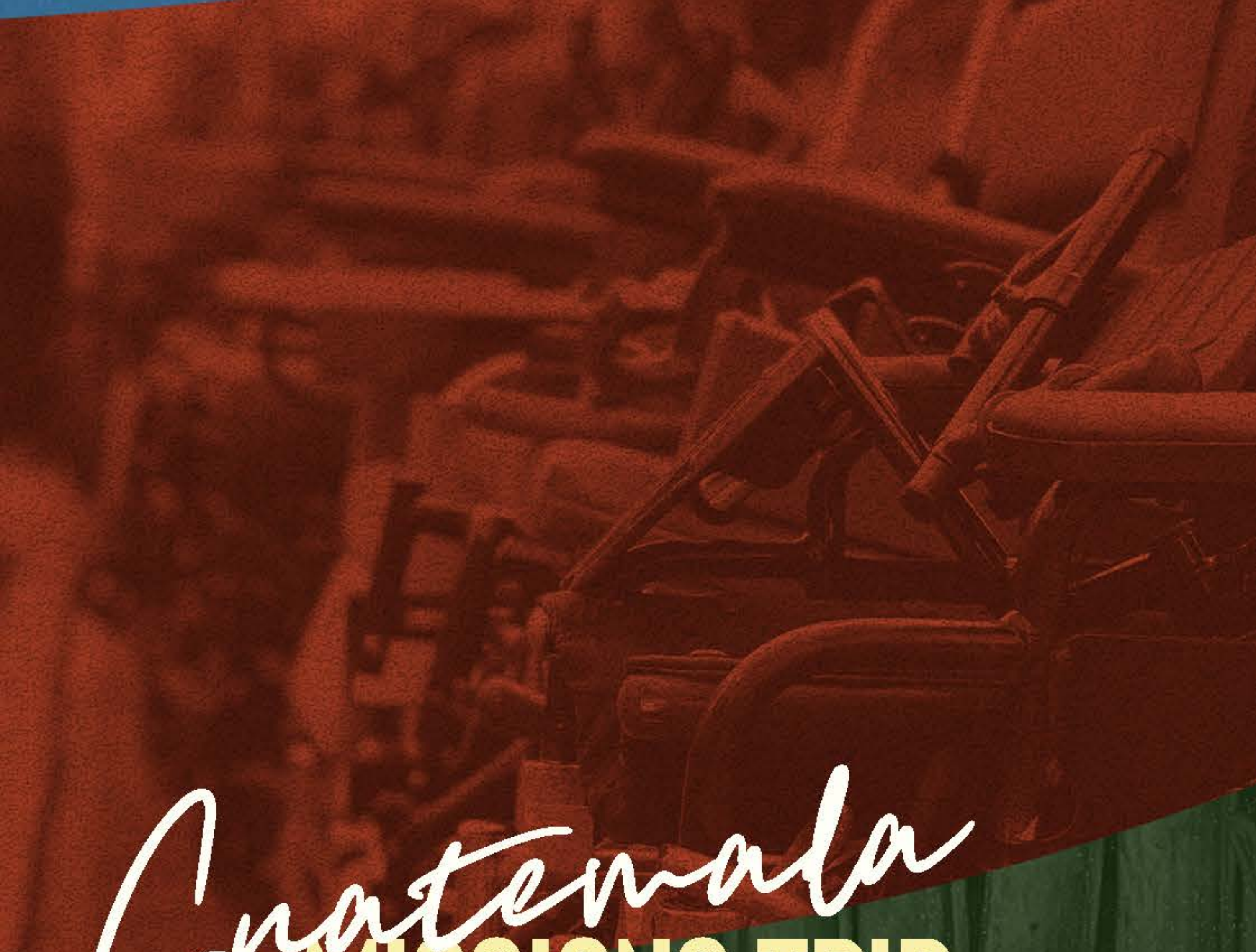




**LET
EVERY
HEART**

**PREPARE
HIM**

ROOM



Guatemala

MISSIONS TRIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE **JULY 2025**
DECEMBER 15

