

GRACE INSIDER  
JULY 2024

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT



WHAT ARE THEY AND  
WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

**SUNDAY NIGHT  
DISCUSSION SERIES**



**PRACTICAL TIPS FOR  
FAMILY SIT-TOGETHER**



**SUMMER VOLUNTEER FAIR**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

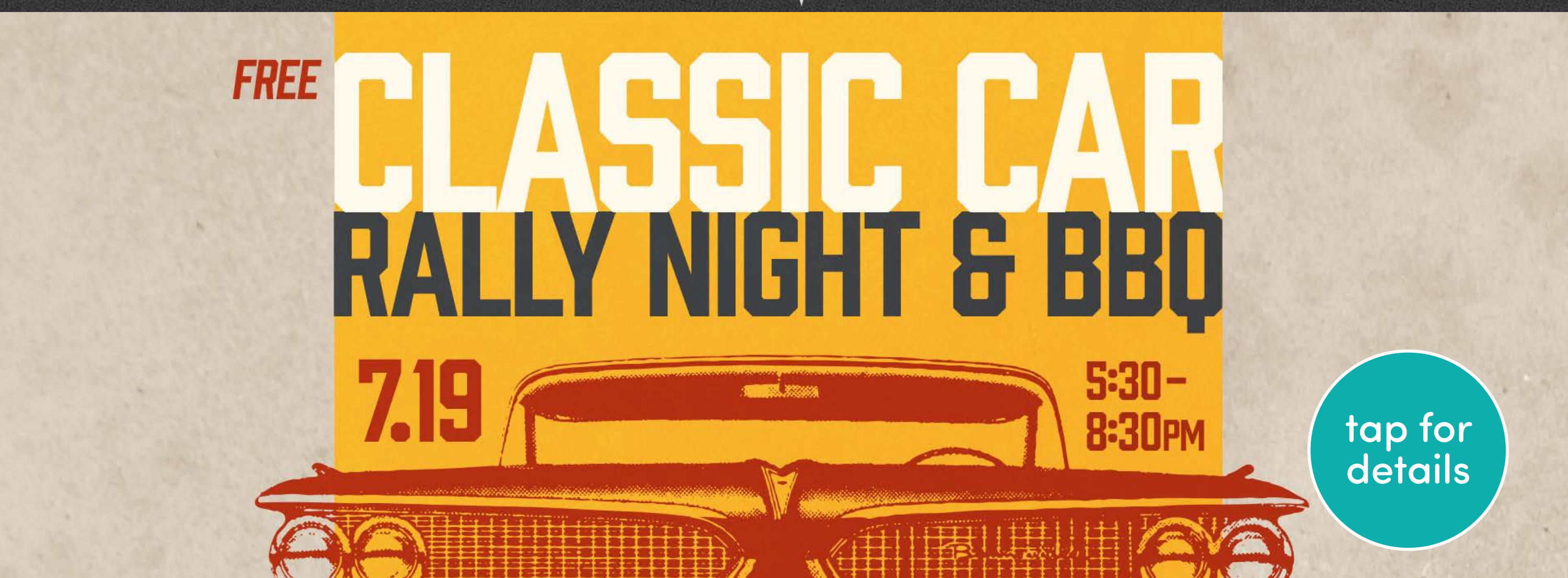
Learn more and sign up for events by tapping on the events or visit [graceb3.org/events](http://graceb3.org/events)



tap for details

## SUNDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION SERIES

tap for details



tap for details

**TOP TO BOTTOM** Party at the Park 7th - 12th graders are invited to enjoy a night at the park, playing games, laughing, and spending time with others at Penn Meadows Park • **Sunday Night Discussion Series** This discussion series is designed to help us understand how Jesus wants his followers to engage a culture that mocks our faith and seeks to remove its influence from the public sphere. Join us to learn what to do about it. • **Classic Car Rally Night & BBQ** Enjoy some live music, free BBQ and check out vintage cars and trucks at Grace Community Church's Classic Car Rally in partnership with Classy Chassy Cruisers.



A banner for the Guatemala Missions Trip 2024. The background is a collage of images: a red boat on the left, a child's face on the right, and a group of people in the center. The text 'Guatemala' is in a white script font, and 'MISSIONS TRIP 2024' is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

# Guatemala MISSIONS TRIP 2024

tap for  
details

A banner for the Volunteer Fair on July 28. The background is a solid orange color. The text 'volunteer fair' is in a large, teal, sans-serif font. 'july 28' is written in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font on a blue pennant flag. A teal circle with white text is on the right.

