

The background is a vibrant collage of abstract shapes and colors. At the top left, there are orange and red brushstrokes. A large red shape, possibly a horn or trumpet bell, is positioned in the upper middle. To the right, there are yellow and blue geometric shapes. In the center, the text 'why do we SING?' is displayed. Below the text, a double bass is depicted with a red scroll, a black neck, and a blue body. To the right of the bass, there is a red and black shape with a white keyboard-like pattern at the bottom. The overall style is modern and artistic, with a focus on music and community.

why do we

SING?

plus:

**INTERGENERATIONAL
MINISTRY**

STEWARDSHIP

GSM THRIVE CLASS

and more!

GRACE INSIDER
OCTOBER 2024

International Student Thanksgiving

Reach the Nations on Nov 16 with the Good News that Causes Us to Give Thanks!

- 1 Share a meal with an international student.
- 2 Hear Brooks share the history of Thanksgiving, its current cultural meaning, and why people choose to give thanks to God amidst suffering.
- 3 Chat about Brooks' message over dessert.

Sign up at graceb3.org/thanksgiving



HAPPENINGS

Learn more and sign up for events at graceb3.org/events

SEASONED SISTERS

Join Seasoned Sisters for fellowship, food, and encouragement for your faith! Plan to bring a dish for a potluck. Drinks, plates and silverware will be provided. Oct 12 | 10-12pm | *Seasoned Sisters are for ladies 50+.*

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP IN RETIREMENT

Join financial advisor Tony Luneckas for lunch and a discussion of what our faithful stewardship and devotion to God looks like in the next season of life. Space is limited. Oct 20 | 12-1:30pm

EIBCC CONFERENCE

Pastors, elders, church staff, and volunteer leaders are invited to attend this one-day conference to help strengthen the overall community of their local church. Oct 19 | 8am-4:30pm

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. This class must be taken before parents can participate in the dedication ceremony. Oct 27 | 10:15am

