

GRACE INSIDER

AUGUST 2023

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class this fall](#) *details on page 11*



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ALL-CHURCH POOL PARTY *August 6 6-7:30PM*

Everyone is invited to this all-church, all ages pool party! Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. No sign up required, just come!

VOLUNTEER FAIR *August 13 after each service*

The best way to get connected is to get involved. Current volunteers and ministry leaders will be on hand to explain options and answer your questions about the many opportunities to be involved at Grace.

PARENTING QUARTERLY ROUND TABLE *August 20*

Parents, you've heard us say that "Grace partners with you to disciple your kids". What does it mean for you to disciple your kids? What might it look like? Come get encouraged and equipped to make disciples of the next generation in your own household! We are in this together!

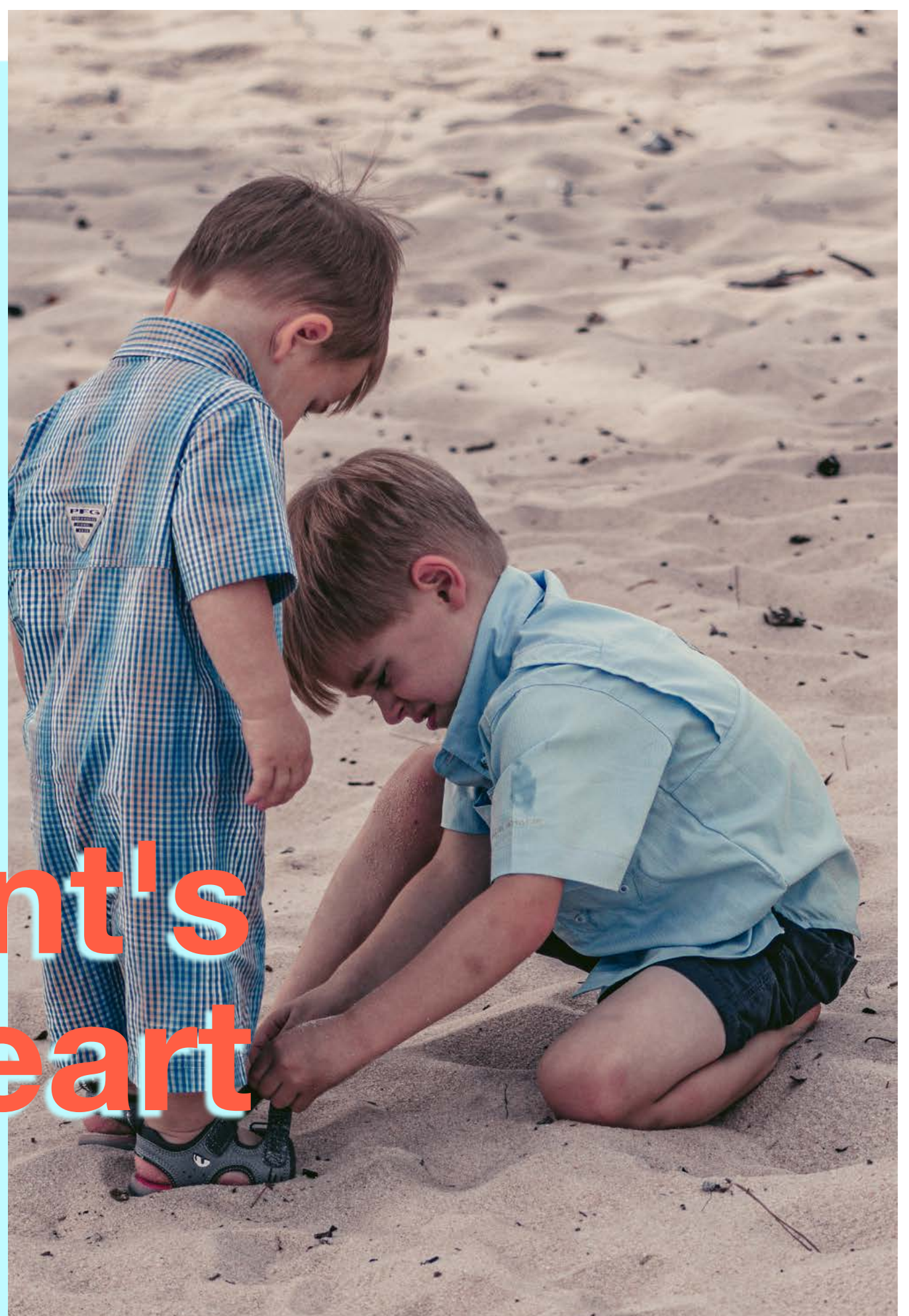
REFILL: WEEKLY STUDENT GATHERING

August 23 6:30-8PM

7th-12th graders, join Grace Student Ministry every Wednesday evening for games and discussions on life and the Bible.