# volunteer fair

july 28

tap for  
details

**TOP TO BOTTOM** Guatemala July Missions Trip Follow along on the team's blog during their trip on July 21-28 • **Volunteer Fair** Find out ways you can serve at Grace after each service on July 28.



# Family *practical tips* Sit-Together

By Lead Children's Ministry  
Coordinator Natasha Miller

**THE SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING AND YOUR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN ARE STARTING TO SETTLE INTO SITTING WITH YOU IN SERVICE,** but that doesn't mean it's been easy. To help you successfully make it through the rest of the summer, the Children's Ministry team has some practical tips which might be useful.

- 1 SET EXPECTATIONS** before you arrive at church. Your kids are still learning to sit in service so reminders are important.
- 2 PACK A BAG ON SATURDAY EVENING** that you will bring to service with your children. This will eliminate some of the rush on Sunday morning, as well as ensure that what is being brought into service is appropriate. Put the bag in your vehicle that night.
- 3 BRING SOME "CHURCH-ONLY" ITEMS** like small 100-piece puzzles, Wikki Stix, coloring books or word searches.

**4 TAKE NOTES** For older elementary-aged children, teach them how to take notes over the sermon, buy them a notebook, and have them take notes and share them after the service. This builds a skill they will use for the rest of their life.

**5 DRAW** For younger elementary-aged children, or kids who don't like to write, have them draw pictures of what they hear during the sermon. This will keep them engaged in the content. After service, ask them to show you what they drew.

**6 SERVE WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)** Find a place to serve with your child on Sunday mornings. Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or child check-in helper. This shows your child that they are a contributing member of the church and will also help them meet others who call Grace home.

**7 KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE** about having your kids with you in service. Remember that you are teaching a life-long skill and that children are an important part of our church body! 🌿

IGNITING

the LOVE of  
CHRIST in the  
NEXT GENERATION



**recruiting GSM volunteers**

interested? email Brian at [brianh@graceb3.org](mailto:brianh@graceb3.org)



*By Lead Pastor Brooks Simpson*

# SUNDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION SERIES

*postponed*

"Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols."  
Acts 17:16



**WHAT PROVOKES YOUR SPIRIT WHEN YOU EXAMINE YOUR CULTURE?** If you believe there are two genders, and sex should be reserved for marriage between one man and one woman, you'll be labeled a hateful bigot. In Paul's day, the people of Athens likewise looked down on him, mocking his faith. Their idolatry and sin provoked his spirit, too. But being stirred up by sin, we face an important follow-up question: **what does God want us to do about it?**

This summer we will have a series of Sunday evening discussions called **Kingdoms In Conflict: How to Interact with a Kingdom That's Not Your Own.** The discussions are designed to help us understand how Jesus wants his followers to engage a culture that mocks our faith and seeks to remove its influence and presence from the public sphere.

Mark your calendars; the discussions will start at 6pm on the following Sunday nights:

- ~~July 14 & 28~~
- ~~August 11 & 25~~
- ~~September 8~~

**Dates to be announced this fall. 🌿**





# family sit-together

**5.26 – 9.1**

**All children from kindergarten and up will join their parents for the worship service beginning May 26 through Sept 1.**

**Classes will remain available for the nursery and 2-year-olds.**

**Questions?**

**Contact Natasha at  
[natasham@graceb3.org](mailto:natasham@graceb3.org)**



By Lead Pastor Brooks Simpson

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT



**WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF YOU PULLED INTO OUR PARKING LOT AND READ THAT ON OUR SIGN?** Does that sound beyond the reach of any local church? Isn't it a bit pretentious to claim to be doing something so lofty? I mean, who obeys everything Jesus commands? No one goes a day without falling short in some capacity, so why would a church set themselves up for



failure by attempting something so difficult? Putting it on our sign might be a terrible idea, but it was Jesus who said to teach people to obey everything he commanded.

And Jesus came and said to them,

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:18–20

This passage is called the Great Commission. It may not be plastered on our sign out front, but it is our mission and informs everything we do as a church. You read it everywhere and hear it quoted verbatim and restated a hundred different ways, but is it happening? Are disciples being made? Are we observing Jesus' commands and teaching others how to observe them?

As disciples, are we growing in our love for others as Jesus loved us: our families, neighbors, and even our enemies? The



degree to which we love as Jesus loved determines whether the world will recognize us as genuine disciples of Jesus (John 13:34-35). Quoting the Great Commission doesn't fulfill it. Loving God and one another does.

For five weeks this August we'll take a candid look at our church's calling, progress, and future.

- Who we are.
- Where we are headed.
- How do we get there?