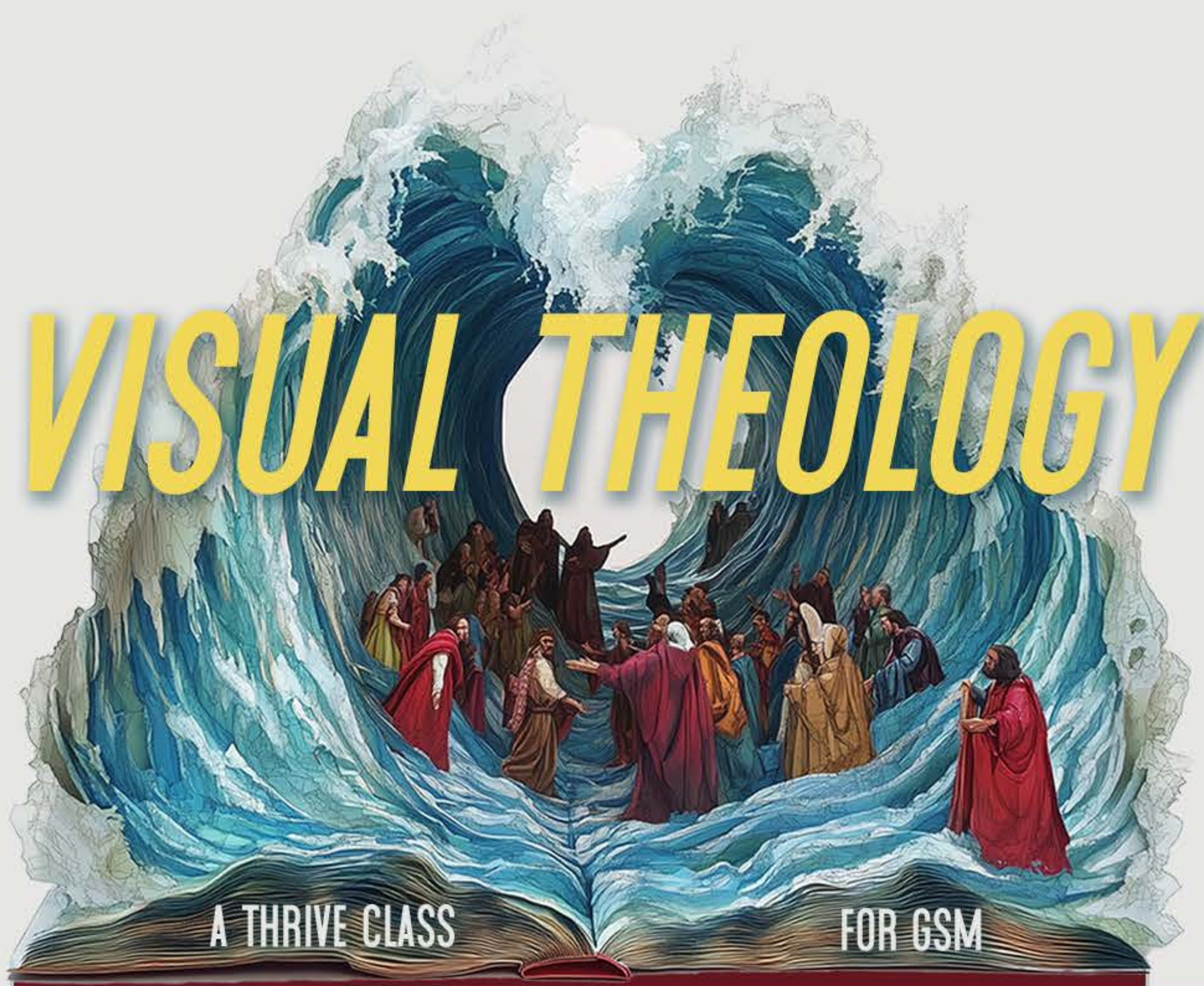
membership class & lunch

november 3 • 11:45am–1pm

register at graceb3.org/events

childcare provided for
registered attendees





SIGN UP AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

Each week, we will discuss how the Bible was put together, how to trust it, and explore its contents from cover to cover, from Genesis to Revelation. We'll have a mix of teaching and table discussion. All 7th through 12th graders are encouraged to join us!

This is a two-part class that will resume in the spring.

Sundays, Sept. 22 - Nov. 24
10:15 - 11:20am



Seeking out inter Generational ministry

By Pre-School Coordinator Amanda Chidister

**IN CHILDREN'S AND STUDENT MINISTRIES,
OUR GOAL IS TO PARTNER WITH PARENTS
TO DISCIPLE THE NEXT GENERATION
THROUGH SCRIPTURE, PRAYER,
FELLOWSHIP, AND COMMUNITY.**

Most commonly we talk about the parent-child relationship, but Scripture makes a broader call to the church to gather people of all ages and stages of life, which powerfully enables faith formation and deeper community connections. **With intergenerational ministry, everyone contributes and realizes our place of value among the larger body of Christ.**

The Bible describes many examples of intergenerational ministry and instructs older generations to partner in younger believers' growth. Titus 2 calls older men and women to build relationships with and set an example for younger men and women. 1 Timothy 4 urges younger generations to teach by example and not let others look down on their youth. In Deuteronomy 4, Moses commanded the Israelites to tell their children and their children's children all that God had done for them. The list goes on.

It is important to care well for and reach out to all generations among our church body. We must especially call young people by name and show them that they matter within the larger body. We encourage you to consider these **intergenerational opportunities at Grace or with our ministry partners on the following pages.**

FAMILY SIT TOGETHER SUNDAYS

Family Sit Together Sundays are an intentional and simple way to **welcome our younger attenders into the larger body** on a Sunday morning for worship and teaching. Take the time after service to look for these little ones and their families to see how you could encourage them.



SERVING IN CHILDREN'S OR STUDENT MINISTRY

Volunteer as a family on Sunday mornings or encourage the younger generation as a **youth leader on Wednesday nights**. A wide range of people, from college students to grandparents, serve in children's classes. It's a beautiful picture of how different ages can speak life into one another!



GRANDPARENT MINISTRY

Discover what the Bible teaches about our privilege and responsibility to share the gospel with our grandchildren. Being intentional in our approach and planning can have a **profound long-term impact on our grandchildren and future generations**. We desire all grandparents at Grace to be equipped and prepared for biblical grandparenting through teaching, support, ideas, and encouragement — regardless of the circumstances or ages of your grandchildren.

