

November 2022



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

THIS MONTH'S PASTOR'S PAGE...

Pastor Grant shares some thoughts on the upcoming shopping/gifting season, and some helpful hints! Check out his article on page 2.

HO HO... HOLIDAYS UP AHEAD!

It's hard to believe the holidays are here... but now is the perfect time to get involved. See page 5 for some ways to spread some JOY this holiday season.

NOVEMBER IS NAT'L ADOPTION MONTH

You do not want to miss this story! Linda Flood shares about Angel's adoption story. See page 4 to read Linda's testimony of God's faithfulness to their family.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...

- Nov 5 Youth outing to Fondy Bears Hockey Game, 8:00pm
- Nov 6 Worship with Communion
- Nov 7 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 10 Missions Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 13 Veterans Recognition Sunday, Adopt-a-Soldier Tree
- Nov 17 EFCA Area 9 Lunch Meeting hosted at GRACE
- Nov 19 Youth Bowling Outing at Parkway Lanes, 5:00pm
- Nov 21 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service at GRACE, 6:30pm
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Dinner, noon at GRACE, Office closed
- Nov 25 Church office closed
- Nov 27 No AWANA or YOUTH GROUP Meetings tonight

Weekly Staff Meetings are usually Monday mornings @ 8:30am

"Gratitude isn't only a celebration when good things happen: gratitude's a declaration that GOD IS GOOD no matter what happens."

- Ann Voskamp



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they seek God's face and God's direction for us to join in His mission as the Grace Family, and as they look for God's guidance in shepherding His people.
- Pray for the Deacons to have wisdom as they come along side hurting people, and steward the resources with which we have been blessed.
- Pray for the Ministry Leaders to experience God's presence and power as they lead their ministries.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **8:45am** Sunday Mornings at Grace Church
- **6:30pm** Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church
- **6:00am** Wednesdays Men's Prayer - Prayer Room
- **8:00am** Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTIONS

- Mondays at noon
- Wednesdays at noon
- Fridays at 7:00am

The easiest way to access these Zoom gatherings is to go to the weekly E-blast (email) from the Church Office. The Zoom links are included every week.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GRANT

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As we approach the busiest shopping season of the year in preparation for Christmas, a common sales tactic comes to mind which I would like to unpack a little: **“add-ons”**, also known as **“up-selling”**.

An *add-on sale* refers to an additional, and often unnecessary, item or service sold to the buyer of a main product or service. Depending on the business, these sales represent a significant source of additional revenue for the company. Salespeople are trained to suggest these add-ons, which usually only cost pennies more for the company to produce, but generate incredible profits. Some examples include:

- “Would you like a drink with your order?”
- “Would you prefer the cooler 17” alloy rims?”
- “Have you considered the extended warranty?”
- “If you add a checked bag NOW it will only be \$50 instead of \$75 at the airport.”
- “Did I mention the upgraded leg room for only \$50 per flight?”

What bothers me most about this tactic is the idea or feeling of a “bait and switch” maneuver. I have been baited with an unbelievably low price, then coaxed into spending more. **I don’t like; it feels dishonest.**

So why bring this up now?

As we approach the shopping season, almost every retailer will promise that **joy** will result in your loved ones if you purchase *their* products WITH the obligatory add-ons. **But is this true joy?**

The answer is to be found in Jesus’ words:

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11 ESV

Full joy is to be found in our obedience to the Father and our intimate union with Him. This is the purpose for which we were created, and which brings the deepest fulfillment and deepest joy to our lives. Jesus’ joy came from such intimacy with the Father and His delight to do that which pleases the One Who is all love and goodness. Jesus is showing how our joy may be complete.

If we have no joy in obedience to the Father’s will, then perhaps we should consider whether we know Him as Jesus knows Him. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves what does bring us joy. This answer will begin to reveal the condition of our own hearts.

You see, **true joy** is not to be found in an overpriced trinket with an add-on; it is to be found in the **complete gift** which our Lord purchased for us: *unfettered access to an eternal relationship with our loving heavenly Father.*

During this festive season, let us pursue and offer this ultimate JOY!