TWICE A YEAR GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH TAKES SHORT-TERM TRIPS TO GUATEMALA, WHERE WE WORK ALONGSIDE BETHEL MINISTRIES TO DISTRIBUTE WHEELCHAIRS AND WALKERS THEY'VE BEEN COLLECTING ALL YEAR LONG. WE ALSO POUR CONCRETE FLOOR AND BUILD METAL HOMES FOR FAMILIES. THESE HOMES TYPICALLY INCLUDE A FUEL-EFFICIENT WOOD STOVE AND TRIPLE BUNK BEDS. IN ADDITION, WE DISTRIBUTE FOOD, CLOTHES, AND BLANKETS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT RYAN MILLER AT
RYAN.MILLER7999@GMAIL.COM OR AT 319-330-6483

HAPPENINGS

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

GSM FOOD DRIVE

Students will be competing as Life Groups against each other to see who can bring in/collect the most items for the North Liberty Community Food Pantry's top ten most needed items list. Students will be bringing in items from Nov 6 until Dec 4

.....

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT THANKSGIVING

Reach the nations on Nov 16 by sharing a meal with an international student.

.....

WOMEN OF GRACE CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Enjoy delicious snacks, fellowship, and be encouraged by short teachings. Dec 6 | 7-9pm

.....

GSM CHRISTMAS PARTY

We'll have a special night to wrap up our 2024 gatherings and celebrate the Christmas season with some worship, a gift exchange, snacks and games. Dec 11 | during youth group

