

February 2022



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GRANT

This month Pastor Grant shares some thoughts about discipleship and where God is leading our Grace Family as we head into 2022. See page 2 to read more.

WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

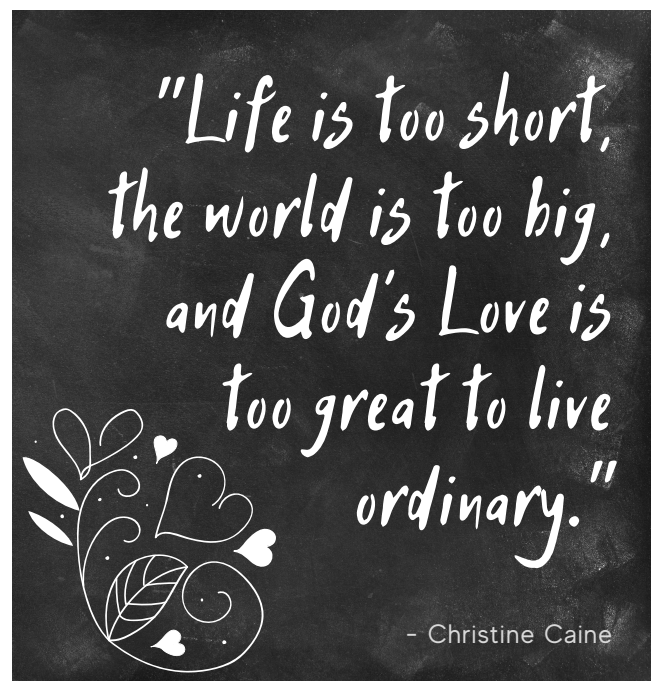
This month's Reflection was written by Beth Rutherford. Hear how a "mountaintop" experience reminded her of how important having God's perspective is in our everyday lives.

"HAVE-A-HEART" THIS FEBRUARY!

Exciting news! The 2022 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event has an official date! See page 4 to read more and see how you can get involved and "*Have-A-Heart*".

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS...

- Feb 2 Choir resumes, 6:30pm
- Feb 6 Worship with Communion
Q&A Session following the Worship Service
- Feb 7 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Feb 10 Missions Team meeting
- Feb 13 Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service
"A Taste of Chocolate" LESPWA Fundraiser in Plymouth
- Feb 21 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
Elders Fellowship 6:30pm
- Feb 25-27 Senior High Retreat at Silver Birch Ranch
- Feb 26 Awaken Women's Conference
@ Community Church in Fond du Lac



- Christine Caine

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GRANT



Dear Grace Family,

I am filled with excitement and anticipation as we continue to venture forward into this New Year and begin to unpack the vision that the Lord has placed on the hearts of the Elders regarding the future of Grace Church. This time-period marks a watershed moment for us as we consider: do we continue in the way we always have, or do we pursue a way that will empower and equip every member to fulfill their purpose and call in Christ?

Possibly the biggest adjustment for us will be our approach to how we make disciples. We are all familiar with the Great Commission in which Jesus commands to *"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 28:19-20 ESV).

Unfortunately for many of us, discipleship has been relegated to the period that we gather on a Sunday morning to hear the Word, rather than a lifestyle of connection to the Lord's Word, his Spirit, and his people. In his book *"Growing Up"*, author Robby Gallaty makes this somewhat amusing, but startling comment. He says that *"preaching to make disciples is like going to the nursery and spraying crying babies with milk and saying you just fed the kids... discipleship involves more than preaching and listening."* He is right; Discipleship is a call to action **with** other believers as we teach, encourage, comfort, and instruct one another in the work of the gospel. He continues by saying that *"Jesus measured success by something other than buildings, bodies, and bucks. He taught us that disciple-making is what matters, and it is a process that takes time."*

This truth reminds me of this passage from John 3:22 which states that, after meeting with Nicodemus in Jerusalem, *"Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them..."*. This short passage encompassed a period of about six months! Jesus impressed himself upon his disciples until they bore his indelible image.

In their book *"Discipleshift"*, authors Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington echo this idea when they state that *"...Jesus invited people into relationships with himself; he loved them and, in the process, showed them how to follow God. His primary method was life-on-life."*

Our Lord Jesus is calling us back to the lifestyle he exemplified to his disciples during his earthly ministry.

His example has been borne-out in recent research which has been compiled in the book *"The Shape of Faith to Come"* by Dr. Brad Waggoner. The result of their research showed that the top three predictors of ongoing, year-to-year, spiritual growth are:

1. Reading the Bible and other Christian literature daily,
2. Attending the weekly worship service, and
3. Being involved in a small Bible study group.

