Director
Ryan McFadden*

IN A CHURCH OUR SIZE, IT'S EASY TO WALK IN ON SUNDAY AND THINK THAT YOU AREN'T NEEDED TO SERVE BECAUSE EVERYTHING SEEMS TO RUN JUST FINE. You might think that you don't have any skills or gifts that are useful to the church, that you don't have the time to serve, or that nothing would fit into your schedule.

The goal for April's Volunteer Fair is to share opportunities to serve this summer and prep for the fall semester. The church needs individuals who can serve during Sunday services *and* outside of Sunday service times in various ways. Ministries you'll see at the fair include Children's Ministry, Student Ministry, Guest Services, Coffee, Music and A/V, and Outreach to name just a few.

HERE ARE TWO UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE DURING THE SUMMER:

SOD SQUAD (Landscaping)

Do you have a green thumb and enjoy landscape beautification projects? We need volunteers to help with the church property from planting flowers, mowing lawns, removing weeds, and more. If you are interested in volunteering on the Sod Squad, contact Zahk Xalyrion, Facilities Coordinator, at zahkx@graceb3.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Backyard Bible Club and Classrooms)

As one of our biggest volunteer needs in a church, we need volunteers in Children Ministry to help coordinate Backyard Bible Club, help in the classrooms, and prep for the fall semester. Help our Children's Ministry staff by being a volunteer during the summer and upcoming fall semester. Contact Natasha Miller, Children's Ministry Coordinator, at natasham@graceb3.org.

WHY SHOULD I SERVE?

As the church, we need multiple people in different areas using their unique gifts and strengths to help spread the gospel and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. God made you with specific abilities to help serve the body of Christ in ways that others aren't equipped to do. This is reflected in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 when Paul writes to the church of Corinth, saying the body has multiple members and it cannot function with only one part of the body.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

Take the first step by checking out the Volunteer Fair on Sunday, April 21, after service. Meet folks serving in different ministries and let them know if you would like to help. Afterward, a ministry leader will set up a time to meet and discuss the opportunities in more detail, helping you decide what opportunity best fits your strengths and availability.

IF I DO NOT SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE, WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ryan McFadden, Volunteer Engagement Director, at ryanm@graceb3.org. I would love to meet you and help you find opportunities to serve as part of Grace Community Church.

Please consider volunteering and help build up our church body. Everyone plays a vital part in the body of Jesus Christ. 🌿

**volunteer
fair**



apr 21



HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY

SIMULCAST CONFERENCE

*Training & Encouragement for
Foster & Adoptive Families*

Friday April 5 • 9am-5pm

Cost: \$10 *Lunch and snacks provided. Please choose your lunch option during registration.*

Questions? Contact Natasha at natasham@graceb3.org

No childcare provided during the conference.

**REGISTER AT
[GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)**

By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

WHY DO WE GO ON SHORT-TERM MISSIONS?



EVERY YEAR, GRACE SENDS OUT MEN AND WOMEN ON SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIPS. These trips have gone to cities in the US, various African countries, India, Thailand, Haiti, and Guatemala. Recently, most of our trips have been to Guatemala, but we are currently exploring other short-term opportunities.

Why do we do this? Why does Grace consider it important to send people out to serve for a week or two at a time?

There are three significant reasons why we believe short-term missions are an important part of faith life. **The first and most important reason is that Jesus calls his disciples to make disciples.** Certainly, every Christian can and should be making disciples in the place where they live. This includes reaching out to your family, your physical neighbors, and your coworkers. But people of every tribe, nation, and tongue need to hear the gospel and experience its impact in their lives. By participating in short-term missions trips, we all have the

opportunity to obey Christ's call to share the gospel around the whole world.

Next, we want to **encourage vocational missionaries and support regional partners**. Grace believes it is important to actively support individuals who have chosen to move to a new place and engage with a local culture on a long-term basis. Visiting our field staff and other missionaries helps us to encourage them, build stronger connections with them, and also learn what it is like to do the work they do. Sometimes, we can directly contribute to the work they are doing. This can help our field staff partners and also grow us closer to brothers and sisters in Christ that live in other parts of the world.

Finally, short-term missions are important because they offer a **clear "next step" for people who are growing in their faith**. It takes an act of faith to leave the culture and experiences that you are familiar with and go to serve people that are not like you. Grace wants to always give its members and attenders these kinds of opportunities to become more mature believers. It is true that we can grow by serving locally and by engaging our own community with the gospel. But sometimes it can be very helpful to see how God is working in and through circumstances that are not like the ones we know.

Are you seeking to grow in trust, dependence, and faithfulness? Would you like to directly contribute to the support of our field staff and missionary partners? As you have read Jesus' call to make disciples, do you feel led to make disciples of people in other parts of the world? If you are answering "yes" to any of these questions, talk to a pastor, elder, or staff person at Grace. We would love to pray with and for you about the possibility of you participating in an upcoming short-term mission trip through Grace. 🌿



THRIVE

FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

**BEGINS 4/7 · DURING 1ST SERVICE
SIGN UP NOW AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)**

THIS FUN, INTERACTIVE THRIVE CLASS IS DESIGNED FOR ALL 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO DO NOT ATTEND GRACE REGULARLY. THIS 4-WEEK CLASS WILL HELP THEM GROW IN THEIR FAITH BY STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER.