

Grace Church Vision Night 2024

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ across
the street and around the world.*



REMEMBERING OUR MISSION

Our Mission

Our mission is what we do as a church. The mission provides us an identity and helps us make decisions about what is best.

The mission of Grace Church is: to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ across the street and around the world. We believe this mission is a faithful restatement of Jesus' words in Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."

In order to make disciples, we need to know what a disciple is and what discipleship is.

What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Jesus.

What is discipleship? Discipleship is the intentional and relational process involved in helping someone else follow Jesus.

We can expect God's blessing as we faithfully obey His word. We can also expect the joy that comes with obedience. This mission is worthy of our time, talent, and treasure, and any sacrifice we make as individuals and as a church will be worth it.

CELEBRATING 2023

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our two worship services averaged 791 attendees in 2023. Including children and all volunteers, we average 930 on Sunday mornings. We are thankful for those who gather to sing, pray, hear, and serve!

BAPTISM

Baptism is a picture of the gospel and something we celebrate at Grace Church. We witnessed 23 baptisms in 2023 (children, students, and adults). We give thanks for each one who publicly professed faith in Jesus.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed 42 new members to our church in 2023. This includes those who transferred their membership from another church and those who were baptized.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

We celebrate that 40% of our Sunday morning attenders are committed to a Community Group. We currently have 28 groups with an average size of 22. We hope to continue strengthening and growing this important ministry.

SERVING

The gospel transforms our approach to the church. We no longer participate only to consume, but also to contribute. Serving, whether weekly, bi-weekly, or on occasion, is how we contribute to the worship, welfare, and witness of Grace Church. Here are a few examples of how Grace Church served in 2023:

- 120 people volunteered for our summer kids event, Kidventure.
- 125 people volunteered for our summer outreach event, Parkapalooza.
- 233 people volunteered for our Grace Family Festival.

These three examples do not include the many who serve in various ways on a consistent basis. We hope to always be a church that displays the gospel through joyful service.

OUTREACH

Grace Church is committed to providing as many people as possible the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. We celebrate the many ways we shared Christ individually and corporately in 2023. Here are a few examples:

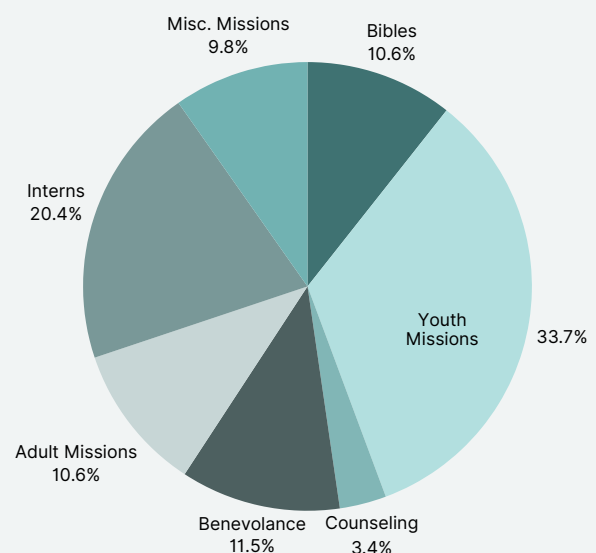
- The gospel was shared at Goodrell Middle School, Saydel, and East High Schools on a weekly basis.
- The gospel was shared at EasterFest as family and friends came for fun, candy, and inflatables on Easter weekend.
- The gospel was shared at Night of Lights through song, drama, and word.
- The gospel was shared through Sowers as booklets were given to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

The Bible teaches that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. As a church eager to make disciples, our commitment to preaching and sharing the gospel must continue to be unquestioned.

GENEROSITY

Grace Church continues to be a generous church. Along with the weekly giving of our people, there were other ways the people of Grace Church supported our mission and the spread of the gospel in 2023:

- Your gracious and generous giving allowed many to be involved in several mission trips and projects locally and globally.
- The missions offering exceeded the goal allowing us to invest in additional ministries.
- Gifts to our benevolence fund provided assistance to individuals in need.
- Many individuals were assisted by our partnership with New Life Counseling.
- Six interns participated in ministry training during Summer 2023.
- Prisoners across the US were provided with a personalized Bible upon request.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

If our mission is what we do as a church, then our vision is where we believe that mission is leading us as a church. We have chosen to communicate our vision in the form of a one-year plan.