Blessings in Christ our Lord,

PASTOR GRANT

NEWS & NOTES



Women of Grace,

Thank you for your donations to Charis Pregnancy Help Center of Fond du Lac. As a result, they were given a nice assortment of baby clothes and \$200 of Kwik Trip Fuel only gift cards.

Unborn lives are saved by the efforts of this center in our community. We hope you consider supporting it in the future.

The Church Office will be closed on November 24th & 25th.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Advent is just around the corner! We are looking for families, couples or individuals to help light the Advent wreath during the worship services. Contact the Office to volunteer: (920) 922-7211



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH



*Veteran Recognition
& Celebration*

DURING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE. DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL TIME OF REMEMBRANCE & CELEBRATION.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23rd | 6:30pm | here at Grace



RUBY'S PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS COMING UP ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER, 10TH! LOCATED AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CORNER OF 4TH ST. & CTY K. DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM FOR CHECK IN. DISTRIBUTION BEGINS AT 4:30. PRE-REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE BUT GOES QUICKLY!! \$25 CASH DONATION WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF GROCERIES. FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS GO TO WWW.GCCFDL.ORG/RUBYS/

GET CONNECTED TO LIFE AT GRACE! To be "in the loop" with all the latest information and details about events, ministries and opportunities, even the prayer chain, be sure you are on our email list! Contact the church office to "Plug In"! Email Carol at office@gracechurchfdl.net, or Rachel at cmc@gracechurchfdl.net, or call the church office at (920) 922-7211

Upcoming Youth Events

Saturday, November 5th | 8:00-10:00pm

Outing to the Fondy Bears Hockey Game at Blue Line

Saturday, November 19th | 5:00-6:30pm

Bowling at Parkway Lanes (Meet at Grace at 4:45pm)

Sunday Youth Meetings: Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20

No meeting on Sunday, Nov. 27th.

HEY PARENTS! PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

THERE ARE NO KIDS/YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH



WOMEN of GRACE

Together With Purpose

Ladies! You do not want to miss your last Purpose Group meeting of the year.

We'll spend time in fellowship, enjoy a devotion and activity about the Winter Garden -
A Season of Rest and Vision.

Your facilitator will be contacting you to set a date in November or December. If you would like to attend but are not currently in a group please contact the church office office@gracechurchfdl.net or (920) 922-7211.

Grace Family Thanksgiving Meal

Grace Family Thanksgiving Dinner, in the Fellowship Hall. Begins at noon on Thanksgiving Day. Sign up and bring a dish to share. Hosted by John & Jason Choi. Watch for sign up and more info coming soon.

BUMP SET SPIKE

Teens & Adults, you're invited to join us weekly for Volleyball & Fellowship at Grace in the Fellowship Hall! Wednesday nights at Grace from 7:30-9:00pm (PLEASE NOTE the adjusted start time!) No need to sign up, just show up!



YOU'RE INVITED! GET INVOLVED & JOIN A LIFE GROUP

Our LIFE Groups are intended to connect a small group of people for the purpose of friendship, fellowship, and following God together. The relationships formed in these groups can provide care and support, as well as opportunities to serve others, deepen our faith, and live out God's calling on our lives. Groups may be intergenerational, or made up of individuals of a similar age, or who share like interests.



LIFE GROUPS

Growing in faith & life together

To learn more contact Pastor Brad (rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net) or one of the other Elders!

AWANA SCHEDULE

Nov. 6 - Red, White & Blue Night

Nov. 13 - Adopt a Soldier Night (Bring items for soldiers with a letter - see pg. 5 for details)

Nov. 20 - Camouflage Night

Nov. 27 - Happy Thanksgiving (NO AWANA)





Monthly Reflection

Angel's Story - A Testimony of God's Faithfulness

Written by Linda Flood

In honor of November being National Adoption Month here is a special story from Linda Flood.

I was asked to write about our adoption experience, so here goes.

First of all, my name is Linda Flood, and I've been married to Bob Flood for 38 years. We have 7 biological children and adopted Angel 10 years ago when she was 8.

When our youngest son, Josiah was 12, I found myself deeply consumed with a home improvement project. All the kids were in school. The oldest three were already off to college and out of the house. Bob and I both thought 7 was a really nice number and we were content with being done growing our family.