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage families to pray about how you might serve together on the mission field — whether that be serving with Bethel Ministries in Guatemala, locally here in The Corridor, or somewhere in between. **Mission trips are often ripe places for intergenerational ministry to occur naturally** as a team comes together to serve.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE

Does your family have a favorite chili recipe that's been handed down? Do your kids or grandkids love cooking with you? Work together and then share it with the church at our **Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, October 27.** 🌿



**“I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN
A PARABLE; I WILL UTTER
DARK SAYINGS FROM OF OLD,
THINGS THAT WE HAVE HEARD
AND KNOWN, THAT OUR
FATHERS HAVE TOLD US. WE
WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM
THEIR CHILDREN, BUT TELL
TO THE COMING GENERATION
THE GLORIOUS DEEDS OF THE
LORD, AND HIS MIGHT, AND THE
WONDERS THAT HE HAS DONE.”**

PSALM 78:2-4



**DELIVER THE GOOD NEWS OF
JESUS CHRIST TO CHILDREN
IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD
THROUGH GIFT-FILLED SHOEBOXES.**

**PICK UP
YOUR BOXES ON OCT 6, 13, 20 & NOV 3, 10, 17
DROP OFF
BETWEEN NOV 18-25**

LEARN MORE AT GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS



FALL HAS ALWAYS FELT LIKE A SEASON OF BEGINNINGS. It brings a new school year, a new football season, new faces on Sunday morning, and new opportunities to get involved at Grace. It's also a good time to think about how you're worshiping God with the gifts he has given you.

We believe that everything belongs to God, including material things like our finances. Giving tithes and offerings builds up our devotion to Jesus and frees us to live open-handedly with his gifts. As followers of Christ walking in relationship with him, it's important that we **give our first and best to God as part of our walk with Christ.** God calls each of us to walk this out individually, and financially supporting your home church is an important part.

Consider how you will worship God this fall with your finances. If that includes giving to Grace, there are several ways to make your gifts and offerings.

ONLINE: Head over to graceb3.org/give to give and look at our various focused giving opportunities. Clicking “Give Now” will take you to our secure giving portal, where you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring giving.

IN PERSON: On Sunday mornings, cash and check donations can be put in one of the offering boxes located in the foyer and auditorium.

BY MAIL: You’re always welcome to send checks by mail. Our mailing address is 2707 Dubuque Street NE, North Liberty, IA 52317.

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Send a text to “84321” with a dollar amount to set up and donate via text.

OTHER WAYS: Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you’re interested in learning about less common ways to give to the church (investments, estate planning, etc.)

Whatever method you choose, I am here to help! Please feel free to give me a call at 319-626-2040 or email me at

calebs@graceb3.org. 🌿



OVER THE YEARS

Our God has been Faithful



10/12

10AM-12PM

A SEASONED SISTERS EVENT

Sign up by Oct 10. Three ways to register:

- Register at graceb3.org/events
- Stop by the Info Desk in the foyer on Sundays
- Contact (319) 626-2040 or office@graceb3.org

Are you a Seasoned Sister?

Do any of these describe you?

50+ years old • adult children • grandmother • empty-nester • retired

If so, join other Seasoned Sisters for fellowship, food, and encouragement for your faith!

This fall, we will have a vintage style show

called, *Over the Years: Our God has been Faithful*, featuring different clothes over the years.

Plan to bring a dish for a potluck.

Drinks, plates and silverware will be provided.

