



SOUL CARE

Grace Insider | January 2022

Spring 2022

THRIVE

SEE DESCRIPTIONS & REGISTER AT GRACEB3.ORG/THRIVE

Class Topics:

Marriage

Evangelism

Premarital
Counseling

Helping Others
Biblically

Growing in Your
New Relationship
with Christ

Biblical Soul Care

Classes Start Sunday, Jan. 9



PLUS:

SOUL CARE: WEEKEND EDITION

A 3-Part Soul Care Training

When: March 4 & 5, April 8 & 9, May 13 & 14
Time: Fridays 6-8:45pm & Saturdays 9am-2:45pm

FAITH & FINANCES: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S ECONOMY

A 2-Part Financial Stewardship Workshop

When: Saturday, February 26 & March 26
Time: 9am - 1pm
Where: Room 304-305

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and/or sign up for events on graceb3.org/events

Jan 9

Spring Thrive • See class descriptions and register at graceb3.org/events.

Jan 16 - Feb 13

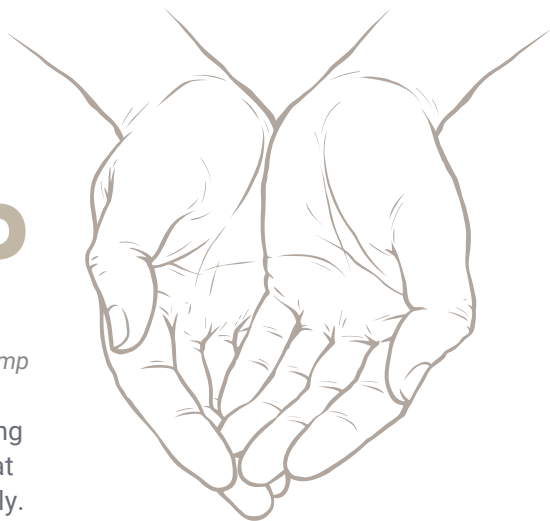
Car Seat Drive • Support our local immigrant and refugee communities by gifting new car seats. Drop off near the info desk at the North Liberty campus.

Feb 13-18

Biblical Counseling Training Conference • Join us in Lafayette, Indiana to be equipped to skillfully, confidently and lovingly minister God's Word to those looking for answers... and don't be surprised if the Lord works mightily in your life first.

OPEN-HANDED LIVING

By Operations Director Caleb Stamp



It's easy to look at what's going on in the church and think that everything is running smoothly. You might be tempted to think, "Maybe I'm not really needed," or "The staff's got this, I'd just get in the way." But here's the thing...

We do need you.

And this isn't just about money. We need your partnership – in prayer, in participation and engagement, in fellowship, and in service. We need each and every person who calls Grace home to use the gifts God has given them to build up the body of Christ. Everything belongs to God, including our time and finances. Generosity toward the church builds up our devotion to Jesus – through our worship – and frees us to live open-handedly with his gifts.

Being generous isn't only responding to God's calling for you, you're also actively participating in the work which God is doing through the church, in our community, and around the globe. Your generosity supports the work done by our entire church body –

volunteers, leaders, pastors, and staff. To give a few examples...

- It provides much-needed supplies for foster families through Extending Grace.
- It helps spread the gospel through our Field Staff in other countries.
- It ensures that kids coming to church on Sundays have an opportunity to worship and learn about God's word.
- It connects international students with families who will welcome them into their homes.

I can hear you saying, "That sounds great! How can I get plugged in?!"

As with all things, we should begin with prayer. Ask God how he would have you be involved at Grace. Take a look at the How-To Guide on the next page for information on how you can jump in and pray, participate, give, and serve. 🌿

How-To Guide

How to Give

Send a check by mail

Make out checks to Grace Community Church

Our mailing address is: 2707 Dubuque St. NE, North Liberty, IA 52317

Give by text message

Send a text with a dollar amount to "84321"

Set up automatic giving

Through direct deposit

Go to graceb3.org/give to customize your giving frequency and date of withdrawal

Pay via debit/credit card or from your bank account.

Through ACH transactions

Go to graceb3.org/ach and print the ACH form

Mail or drop off the completed form with a voided check

Learn about Serving

Complete a SERVE card and drop it in the collection box

Or, visit graceb3.org/serve21

Prayer opportunities

Campus ministry prayer time | First Sunday of the month at 2pm

Email Wade at wades@graceb3.org, or call the office at (319) 626-2040

Sunday morning prayer | Weekly at 7am

Email the office at office@graceb3.org, or call (319) 626-2040

Have a prayer request? Let us know by visiting graceb3.org/prayer

Get into community

Interested in joining a community group? Let us know by visiting graceb3.org/group

See what's going on at Grace

View upcoming events by visiting graceb3.org/events, read the latest Grace Insider magazine at graceb3.org/insider, or check out the 'News & Events' on the Grace App.