So here I was, working on this project, listening to WEMI Christian radio. They were airing a program called Family Life, and the guest was sharing their adoption story. I had heard many adoption stories in the past and never got very emotional over any of them, but for some reason, I started crying as this story was being told. I cannot remember one single word that was spoken, only that I felt overwhelming emotions and could not stop crying. I was kind of baffled by this, so I simply asked God what is going on? Why am I crying about this? Instantly the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, not with an audible voice, but straight to my spirit, "Would you be willing to welcome an orphan into your home?"

Whoa! I did not see that coming! I had never entertained the idea of adoption before. It kind of buckled me at the knees - so much so that I had to go sit down and breathe. I was really sure God knew that we had 7 kids already, so I knew I didn't need to inform Him of this, but I did anyway! After regaining my composure, I thought to myself, the only reason God would ask me this is because He wanted to bring another child to us to care for. So, I answered very carefully, "If you want me to, I will!" Once again, the Holy Spirit answered me immediately, "Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes Me." My answer was also immediate: "ABSOLUTELY! My answer is YES! Absolutely YES! Lord, I want you to be welcomed in my home in whatever form you choose, so sign me up".

That brief, yet profound, dialogue with God kept me from quitting about 100 times. The next 3 1/2 years were laced with frustration, anger, fear, confusion, doubt, (did I mention frustration?). The paperwork, red tape, social workers dropping the ball, deadlines expiring and paperwork having to be done all over, 30 hours of mandatory (for each of us) education hours being lost and needing to be done over, but then being increased to 60 each!

"Lord", I said, "why is this so hard? It seems to me, if you asked me to do this, it should be easy. I don't understand why I am met with opposition at every turn. This feels like a big mistake. It feels like I do not have your favor with this. I am very conflicted here, Lord. I don't understand why this is so hard. I could sure use your help right now." Instantly (again), the Lord answered me with scripture. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall make your path straight." I had to repeat that verse about 100 times over the remainder of the adoption process. I was learning to walk by faith, and not by feelings. I was not a quick learner. It felt a lot like trying to write with my left foot.

I came so very, very close to bailing out. It was just too hard, too long, too frustrating, but I kept remembering that verse "Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes me". I kept remembering my answer, "ABSOLUTELY YES!" How could I tell God I changed my mind? How could I tell Him no? That would be like saying, "You are not welcome in my home after all."

By God's grace, I did not quit, and finally the day came when we were told we had the green light. Go ahead and book your flights. I was scared to death and told God so. He said He would go before me and hem me in behind. Sure enough. From that point on, the rest of the journey was a breeze. It felt like we were walking on air. We flew to Hong Kong to bring Angel home. The transition was seamless. The social worker in Hong Kong said she had never seen such a smooth transition. Ten years later, Angel continues to amaze us with her ability to roll with whatever comes along. She has been a constant source of joy that she cannot contain. It splashes out on everyone who gets to know her or even just meets her briefly.

I am so thankful God did not let me quit.

Truly Grateful,
Linda Flood



Top Right: Angel's senior photo.

Bottom Left: The entire Flood Clan

Bottom Right: In Hong Kong with Angel's foster parents & social worker. This building was one of the places she lived.



Missions Highlight

ADOPT-A-SOLDIER & THE GIVING TREE

Adopt-A-Soldier

Beginning Sunday, November 13th there will be a tree set up in the narthex for our men and women in the service. This will be the 14th year our church has been supporting our military personnel in this way. In that time, we have sent out 397 packages and 1003 letters. We are so grateful for the opportunity to minister to these men & women.

We know it's hard to believe but holiday shopping time is already here! This year we are changing things up a little. All service men serving state side will be sent a gift card from (Walmart, Target, or Amazon) a devotion book and letters. **Everyone is invited to write a letter!** We are asking each Discipleship class to write a letter or draw a picture. The AWANA kids will also be participating. This is also a great opportunity for Life Groups to get involved whether by writing letters or giving monetarily.