GSM Updates

Discovering the Bible

By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn

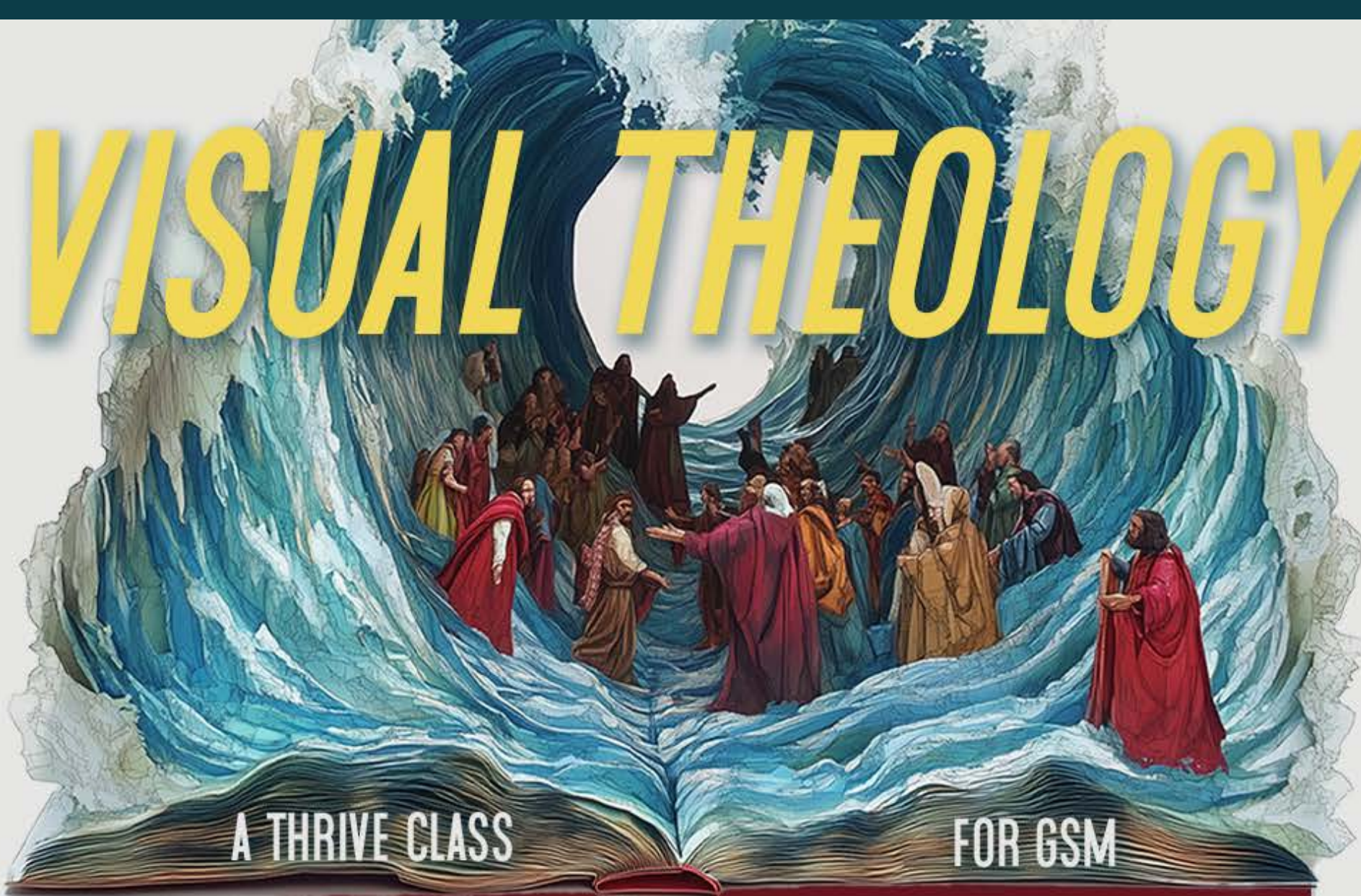


Here's a quick update of what we have going on in student ministry! We started our student ministry Thrive class (meeting Sunday mornings) two weeks ago; if you are a student or have a student *it is not too late to join us!* **Our Thrive class is all about discovering the Bible:** understanding what it is and how it was written and exploring how the Bible's human authors were directed by God to record the very words that God intended to reveal to us. Over the next several weeks, we will discuss how the specific books were collected, meticulously copied and protected as they were recorded and translated into the versions we hold in our hands today. All these topics will lead us to the question we all have to answer: Can we trust the Bible? And if the answer is yes, then we must devote ourselves to study it, memorize it, and live according to it, because it is God's very words given to his people!

On Wednesday evenings, we are studying the book of Colossians. In this short letter and every study we do through a book of the Bible, we have been **practicing the discovery Bible study method** to help students continue to learn how to understand God's word for themselves. They'll learn how to slow down and practice active reading skills, asking questions and answering them from the text as they discover the cultural context. They'll also learn to read within the immediate context of the passage and book itself, so that we can draw biblically faithful applications for our world and lives today.

While these things are happening, we are excitedly preparing for the upcoming holidays and some special nights with the students over the next few months. We're also already looking way down the road, although it will feel like an instant, and preparing for our **annual Winter Retreat in January 2025!** There is a lot happening, and we're so excited about the work the Lord is doing in the hearts and lives of students. We would love for you to join us as we pray for the students and their families, our leaders, and our upcoming gatherings! 🙌

VISUAL THEOLOGY



A THRIVE CLASS

FOR GSM

sign up now →

BUILDING COMMUNITY IN CHURCHES BY CARING WELL FOR ONE ANOTHER

WITH KEYNOTE
SPEAKER
**DR. KEVIN
CARSON**

a conference for pastors, elders,
church staff, and volunteer leaders

10/19 • 8am–4:30pm
register at graceb3.org/events

Leaders, join us for this conference and be encouraged and equipped with ideas, tools, and resources to build intentional care and shepherding into your ministry areas, strengthening the overall community of your local church.

Date & Time October 19 • 8am–4:30pm

Cost Early Bird Rate \$40

(Register by August 31)

Regular Rate \$50


Questions? Contact Pastor Dave Kirk,
davek@graceb3.org,
(319) 626-2040 ext 113

The background is a vibrant, abstract collage of musical elements. A large cello is depicted vertically, with its body in red and blue, and its neck and scroll in red. To the right, a piano keyboard is shown with black and white keys, and a yellow hand is positioned as if playing. The top left features a red horn-like shape with orange lines. The overall palette includes bright red, blue, orange, and black on a light cream background, with various geometric shapes and musical symbols scattered throughout.

why do we

SING?

by Worship Director Zack Stanton




ISN'T IT A WONDER THAT AMONG ALL THE INCREDIBLE THINGS ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY, GOD BUILT INTO EACH ONE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? Most of us probably don't think of ourselves that way, but the human body is one of the most complex musical instruments there is. Why did God give us vocal cords that act as reeds as air passes over them? Why are those vocal cords flexible enough to cover a wide range of pitches? Why did he give us spaces in our head where sound can resonate? Why did God give different people different vocal ranges that can harmonize with others and blend to create beautiful sounds? Over and over again, I am amazed by these realities. There is something especially poignant about singing, which draws us into the emotion of words. Think about the chills you get when you hear a particularly stirring rendition of a song you love. The human body is capable of producing powerful, beautiful, nuanced, complex sounds that convey shades of meaning and emotion.

SINGING IN HUMAN CULTURE

Singing has been an important part of human culture for thousands of years, a meaningful part of normal life.





Of course, it has had religious connotations for millennia, but it has also been a staple of ceremonies, festivals, daily work, even battle. We have lost much of the meaning and power of singing in the modern West, but that is another article for another day. Why do people sing together? One thing that we know scientifically that our ancestors knew experientially is that singing together does some powerful things. It has **physical benefits**: it calms the heart rate, boosts the immune system, and people who frequently sing with others even have a higher life expectancy. There are **mental benefits**: communal singing releases feel-good neurochemicals like endorphins, dopamine, and serotonin. It can help reduce stress and even depression. But I think the most powerful aspect of communal singing is what it does to...community! It forms a social bond like few other activities, creating a sense of connection and closeness to the people you are singing with. I can't overstate how powerfully I experienced this when I sang in my college choir, and I know many of my friends experienced the same thing.

SINGING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF GOD

All of this is well and good, but my goal is not simply to talk you into joining a community choir (though I recommend it!).

My goal is for us to see the power and importance



of singing together as the family of God, the church of Jesus, the community of saints. **The Bible mentions singing over 400 times, and commands it at least 50 times.** The longest book in the Bible, the Psalms, is Israel's songbook. Clearly, God made us to sing, and **the highest, most important purpose of singing is to honor him.**

The Psalms are almost shocking in the breadth of ways they speak to the Lord. Not only do the songwriters praise God; they bring their sorrows and troubles to him, they confess their sin to him, they offer thanksgiving to him, they recount his character and actions, and they plead for him to bring justice. Interestingly, the songwriters often address the congregation directly, sharing testimony of what God has done and exhorting the congregation to praise and obey God. The Psalms display a reverence for and intimacy with God as the songwriters lay their hearts bare. But they also display an openness with the congregation, being very real about their own troubles and sins, and openly sharing what God has done for them.


WHY SHOULD WE SING TOGETHER?

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul says twice that the church should address each other in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5 and

Colossians 3). This certainly checks out with what we see in the Psalms. **Yes, we sing to God. He is the object of our worship. But a huge part of this is that we do it together.** All of us. This is not for the people up front or the people with the most talent. This is an activity of the whole church.

And we do this why? In Colossians 3:16, Paul says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs.”* In Ephesians 5:19, he says we should be *“filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.”* When the church sings the truth of the gospel from a place of faith and trust, and we do it together, we are encouraged! It is powerful to see and hear our brothers and sisters singing out life-defining truths with each other. **When we sing, our intellect, our emotions, and our bodies are all engaged in Spirit-filled worship, and when we do that together as the collective whole, we form a deep bond with each other, which Jesus surely intends for his church (John 17:20-23).**

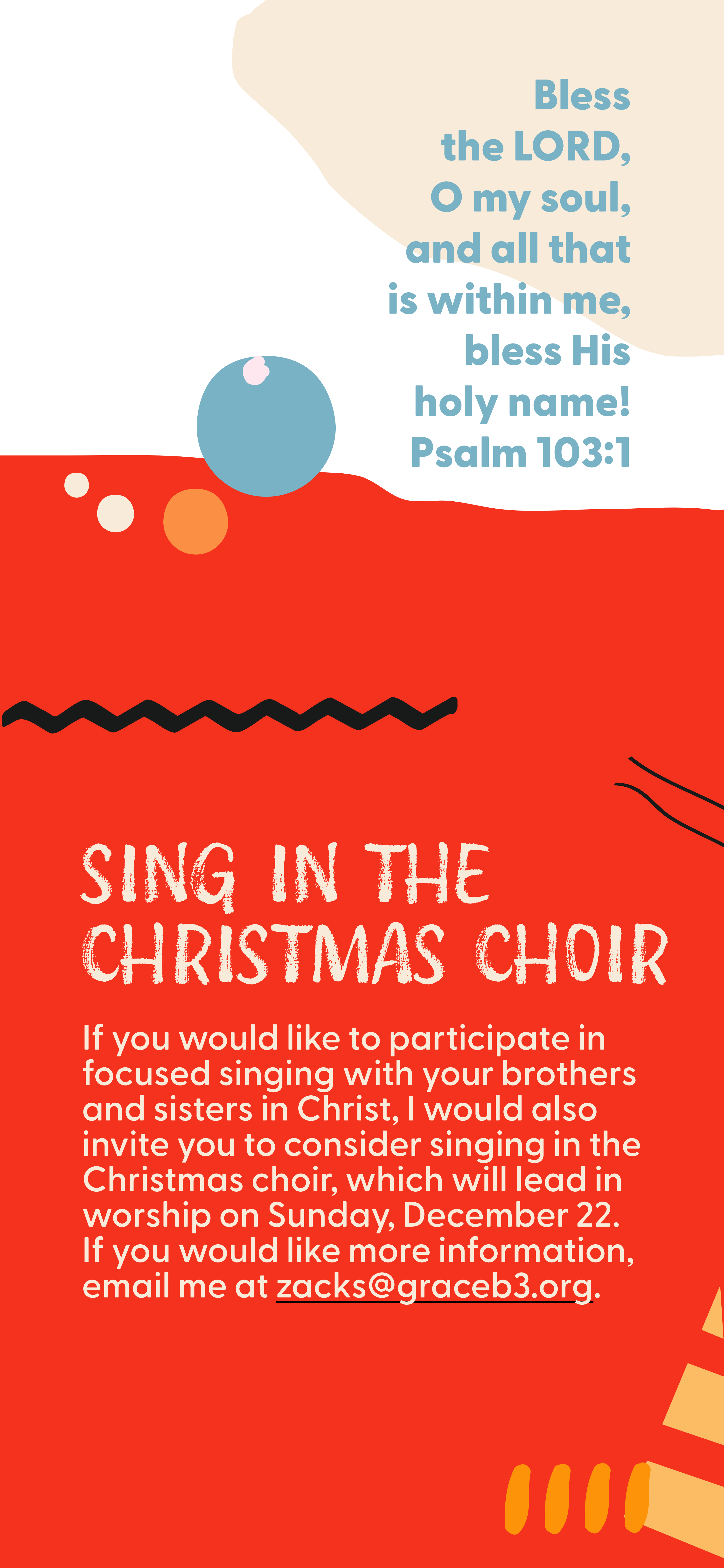
What if you aren't able to participate in singing in a traditional sense? Sometimes people have hearing impairments that make singing difficult. Sometimes people have a vocal injury or condition that inhibits their singing voice. A few years ago, I had a vocal injury and wasn't able to sing for months.



It was discouraging to be unable to do something I loved. One Sunday while I was on vocal rest, we sang How Great Thou Art. I had never been so powerfully moved by the chorus, when it says, “Then sings my SOUL, my Savior, God, to Thee.” I realized that my soul could sing even if my voice couldn’t and I raised my hands with tears in my eyes. Even when we aren’t able to sing because of a physical condition, we can still worship. We can lift our hands, sign the words, or kneel in worship. Our bodies and hearts can still engage as the congregation sings.

Our desire and goal at Grace Community Church is for our singing to truly be corporate. That we would hear and see each other singing. That we would all see this as a ministry in which we participate, even if singing “isn’t our thing.” I mentioned early in this article that communal singing has largely disappeared in the modern West. There are a host of reasons for this, and it has affected participation in congregational singing across America. I’m grateful to say that as the Worship Director here at Grace, I have seen a growing participation in the singing, and that is more encouraging than I can express.

May we continue to boldly lift up our voices, not fearing that we will be heard, but fully intending to be heard so that we can minister to each other and bless the Lord. 🌿



**Bless
the LORD,
O my soul,
and all that
is within me,
bless His
holy name!
Psalm 103:1**

SING IN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

If you would like to participate in focused singing with your brothers and sisters in Christ, I would also invite you to consider singing in the Christmas choir, which will lead in worship on Sunday, December 22. If you would like more information, email me at zacks@graceb3.org.

CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

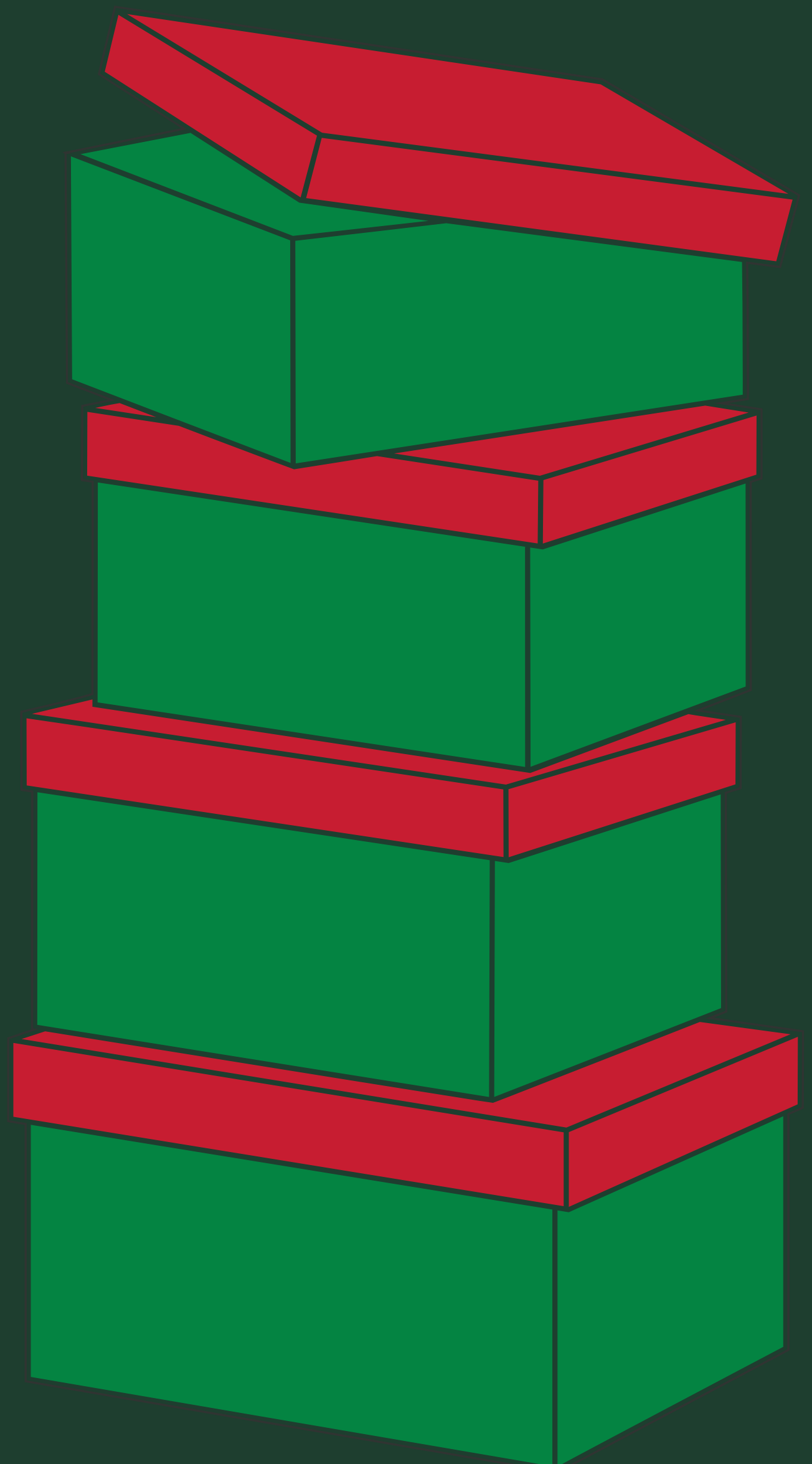
OCT 27 • 10:15-11:30AM
REGISTER AT
[GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