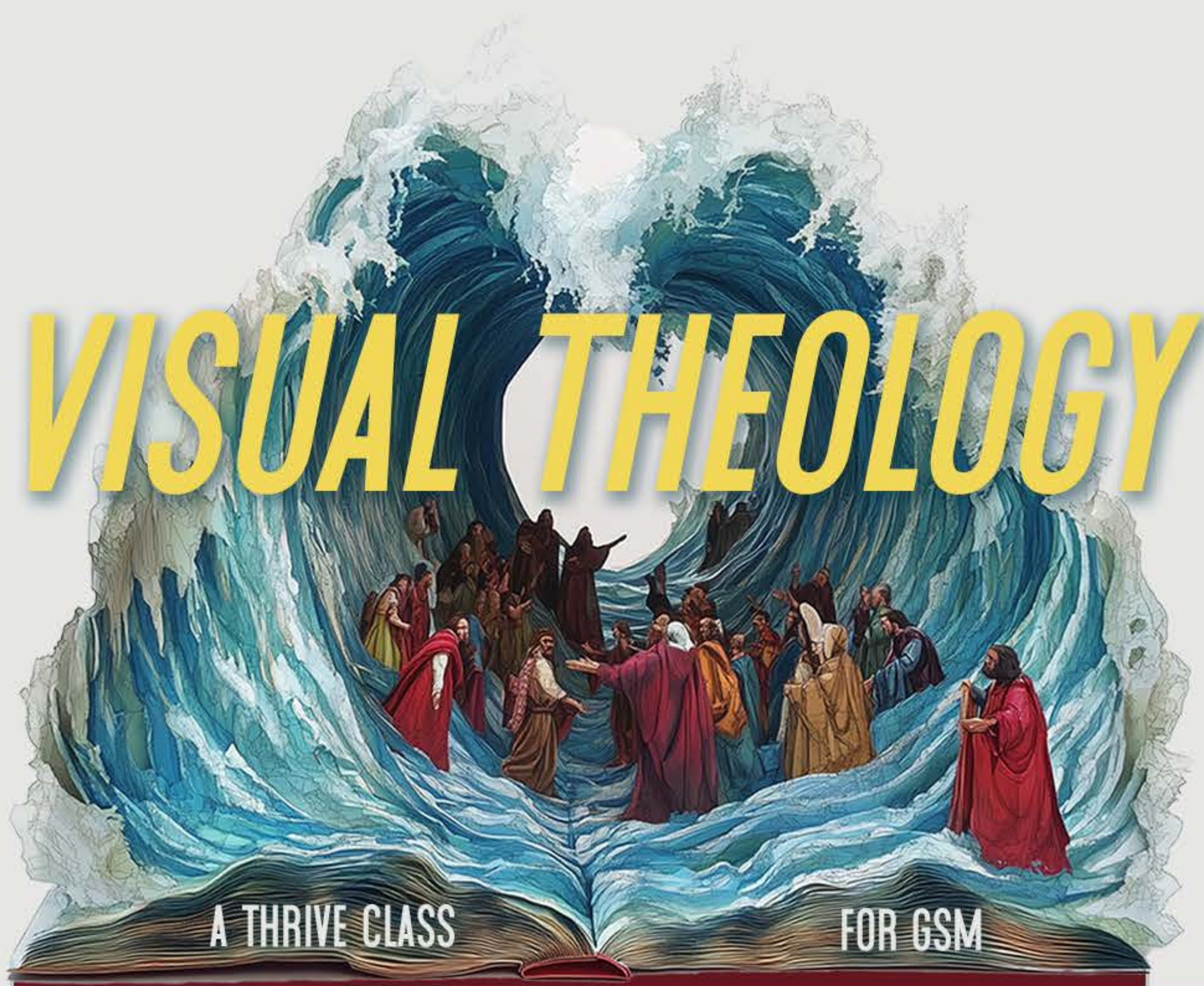
membership class & lunch

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



Prioritizing What's Important

By Lead Children's Ministry Coordinator Natasha Miller

**AS I WRITE THIS IN SEPTEMBER,
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON SEEMS
FAR AWAY, BUT I KNOW IT WILL
BE HERE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.**

I love the holiday season, the countdown to Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. At the same time the joy, wonder, and excitement of Christmas is happening, sometimes the tug of stress due to busyness, budgets, and decision fatigue tries to steal my joy. Focusing on preparing my heart for celebrating the birth of Jesus keeps me grounded and daily points me to what I am truly celebrating.

As parents, we know our kids are watching us, weighing our words against our actions. What we say is important, but what we prioritize sends a clear message of our true values. One way to keep our focus on Jesus' birth during this season is to have a daily Advent reading or activity that is pre-planned to incorporate into our family time each day during December.

It may seem overwhelming to think of committing to an Advent study; you may be asking "what happens when life gets busy and we miss a day?" Give yourself the grace

to skip the day you missed or to do two days in one. The goal isn't perfection, rather, it is to focus on the gift of Jesus coming to earth in human form and the sacrifice he made for our sins.

There are many well laid out Advent resources that you can use with your family, so don't let the pressure of choosing one hold you back from participating. Our team has compiled a list that we continue to add to; check it out and also look for the **Next Gen resource table in the foyer on Sunday, November 10**. We will have a variety of Advent resources you can pick up for use at home that cover a range of ages and family stages.

Regardless of the method you choose, make it a priority to daily focus on the birth and life of Jesus. He is our hope; he is our redeemer. 🌿

**“FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND
THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE
UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND
HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING
FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”
ISAIAH 9:6**



**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](https://www.graceb3.org/events)

the GOOD AND

SCANDALOUS

NEWS

*By Congregational Development
Pastor Jason Blackley*

Jesus came for you!

You don't have to go to church very long to cognitively grasp the concept that Jesus came at Christmas time. We can also assent to the fact that Jesus came and that the angels said they brought, "good news of great joy, for all people." The harder concept is that he came for us. For me.

In December, we will be celebrating, observing, and meditating on the Advent of Jesus, as we do every year. This year, in particular, we will look at the different groups of people that Jesus specifically came to at a particular time and place. We will learn over the course of those few weeks that Jesus came for us.