By the end of 2024, by God's grace, we will:

- Have a healthy, growing community of members passionate about making disciples.
- Have God-centered, inspiring worship services (gather, sing, pray, preach, communicate).
- Have a healthy, growing community of members who are encouraged to grow in grace by reading the Bible (with a plan) and praying daily.
- Have continued to refine and improve our welcoming and assimilation efforts.
- Have elevated the importance of Community Groups.
 - Have a sufficient number of leaders and Community Groups for a growing church (1 for every 25 in attendance).
 - Have refined our group leader support, identification, and training process.
- Have established ministries functioning with excellence needed to form a growing community of disciples. Alongside Kids, Students, Adult, Legacy, Womens and Missions ministries, we will strengthen:
 - Men's ministry
 - Young adult ministry
- Have placed a greater emphasis on church-wide unity and opportunities.
 - Fifth Sunday church-wide fellowships after the 2nd service in June and September.
 - Church-wide opportunities and events are put on all ministry calendars.
- Have begun building and sustaining a culture of prayer.
- Have mobilized our ministries and groups for outreach on Beggars Night.
 - 500 people participate in some way.
- Have conducted a successful Senior Pastor transition.
 - Have voted to elect the next Senior Pastor.
 - Have installed the next Senior Pastor and celebrated the out-going Senior Pastor.
- Have baptized 40 people (kids to adults) who have been connected to a community group and disciplined in the faith.
- Have added 50 new members.
- Have increased regular attendance by 10%.

OUR COMMITMENT IN 2024

PRIORITIZE GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday morning worship gatherings are essential to the life of Grace Church. We meet together each week to sing, pray, hear God's Word, and to fellowship. This is also a means of broad communication about what is happening and how to be involved. The leadership of Grace Church will continue planning and executing worship services that exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRIORITIZE CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

This means a commitment to helping people take their first steps into the life of Grace Church, with the hope of helping them find a place to grow and serve for the long term. This important work involves systems and opportunities to welcome and assimilate people. We will help people most when the steps are clear and appropriate.

PRIORITIZE CLEAR AND SIMPLE COMMUNICATION

Clear and simple communication means providing information through complementary channels that allow any person to access the information they need. Failure to communicate in this way could mean frustration and ineffectiveness. For this reason, we plan to do everything we can to continue communicating in the best ways.

PRIORITIZE MINISTRIES THAT SERVE THE MISSION

One of our consistent goals is to have established ministries functioning with excellence that are necessary to be a healthy and growing community of disciples. This means providing ministries that meet needs, serve families and individuals, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of our church. It is impossible to do everything, but we can create and execute those things which keep us on mission.

PRIORITIZE LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ across the street and around the world. This means local and global outreach. We reach out with the gospel because it is the gospel alone that saves, and it is God alone who receives the glory through salvation. We have and will continue to make efforts to spread the gospel, whether it be in Des Moines or somewhere else in the world.

OUR COMMITMENT IN 2024

REMEMBER OUR FAITHFUL SHEPHERD

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:4). Jesus is the Chief Shepherd. Grace Church belongs to Him. Each of us, leaders and members alike, must humble ourselves under His mighty hand.

REMEMBER WHO MAKES THINGS GROW

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building” (1 Corinthians 3:7-9). God makes things grow. We must be faithful and look to Him to make something of our efforts.

REMEMBER WHO IS IN CONTROL

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” (James 4:13-15). The Lord's will be done. Our plans will come to fruition if He chooses. We rest in His sovereignty, goodness, and wisdom.

2024 CALENDAR

WINTER & SPRING

January 3	Winter/Spring Ministry Kickoff
January 12	Father-Daughter Banquet
January 14	Community Group Kickoff
January 19-21	Men's Retreat
March 8-9	Ignite Des Moines
March 29-31	Easter Weekend

SUMMER

May 30-June 2	Party in the Park
June 5	Summer Ministry Kickoff
June 9-12	Kidventure
June 30	All Church Sunday Fellowship
August 4	August at Grace Begins
August 28	Grace Family Festival

FALL

September 1	Community Groups Kickoff
September 4	Fall Ministry Kickoff
September 8	Election for Senior Pastor
September 13-15	Women's Retreat
September 29	All Sunday Church Fellowship
October 16-20	Global Outreach Conference
October 30	Beggar's Night Outreach
November 26	Thanksgiving Service
December 13-14	Night of Lights Performance
December 22	Home for Christmas Service
December 24	Christmas Eve Service