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, Nov 3
during morning services.*

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Joshua Sestak



Operation Christmas Child (OCC), launched in Wales in 1990 by Dave Cooke, is a Samaritan's Purse initiative that **brings joy and hope to children affected by poverty, conflict, and disaster.** With a record of delivering millions of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 130 countries, OCC stands as a beacon of global compassion. Last year alone, an impressive 11.3 million shoeboxes were distributed worldwide. By partnering with local churches globally, OCC reaches children in hospitals, on the streets, in orphanages, and schools, spreading smiles and a message of hope.

Here in Iowa's 'Hawkeye Area', which spans 11 counties from Grinnell to Davenport, **we rallied to collect 10,135 shoeboxes last year, and we're aiming even higher in 2024 with a goal of 12,162!** Grace Community Church, which has been a dedicated participant and area drop-off for over a decade, contributed 430 shoeboxes last year. This year, we're gearing up to send a box for every person at Grace. As a hub for regional participation, our community plays a pivotal role in fostering the spirit of giving through OCC, achieving a collection of 1,060 boxes in 2023 alone.

Engage with Operation Christmas Child at Grace Community Church and make a tangible difference:

PACK A SHOEBOX:

Gather friends, family, or community groups for a rewarding packing session.

PRAY:

Commit to year-round prayers for the children receiving these gifts.

VOLUNTEER:

Join the heart of OCC as our volunteers.

DONATE AT GRACE:

Help us provide starter items and engage more local churches.

DONATE DIRECTLY TO OCC:

Support operational costs with a \$10 donation per shoebox, covering inspection, shipping, and gospel literature.

Discover even more ways to **get involved year-round through special teams** like Church Relations and Prayer Team.

Interested? Scan the QR code or contact our local OCC coordinators, Amy Speed at occamyspeed@gmail.com or at Grace, Joshua Sestak at joshua.sestak@gmail.com.

Join us in making an impact that stretches far beyond our community! 🌿





10/27 after
2nd service

CHILI COOK-OFF

try some chilis &
vote for your favorite!

**Join us for the Chili Cook-Off
in the gym after 2nd service!
Get your Costco sample fix by trying a
variety of our congregation's best chilis
and sides, and vote for your favorite!
Enjoy some good chili, good company,
and conversation.**

**Note: The cook-off is primarily a
connecting and fellowship event serving
samples, not a meal. Chili toppings and
beverages will not be provided.**