

ISSUE NO 9 | VOLUME 2



— grace —
insider

SEPTEMBER 2019

inside *of grace*



Photo by Kai Oberhauser, Unsplash Photographer

Our church exists to glorify God by being and making disciples who make disciples (Mat. 28:19-20). We strive to fulfill our mission by three main efforts: bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus; building one another up to become mature followers of Jesus; branching out to the community and world with the gospel. We call 'em the B3s: Bring In, Build Up and Branch Out.

We have three overarching values that inform how we bring in, build up and branch out...

- Gospel Truth. We are committed to the truth of scripture, and believe its central message is the Gospel, the message of God's gracious work to redeem sinners.

- Gospel Community. We are committed to knowing, loving, and serving one another as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

- Gospel Mission. Individually and corporately, we are committed to declaring and demonstrating the Gospel to our communities, our cities, and the nations.

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[NOT THE] EDITOR'S NOTE 03

Hey all, you might notice that Chelsy isn't writing this month's editorial piece. She asked me, Steve Oliver, Creative Arts Director here at Grace to write it, and I was honored to say yes.

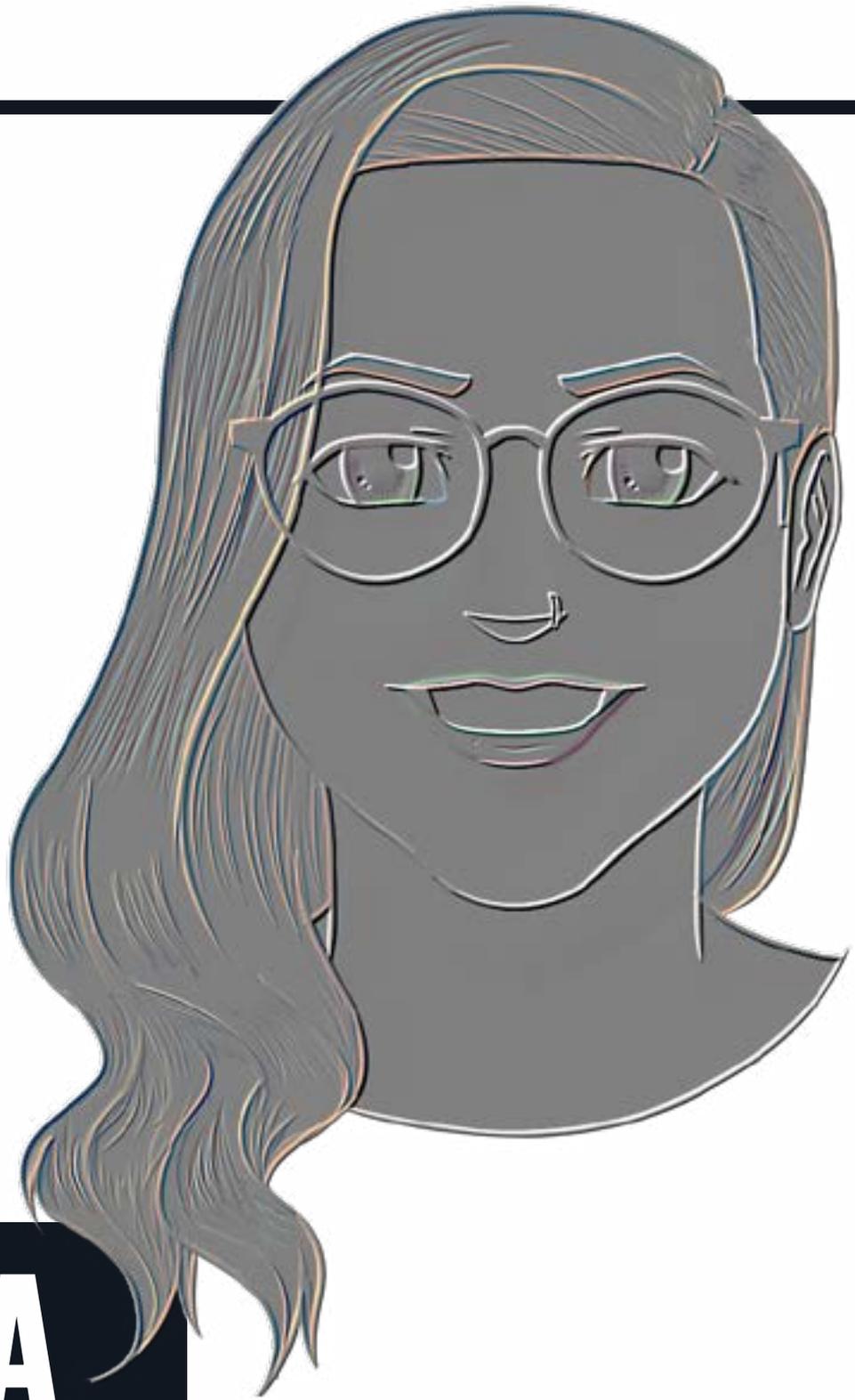
I was thinking back to my wedding as I was thinking about the "pray • give • serve" tagline that came along with Momentum last fall. My brother-in-law, Mike, pastored our wedding, which was awesome. It was such a personal ceremony because he knew so much about us.

One thing he said stands out to me. He said, "Out-serve one another. Try to out do one another in being kind." This is something that has stuck with me and helped me to try to truly make my wife's life sweeter, in little things and in big things. She has accepted her brother's challenge as well and has gone out of her way to make my life easier.

I feel like Christ more than out-serves us without stopping. Beginning with the moment He came to earth, was born, lived, ministered, gave His life on the cross, resurrected, ascended, and even now He is interceding for us this very moment. It is in this service to us, though we don't deserve it, we see the immense, unending love God has for us, and it compels us to serve Him back, even though we can never repay what He has done for us, in us and through us. If you're married or not, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and serve them, so I challenge you to try to out-serve your neighbor in your family, in your community, in our church.

- Steve Oliver, Creative Arts Director





OLIVIA MERRIW EATHER

Our Field Staff Member
serving in South Asia.

Olivia Merriweather was raised up at Grace and while she was in high school she began praying and considering going overseas full time as a Field Staff member. God was good to make a way for her to go and stay thus far in South Asia. If you'd like to get her updates via email please contact Eva & Steve Anderson, her advocates by emailing evaa@graceb3.org or calling 319.626.2040.

MILESTONES THROUGH FIRE



“Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, twas grace that’s brought me safe thus far and grace shall lead me home.”

