



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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.*

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*Church Staff & Officers*

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**David J. Wilcher**

*Lead Pastor*

**Kyle Bobos**

*Pastor of Children's Ministries*

**Todd Crusey**

*Pastor of Community Life*

**Grayson Baird**

*Director of Student Ministries*

**Elders**

*Dan Brink*

*Jon Green*

*Mike Hume*

*Mark Moore*

*Andy Yung*

**Deacons**

*Matt Bradshaw*

*Mike Bellin*

*Amy Bottorff*

*Justin Chandler*

*Jeff Cranford*

*Mark Hill*

*Scott Johnston*

*Steve Kovach*

*Rob McIntosh*

*Mike Ryan*

*Sunny Yung*

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

## Reflections

I hate the idea of Idi Amin living in Saudi Arabia for the last 25 years of his life. That galls me to no end. I feel some sort of need for biblical atonement, or justice, or something. I like to believe there is some comeuppance, that karma kicks in at some point, even if it takes years or decades to happen. My girlfriend says this great thing that's become my philosophy as well. "I want to believe there's a heaven. But I can't not believe there's a hell."

— Vince Gilligan  
creator of *Breaking Bad*

If, when we see an injustice, our blood does not boil at some point, we have not yet understood the depths of God. It depends on what outrages us. To be outraged on behalf of oneself or one's own group alone is to be human, but it is not to participate in Christ. To be outraged and to take action on behalf of the voiceless and oppressed, however, is to do the work of God.

— Fleming Rutledge  
*The Crucifixion*

Peace will only begin to be possible when we try to do justice to the side with which we do not feel sympathy, and earnestly try to call up in our own imagination the sorrows we have not suffered and the angers we do not feel.

— G.K. Chesterton  
*Illustrated London News*, June 25, 1932

Let people know that by giving their allegiance to Christ they will be embarking on a great campaign to banish war and poverty and injustice, to set up a life where love and service and justice have taken the place of selfishness and power. Let people know that the church that sends out this manifesto plans to be an advance copy of the new world order it preaches.

— Harvie M. Conn  
*Evangelism: Doing Justice & Preaching Grace*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*The Second Sunday in Lent*

February 25, 2018

10:30 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Preparation for Worship<sup>1</sup>**

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*Praise*

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**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;  
approach our God, who is full of mercy.

*All: We will praise God with all our heart  
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.*

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

**Song of Praise**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Knowing You*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

                    *Renewal*                    

**Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 54:7-8**

“For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with deep compassion I will bring you back.  
In a surge of anger  
I hid my face from you for a moment,  
but with everlasting kindness  
I will have compassion on you,”  
says the Lord your Redeemer.

**Confession of Sin**

*Leader &  
People:*

*Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we  
confess before you our own sinfulness;  
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;  
we have compromised with evil;  
we have doubted your power to protect us.  
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we  
may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.*

## Private Confession and Reflection

### Words of Encouragement

2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Song of Thanksgiving

*O Love of God*

### The 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.

Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth."

3 But Naboth replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my ancestors."

4 So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

5 His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?"

6 He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

7 Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. 9 In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. 10 But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

11 So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. 12 They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. 13 Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. 14 Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned to death."

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead." 16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 18 "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. 19 Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"

20 Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!"

"I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. 21 He says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. 22 I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.'

23 "And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

24 "Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country."

25 (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. 26 He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.)

27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 29 "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

LONGING FOR JUSTICE  
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

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COMMUNION

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*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**

*Here in This Place*

**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. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

## **Song of Commitment**

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

## **Benediction<sup>2</sup>**

**— Galatians 1:2-5**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## **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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Worship Music<sup>3</sup>

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Brent Allmon, saxophone

T.J. Darst, bass

David Fox, keyboard

Damon Henrichs, guitar

David Kang, violin

Debra Moses, flute

Rae Moses, piano

Jennifer Reddick, flute

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### *Sermon Notes*

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## **1 Kings 21**

*LONGING FOR JUSTICE*

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS**

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<sup>3</sup> 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

### Community Group Questions

1. Do you think that the world is unjust? What are some of the unjust situations that bother you? Have you ever experienced injustice? How do we normally process it?
2. What is going on in this passage? Why does Ahab want this property? What would be the reasons that Naboth would sell to the king? Why does he refuse the king's offer?
3. What actually is at stake in this transaction? What is Naboth being asked to do? Why is this transaction significant?
4. How does Jezebel respond? How does Ahab respond? How is being aggressive and being passive the same? Which do we most use? How does everyone else respond? Why doesn't anyone object or resist?
5. When are we most likely to use force? To sulk? To be apathetic?
6. How does God respond? Why does he not respond before Naboth is killed? If suffering injustice, would an explanation be helpful? Why or why not?
7. How does the life and death of Jesus meet us in our sufferings? How does it transform it? What are some of the ways we can fight injustice? What are some of the ways we can be present with those who are suffering injustice?

**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 [nursery@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:nursery@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.

**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 round table in the Narthex. Place the card and your check, earmarked lily, in the offering plate. Sunday, March 25th is the deadline to place your order. After the 2nd service on Easter be sure and take your lily home with you.

**Holy Week:** On March 30th at 6:30 pm we will have our Good Friday service. This year's Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 31st from 10 am - 12 pm at Cranebrook Park. We will gather at the park for brunch, fellowship, and egg hunting. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring food and/or drinks. We also need eggs...lots of eggs. Please bring plastic eggs filled with candy or small toys and drop them in the collection baskets between now and Sunday, March 25th. Please do not fill eggs with products containing peanuts, chocolate, or loose, unpackaged candy. On Easter morning, Christian Ed classes will not meet, but we will have two Worship services at 9 am and 10:30 am. The nursery will be provided during both Worship services.