It will be in our small, intimate groups that we can experience the life-on-life care, support, and community that we so desperately need, especially during this time in which our society works to sow discord and division.

In Genesis chapter one, we read multiple times in which the Lord states that all he had made was *good*. In Genesis 2:18, before sin had entered this good creation, the Lord made this startling statement: "It is NOT GOOD that man should be alone." God in his wisdom designed us for life-on-life fellowship and communion. Let us not resist his call but embrace all that he has in store for us this year and in the years to come.

Blessings in Christ OUR Savior,

PASTOR GRANT

NEWS & NOTES

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Don't Miss These Important Upcoming Meetings!

Join us on **Sunday, February 6**, immediately after the worship service for an important congregational meeting with Q&A time and prayer. Participation via Zoom will be an option for this meeting, allowing those using Zoom to submit questions via the chat feature. **If you plan on using Zoom, please contact the Office no later than Wednesday, Feb. 2nd**, either by phone (920) 922-7211 or email office@gracechurchfdl.net to receive the secure link for the meeting.

The voting meeting on Sunday, February 13 will also be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. For information on how to submit an absentee ballot please contact the office **no later than Wednesday, Feb. 9th**.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE?

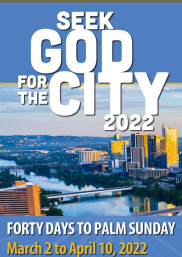
Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution is for everyone. \$22 cash donation per food share (no checks) for non-pre-registered guests. 1 food share equals a grocery cart of food.

When: Thursday, February 10th at Grace Christian Church.

Where: Grace Christian Church 1596 4th St. FDL, WI 54935.



For guests who prefer less contact with other guests, online pre-registration is available. Go to www.rubyspantry.org to reserve your slot using a credit or debit card. **At this time masks are optional. Limit of two food shares per vehicle. Trunk of vehicle MUST BE EMPTY.** Guests will drive into the East entrance of the parking lot off of Hwy K and park on the South side of the building. The parking lot will NOT be open before 3:30pm. Please DO NOT park on either side of Hwy K, in the Mausoleum parking lot, or on 4th St. All guests must enter the building to check-in. Questions? Email rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org or leave a question on their website www.gccfdl.org



JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY AS WE COME TOGETHER TO PRAY WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

We invite you to use the "Seek God for the City" 40-day prayer guide to help you Seek God's face & Seek God's Kingdom for our cities and every country in the world. Sign up at the Info Booth **by Sunday, February 6th** to get a copy of the physical prayer guide OR download the mobile app on your AppStore! For those of you with kids be sure to pick up the special Kids edition from the Info Board.

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE THE PICTURE DIRECTORY!

The time has come to update the Grace picture directory and we **NEED YOUR HELP**. We're asking that **everyone participate** (even if you've done so before) so that we can be sure we have the most updated information printed and available.

Pick up a paper form or fill it out online by going to our website www.gracechurchfdl.org/registration. If you've never purchased a directory they are available for \$15 from the Grace Office (to help cover the cost of the binder & materials). **Any updates that are printed are available at no cost to you!**

Need an updated picture taken for the directory?

Sign up to have your picture taken after a worship service in March. Dates & times are listed at the Info Booth. Sign up today or call the office during office hours.



"A Taste of Chocolate"

Come out and support **LESPA International** by joining us Sunday, February 13, 2022, from 12:00-3:00pm at Amore, 18 W Mill St, Plymouth. \$15 dollar suggested donation at the door. Featuring 25+ decadent chocolate creation samples (gluten-free options available), gift baskets (cash & carry), and unique Haitian crafts. Special music by "Smooth Groove". Call (920) 980-2343

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

Save The Date - February 25-27, 2022. You don't want to miss out! Contact Brad for details and registration info rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net.

ARE YOU READY FOR WARMER WEATHER? WE SURE ARE!!!

It's hard to believe but the time has come to sign up for the annual **Memorial Day Weekend Campout**. The dates this year are May 27-30. The cost for a campsite for the weekend is \$130. There are also some cabins available. To reserve your campsite or for more information, contact Roland or Mary Ritzema at ritzema5@yahoo.com. **The deadline to reserve your space is Sunday, February 20th.** Don't wait! You won't want to miss this fun event.