## **WHO WE ARE**

We will take a look at our calling, who we are in Christ. We will also take an honest look at the ways we are not walking day-to-day in the reality of who he created us to be.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8–10*



## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Living out our calling as disciples means we have to do what disciples do. That sounds obvious, but have you ever wondered, "How do I become the kind of person who loves like Jesus?" Are we doing what disciples do? Are you? Providing a building and adding one service on top of another is not a plan; it's a reaction. Instead, we must train one another.

*"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."* 2 Timothy 2:1-2

## HOW DO WE GET THERE?

We will outline the changes we will make as a church to grow in becoming and making disciples. We will also challenge you to alter your life and give the Spirit free reign to make you like Jesus. It is not enough to know what Jesus said. We must choose to obey.

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* James 1:22

Join us in August for this vision series. 🙌



backyard bible club 2024

# happy Campers

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH GOD

Tap the location below to sign up, or  
register at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

Lockmoor Circle June 23 - 26

Quail Ridge July 8 - 11

Amana July 8 - 11

Tiffin July 28 - 31

Deerfield Park August 4 - 7





# ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

*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 July's Summer Volunteer Fair is to share opportunities to serve in the summer season and prep for the fall semester. The church needs individuals to serve in various ways during and outside Sunday services. 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.





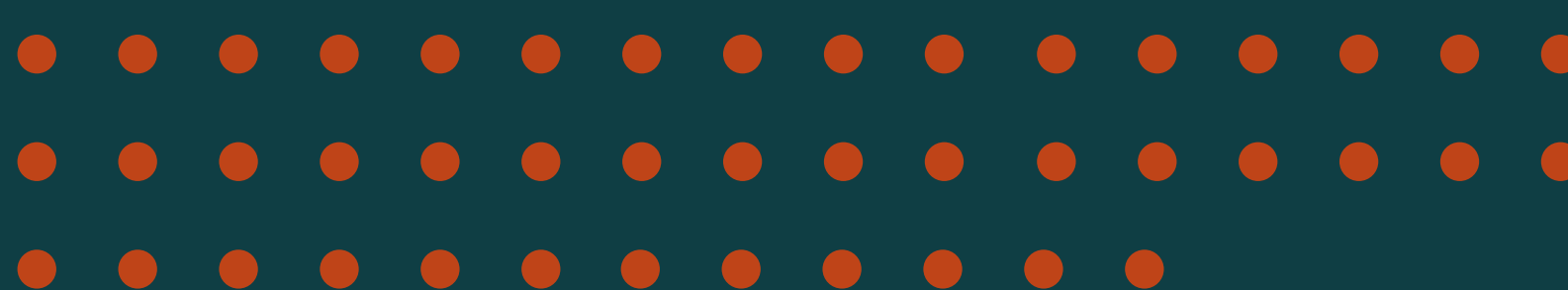
## WHY SHOULD I SERVE?

In short, we have a biblical responsibility to serve one another. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of what it looks like to live a God-glorifying life. He came to earth to serve others, and when we serve others, we demonstrate our love for him. Also, he served as the ultimate volunteer, serving us by dying on the cross and rising from the grave. He said his purpose in life was to serve:


*“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Matthew 20:28

Serving in a church community is not only rewarding, but vital. Many of our programs and activities would not be possible without individuals serving within our church. Talking about serving someone is no longer common in our culture, but language about serving is common. And in truth, a servant is a person who freely gives their time, treasures, and talents to serve others.

Not all serving opportunities are the same, though. An outstanding servant is someone who serves in their area of strength, has a positive attitude, and is always looking







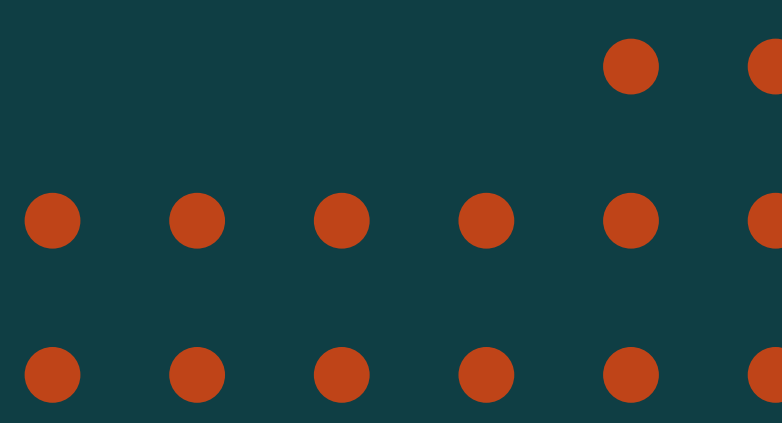
for ways to improve their area of service. Choosing to serve is terrific. However, outstanding servants are better than people who serve simply out of obligation. They desire to serve because they serve an awesome God.