Some of us grew up religious. Some of us grew up not even knowing the stories of the Bible. Some of us still feel out of place in a “religious” setting. Some of us think on the spectrum of “naughty and nice,” we should not be anticipating anything under the tree this Christmas.

However, when those "Herald Angels" sang, and the angel said, *“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people,”* they meant every kind of person. At that moment, they meant Jews and Gentiles. They meant rich and poor. They meant all in the angelic world.

This good news was shocking!

Scandalous.

It was *“foolishness to the Gentiles”* and a *“stumbling block to the Jews.”* It was amazing to the shepherds that they would be the ones to hear this gospel news.

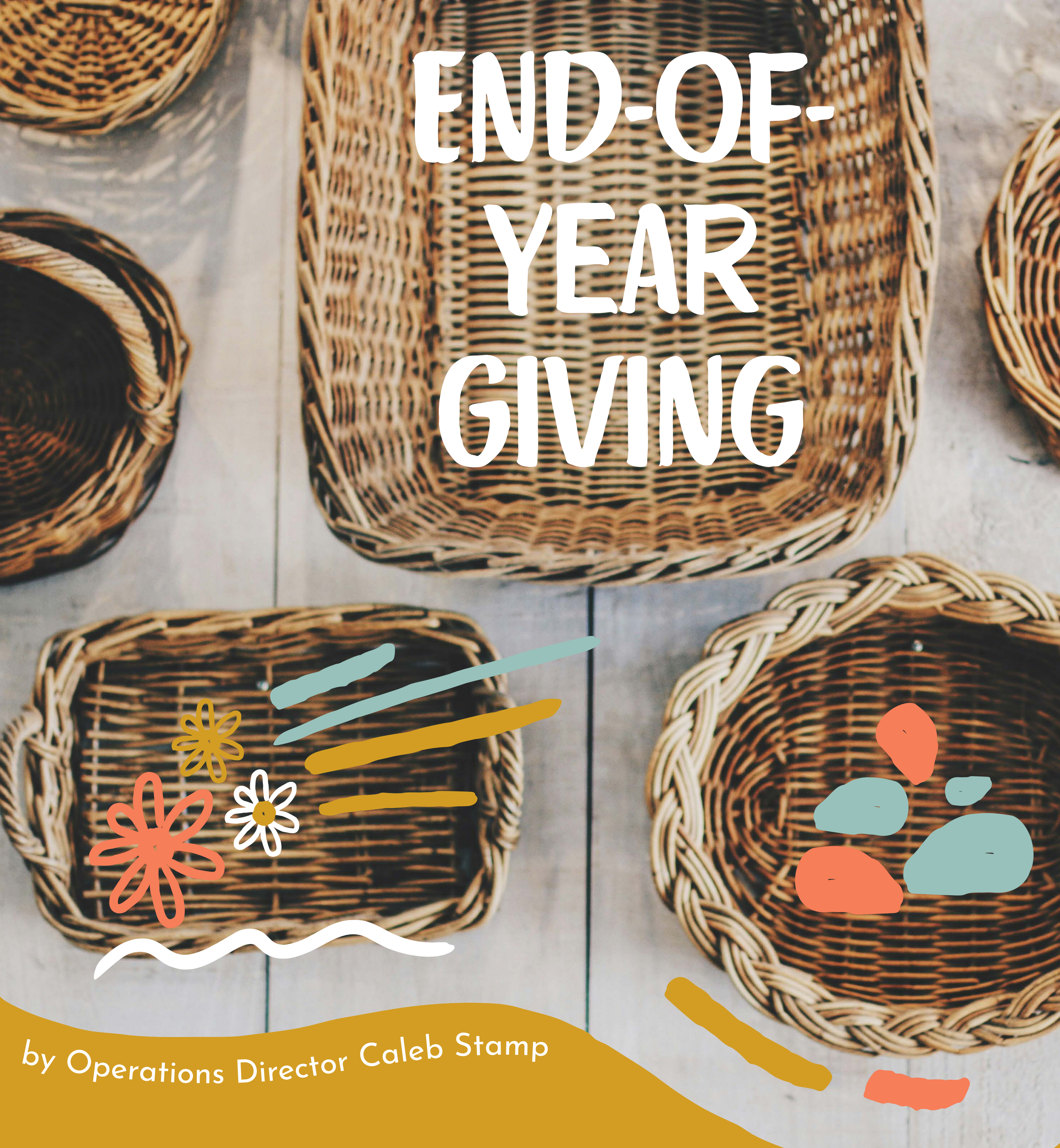
Does this good news shock and amaze you? Does it sound too good to be true? Do you feel like you are “too much” for salvation and the Savior? Whatever you are and whomever you are, your righteous deeds, religious upbringing, hedonism, additions, shame and

