



Grace Fridley  
755 73rd Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
[www.gracefree.org](http://www.gracefree.org)

## APRIL 2024 Newsletter

### MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

“Mixing business with pleasure.” “Blurring the lines between work and personal life.”

You’ve heard those cliches related to lots of workers.

But, work is goofy for many church staff. The layperson’s Sabbath is the pastor’s primary work day!

Sunday is a big day for me. I put my “game face” on the night before. Praying, prepping, contemplating, and rehearsing mentally and physically consume my heart and mind, starting about supper time on Saturday. The next morning, after more of the same, I show up at church and interface with all kinds of God’s people and also know that I’m expected to “deliver the goods.” Then, that’s followed by more cordial and caring interactions with the faith-family.

On Sundays, at church, I have a one-track (more accurately, a two-track) mind. And, my own personal one-anothering and worshipping are necessarily displaced by the work of pastoring and preaching.

That’s my reality.

However, that needn’t be the reality for all staff—like, church support staff. Even ministry staff and teaching staff can benefit when the congregants

follow a simple protocol. That protocol is to postpone any church business you can for the days after Sunday.

When you bump into a custodial or office staff member on Sunday, you’re probably tempted to interrupt their sharing in community or their engaging in the worship service with a “quick, this won’t take long” reminder, request, or favor.

Even when yours is something brief or easy, it often piles on. That’s one reason working in the same place that one worships can be kind of a downer. But, you can help. Thank you.

Instead of blurring (or obliterating) the line between their work and their worship, you could pull out your phone and start a text or email to that staff person. You can finish it later (like during my sermon :) or when you get home. And they can respond when they’re in work mode instead of when they’re in fellowship and/or worship mode.

I know it may seem like it’s not a big deal. But, it can be a weight—a weight that I’d rather church staffers would not have to carry.

Thanks. I thought you’d want to know. You’re great!

lookin’ up,  
Steve

Good News - Praise God!

Our Search Committee and Elders have been in serious conversation with a candidate. Details will be shared immediately upon solidifying of final decisions.



**BIBLE STUDIES  
THROUGH THE WEEK**


**Tuesdays - 6:30 am**  
Fe<sup>2</sup> Men's group are exploring a study on the book of Job.

**Wednesdays - 1:00 pm**  
Hilltoppers Small group will study "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" by David Jeremiah.

**6:30 pm**  
Men will continue to explore the Life of Christ in chronological order.  
Ladies are diving into Lisa Harper's study on Hebrews.

**Thursdays - 6:00 am -**  
Ladies will study "Speaking Wisely: Exploring the Power of Words"

**Saturdays - 8:00 am -**  
(1st & 3rd)  
Band of Bros. are doing a study on Nehemiah by Eric Mason.



*Please pray for the kids, their families,  
and the volunteers*

*Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
Now - May 2nd, 5:30p-8:30p*

*Games: The first games were played this  
past Saturday, March 30, and will continue to  
be played Saturdays thru May 4th, 9a-3p*

*The season-ending celebration will be held  
on Saturday, May 4th*

**YOUTH FUNDRAISER  
MONDAY, APRIL 15TH  
4:00 - 8:00 PM  
ANDOVER PIZZA RANCH**

**ADULT BIBLE HOUR, SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15 AM  
(Final meetings May 19)**

**COVENANT** - Bible Study TBD, facilitated by Matt & Lindsay Christie, in the Conference Room.

**CROSSwalk** - "The Air We Breathe: How Christianity Has Shaped Our Culture", facilitated by Brian Beecken, in Room 302.

**MOSAIC** - "Christian Living: What does it mean, and how do you make those decisions?", facilitated by Pat Farley in Room 303.

**SECOND WIND** - "Christians in the Age of Outrage", meets in Room 301, facilitated by Roland Peterson.

**SON SEEKERS** - The book of Ezekiel, then Daniel. This class is team-led and meets in the Fellowship Hall.

**YOUNG ADULTS** - "One At A Time" by Kyle Idleman, facilitated by Aaron & Brittany Wellmann in the Library.

From the desk of Student Ministries:

I had a thought about the crucifixion the other day that was prompted by a question from one of my kids.

There are two big bundles of nerves that pass through the wrist on their way into the hand. When the soldiers drove the spike into Jesus' arm, it would have gone right through or been adjacent to both of the ulnar and median nerves.

Every time Jesus needed to take a breath, he had to pull up with his arms and chest, and he had to pull against that spike for leverage. And every time, those nerves would have ground mercilessly against that rough iron. Every ragged breath. Thirty breaths a minute. Minute after minute. Hour on hour. *Until his body literally broke.*

Our salvation is a gift from God. But make no mistake, it's not free. It was purchased at a very high price indeed.

*quicquid capit,*  
Noah



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### PRAYER TEAM

Be a part of the Grace Prayer Team and intercede for those with urgent requests, and specific needs. Emails will be sent weekly on Saturday evenings, and as needed.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

(2nd Friday of each month)

Set up: 10am-3pm

Serving: 4:30pm-7:00pm

Clean Up: 7:00pm-9:00pm

### MUSIC MINISTRIES OUTREACH

The Music Ministries Outreach, facilitated by Carol Clem, ministers to care homes in our area.

This ministry is growing quickly, and is in need of pianists, guitarists and ukulele players.

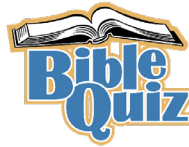
Pianists should read music and play simple hymns and easy secular music arrangements. Guitarist and ukulele players should read a lead sheet with chords.

Commitment is at your convenience. Serve when you can. And/or be a sub for pianist or guitarist and ukulele players.

Contact Carol Clem at 704.733.8085

*Contact the Grace office at 763.784.7199 or office@gracefree.org for more information, unless otherwise noted.*

*Grace Family Resources are now available at the West Commons Doors, while the Welcome Desk contains information that newcomers may find helpful.*



The Final Quiz  
Meet of the year  
April 14, 2pm-4pm

### Weather Cancellations

In the event that services may need to be cancelled, please check the following sources:

Wednesday (by 2:00 pm):

Grace Fridley Website  
Digital Sign

Sunday (by 6:00 am):

Grace Fridley Website  
Digital Sign  
KARE 11 & WCCO Ch. 4

### Upcoming Ladies Events:

#### April 18

Sister night at Immanuel Christian Center  
Contact Cindy Markham or sign up at the Welcome Desk

#### May 17, 12p-9p & 18, 9a-9p

Ladies Craftastic, Contact Andrea Farley

#### May 19, 1:30p-7:30p

Revive Women's Retreat, Isanti, MN  
Register online at ReviveMNRetreat.com

Cost is \$64.00

Cindy Markham is available to carpool.

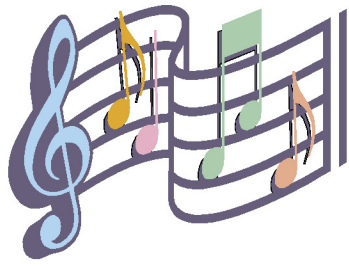
#### Sept. 27-29

Camp Shamineau Rejuvenate weekend for Women  
Register at: <https://shamineau.org> > rejuvenate-2

\$155/person

***“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”***

***I Peter 1:3***



THE GRACE EFC  
**KIDS' CHOIR**

Joyfully invites you to the musical theater production of



**Saturday, April 20, 2024 - 6:30 pm**  
*and/or*

**Sunday, April 21, 2024 - 9:15 am**



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Dear Grace friend,

In speaking for the elders, I'm letting you know that, after careful consideration, we have reversed our decision to do an extreme makeover of our midweek ministries next fall.

I won't make excuses or offer explanations, nor will I spiritualize the decisions. Simply and sincerely, I'll say, "We're sorry. We messed up." Artificially pressed by the calendar confines of Passion Week and the fast-approaching end of the ministry year, we made a hasty decision.

Wednesday nights will still need an upgrade next fall, as was surfaced by the Vision Team during their assessment processes. We will rely on present leaders (maybe you) to help determine and make the changes needed, between now and then. We hope we can implement some of the ideas from the Midweek @ Grace plan that were shared with the congregation on Sunday morning, March 17.

Please understand that because of the celebrations of Palm Sunday and Easter, we're using email and word of mouth at this time to make this announcement. Please feel free to forward this email to others with whom you've had conversation.

To be more personal... I want to make apologies and express my regret for my pushing the Wednesday night total makeover plan forward. I know I speak for our elders when I say that as we lead in these next weeks and months, we'll do it better because of our experiences in March, 2024. To share a quote that's on my laptop screen: "The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life." Experience can be a really good teacher.

lookin' up,  
Steve Schoepf  
Interim Pastor

PS If you might be willing to help (re)shape Wednesday nights at Grace, please email the office at [office@gracefree.org](mailto:office@gracefree.org).

## March Food Distribution Update

The weather is slowly getting warmer, and I know that our car loaders are enjoying any increase in the temperature.

We had the opportunity to assist 2 new families that are part of the South Sudanese Church. The Sunday after food distribution, Jerry took a pallet that had a variety of produce on it and a cart with bread. Both were empty when he took the cart and pallet back to the garage.