LISTEN TO SERMONS ON THE GO



REGISTER FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



GET ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGER TIPS



AND MANY MORE...



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DARE TO CARE

By Biblical Counseling Director Aimee Marino

Hey church, can I give you a challenge? A dare? Are you game?

Okay, here it is: I challenge you to make my role here on Grace's staff... obsolete.

Okay, okay, I'm being ornery, but let me explain.

I am blessed to serve as the Director of Biblical Counseling here at Grace Community Church. It's incredible, and I'd very much like to stay in this role for a good long time, as the Lord leads. But you know what I would love even more? For all followers of Jesus to become so skilled in speaking the truth in love to one

another, carrying one another's burdens, and ministering to one another during hardship using the scriptures that there's no more need for formal biblical counseling. Can you picture it?

In a broken world, there will always be a place for crisis-level help (i.e. biblical counseling). But what if we, as a church, were to take steps towards this dream of the church taking care of one another in a skillful way? What difference would this make in your family? In your community group? In Grace Community Church, as a whole? What impact could a church body like that have on our community? Would

we not be the sweet aroma of Jesus, filtering through our community like a warm apple pie fresh out of the oven, drawing the lost to the table of Christ?

Church... by the power of the Spirit, we can do this. Part of being a disciple of Christ is to practice the "One Anothers" of scripture, including

- Bearing one another's burdens (*Galatians 6:2*)
- Speaking the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15, 25*)
- Comforting one another (*1 Thessalonians 4:18*)
- Admonishing one another (*Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16*)

...and 50+ others, too... look them up! We do these things because we are "members of one another," (*Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25*), and members of Christ himself.

"so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."
Romans 12:5

How do we practically do this, and take it to the next level of ministering to one another?

This is Biblical Soul Care: the call to minister to one another

in complete dependence on the word of God, the Spirit of God, and the community of God to help others experience transforming life change.

The more we can be equipped as a community, the better we can care for one another as needs arise and see God's power at work as he works through us to bring hope and healing. That said, there will always be situations that require more skilled help. The reality is that as long as we live in a broken world, there will continue to be more serious situations that require trained biblical counselors to intervene. We currently have a waiting list for counseling at Grace, and the fact is we need more counselors! Some of the counselors at Grace are on staff, but many are lay counselors: folks who have other careers, but who have taken the step to be trained and become Certified Biblical Counselors with Grace.

We need both; we need followers of Jesus to provide soul care to those around them, and we need Certified Biblical Counselors to provide more acute care. We are all called to some level of giving soul care to one another, and some are called to invest more deeply, to stand on the front

lines of sin and suffering, and to see the power of Christ for regeneration up close. **I would invite you to pray: ask God if he is calling you to explore becoming a Certified Biblical Counselor.**

Whether you are considering certification, or whether you want to be better at applying scripture in your home, your community group, or to your own heart, would you pray about how to take your next step? There are a couple opportunities coming this spring:

Attend "Biblical Soul Care: Weekend Edition"

This three-weekend course is our flagship Biblical Soul Care class in a new format that is more accessible for many to be trained to use the scriptures to minister to the hurting... and your own heart as well. Check it out on graceb3.org/events

Come to Monday Night Dinnertime Training

We spend the dinner hour each Monday night training on important counseling topics. If you have a basic understanding of Biblical Soul Care, and are interested in learning more about these dinnertime training times, contact Chelsy Reed at chelsyr@graceb3.org

Attend "Biblical Counseling

Training Conference"

Lafayette, Indiana | Feb. 13 - 18

This is an immersive training that draws biblical counselors from all over the world, and Grace takes a team each year. If you feel called to counsel others, or want equipping to speak into the lives of others in your day-to-day life, it's well worth your time. Sign up before January 10 at graceb3.org/events

Request Counseling

Sometimes, we need to heal before we can help others do the same. Request counseling at graceb3.org/get-counseling 🌿



By Pastor Paul Hansen & Amy

We are told to begin with the end in mind. To finish what you start.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 proclaims, *"Better is the end of a thing than its beginning."* One day it will all be done, and the year 2022 will no longer be new. In the meantime, we should keep calm and finish our mission!