JESUS CAME FOR _____
(INSERT YOUR NAME)

church attendance are not too much for God to save. The reason the gospel is good news is because God *“came in the flesh and dwelt among us,”* (John 1:14). The fact that **the God of the universe would come and live and die for people like you and me** is really shockingly good news.

This is a God worthy of our lives and our worship. This is why the angels also sang *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* (Luke 2:14) 🌿

WHATEVER YOU ARE AND WHOMEVER YOU ARE,
YOU ARE NOT TOO MUCH FOR GOD TO SAVE.



END-OF-YEAR GIVING

by Operations Director Caleb Stamp

We're coming up on the season when folks tend to look for opportunities to be generous. That's not just wishful thinking on our part. Did you know that **almost 20% of annual giving to the church happens between Thanksgiving and the end of December?** Year-end tax planning aside, I think it's because we spend more time basking in the reality of God's generosity toward us through the gift of Jesus, which leads to a desire to reflect that generosity in our context. All that we have – our time, skills, knowledge, and resources – are gifts from him. Our calling as believers is to use those things to glorify him.

With that in mind, I wanted to share with you a few potential next steps:

FIND AREAS TO SERVE AT GRACE

We're not just talking about money here. We need you. If Grace is your home church, then we encourage you to find an area to serve. Visit graceb3.org/next to find ways to get involved in the ministries of the church.

FIND WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE

Find ways to give at Grace. By giving to the local church, you're not only supporting what goes on here, but also providing a direct impact on the community and world through our support of local organizations, local campus ministries, and missionaries around the world. You can find information on how to give at graceb3.org/give. There, you can also find details on some of our ongoing focused giving projects:

- Building Accessibility Improvements
- Counseling Scholarships
- Extending Grace
- Next Gen Bibles and Resources
- Short-Term Missions Scholarships
- Summer Backyard Bible Clubs

GIVE & SERVE BEYOND THESE FOUR WALLS

Speaking of supporting other organizations, we encourage you to be a blessing to other local organizations. There are many worthy causes that could use your support. Some that Grace partners with include:

- North Liberty Community Pantry
- Coralville Community Food Pantry
- IC Compassion
- The Arc of Southeast Iowa
- International Neighbors
- Navigators

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW GOD WANTS YOU TO RESPOND

in this season and be open to the opportunities he puts before you. Speaking from experience, there's nothing quite like the joy of seeing how God moves in us and around us when we step out in faithfulness.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING



NOW FOR THE FUN LOGISTICAL

stuff when it comes to year-end giving:

Donations made online (graceb3.org/give) between now and December 31 will appear on your 2024 giving statement.

Cash or checks left in the offering boxes between now and December 31 will appear on your 2024 Giving Statement. Per IRS regulations, all checks placed in the offering boxes after December 31 will be acknowledged for 2025 regardless of the date written on them.

Any checks mailed to the church must be postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2024 giving statement.

If you have any questions about year-end giving or want to discuss other ways to give, feel free to contact me at calebs@graceb3.org or at 319-626-2040. 🌿

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