Record
number

14

of members
and visitors
at the Colab

First Upper
Room

90

event
tickets sold

Taxes for
doing

4K

business in
her country
of service

The most reccents

Visas

The ever revolving code of business (and all other) visas is a great source of need for prayer. In the fall Olivia’s visa will be up for renewal again, which always means that there’s a possibility that her visa will not be renewed and she’ll have to leave behind a business, business partner, a home and many hopes and dreams for future months. Please join us in praying that God’s will will triumph over all circumstantial and nail biting events of our lives. May the God that is bigger than all, owner of all and sovereign over all rule in this matter.

Praises

Recently Olivia had some health issues that made already tense business ventures quite trying. After sending in for a thorough battery of tests (which you can do in this country without a doctor’s note and it’s quite cheap compared to US healthcare, yay!) it was discovered that she

had a severe vitamin deficiency that is being treated and is clearing up. It’s made a lot of things more manageable.

Olivia was also able to get away for a week of refreshing time resting, biking, reading and spending time with the Father. This sweet time was most needed and most refreshing to her soul, praise God!

Business

Please keep in your prayers The Colab business that Olivia and her partner. They must make a certain (and very high) amount of profit to continue to be considered a business worthy of a visa. Their small business is running well and they’ve been seeing growth over time. We implore our Father that there will be more and more growth that many may be won to His name and for His glory!



written by chelsy reed

By day Bart is an Industrial Engineer but when he dons his superman cape he is serving with our technology ministry producing Sunday sermon video, working with the new live stream and filming and directing camera guys. Bart and Judy also lead a community group, which is one of Bart's favorite avenues of serving. My husband and I actually joke that Bart and Judy have the spiritual gift of moving people because every time we've seen that someone has been moving in the past several years, they've always responded to that call.

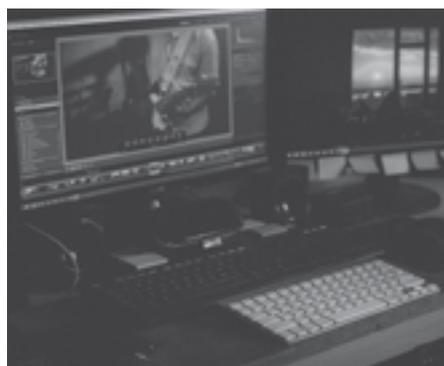
The pair are now empty nesters, but still proud parents of three adult children: Aaron, Angelica and Sarah. They also have three grandchildren, one of which was newly born in August 2019! Congratulations!

In his spare time Bart enjoys ministry and automotive podcasts, working on old cars, DIY home improvement, tandem biking and tandem kayaking with his wife (aww) and playing games with friends and family.

Thank you Bart for your service!

Bart does so many things around and for people in our church that sometimes it feels like there really are four of him, at least. Bart Bieker is married to Judy, a full-time church secretary at Grace, she's also his claim to fame (Judy was our featured staff in the October 2018 issue of the Insider). They started coming to Grace in 2012 and became members in 2013.

But how did that happen? "We moved to the area, we were looking for a gospel-centered church and a place where we could share our gifts and talents. When we visited Grace during the week, Gabe (our Technology Director) "happened" to be at the church. When we asked him if there was a need on the tech team, he said it would be an answer to prayer. This was our assurance that Grace was where the Lord wanted us to serve."

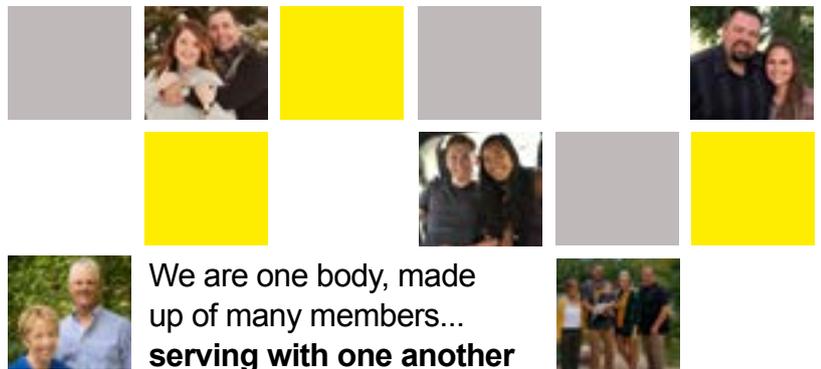




SAVED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE



You may think that Grace has armies of volunteers, but we've always got room for more people to join the team of serving people serving people. God gifts His children, not for their own benefit, but to serve those around them in their family of faith and in the community. If you're not serving, check out the serve link below, and even if you don't think you're particularly "gifted" you need to start somewhere, so dive in and see what God does as you [faithfully serve](#).



start somewhere
GRACEB3.ORG/SERVE

PILOT GROUPS

IT CAN BE HARD TO GET
“IN” TO A CHURCH THAT’S
GOT THE POPULATION OF A
SMALL VILLAGE

We know. We feel you. We don’t want it to be that hard. Recently author and teacher Jen Wilkin was speaking on the awkward change that happened when the traditional Sunday school classes were removed from church practice. The big group/small group divide became painfully obvious as churches grew and Sunday mornings became a place where everyone didn’t know your name like before. And the answer isn’t to bring back Sunday school.

SO WE’VE GOT THE MIDWAY
POINT. A PLACE TO FIND
COMMUNITY BUT WITHOUT
FEELING LIKE YOU’RE SIGNING
A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

It’s called Pilot Groups. We meet in a mid-sized group that’s flexible and super low on the intimidation factor and we launch new groups at the end of the class. Last year we had six new groups form from Pilot Groups and many new and fruitful relationships were formed where disciples can be disciples who make disciples.

TUESDAYS STARTING OCT 8
GRACEB3.ORG/PILOT

VERY BIG GROUP
HARD TO KNOW OR BE KNOWN



VERY SMALL GROUP
INTIMIDATING TO ENTER INTO

thrive

Classes begin Sept. 15 | register at graceb3.org/thrive

Questions? Contact aimeem@graceb3.org

All classes at are offsite
at Heritage Christian School.



Instruments
in the
Redeemer's Hands

8AM



making
the most of your
marriage



Systematic
THEOLOGY



GOSPEL
CENTERED
MISSION

9:30
AM



SOUL CARE
BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP



RENEW YOUR MIND
toolbar
IN GOD'S WORD



PREPARING for MARRIAGE



GRACE MEN'S
INSTITUTE

men helping men be men

11AM



SANCTIFICATION
HELPING OTHERS GOING THROUGH SUFFERING AND CHANGE



THRIVE EQUIPPING CLASSES

“To equip the saints for the work of ministry” that is why we have Thrive classes at Grace. Thrive classes work out the equipping portion of Ephesians 4:12. Every spring and fall we offer a lineup of classes that are geared at personal growth and helping others grow in their ability to be in Christ and His ambassadors on earth.

*Classes start September 15.
[register at graceb3.org/thrive](https://graceb3.org/thrive)*

THE LINEUP

INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER’S HANDS

A hands-on, discussion-based class that goes through Paul Tripp’s book of the same name. We are all people in need of change seeking to help others in need of change, and we can only thrive as humble instruments in the hands of our Redeemer.

8:00 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

BIBLICAL SOUL CARE

Biblical Soul Care will give you tools and practice on engaging others with God’s Word for the purpose of seeing restoration, healing and missional living in their lives.

9:30 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MARRIAGE

Two out of every three counseling cases we get at Grace are for marriage counseling. We believe every marriage needs help at some time or another. Knowing the purpose of marriage and how to love your spouse with a Christ-centered love is crucial to a growing, healthy marriage.

8:00 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

This course is designed to help people grow in their knowledge of God and the doctrines of the Bible. It is designed to teach the doctrines and how to apply them to the life of a disciple. This class is for anyone in the Leadership Pipeline and is also for anyone else who wants to learn theology.

8:00 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE



GOSPEL-CENTERED MISSIONS

Discover God's heart for the nations and the role we play in taking the gospel to the people in all the world. This is a great course if you are thinking about being involved in missions, planning to go on a missions trip soon or if you want to be missional in your neighborhood as well.

9:30 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

SANCTIFICATION: HELPING OTHERS GOING THROUGH SUFFERING AND CHANGE

This class will walk through the journey of what the sanctification process looks like for those redeemed by Christ. This is a leadership development class open to anyone who has taken the Soul Care class and is leading or will be leading other people spiritually. This includes community group leaders, children's and student ministry leaders, biblical counselors or those training for biblical counseling.

11:00 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

TOOLBAR

How do I study my Bible so that it changes me? Toolbar is a four-week class that will answer that question with practical tools and a "see one, do one, teach one" class plan. In the Fall 2019 session of Toolbar we'll cover how to approach Old Testament Narrative because the Women's Bible Study in fall 2019 and spring 2020 is on Genesis.

9:30 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

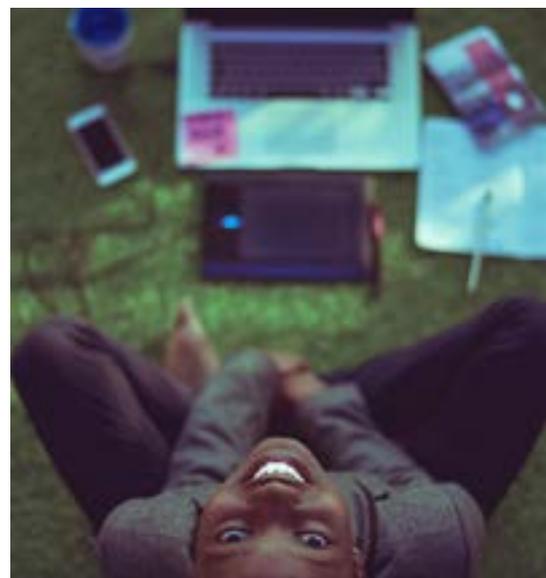
This class is for couples who are planning to be married soon. We will be teaching through the book "Tying the Knot" by Rob Green and will work through each area of a couple's life together. We will look at how to live for Christ in communication, conflict resolution, finances, sexual intimacy and more.

9:30 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE

GRACE MEN'S INSTITUTE

This is our foundational class for understanding Biblical manhood. We will cover four areas of a man's life shown in the Bible, how each of these areas is designed by God, and what it looks like for a man to practically apply God's design to his life. If you have never taken this class, we would strongly encourage you to make this your first stop! This class is designed for men of all ages. We encourage dads with teenage sons to take this class together.

11:00 AM • OFFSITE AT HERITAGE



SEPTEMBER SERMON FORECAST

by Brooks Simpson

“*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
-Matthew 16:18

Jesus is building a church with momentum. If Grace Community Church is to be a movement of God characterized by action and not a monument of man characterized by a landmark, then we as God's people must know who we are in Christ, what we are called to do, and what it takes to get it done.

In the Fall of 2018, we launched a two-year discipleship initiative called Momentum. The goal was to call for 100% engagement in the mission to make disciples. Last year we honed in on an aspect of discipleship known commonly as stewardship. The concept is that if we are God's children, we are also His stewards and as His stewards, we must be on His mission. We are to invest our time, talent, and treasure for His glory.

This year we seek to be “Gaining Momentum” by honing in on the nature of the mission itself. Knowing that you are a steward and being 100% engaged (last year's focus) does not necessarily guarantee momentum. It does you no good to be 100% engaged on a mission you don't understand or aren't equipped to fulfill. We have to know who we are and what the mission accomplishes. In the Fall of 2019, we will be Gaining Momentum by saturating our hearts in the Word of God to discover our identity in Christ and missional calling. Throughout September, we dig deeply into 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 to learn and apply four crucial truths that will help us become a movement of God.



Who We Are - 2 Corinthians 5:17

We do not start the journey with a to-do list. We start with a what's-been-done list. Momentum begins when we understand what Christ has done for us and who He has recreated us to be.

What We Do - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

As new creations in Christ, we have been entrusted with a mission and a task. The mission is for everyone, and knowing the mission and the part you play will ensure we Gain Momentum.

What it Takes - 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

Momentum stalls out by anything and everything that hinders the mission. Often it's not the enemy or the world that hinders the church; it's often the church getting in its own way. We need the life-transforming power of the gospel to change our own hearts and fuel us to move out on a mission.

Why We Celebrate - 2 Corinthians 5:21

If we are to Gain Momentum, we need more than an understanding of who we are and what needs to be done. We desperately need to see and celebrate what God has done. Jesus is the builder of His church, and He wants us to experience His joy as he accomplishes His mission through us. Joy is the chief motivator for the mission, and we will celebrate His joy.



In October, we will dive deeply into the heart of the mission, which is the Story of God. We want each member of God's church fully equipped to understand the Story of God, know their own story, and be equipped to share The Story of God with a world in need of some good news. Look for more information on the Story of God in the October issue of the Grace Insider.

Each week in the Grace Insider you will find a place to take notes during the message and a special Gaining Momentum Group Guide you can use each week with others. Let's get going!





MOMENTUM

Group Guide

Following Christ is best done with others. While you can do this guide on your own, we designed it to be utilized in groups. If you aren't meeting with a group of Christians regularly to talk about faith and life, we would recommend you find a group for this fall. At Grace we consider Community Groups as the core of body life of the church. If you want to get in a Community Group, sign up for Pilot Groups (page 8) that will be starting on October 8th.

Our focus for September will be to look back at what God has done, look forward to where He is leading us, and taking our next step in following Him filled with courage and hope.

Each week we are going to ask you to do four things: Discover, Pray, Talk It Out and Walk It Out.

Discovering God's truth in scripture is critical to us. We believe that scripture isn't just something preachers read and talk about, but is critical for each of us to read, absorb, and respond to. Each week we will have a section in the guide called Discover, which

allows us to hear from God through scripture.

Next, we are asking everyone all to commit to prayer during this time. Each week will have a focus on the section called Prayer. We would encourage you to be praying both individually and in groups.

Hearing from God is best processed as a group. In our Talk It Out section, we have weekly discussion questions to process what you've heard in scripture and the sermon. Take time to process and think more deeply through each item as a group.

We can quickly become deceived by knowing plenty of things about God and what he wants but doing nothing. In light of that, we have a Walk It Out section weekly. Here we challenge ourselves to take a step of faith in light of what He is saying. We will challenge you to take a step of faith each week of this journey.

May God bless and shape us as a church into His image as a church. May we do what is on His heart and will. May the mercy and power of Christ be with us!

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE



passed away. Died. It's gone. The attitudes and behaviors that characterized the old identity will linger a bit, but as we put them off and put on the attitudes and behaviors of our God given identity we will transform with every step, every decision to act righteously makes us look just a little bit more like Christ. And that's the goal that we become more like Him.

Where to start though, that is the question isn't it? If we are in Christ and we are to become like Him more and more and we are created in the image of God then it stands to reason that the place to start is the character of God.

As you pray this week (🙏) and give thanks to God you might try praying through pieces of scripture that describe an attitude of God. Pray that He gives you wisdom to understand how who He is informs who you are in Christ and made in His image. Want a starting point? Try 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Psalm 19:7-11 or 1 Peter 1:3-9.

As you work through 'talk it out' (🗣️) use the verbs and adjectives in the passage to guide you. And as you 'walk it out' (👟) remember to root yourself firmly in the word and ask God to humble you as you walk out one more step of your identity in Christ. Praise God that brothers and sisters in Christ can run together, gaining momentum as we seek Him first. Amen!



Above there are little arrows to show you the basic anatomy of the group guide pages that follow.

When you start each week (we recommend Sunday night or Mondays), start by reading the devotional that spans both group guide pages for the week. The guide works best if you've listened to the sermon, then use the guide. But you know your schedule; do what you need to do.

Then there are four symbols on your group guide pages. Start with...



You'll read, re-read and memorize the scripture that we're going through in sermons and in the guide. When we read the scripture that the pastor is preaching on *before* they speak on it you're acutally gaining first hand knowledge of the text instead of only getting what someone said about what God said. You've played the telephone game before, you know why this matters.

Next go to...



This is where we'll submit our understanding of the text, the potential applications, the attitudes of our hearts, and the week and its events to God to have His way in our lives. We'll lift up our concerns, we'll ask for help and He will hear. Then...



This is where we'll talk about the scriptures, prayers and actions in community.

And finally,



Where we hear the trumpet call us to action and we make changes, trusting in God to carry to completion the work He's begun in us to the very end.



WHO WE ARE

DISCOVER

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 daily this week.
- Memorize verse 17 from this passage.

As close to magic as possible, something happens at the moment of salvation. We are given a new identity and then sanctified as we grow into it. But why do we need a new identity? Aren't all people basically good, or at least good intentioned?

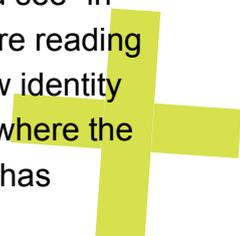
Well... Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (KJV). We weren't made that way, sin tainted everything, including our desperately wicked hearts. The ESV translation actually says "desperately sick," needing a doctor, needing a cure. We need an identity that is

PRAY

- Daily remember who God is, and who you are with your identity in Christ.
- Daily pray that God would open your eyes to see who around He wants you to reach out to as His ambassador.

healthy, but outside of Christ our deepest core, our hearts, are desperately wicked and sick.

This is why salvation is miraculous. Our identity, so close to the core of who we are, is changed. We're given a new and untarnished identity. The most concise way that the Bible describes this is that we are "in Christ." As you read through this and other scriptures and you see "in Christ" remember that what you're reading is your new identity. And this new identity isn't given to you in such a way where the old and new mingle. No, the old has