Awaken

Sat. February 26, 2022 | 8:30am-3:30pm

Women's Conference

Community Church

Are you longing for the Holy Spirit to stir up your heart and awaken you to all God is doing in and through your life right now? Take the next step in your spiritual journey with courageous confidence. Invite God to rejuvenate you through Gospel-centered teaching, genuine Christian fellowship, prayer, and worship at **Community Church's Awaken Women's Conference**. Tickets are available at Community Church, ReachOut Books or online at: ccfdl.org/events/awaken-womens-conference-2022. Early bird ticket price is \$35 before February 15, 2022. Price goes up to \$40 after that date. Visit ccfdl.org/awaken for more info!

HELP OUR LOCAL SHELTERS & CRISIS PROGRAMS!



We are collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio's annual "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive, Feb. 13 - March 6. **A collection box will be arriving in the lobby soon for your Help for the Homeless donations -- the deadline for donations is March 6.** Or make a financial donation for the purchase of supplies for our community at **TheFamily.net**

Supplying these items to local shelters will help them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food, and shelter to those they serve.

Most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen size trash bags (shelters go thru LOTS of these), shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care. Your donations remain here in the Fond du Lac community and will be going to local agencies like ADVOCAP Homeless Program, Beacon House, New Beginnings, Solutions Center & The Salvation Army.

FEB. AWANA SCHEDULE

Feb. 6 - Hearts Night

Feb. 13 - **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY (NO AWANA)**

Feb. 20 - Glow Stick Night

Feb. 27 - Help for the Homeless Night

(Please bring some items for the Help for the Homeless drive. See that announcement above)





Global Missions & LOCAL OUTREACH

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2022 FOND DU LAC MOBILEPACK?

So much changed in 2020–21, however, Feed My Starving Children's commitment stayed true to feeding God's children - hungry in body and spirit. *We are excited to announce Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, April 2, 2022, are the dates of next the Fond du Lac MobilePack.*

Your efforts and contributions are even more critical in these unprecedented times. Undernourished children are more susceptible than ever to infectious diseases, like COVID-19. At this point, the global pandemic, and its economic impact, have left 265 million people on the brink of starvation. Our goal for this pack is to raise \$25,000 to pack 101,088 meals.

Please include our event number 2204-051SC to your donations to ensure that they will be added to our packing event.

You can submit donations electronically through our FMSC direct giving page <https://bit.ly/FDLFMSC2022>, or you can mail donations to:

Feed My Starving Children
(ATTN: MobilePack #2204-051SC)
401 93rd Avenue NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Please make checks be payable to:
FMSC, memo line MobilePack #2204-051SC

STAY TUNED!
The sign-up goes
live on March 1,
2022 for the
Mobile Pack Event!
Watch for details.



HELP US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING
GOAL BY GIVING TO THE



**Have-A-Heart
Fundraiser**



Please select a paper heart ornament and giving envelope from the lobby display. Send in the dollar amount on the heart in the addressed envelope to FMSC.

Please include event #2204-051SC on the check. Donations can also be made on the FMSC website
<https://bit.ly/FDLFMSC2022>

If all the hearts at all the churches are taken and mailed in, we should be at our financial goal before the event! Everyone can help--Heart gifts begin at just \$5.





Monthly Reflection

What is Your Perspective?

Submitted by Beth Rutherford

Perspective can be everything. Looking at houses from an airplane window shrinks structures that normally loom large to so many square-shaped specks. Looking at stars through a telescope provides a far more detailed view than what standing in your backyard might provide.

I had an interesting 'lesson' regarding perspective a week ago. As I sat in our study for a quiet time, I decided to put my earbuds in and listen to a worship song. Earbuds are great at drowning out noise from the environment enabling you to be fully engrossed in what you are listening to. I closed my eyes as I was captivated by the worship song, and I could 'see' (in my mind's eye) myself standing on top of a huge mountain. From my perspective I could see wispy clouds and other mountains in the distance. I saw myself with arms outstretched taking in the awesome view. Although I was small in comparison to what I was viewing, I didn't feel insignificant, but I did have an overwhelming sense of God's greatness.

As I continued to enjoy the moment I was experiencing, I began to think about perspective. Sometimes my life can feel less like a mountaintop experience and more like being at the base of a mountain staring up at a towering mass of impossibility. At any given moment, life can throw a seemingly insurmountable obstacle into our lives: a chronic health condition, a failing relationship, an unsaved family member, financial woes, a job loss, death of a loved-one etc. Standing at the foot of the obstacle or challenge can feel overwhelming and even intimidating. We need a different perspective.