Jesus proclaimed in John 17, *"I glorified you on earth,*

having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

While we wait for the blessed hope of one day hearing "*well done good and faithful servant*", we ought to glorify him in whatever we do. We want to share three names with you as we collectively seek to glorify God and experience his faithfulness throughout 2022.

Name #1: JESUS, of course! The name always bears repeating, and as mentioned earlier, not only is he our sole source and provider of salvation, but he is also our model for ministry. He spoke the words of John 17 undoubtedly with the cross in mind, but also with a sense of accomplishment in the lives of his disciples. Before you add additional lofty goals for 2022, consider whose lives are you investing in, and who are you receiving from this year.

Name #2: GLOBAL TASK FORCE. The Global Taskforce is the new name for everyone who is involved in Global Outreach at Grace. In one way or another, that means you! How can you be more involved this year? Consider these exciting teams, and contact Paul at paul@graceb3.org for additional information if you would like to be involved:

- Deployment Team
- Care Team
- Prayer Team
- Dispersed People Engagement Team
- Education & Mobilization & Communication Team
- Local & Short Term Outreach Team

Strategically, would you mind keeping us in prayer as Grace seeks to identify an area of the world for gospel penetration where Christ is not yet named?

Name #3. FIELD STAFF LUDVICEKS. It has been a huge blessing having Alex, Trish, and the boys home with us on furlough for these past six months. This month they are preparing to return to Indonesia with MAF. Pray that God would go ahead of them in preparing this next season and that they would be positioned to one day finish their mission well. 🌱

READY FOR TRUE CHANGE

By Next Gen Director Cindy Sulwer

It is that time of year again — a time for fresh starts, new beginnings, and new year. I'm guessing many of us have made at least one, if not several, New Year's resolutions — ones which we have every intention to keep. I don't know how many times I've made a New Year's resolution and before even a month has passed, I have already failed. This perennial failure leaves me longing for change that is complete and not just fleeting, desired, or wished for.

Am I alone in this? I suspect not. Are you also ready for hope, change, and a transformation that won't fail?

This durable type of hope and assurance is found in dependence on God through prayer. I know what you are thinking, "... but Cindy, I have prayed so many times. I'm not sure if God hears me, or if I even know what his answers look like." God has heard you, but maybe you (and I) have been praying with the wrong

motives. To help find out whether this is the case, look at how Jesus taught us to pray;

Pray then like this: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* (Matthew 6:9-13)

Praying this kind of prayer with genuine conviction can be summed up with one word, surrender. If our prayers don't surrender our will – and ourselves – to God then they've included motives which seek solutions outside of God's will. When we pray for God's name to be glorified, His will to be done, and His kingdom to come, it causes us to completely surrender to the control and authority of someone other than ourselves.

He has proven he is worthy. The almighty maker of the universe allows us to come to him with everything; our fears, burdens, questions, and needs. He allows (He wants!) us to be a part of his amazing story as his sons and daughters. He loves us that much.

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to

you." Jeremiah 29:12

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

So many times, I have come to the Lord selfishly trying to build my kingdom, my will, and for my glory. I have only had temporary moments of happiness when that is my motive. When I don't put God in his rightful place, I am putting myself on the throne and making it about me, and it never goes well. The Lord has been patient with me, reminding me of the joy that is found in following his will.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

So I encourage you to take time to convey your heart to God and pray about everything. I mean everything: every decision, action, thought, and burden. He is always there, listening, rescuing, and transforming us. Even when we don't have the words, the Holy Spirit will cry out for us.

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our

weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26

Then listen as the Lord reveals his will through his word. He will never lead you astray.

As we start this new year, my resolution is that we strive to be a body of believers who prays, trusts, and surrenders to the Lord for his will to be done in all things. May we be a church that is building and seeking his kingdom. As Dwight Moody once stated, "He who kneels the most stands the best."

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Just a few of the many things we can be praying for together:

- That we are a church that surrenders to God's will
- The lost (your neighbors)
- New believers coming to Christ
- Parents being disciplined and discipling their children
- Marriages
- Identities in Christ
- Leaders of the church
- Brooks' sabbatical
- Missionaries (Field Staff) 🌿



NEW CAR SEATS ONLY PLEASE.
DROP OFF BY INFO DESK IN FOYER.

A photograph of a man with glasses, seen from the side, speaking at a podium. The image is overlaid with a solid blue color. The text is positioned in the lower-left area of the image.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CONFERENCE

FEB 13-18 LAFAYETTE, IN
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