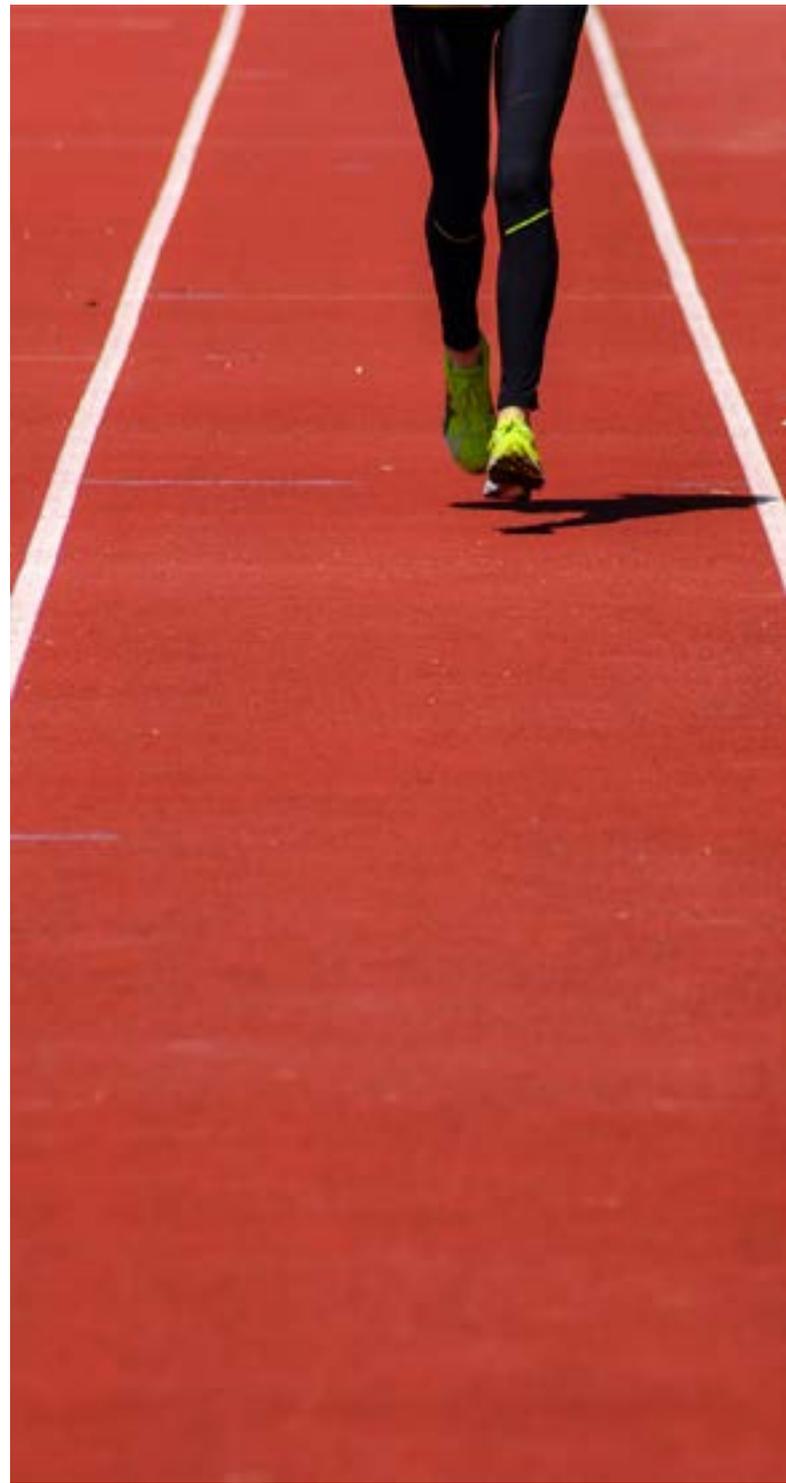


passed away. Died. It's gone. The attitudes and behaviors that characterized the old identity will linger a bit, but as we put them off and put on the attitudes and behaviors of our God-given identity we will transform with every step. Every decision to act righteously makes us look just a little bit more like Christ. And that's the goal: that we become more like Him.

Where to start though, that is the question, isn't it? If we are in Christ and we are to become like Him more and more and we are created in the image of God then it stands to reason that the place to start is the character of God.

As you pray this week (🙏) and give thanks to God you might try praying through pieces of scripture that describe an attribute of God. Pray that He gives you wisdom to understand how who He is informs who you are in Christ and made in His image. Want a starting point? Try 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Psalm 19:7-11 or 1 Peter 1:3-9.

As you work through 'talk it out' (🗣️) use the verbs and adjectives in the passage to guide you. And as you 'walk it out' (👣) remember to root yourself firmly in the word and ask God to humble you as you walk out one more step of your identity in Christ. Praise God that brothers and sisters in Christ can run together, gaining momentum as we seek Him first. Amen!



TALK IT OUT

- What do you see God doing in this passage?
- What do we learn about ourselves in this passage?
- How does our behavior and mindset towards ourself and others change as we are made new?

WALK IT OUT

- Take a prayer walk in your neighborhood or an area of town that God puts on your heart. Ask God to reveal how He wants to use you to bring hope to the people around you.
- After the prayer walk, write down anything or anyone that God put on your heart. Pray about that further.



WHAT WE DO



DISCOVER

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 at least once this week.
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Being a disciple of Jesus means that day by day, week by week, year by year we are becoming more and more like Christ. In the Jewish culture, learning disciples were admonished to “Let your house be a meeting place for the rabbis, and cover yourself in the dust of their feet, and drink in their words thirstily.”

This admonishment did not include rolling on the ground to adorn yourself in the ‘right’ dust. Rather the encouragement was to be where your rabbi was, to follow him so closely that as he kicked up dust on the road you would be a little unkept but more



PRAY

- Take a prayer walk and work through the scriptures you’ve read in weeks one and two.

wise at the end of the journey. To take in the words of God in the Bible and to follow Jesus so closely that it looks like you’ve been walking where He walked - that is a picture of what it looks like to be a disciple. To teach another to do likewise is what it looks like to be a disciple who makes other disciples. This is a core component of our mission statement at Grace.

We’re called to be disciples, be reconciled by God through Jesus’ perfect life and sacrifice so that we can be a beacon of light in the world where others might come to know Jesus and be reconciled to God

through Him. That is the 'ministry of reconciliation.' We are Christ's ambassadors to the world. We bear the message. Some of us are bearing it out right now across our street to children. Some are bearing it out to people living in the remote places of Papua, Indonesia. Some are bearing it out while grabbing a cup of coffee in a break room. Some are bearing it out during the pre-nap story time with their kids.

It can happen anywhere. But if we're not bathed in the word of God and speaking to Him often we might miss those opportunities that are staring us straight in the face. To make disciples, you must first be one yourself. God will only use us as much as we are willing to give of ourselves to Him. He doesn't force us, He compels us. When we give Him the control in our lives, our time and our finances, He works the great mystery of His plan into our everyday and we are blessed in it and changed by it. And when we don't we watch.

As you answer the questions this week (🙏) pray beforehand and ask God to break you where you've been stubborn or to open your eyes where you've been unseeing. Ask Him to keep your heart from hardening like Pharaoh's and to soften into the tenderness of the heart of God. Then walk it out (👣) and pray for God to bless you as you choose obedience.



TALK IT OUT

- How are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?
- What should an ambassador think and do?
- In what ways are you trying to take on roles that belong to God? In what ways are you shirking roles that are your responsibility

WALK IT OUT

- Practice a simple act of hospitality to someone who doesn't know Christ.

WHAT IT TAKES



DISCOVER

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 at least once this week.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-16 as part of your daily Bible reading.
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

By now your eye has probably drifted to look at the context of what we have been reading for the last few weeks. It's ironic how the first ten verses of 2 Corinthians 5 are talking about dwelling places. You might want to read it, but it talks about a deep longing to be in an eternal dwelling place, because right now we're not. This isn't our home forever.

One of the great glimpses of the next life found in scripture is found in John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a



PRAY

- Thank God that His love controls (compels) us towards love for Him and others.
- Ask God to lead you in how you should best pray, serve, and give for the year.

place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Jesus knew the value of having a place to belong. It is a comfort to all believers' hearts to know that they have an eternal place to be with Him. But where does that leave us now? We want to dwell with Jesus eternally, but until then we are the dwelling place for seekers in the world; the lost, the hurting, the broken-hearted. We are the bride of Christ. His love compels us, helping us to choose to be a place of welcome in a world going mad. But our reality at Grace

Community on the North Liberty Campus is that we are out of space to welcome people to. We're using 120% of what is normal for our education spaces on Sundays and our 9:30 service is packed to the gills. The lack of spaces, chairs, elbow room and parking communicate to seekers that there isn't room for them.

When we started Momentum in 2018 there were two big goals. The first was for 100% engagement of Grace attenders in the Momentum initiative. We are still seeking to see everyone come and pray fervently, grow intentionally, serve fully and to give generously (it can't be 100% without ya). The second goal was a financial goal of raising 6.8M dollars between Nov. 2018-2020. We're part way through that time and sitting basically at 6.3M. This financial goal is to fund the mission for three areas of ministry at Grace: Community, the ministries that we do daily to serve our church and community (think general budget), Corridor which represents us doing what we can to make more room for others (think building, church planting) and World, global missions that Grace endeavors to be about. Meeting our goals will help us accomplish the ministry vision the Lord has given us.

Corporately we want the love of Christ to control us as we seek to make space, dwelling places, though temporary, for people to meet Jesus and find an eternal family within. But it's not just a general church desire. It starts with every heart. It starts with us opening our hands to serve, raising them up to pray and using what they earn to give back to the God who gave it all to us. To make the ministry happen, to continue to send into our world people who will bring the good news we all have to run together, praying, giving and serving to gain Momentum for the King!



WALK IT OUT



TALK IT OUT

- What does God's love do for us as individuals and for the world?
- What does it look like for Christ's love to control me as I live as a new creation? Give examples.

- As God leads and based on what you've prayed about this week, take action on two things that you need the love of Christ to control you to do for the glory of God.
- This week, we are asking our church to re-examine how we might best pray, serve, and give. Talk through what God is showing you as a family and community.



HOW TO GET THERE

DISCOVER

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 daily this week.
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Is it any coincidence that we're going over a passage that alludes to the fact that we might look like we're a little "out of our minds?" Don't think so. When our staff stood at the beginning of this journey, long before it was ever announced to everyone at Grace, it seemed, well, crazy. But man, we've seen God work and move!

If we are out of our minds it is for God and when you see us on the street and we're dressed and in our right minds, it's God's blessing to you that we're still standing, still united, still on one passionate mission to glorify God in our towns and cities and to ship His glory-bringers out to the ends of the earth. Yeah, it's a little crazy from our perspective, but for God, this looks like joyful obedience, a pleasing aroma, a living sacrifice. It's a beautiful thing when Christ and His church come together on a mission to build the church that the gates of hell will certainly not overcome.

PRAY

- Pray that God would bind our church family together and prepare us for the next steps we'll have to corporately walk in faithfulness to Him.

Oh how we long for every single person at Grace to be part of the bigger picture of the great commission. That is gaining momentum here at Grace!

How we long for you not to miss out on the blessing that it is for you to serve. We don't ask you to serve because we need more people, though there are always openings. Those openings aren't what motivates us to plead with you to serve. The motive is the fact that those who don't serve miss tremendous blessings from God. You can be in the church and miss the blessing of connecting with what God has for you. It's a big deal. It's why we plead. When all of us are serving and using our gifts and talents to the glory of God, the church is healthy and will grow. We all experience Christ together.

We don't ask you to pray simply because it's commanded in Scripture. Prayer is much more



than a duty. We ask you to pray because, in communing with God in His Word and obeying His command to pray, hearts are changed, wisdom is given, comfort is received, direction is realized, and our desires become like Christ's. Intimacy with Christ is realized through regular consistent prayer. We want your prayers for the church, for the Corridor and for the world, but you need to pray because it's where intimacy with Christ is discovered. It's where hope and help from a God that loves you can be found.

We ask you to give financially because when you give to the Lord you act in worship to Him. Giving is recognition that all things you have come from Him and that you are dependent on Him as your provider. It builds intimacy with Christ, and it also demonstrates a heart that seeks Him. When we give, God takes our gift and multiplies it for the kingdom. Blessings come from walking in trust and obedience to Christ financially.

When we choose not to give, we are not able to experience all the blessings that Christ has for us. This does impact you personally, but also the body of Christ, our church. God will provide for His church at Grace and the church worldwide through those that give financially. If you aren't giving, join the mission, trust Him and demonstrate that you want to join in His work. We ask you to give because we don't want you to miss the blessings that come from obedience. We want you to give, because in opening up your accounts to God, God can change you and use you on all accounts, dreamable and even more than we've ever dreamed.

God will build His church here at Grace with or without us. He calls us to join Him. We dearly want you with us. If you haven't joined, will you? If you are walking all in with Christ and His mission we want to say thank you brothers and sisters, and please, keep your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.



TALK IT OUT

- Specifically name all the good things God has done over the last year (give or take).
- In what ways do you forget the good news of what God has done?
- What can you do to remember and celebrate who He is and what He's done this week?

WALK IT OUT

- Share a meal with your community. As you eat, have everyone share and praise God for a thing He has done.

24 MOMENTUM STARTING POINT CLASS

Momentum Starting Point

GRACEB3.ORG/STARTING-POINT



We'll not be discussing physics in depth. This group is designed for folks who are new to Momentum and who want to discuss the ins and outs of the series with a group. Each week we will be discussing that week's topic through the field guides provided.