A Servant's Heart

*By Executive Pastor
Josh Haveman*



Anyone that has attended Grace Community Church for more than a week probably knows Ryan McFadden. Even if you don't know his name, you recognize his smile and feel his energy across the lobby. This is not by accident. God has gifted Ryan with skills that enable him to connect, organize, and orchestrate all kinds of activities. He knows how to pull people together to meet for the first time and how to get strangers to work toward a common goal. His heart for service has suited him well as our Facilities Director – recruiting volunteers for work, managing projects, etc. But we think that his skills can be put to better use.

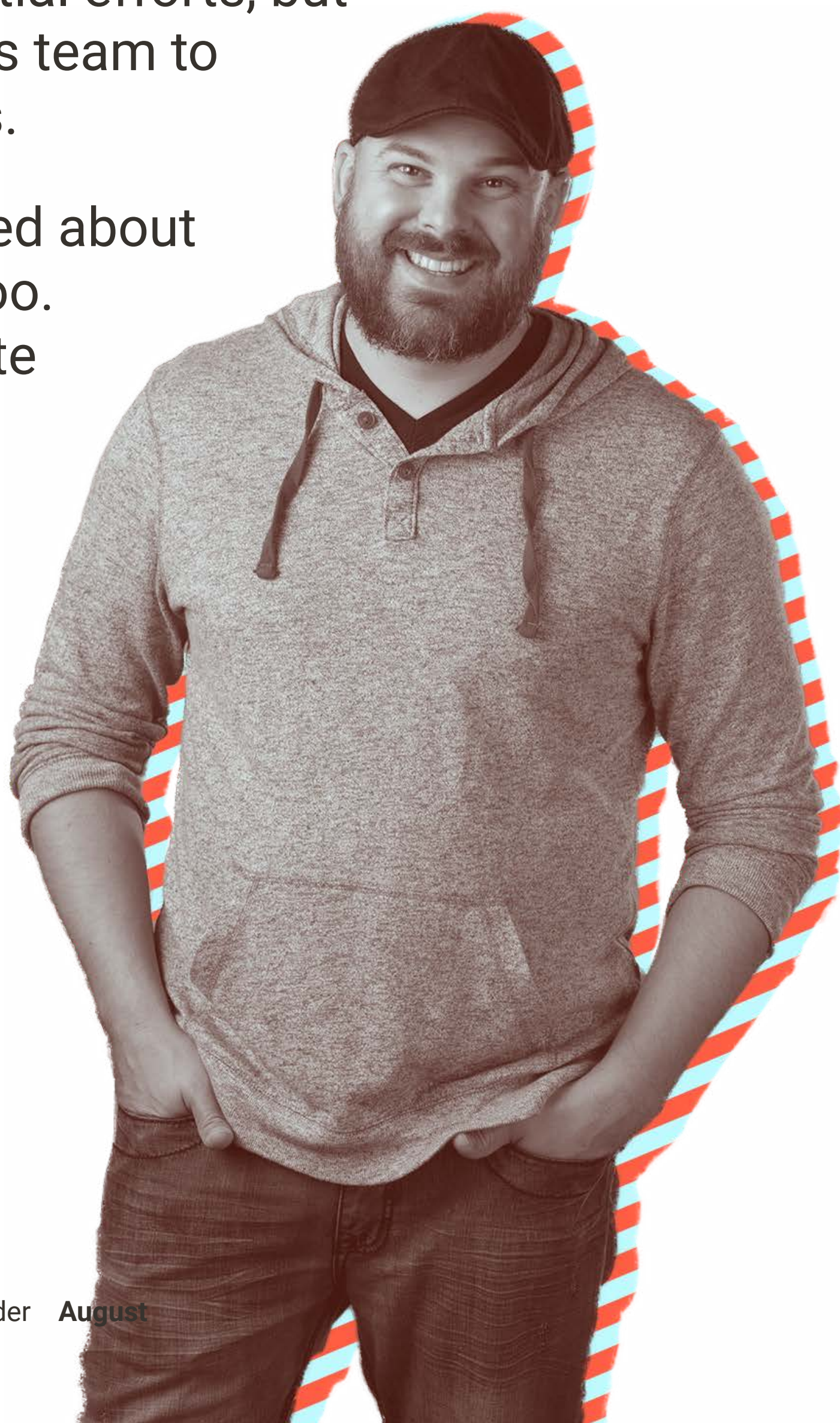
Another thing you might have noticed at Grace is that we have a fairly large staff. It isn't true that there are no volunteers or volunteer-led programs, but most official activities of the church are overseen by staff people. There is nothing sinful or wrong about this approach. But it isn't always helpful because it can discourage church members and attenders from getting involved. It also incorrectly communicates that the church is a place where you are served, as opposed to serving with people.

Our Elder Board and Senior Leadership Team saw these two realities and realized a possible solution staring us in the face. We desired to see more people in the church involved at more levels. There were specific volunteer efforts we knew would benefit the church in profound ways. And Ryan McFadden was already a key part of our community, well-suited to help volunteers get organized, and gifted by God with a heart to serve those around him. A new direction for the church was in order, and a new position for Ryan was part of the answer. That is why on July 1, 2023, **Ryan McFadden changed roles from Facilities Director to Volunteer Engagement Director.**

In his new role, Ryan will continue to oversee the Safety and Security Team. That was the major volunteer team he was already leading. Then he will begin to work with all of our other volunteers. That work will be minimal in some departments, encouraging and supporting only. But there are many areas where the church would like to see significant growth in volunteer work. One of those initiatives will be Ryan's primary focus this next year: establishing the **Grace Care Team.**

Everyone has physical needs. Sometimes these needs require help that far exceeds our ability. The Grace Care Team - which you will hear more about soon - will be a volunteer team **focused directly on meeting physical needs in our church community.** This team will need men and women to serve as leaders and initiators. Ryan will lead the initial efforts, but many other helpers will run this team to serve Grace and our neighbors.

The church leadership is excited about this change. Ryan is excited, too. When you see him, congratulate him on the new role. And get ready, we'll be building more volunteer teams very soon. So have a conversation with God now, and ask him to give you a servant's heart. 🌿





REGISTER AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

BIBLICAL SOUL CARE

WEEKEND EDITION

9.16 | 8AM - 4:30PM

10.21 • 11.18 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Free to attend*

** Bring your own lunch or pay \$35 to have lunch catered on the three meetings dates.*

This class is for everyone who has ever wondered how to help someone who is hurting, losing hope, or struggling with deep set sin (and it's for everyone that has been there, too). Our stance is that everyone gives counsel (or what we more frequently call advice) and that, as Jesus' people, we are called to give biblical answers to life's questions and problems. This class will get you off to a roaring start on what a biblical answer is to some of the sticky things that life throws our way.



A Church that Builds Churches

*By Executive Pastor
Josh Haveman*

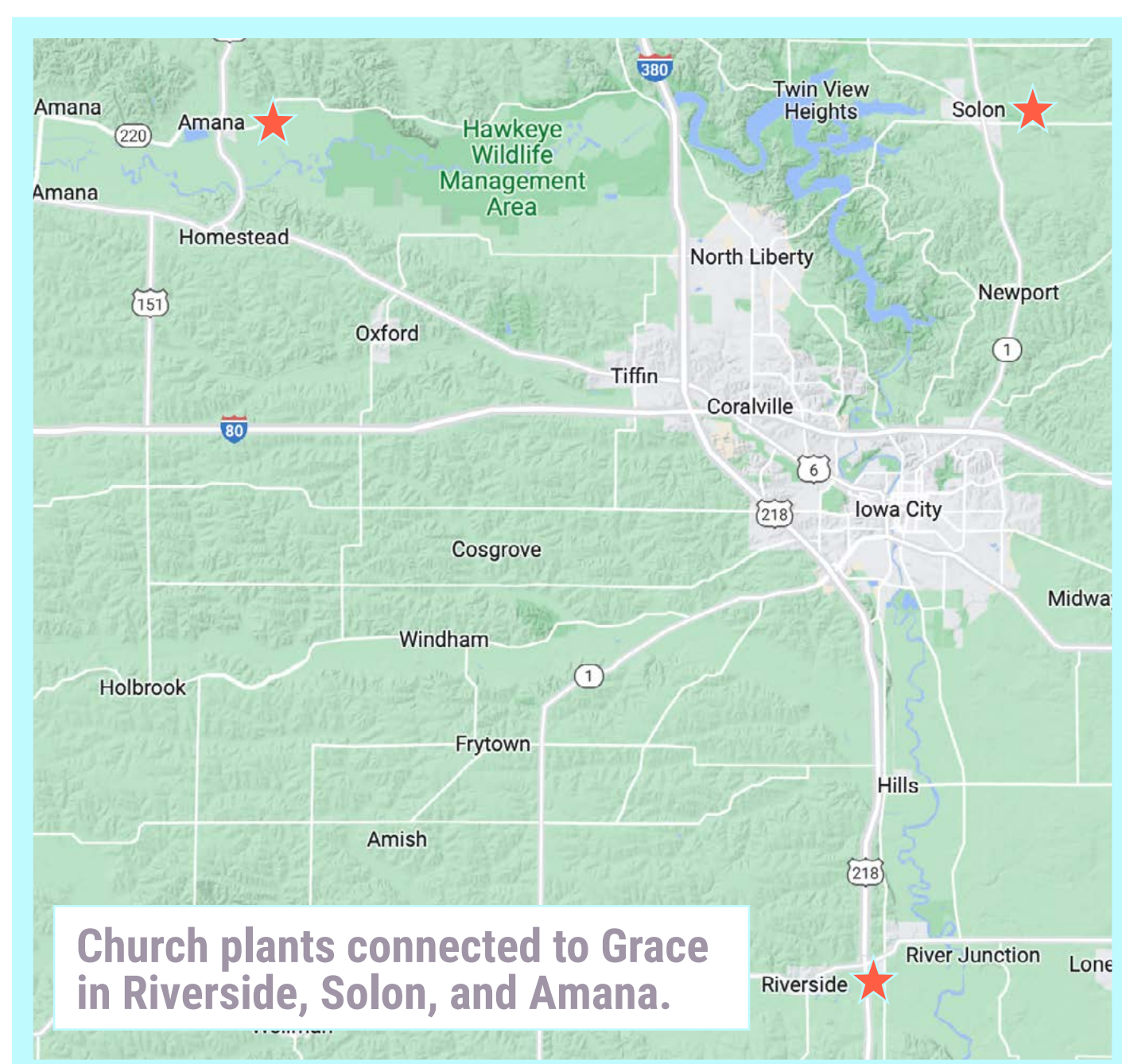
AT OUR JUNE MEMBERS MEETING, Brooks and I discussed the plans we have for our property on Kansas Avenue in North Liberty. Those plans include a new building and moving most of the congregation in our current facility to that new building in about seven to ten years.

Why so long? If the church needs a new building, why not start building it right away?

Grace Community Church might need a new building in a few years. But more than that, the people who attend Grace need to live active lives of discipleship. **The pastors, elders, and leadership team at Grace long to see the members and attenders following Jesus more faithfully.** This means placing more emphasis on knowing and understanding God's word. This means giving greater attention to prayer. This means ensuring more instances of sharing the gospel with people who don't know Jesus. If we branch out into a new building before first building up the congregation in terms of personal discipleship and disciple making, we are doing our work in the wrong order.

Expect to hear more about the need to make new disciples. And expect to hear more regarding making new communities of disciples.

Thankfully, no new building is needed to follow Jesus more closely. We can do that right away, and **the church should expect to hear more in the coming months about the values they can pursue and the steps they can take to follow Christ faithfully.** Expect to hear more about the need to make new disciples. And expect to hear more regarding making new communities of disciples.



Communities of Christians are essential to the spread of the gospel. Brooks shared at the meeting about the fact that **starting new communities of disciples and church planting is one of the most effective means of bringing people to Christ.** From experience we know that when a new Christian community comes to a town or region, it brings opportunities to talk about Jesus with people who may never have spoken about God with anyone.

What experience is that? Grace has been a part of multiple church plants in the last ten years. One of those is official: Grace planted River City Church in Riverside, IA, about five years ago. Other church plants are unofficially connected to Grace (Jordan Creek in Solon) or in the process (Amana Fellowship). But with all of these interactions, we have seen the value of church planting, and it has helped to clarify our church's mission for the future.

At the beginning of this article, I said that in 7-10 years, most of the congregation that attends Grace will move to that new facility on Kansas Avenue. We expect some people not to move to that new building because part of our plans involves **planting a new church in our old building**. The mission of that new church, which will meet in our current facility, will be **to reach the people who live along Dubuque Street in North Liberty, Coralville, and Iowa City**. The mission of Grace Community Church in its new facility will be amended to focus on planting churches in Eastern Iowa. When the move is complete and several transition steps have taken place, there will be **two churches with two distinct missions**. We expect most of the current congregation will go to the new building, but we hope some people will be interested in helping plant that new church.