**At Grace Community Church, we desire to see every member and attendee engaged in active discipleship, learning to live like Jesus.** Part of that includes involvement in excellent and faithful service. For that reason, Grace has established the following systems and structures to help people use their God-given gifts and talents to glorify the Lord while blessing both servants and those they serve.

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10*

### **WHERE CAN I FIND THESE OPPORTUNITIES?**

Take the first step by checking out the **Summer Volunteer Fair on Sunday, July 28, after each 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.



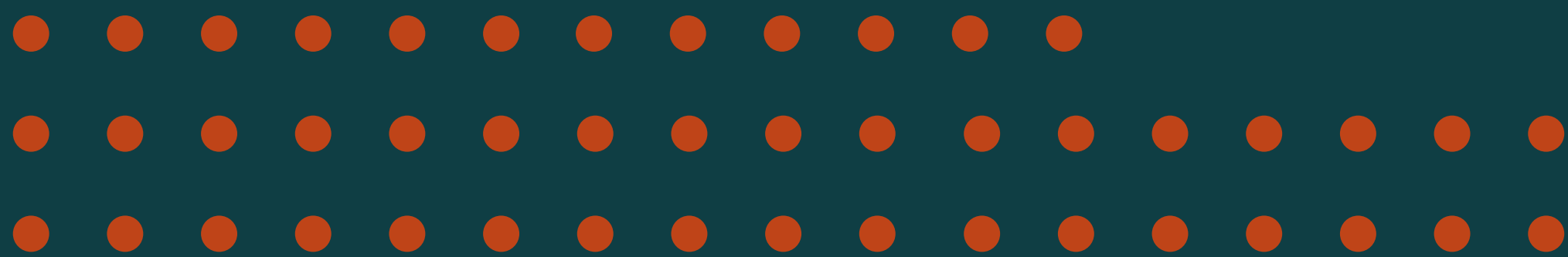




**IF I DO NOT SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE,  
WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?**

Please feel free to contact me, Ryan McFadden, Volunteer Engagement Director, at [ryanm@graceb3.org](mailto: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 an important part within the body of Jesus Christ. 🌿







# ***PARTNERING*** WITH THE ***GUATEMALA TEAM***

*By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman*

Grace Community Church partners with Bethel Ministries International in Guatemala to serve the Lord there in a variety of ways. This partnership includes short-term mission trips from Grace to Guatemala twice a year.

A typical trip involves 15-20 people from Grace spending a week in the country building houses, visiting people in their homes, and distributing wheelchairs.

This July, a team plans to build homes — pouring concrete slabs for foundations, building a metal frame, assembling beds, and more — distribute wheelchairs, visit families to encourage and evangelize, and actively spread the love and truth of Jesus.



There are many ways that members of the church can partner with our short-term teams and with the missions work we support in Guatemala.

**Please pray for this year's trip.** Our team will be gone July 21-28. Pray for smooth travels, unity, growth, and that the Lord would use the team and their work to bring his name praise. Pray that the church in Guatemala will grow and the team will serve them well. Pray for the Bethel Ministries team that is in the country permanently. Ask God to strengthen them for every task and sustain them in all of their work.

You can also partner with our teams by offering **financial support**. You can make donations of any amount to the church with "Guatemala" noted as the donation purpose. That money will be used to buy food, build houses, enable transportation of teams and equipment, purchase wheelchairs, supply Bibles, and more.

Also, whenever you **purchase coffee from Guat's Up Coffee Roasters**, a ministry of Grace attenders Mark and Julie Farmer, 100 percent of the profits go directly to Guatemala missions.



Because of the faithful stewardship of the Grace congregation, we and our brothers and sisters in Guatemala have a good partnership in the gospel. Please consider joining in that partnership as we send another team this summer.

**To donate to Guatemala trips visit:**  
[graceb3.org/give-to-gstm](https://graceb3.org/give-to-gstm)

**To contact Guat's Up Coffee Roasters visit:**  
[graceb3.org/guatsup](https://graceb3.org/guatsup)

**For general questions about short-term missions at Grace, contact me, Pastor Josh at [joshh@graceb3.org](mailto:joshh@graceb3.org)**





# PARTY AT THE PARK

GRACE STUDENT MINISTRY

**JULY 19 7-9PM**  
**PENN MEADOWS PARK**

7th–12th graders are invited to come party in the park!

Come hang out with friends and meet some new ones. We'll play yard games, board games, and enjoy some ice cream.

No sign up is needed – just invite a friend and come!