1 Corinthians 9:7 says: "For God loves a cheerful giver."

Please select tag off the tree located in the narthex put your check or cash in the envelope attached to your red, white, or blue tag (No need to register) and return them to church with the tag **no later than December 4, 2022.**

If you'd like to give monetarily you have a few options. If you write a check out to church please put "Adopt a Soldier" in the memo line. You can also give online via our online giving site. Visit www.gracechurchfdl.org/give or use this direct link: secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3TX/home

We welcome any amount for monetary donations which will go towards gift cards and postage. **Thank YOU for participating as we spread joy this Christmas!!!**

If you have a loved one serving, please contact Bonnie Springborn (coordinator) via email bonnbonn1@charter.net or the church office at (920) 922-7211 or office@gracechurchfdl.net

"A SOLDIER"

There is a discipline in a Soldier,
You can see it when he walks.
There is honor in a Soldier,
You hear it when he talks.
There is courage in a Soldier,
You can see it in his eyes.
There is loyalty in a Soldier
That he will not compromise.
There is something in a Soldier
that makes him stand apart.
There is strength in a Soldier
that beats from his heart.
A Soldier isn't a title any man
can be hired to do.
A Soldier is the soul of that man
buried deep inside of you.
A Soldier's job isn't finished
after an 8-hour day
or a 40-hour week.
A soldier is always a Soldier
even while he sleeps.
A soldier serves his country first,
and his life is left behind.
A Soldier has to sacrifice
what comes first in a Civilian's mind.
If you are a civilian—I am saying this to you...
Next time you see A Soldier
Remember what they do.
A Soldier is the reason our land is
'Home of the Free'.
A Soldier is the one that is brave
protecting you and me.
***If you are A Soldier—— I am saying this to you...
Thank God for Every Soldier,
Thank God for what you do!***

By: Angela Goodman

Christmas is coming!

Questions? Contact Jamie Trewin:
(920) 948-6973

It's that time of year, the Giving Tree is going up on November 20! This year we as a church will be supporting 28 local teenage moms thru **Youth For Christ** and a group of women from **New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center**. Participating is super easy! Pick a tag from the tree, shop for what's listed, wrap the gifts and return them **(with the tag)** by **Sunday, December 18th**. Unable to shop? Monetary donations are more than welcome. You can write a check out to church with "Giving Tree" in the memo line or give online. Visit www.gracechurchfdl.org/give or use this direct link: secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3TX/home.

NEW this year instead of food boxes we will be giving healthy individually wrapped snacks such as: fruit cups, granola bars, pudding cups, fruit snacks, etc.



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

"How rare it is to find a soul quiet enough to hear God speak." Francois Feneion

As each of us awakens to a new day, even before we open our eyes or get out of bed, our minds are already at work, comprehending what might happen in this new adventure called "today". Our waking thoughts immediately remind us of the litany of things that will be thrown in our path and requiring our action. And of course, Satan is right there too, with his supply of negative thoughts, *hoping that he will control* our day. For many, this day may hold the pleasant experiences of a day trip, a special visit from a friend, or some other fun time. For some, this day may be filled with the trials and unpleasant experiences of medical treatments, or job searching, maybe a court appearance, or some other difficult task. Each of our days are different, and there are no assurances of what kind of day this day will be - nor tomorrow, or the next day, or the next.

There isn't much - in fact, *there isn't anything* - that this world can guarantee us, and we are left to handle what ever our day may bring. But there is *one thing that is a certainty* - and that is **the love of God** and the very fact that He stands fully prepared to supply all we will need to get through. His word says ... **"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!"** (Psalm 46:10)

We, who profess that we are Christians, children of the Almighty God, have all the resources of our Heavenly Father at our call. God's call for us to "be still" means that He desires that we separate ourselves from today's activities and take time to quietly pause at the day's beginning, allowing God to touch us with His goodness and grace. I believe God has put, in each of us, a "quiet place" where we can go to meet Him, fellowship with Him, and prepare ourselves for the day that lays before us. It is to that place in our spirit where we can go to feel His presence, even when today may seem clouded and difficult. God's Word insures us of this, Paul writes ... **"For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today or our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."** (Romans 8:38)

"Forget the former things ... do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland for the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise." Isaiah 43:18, 19, 21