**Sundays • Sept 8 - 29 from
11 AM - 12:15 PM in 304-05**



SEPTEMBER 15

SERMON NOTES WEEK ONE • GAINING MOMENTUM 27

SEPTEMBER 22

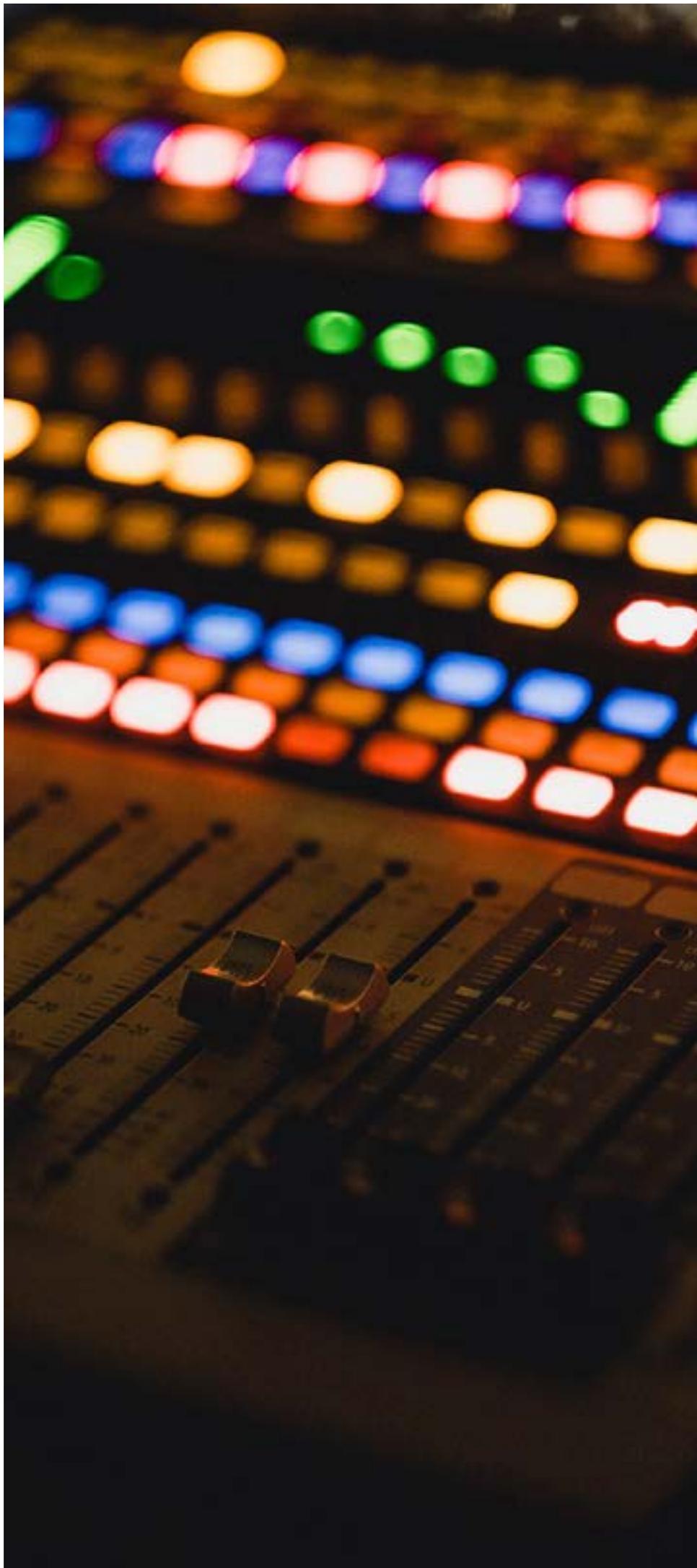
SEPTEMBER 29



David Murry helps the gospel be heard and sound great in his role of Audio Technician, serving on Sundays and at special events. He has been part of Grace since 2002 and joined the staff in 2016.

David loves how Grace seeks to reach people beyond the walls of our buildings, bring them together to be built up and encouraged in a close community, and then reach back locally and globally as the hands and feet of Jesus. He really enjoys the behind-the-scenes part making the worship on Sundays happen. “I think I get a unique vantage point from the back of the auditorium and seeing God’s people lifting their hands and making a joyful noise. It is so encouraging to me.”

David is married to Vienna and they have three kids – Jacob, Rebekah and Joseph. Around Grace the whole family has found places to serve, many of them on the technical side too! When he is not studying the Bible and discipling his family, David can be found roasting his own coffee and curing his own bacon which, he says, makes him a snob. We say it makes him one of us!



facebook for the ladies



get social
graceb3.org/women

Grace Women's Ministry desires to glorify God by equipping and encouraging each woman to know Christ personally and to live out His purpose in all aspects of her life.

This group is intended to be a safe place to connect with women of Grace and to enhance, but not replace, in-person relationships among women at Grace.



Hey we know that with schedules, work, kids, meal planning (or lack thereof) and a host of commitments that sometimes community can be spatially impossible for a season. While we strive to plan and prioritize to not live in those seasons forever, we do share the need for prayer online too to meet y'all in the gap, not just on the sides.



You'll also see sermon reflections, typically on Mondays, that glance back at the sermon and some take-aways. You can pair these with the main page posts for Read It Ahead to get a jump on what's coming next too, all with the goal of getting the scripture deeper into our hearts.



And there's lots more, like What's Up Wednesdays where we give you the short on church happenings you won't wanna miss. Their favorite things Fridays where we spill about our favorites, from weather apps to burger joints. Finally we share prayer requests here too so we can pray and stay together as women of Grace.

A year ago at this time, a great number of our congregation took a huge step forward in our commitment to advance Christ's church forward with Momentum. As we've disciplined our biblical giving and generosity, we've seen God change the hearts and minds of His people and it's going to make great impact in Our Community, Our Corridor and Our World.

Where have we been this last year? In **"Our Community"** we've launched Pilot Groups out of last year's Momentum discussion group. We had 60 people involved in the first go round and six new groups were launched out of our first Pilot Groups class! Sons of the King, a new ministry for dads and their sons launched for the first time in 2019 and saw an average of 60 dads and kids in attendance as well as new men stepping up to lead in the Men's Ministry! Our number of Certified Biblical Counselors has grown again this year as we progress towards a goal of having 30 certified before the end of 2021.

For **"Our Corridor"** We are pursuing a plan to better utilize our space in North Liberty by seeking to eventually double our facility. It will be utilized as a launch pad for greater work into and with the wider corridor area. We will begin sharing this important discovery process from this summer with increasing regularity into the Fall of 2019. Events like 5th Quarter for our high school ministry, key equipping conferences, and weekly space for over 1100 people per service will one day be a reality.

Finally, in **"Our World"** we are continuing relationships with our mission partners around the world as they to spread the Gospel in North Liberty, Iowa City, Coralville, Belle Plaine, Solon, Riverside, Guatemala, Zambia and Haiti. We were also able to increase our mission support this year by adding another member to our Field Staff, Liz Espen, and we look forward to sending her to West Asia in 2019. With a continued commitment to Momentum, we will be able to grow these partnerships and do more for those in our community, nation and world.



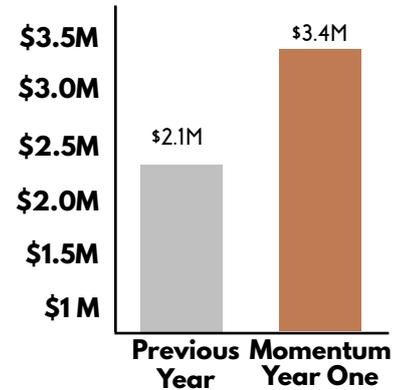
The Momentum two-year generosity goal...

The first year of the Momentum generosity initiative was quite thrilling! We saw:

- the single largest giving jump in Grace history
- the highest average giving per household ever
- the largest number of new givers ever
- the greatest number of online giving households ever

Thus far, we have received approximately 6.3M in commitments and expected gifts. We thank God for the stewardship and generosity that He has led in you all.

To help us finish strong in year two we need everyone together to renew your existing commitment or, if you have joined us since the kickoff last year, to link arms with us and complete a 12-month commitment card.