Ultimately, we want Grace Community Church to be a church that plants churches. It is true that right now, many growth steps need to take place before we can go and do the work of multiplying one congregation into two or more. But our long-term goal is two, three, four, or more new Christian communities in Eastern Iowa: new church plants, new community groups, new service groups, and so on. Because as I said above, one of the best ways to spread the gospel is by making new communities of disciples. 🌱



7th - 12th grade

rec night

August 19 7-9pm

North Liberty Community Center

register at graceb3.org/events

games
swimming
hangout



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

By Volunteer Engagement Director Ryan McFadden

In a church our size, it can be very easy to walk in on any given Sunday and think that you aren't needed to serve because everything seems to run like a well-oiled machine, that you don't have what it takes to serve at the church, or even that you don't have the time to commit to Sunday morning service because of an erratic schedule. Perhaps you don't even think about serving at the church.

Two of our main goals at Grace are for our attendees and members to feel more connected and be personally involved. While serving within a ministry fulfills both of these goals, there are many other benefits to serving, and here are just a few:

- Getting to know other individuals within the church
- Using your gifts to build up the body of Jesus Christ
- Discovering new interests through serving opportunities
- Helping those in need

WHY SHOULD I SERVE?

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul is writing to the church of Corinth, saying the body has multiple members and it cannot function with only one part of a body. As the church, we need multiple people in different areas using their unique gifts and strengths to help spread the gospel and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.



WHAT TYPE OF VOLUNTEERS IS GRACE LOOKING FOR?

We seek individuals who can serve during Sunday services and also outside of Sunday service times. Ministries include Children, Students, Guest Services, Coffee, Music, and Outreach to name just a few.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

Take the first step by checking out the **Volunteer Fair on Sunday, August 13, after each service**. After connecting with one or more of our ministries, a ministry leader will contact you directly to meet and discuss the opportunities, as well as help you decide which ministry best fits your strengths and availability.

IF I DO NOT SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE, WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ryan McFadden, Volunteer Engagement Director, at ryanm@graceb3.org. I would love to meet you and help you find opportunities to serve as part of Grace Community Church. 🌿

**Check Out the
Volunteer Fair on
Sunday, August 13,
after each service to
discover opportunities
to serve.**

sign up for a class at graceb3.org/events

FALL THRIVE

details & descriptions



PRACTICAL DISCIPLE MAKING

Jesus's last words to his closest followers were, "Go and make disciples." But how? How do you personally and practically make disciples who make disciples? How do you reach your friends, neighbors, and family with the gospel and help them do the same? Join us to learn principles, practical tools, and practice experiences as you pursue others to multiply your life.

Teachers: Scott Heemstra & Austin Ward

Location: Room 306

CO-ED BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

This interactive class will teach you how to study the Bible in a meaningful way, no matter how much or how little you know about it.

- The three steps of sound Bible study
- Weekly practice and Q&A
- How different genres influence interpretation
- The roles of the Holy Spirit and prayer in Bible study
- An overview of the Bible and its story

Bibles will be provided, but you may bring a Bible with no study notes or commentary if you have one. Worksheets will be provided at each class for note taking, group work, and individual work.

Teachers: Jean Keeley, Carrie Wolford, & Molly Jones

Location: Room 307

8:30AM CLASSES

10:15AM CLASSES

CREATED TO CONNECT

This class is designed for people who have welcomed children into their homes and classrooms who come from other countries and cultures, from troubled backgrounds, and/or with special behavioral or emotional needs. This is for all caregivers (including those who are considering adoption) and professionals who strive to connect with children who have unique needs.

Teachers: Korene Lanxon & Natasha Miller
Location: Room 202 (loft)

THE REDEMPTIVE STORY OF GOD

Do you ever read the Bible and wonder how it's all connected? This class looks at God's redemption story from Genesis to Revelation, examining the unity of Scripture, and how the Bible proclaims Christ and demonstrates God's grand picture across both testaments.

Teachers: Peter Chidister & Jacob Varvel
Location: Conference Room
Cost: \$10 for the book

DEEP DIVE (For Middle School and High School Students)

Learn how to dive deeper into the Bible through inductive Bible Study! Whether you've studied the Bible for a while or have never tried, this class is for you!

Teachers: Brian Hagedorn and various GSM leaders
Location: Room 203 (Loft)

PREMARITAL COUNSELING CLASS

This class is for couples who are preparing for marriage or who've never had premarital counseling. We will look at all aspects of God's design for marriage and give biblical evaluation tools to help you determine if you are ready to be married. This is a fun interactive class that will help you evaluate your relationship and grow deeper in your walk with Christ and community. We use the book Tying the Knot by Rob Green as a text book for the class.

Teachers: Josh Haveman
Location: 307
Cost: \$10 for the book

11:30AM CLASS