I remember hearing the expression "too heavenly minded to be any earthly good".

I always thought this made sense – we must live in the here and now, not with our heads in the clouds. However, on closer inspection, I'm not sure that this saying lines up with scripture.

Colossians 3:1-3 says

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Living a life with our minds set on "things above" offers a different perspective.

My "mountaintop" experience served to remind me that I need to trust God to give me *his* perspective in any given situation. Things look far different from the summit than from base camp. That does not take away from the mountains we face in our daily lives – they are real, and they bring with them a variety of challenges: sadness, suffering, grief, doubts, fear... We need to ask God to give us *his* perspective in our situation so that we don't lose sight of who he is, what he might be trying to show us, or how he desires to receive glory in and through our trials. Perhaps the expression should be "SO heavenly minded that we *ARE* earthly good."

So what is your perspective? Let me encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus – every day in every circumstance that comes your way. Perspective can be everything.

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

“So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear-view mirror so small? Because our past isn't as important as our future. So look ahead ... not behind ... and move on.”

Author Unknown

One thing that is for certain is the **present**. It is this very moment that you are spending reading this “Anchor”. The present is all we ever have. We cannot change the past, nor can we control the future. All we really have is the present. It's hard to live in the present, for our thoughts have a tendency to jump from the past to the future. Thinking about our future and where it might take us, while dwelling on past actions and how they lead us to where we are at this present moment.

*Our past is exactly that ... **our past**.* There is little we can do to change it. For some, the guilt of their past rules their present and will affect their futures. Do you allow the feelings you have to rule your present and your future? Let me ask it this way ... Do you serve our All-forgiving God or do you serve your feelings, the feelings caused by your past?

Through His Holy Spirit, God will give us the power and the grace to see us through whatever challenges this day holds, and give us the power to overcome whatever obstacle we might face. Realize that God is only a prayer way ... call on Him when you face bad memories of your past ... or worry and concern about your future. Let's finish with Philippians 3:13-14, “... *But one thing I do ... forgetting the things which are behind ... and stretching forward to the things that are before ... I press on toward the goal ... unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*”

Lord help us today to keep our eyes fixed on the new day You have given us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on You, our Lord and Savior. Direct our path as we turn this new day over to Your care and keeping. For You are the Anchor of our lives, and You will never fail us.

“Do not be afraid to enter the cloud that is settling down on your life ... God is in it. The other side is radiant with his Glory.” L.B. Cowman

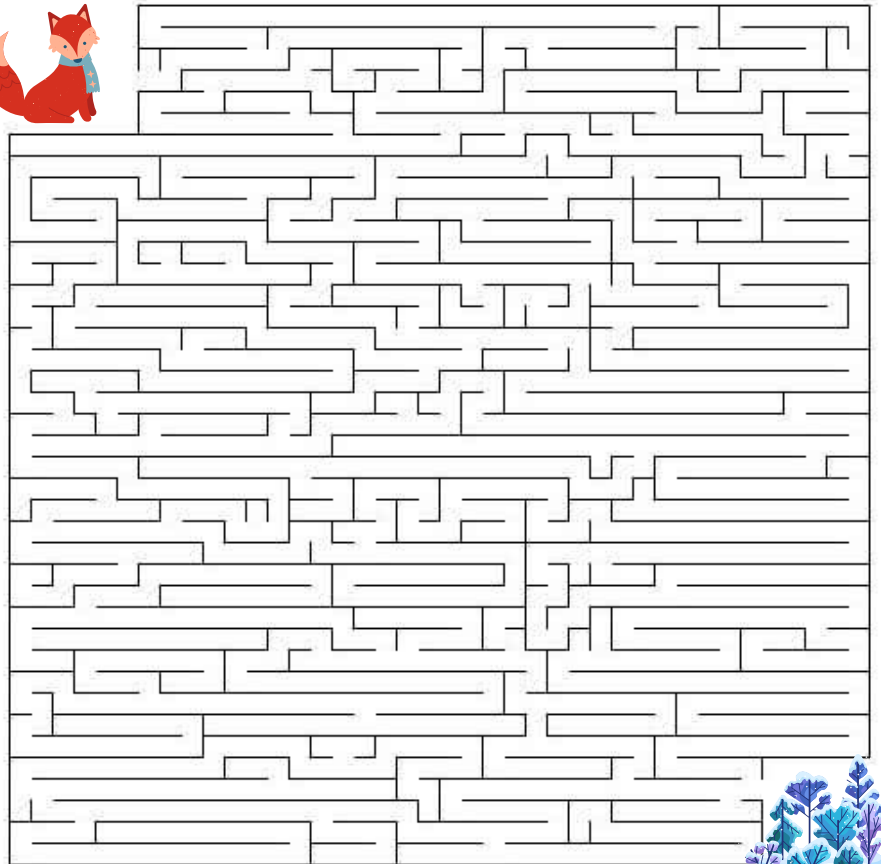
When I read the above quote on fear, I did some study and found more than 100 verses (and I am sure there are more) on fear. The Bible recognizes that fear is one of our greatest enemies. Throughout the Old Testament and the New, we find verse after verse on how we are to recognize our fears and how we need to depend on God for help in handling them. I think that even Jesus experienced fear. As he knelt in prayer on the Mount of Olives prior to His betrayal by Judas, He knew of the horrible death that awaited Him and He prayed ... “*Father, if you are willing, take away this cup of suffering.*” Fear had it's grip on Him, yet He recognized that His Father was His source of strength, and He prayed ... “*Not my will, but Thy will be done.*” (Luke 22:42)