Betsy, who gets the prayer requests and praises each month, had this to share with you this month...  
“There are many of our guests who are not only struggling but hurting deeply. Life is hectic and there are money needs. I was able to pray, on site, with 3 such individuals. One happens to be our Angela who asked Jesus into her heart last year. We talked about and prayed about the fact that she is indeed a child of God. Her life is crazy right now and I was happy to have the opportunity to pray with our Angela!”

Please take a moment, right now, to pray for Angela. She is struggling with the confidence to believe that Jesus loves her and is in her heart. We have several prayer requests dealing with recent health issues that are struggling with how to pay for the medical bills that are piling up.

We are always encouraged by the praises that we receive. We have prayed for the adult children of one guest, that they would go to church. One of the families has been consistently attending church! Praise the Lord for that continued answer to prayer. One of our volunteers was able to join us after a few months recuperating from back surgery. It was a joy to see her and see how God answered our prayers for healing.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of this ministry!!

The Food Distribution Ministry Team

Contact the church office at 763-784-7199 or [office@gracefree.org](mailto:office@gracefree.org) for the Camp Shamineau Code

**\$50 Camp Scholarships are available to children of Grace church families for any Christian Bible Camps.**  
*Please complete voucher below and turn in to the church office.*



**Christian Bible Camp**  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

**\$50**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Fundraiser**

***Mother's Day Bouquet***

The youth group will be making beautiful bouquets of real flowers for you to give to a meaningful woman in your life. Pre-orders are required. All bouquets will be similar.

Each Bouquet will be sold for \$25, paid cash at time of pick up.

Orders will be received through April 28, please put this form in the basket on the welcome desk. This is a firm deadline.

Order pick-up and payment will be May 12th at church, after the service.

Funds raised will support youth for various trips and activities. Questions: Contact Hubel's

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Number of bouquets** \_\_\_\_\_





# Grace Calendar

## Sundays:

- 9:15 am Bible Hour for All Ages, Nursery (0-3 yrs)
- 10:30 am Worship Service, Nursery (0-3 yrs) and Kids Church (Ages 3-2nd Grade)
- 4:00 pm Quizzing Practice
- 5:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner

## Mondays:

- 7:00 pm Adult Volleyball

## Tuesdays:

- 6:30 am Fe<sup>2</sup> Men's Group
- 11:15 am Staff Meeting

## Wednesdays:

- 1:00 pm Hilltoppers Small Group
- 5:15 pm Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner
- 6:30 pm Awana, Youth & Adult Bible Studies
- 8:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

## Thursdays:

- 6:00 am Ladies' Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Chorale Rehearsal

## Fridays:

- 8:15 am Bread Ministry

## Saturdays:

- 7:00 am Open Basketball
- 8:00 am Band of Bros. Bible Study (1st & 3rd)

**Candidating events  
may be added  
to this calendar**

## April 1

- Easter Monday - Office Closed*
- 7:00 pm Youth Leaders Meeting

## April 2

- 6:30 am Fe<sup>2</sup> Men's Group
- 11:15 am Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball

## April 4

- 5:30 pm Upward Games

## April 5

- 6:00 pm Game Night

## April 6

- 8:00 am Band of Bros Bible Study in Room 303
- 9:00 am Upward Basketball

## April 7

- 10:30 am Baptism Event during Worship Service
- 11:30 am Kids Musical Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Youth hangout at Bock's

## April 8

- 6:45 pm Missions Meeting

## April 9

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball
- 6:30 pm Elders Meeting

## April 11

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball

## April 12

- 5:00 pm Second Harvest Food Distribution
- 6:00 pm Kids Musical Dress Rehearsal

## April 13

- 9:00 am Kids Musical Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Upward Basketball Games

## April 14

- 10:30 am Avail Choir/Band to perform during Worship service
- 11:30 am Kids Musical Dress Rehearsal
- 2:00 pm Quiz Meet

## April 15

- 4:00 pm Youth Fundraiser at Andover Pizza Ranch

## April 16

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball

## April 17

- 3:30 pm Food Distribution Leadership Meeting

## April 18

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball Practice

## April 19

- Youth District Blitz*
- 6:00 pm Kids Musical Dress Rehearsal

## April 20

- Youth District Blitz*
- 8:00 am Band of Bros. Bible Study
- 9:00 am Upward Basketball Games
- 6:30 pm Kids Musical "God Squad"

## April 21

- Youth District Blitz*
- 9:15 am Kids Musical "God Squad" - No Bible Hour
- 6:00 pm Taste & See Prayer Gathering

## April 23

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball
- 6:30 pm Elders Meeting

## April 25

- 5:30 pm Upward Basketball Practice

## April 27

- 9:00 am Upward Games

## April 30

- 5:30 pm Upward Practice