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes:** Join us next week in the ongoing special series featuring our local ministry partners. Come meet them and hear about their work in the community.

**• Hope: Fuel for the Journey**

Missions Team

Hope, common to all people, is the fuel for the journey of life. As Christians, our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ and the complete restoration of the world through him. At Grace we support organizations and individuals who bring hope to the world in a number of ways—hope for a better tomorrow, hope for healing, hope for a safer next step, hope for safety for our children, and hope for security in Christ. In our 6-week series we will hear from local ministry partners who work daily to bring hope to their clients or their congregation. Our guests will include Redeemed Ministries, PACN, Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Montgomery County Women's Center, Cornerstone Team Counseling and Interfaith of The Woodlands.

**Join us weekly at 9:30 – upstairs in the Education Building**

**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 consist of 8-15 people meeting regularly in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Most groups meet on Sunday nights, but other times are also available. *A full list and descriptions of our current groups is available in the Narthex. Two groups meet*

*immediately after the service.* If you'd like to learn more community life at Grace, please contact Todd Crusey at [todd@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:todd@gracewoodlands.org).

#### **Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:**

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. **In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and print your giving statements.** If you did not receive login instructions or would like to be added to the church directory, contact Dianna in the office at [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org) or 281-296-0911.
- **Grace Church Mobile App (Elexio Community by Elexio)** is available for iPhone and Android and can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. In addition to giving users access to the church directory and events, the mobile app also offers a mobile check-in option for the Nursery. To log on, replace "Domain" with [gracewoodlands](http://gracewoodlands.org) and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **Grace Online Giving Portal.** If you would like to give online, you will need to setup an account. The link can be found on our website under the Care/Give tab.

**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! Tonight we will have our SNiCK/56ers Winter Olympics party! Next week, March 4th, we will have our Princess/Super Hero night. Feel free to dress up and invite friends.
- **VBS** will be June 4th-8th. Mark your calendars! Registration will begin in March. See Kyle if you are interested in volunteering.
- **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 Deborah Kovach or Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.

#### **Student Ministry:**

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 am, 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 Sunday evenings we gather to eat, fellowship, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm and Sr. High meets 7-8:30 pm. Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be made in the image of God. Join us this semester as we discuss all the different relationships we have in our lives and what it means to usher the love of Christ into all of these places.
- **Game Night** on March 10th. Join us for a night full of card games, mafia and more! Drop-off at Grace at 7 pm and pick-up 9 pm! Desserts will be provided!
- **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids.
- **Save The Dates:**
  - **Ranchopalooza-** March 2-4, 2018. This is a weekend retreat for high school students to unplug and retreat from our busy schedules to be present with God and one another. The retreat speaker is Dagan Mayfield, RUF Campus Minister at Texas Tech. The cost for the trip is \$125 for the weekend. You can join to the trip up until February 28th.

**Women's Ministry Events and More!** Please join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Thursday morning group meets from 9:30-11am in the youth room and will be going through Tim Keller's study on The Gospel of Mark. The fee for material is \$5. Childcare will be provided. The Wednesday evening group meets from 7-8:30 pm also upstairs, and they will be going through Elyse Fitzpatrick's book entitled *Found in Him*. You will need to purchase the book on your own for the evening study. For more info, contact Kristen Chandler.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, March 1st we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.

#### **Men's Fraternal:**

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, March 20th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at 6:30 am on Tuesday, February 27th at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet is available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the Person and Work of Jesus.

#### **GraceCares:**

- **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. We would love to have you join us. 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.
- **Serve and Care for Grace Church members and congregation.** If you would like to know the best way to support and help those who might have financial or physical 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.

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.

- **ESL:** GraceMissions is starting an ESL ministry in order to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. Teacher training was held on Feb 3rd, but we still need volunteers to serve as classroom assistants. Classes will begin in mid-March. To learn more, join the ESL group in the church database or email Bailey Patel at [esl@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:esl@gracewoodlands.org).
- **February Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of February.
  - Rev. Blake & Mrs. Ryan Arnoult, RUF at University of Houston
  - Rev. Joe & Mrs. Felicity Congdon, MTW, Yokkaichi, Japan
- **Local Mission Partners**
  - Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
  - Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
  - Cornerstone Recovery | The Woodlands, TX
  - Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
  - Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
  - Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
  - Three Local Refugee Pastors: Pastor Thong Lun & Pastor Mang Tiak -Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, Pastor Bhadra Rai & wife, Ruth -Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston, Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang -International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | Houston, TX

Blake & Ryan Arnoult | RUF | University of Houston  
 Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University  
 William & Katherin Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University  
 Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX  
 Bill Thomas | PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX  
 Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX  
 Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Mission Partners**

Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University  
 John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas  
 Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University  
 Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University  
 Nathan & Falon Moretto | New City Presbyterian Church | Royal Oak, MI  
 David & Kelly Richter | Christ the King Presbyterian Church | Somerville, MA  
 Francis A. Schaeffer Institute | Covenant Theological Seminary | Saint Louis, MO  
 Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) | Atlanta, GA  
 Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio

• **International Mission Partners**

Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University  
 Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas  
 Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, Tokyo, Japan  
 Charlie & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico  
 Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia  
 David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany  
 Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon  
 Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe  
 Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

**Stewardship Update:** Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for January 2018.

|                     | <u>January</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Projected Budget    | 70,858         |
| Actual General Fund | 43,549         |
| Variance            | (27,309)       |

**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.

**Missed a Recent Sunday Worship?** MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://www.gracewoodlands.org) under Media. You can listen online, download them or subscribe to the Podcast. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911  
 Email: [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org) Website: [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://www.gracewoodlands.org)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Children & 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

Prayer Request:

- ☐ I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_.

*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.*