Gaining MOMENTUM

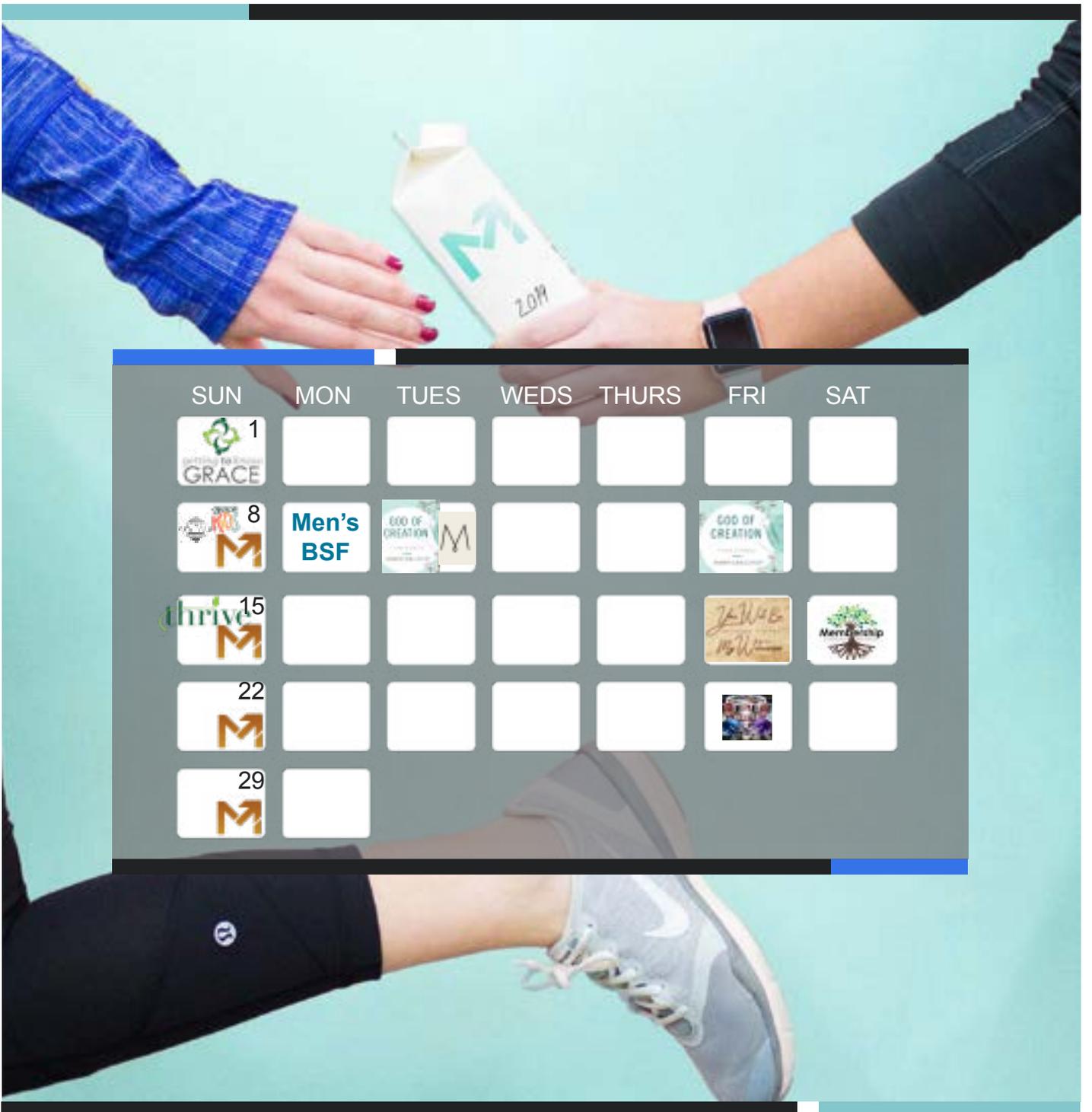


This fall is the one-year anniversary of Momentum, and we are doing a special twelve week series called Gaining Momentum. During this season we will be aiming for 100% engagement and asking each person who calls Grace home to commit to give. By way of reminder the secondary giving goals for Momentum were 2.8M for "Our Community", 2.6M for "Our Corridor" and \$600,000 for "Our World" totalling 6.8M for the two-year goal.

TIMES OF SEPTEMBER

- Sept 1 - Getting to Know Grace
- Sept 8 - Guatemala Mission Trip Debrief
- Sept 8 - Kids & Students Fall Semester Starts
- Sept 8 - Momentum Starting Point Class
- Sept 8 - Momentum Week One
- Sept 9 - Men's Bible Study Fellowship Begins
- Sept 10 - MOPS begins
- Sept 10 - PM Women's Bible Study Begins

- Sept 13 - AM Women's Bible Study Begins
- Sept 15 - Momentum Week Two
- Sept 15 - Thrive Classes Begin
- Sept 20 - Seasoned Sisters Gathering
- Sept 21 - Downtown Membership Class
- Sept 22 - Momentum Week Three
- Sept 27 - 5th Quarter (Student Ministry)
- Sept 29 - Momentum Week Four



SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 GRACE						
8 	Men's BSF					
15 						
22 						
29 						

WEEK OF SEPT 8

Sunday the 8th

- Guatemala Debrief • 11 AM in 307
- Starting Point Class - 4 weeks - 11 AM in 304-05 - graceb3.org/starting-point

Monday the 9th

Men's Bible Study Fellowship Begins

Tuesday the 10th

- Women's Bible Study at Night Begins - graceb3.org/women
- MOPS - graceb3.org/MOPS

Friday the 13th

Women's Bible Study in the Morning Begins - graceb3.org/women

WEEK OF SEPT 15

Sunday the 15th

Thrive Classes Begin - graceb3.org/thrive

Saturday the 21st

Seasoned Sisters Gathering - graceb3.org/sisters
Downtown Campus
Membership Class - graceb3.org/membership

WEEK OF SEPT 22

Friday the 27th

5th Quarter
Student Ministry
graceb3.org/5qt

Starting Point, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study Fellowship and Thrive classes are ongoing.

WEEK OF SEPT 29

Sunday the 29th

Celebration & Commitment Sunday - graceb3.org/momentum

coming in October

01 Meet Kim Rees. We saw her husband appear in the July 2018 Insider too!

02 Update on Aaron & Anika Sheldon in North Africa

03 Wade Summers - Staff Bio



Grace Community Church
graceb3.org • graceb3 app
319.626.2040

2707 Dubuque St. NE
North Liberty, IA 52317

Old Brick Church • 26 E Market St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Sundays North Liberty 8, 9:30 & 11 AM and Downtown 5PM