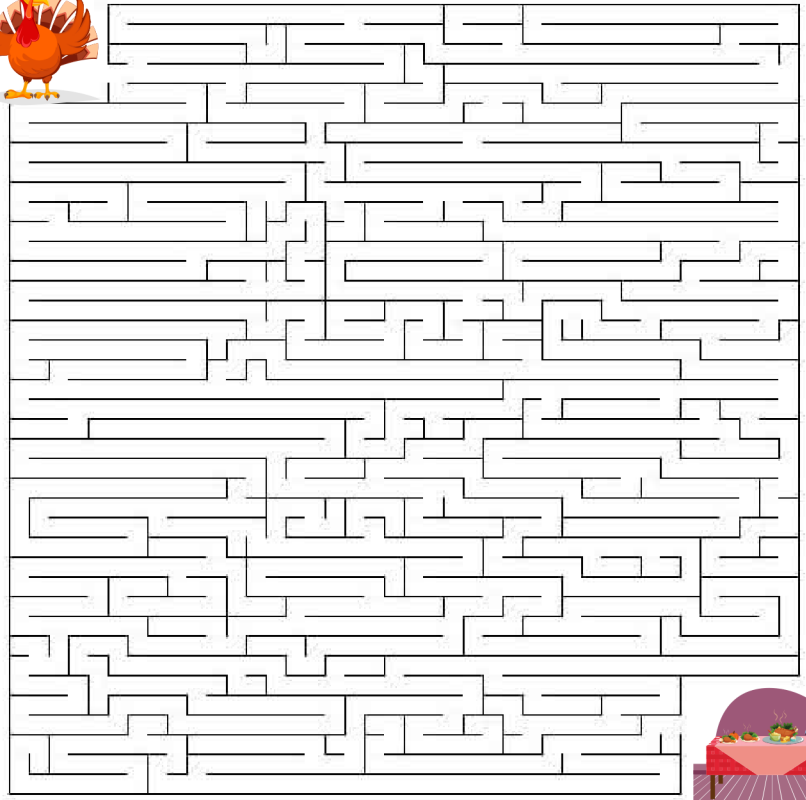
I always loved this old and familiar quote ... "Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over ... it became a butterfly." It serves to remind me of the situations of us many find ourselves on any given day, like the struggle and the difficulty of trying to stay positive when the circumstances you are facing want to drag you down and cause you to give up hope.

We had a friend who struggled with a serious health problem for many months. Just when it seems like relief and improvement have come, her health problems come at her again and again with new vengeance. It is a struggle for her to remain positive and not give up hope. Could you be going through a similar situation?

There are many issues that God's people face and for some staying faithful and hopeful can be very difficult. For many it may seem like their world is over. But my friend... HOLD ON! God's got a plan. He isn't finished with you yet. God made you and sacrificed His Son for you... you are loved and His promise is that changes will come. Marriages will be healed... prodigal children will return... infections will be cured... loneliness will answered with companionship... cancer will become dormant... jobs will be found... finances will be reconciled... and maybe you want to add your dilemma to this list? James 1:12 is God's promise ... **"God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward (and only God knows when that will be) they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."** Remember the caterpillar and the butterfly!

So lift your weary heads, strengthen your spirit through prayer and faith, fill yourself with the hope that only God can give, and step out into each new day, fully prepared to take on whatever problems you might be facing, knowing that today might just be the day that God has chosen to bring you healing and a new beginning. D.L. Moody once said ... "Faith takes God without any ifs." And Psalm 138:8 promises ... **"The Lord will work out His plans for my life..."** If you are feeling down today, remind yourself of the caterpillar and the butterfly, and trust God more than you ever have before.

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



Help Tom the Turkey avoid Thanksgiving dinner!

Give Thanks

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

WORD LIST

- BIBLE
- CHOCOLATE
- CRANBERRY
- FOOD
- FRIENDS
- GIFTS
- GOD
- GRATEFUL
- HEALTH
- HEAVEN
- JESUS
- LIFE
- LORD
- MERCY
- PETS
- PRAYER
- PUMPKIN
- REDEMPTION
- SPIRIT



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 6:00am.

*All meet at
Grace Church
building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

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

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@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

9/4/2022	\$4,706	142
9/11/2022	\$2,692	177
9/18/2022	\$16,345	176
9/25/2022	\$10,767	145

September Weekly Ave: \$8,627.50 160

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
\$9,576.67**

Year to Date Givings \$117,238
Year to Date Expenses \$110,042

Totals reflect September month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
December *Words of Grace*
to the church office by **November 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**