This day may hold something that you greatly fear. As you awake, fear grips you and anxiety fills your mind. Think of this promise from our God who loves you ... “*My grace is sufficient for you... for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*” Fear and anxiety is our weakness, and God is fully prepared to provide us the grace we will need to overcome it. J. L. Packer writes ... “Grasp the fact that God is for you. You will find in thus knowing God as your Sovereign Protector, irrevocably committed to you in the covenant (His promise) of grace ... both freedom from fear and new strength for the fight.”

One more “fear” verse to share with you from The Message, Isaiah 43:1-4 ... “*Don't be afraid! I have redeemed you. I've called your name. You're Mine! When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place ... it won't be a dead-end... Because I am God, your personal God, the Holy One, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you ... that's how much you mean to Me! That's how much I love you!*” Someone once said ... “Courage is not the absence of fear ... it's to feel the fear and face it anyway.” We can only do this through the power of God's grace and the promises of His Word.

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!

ENJOY SOME
WINTER
FUN!



Help the little
fox to make it
back to the
forest



Winter Word Search Puzzle

F	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	H	O	C	K	E	Y	V
V	U	S	B	J	T	M	P	W	O	L	P	T	D	W
P	T	N	P	B	O	O	T	S	F	Y	S	A	L	T
S	N	O	W	M	A	N	Y	C	C	S	T	O	R	M
E	F	W	T	Z	L	S	E	I	R	R	U	L	F	S
S	F	M	L	E	E	L	Y	E	O	Y	Y	D	N	E
E	O	O	M	E	M	I	A	U	M	A	V	O	I	R
K	G	B	S	W	O	P	S	B	L	F	W	G	H	U
A	N	I	H	V	B	P	A	P	W	B	M	N	S	T
L	I	L	O	B	B	E	N	N	L	O	L	I	K	P
F	D	E	V	D	U	R	D	O	Q	U	N	H	I	L
X	I	N	E	D	B	Y	W	W	X	J	P	S	I	U
Z	L	K	L	N	I	E	L	D	T	L	D	I	N	C
F	S	V	V	L	R	K	T	F	I	R	D	F	G	S
T	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	J	W	W	H	I	T	E

BOOTS	SKATING
DRIFT	SKIING
FISHING	SLIDING
FLAKES	SLIPPERY
FLURRIES	SNOWBALL
FUN	SNOWBLOWER
HOCKEY	SNOWMAN
ICY	SNOWMOBILE
PLAY	STORM
PLOW	WHITE
SALT	
SAND	
SCRAPER	
SCULPTURE	
SHOVEL	



163 18th Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
office@gracechurchfdl.net
www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday mornings at 8:45am
Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at
Grace Church
building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Pastor Grant Baumgart - *Worship & Admin*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Pastor Brad Rutherford - *Youth & Family*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

Pastor Mark Voll - *Interim*

cell: (479) 372-8853 email: voll@gracechurchfdl.net

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

phone: 922-7211 cell: (920) 979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: *Friday, Saturday & Sunday*

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

12/5/2021	\$19,797	195
12/12/2021	\$8,547	190
12/19/2021	\$8,501	166
12/26/2021	\$20,134	170

December Weekly Ave: \$14,244.75 160

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
\$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$269,301
Year to Date Expenses \$255,075

Totals reflect December month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
March Words of Grace
to the church office by **February 15th**.
You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
office@gracechurchfdl.net

Office Hours are:
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday 8:00am-11:30am