

# GRACE insider

*making disciples*



*// feature //*

Women's Bible Study  
featured on page 10  
[graceb3.org/women](http://graceb3.org/women)

/january

# **SERMON NOTES**

**1.5 AND 1.12 - PSALM 51 & MATTHEW 5:1-11**

**1.19 - ACTS 17**

**1.26 - 1 THESS. 1:1-5**

# RESOLUTIONS.

## AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE A WHOLE YEAR TO DO THEM.

by Chelsy Reed

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*“Consider carefully how you live—not as unwise but as wise, taking advantage of every opportunity, because the days are evil. For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding what the Lord’s will is.”*

Ephesians 5:15-17

Resolutions are a funny thing. Sometimes they work, sometimes they sorta work, and sometimes they’re an oh-no moment in October. Some people make one and some make a bunch. I suppose that if you make more than one you have more chances to succeed at least once.

In a survey on New Year’s resolutions, there were some statistics that were pretty predictable (unless you’re one of those perpetual optimists): 31% of people who made resolutions in the last year didn’t stick to them (shocking). The top five resolutions were to exercise more, eat healthier, save money, lose weight, and reduce stress. I wonder how that last one gets fleshed out.

Perhaps this year we should try a different approach and take our cue from Ephesians (above). To seek the will of the Lord and choose wisely when we know it. That will look a bit different for everyone, but it might change what we resolve to do in 2020.

In the *January Insider*, you’re going to see a lot of opportunities to take next steps. Just a quick glance over pages 6-9 show a plethora of ways that we can intentionally choose to grow in our relationship with God and strengthen our faith. If you’ve never taken a Thrive class before, register. If you’re not in biblical community, check out Pilot Groups. If you’re brand new, put Getting to Know Grace on your calendar and see where God takes you in 2020.

# MOVING AGAIN

*We hope this will be the last move that the Ludvicks make for a while as they head back early this month to settle into their new home in Nabire.*



by Alex Ludvick

After 12 years of training: nine years as a mechanic, seven years as a pilot, three years with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and living in more than 10 places, we have finally made it to the home we see ourselves in for the foreseeable future! Yes, we made our move to our base in Nabire!

It's been a crazy few months (Yes, I say this every time, but it's true!). After filling in as a pilot during our summer pilot shortage, finishing maintenance training, completing a large scale flight chart overhaul *and* packing for our big move, we said farewell to Sentani and hello to Nabire. So far in Sentani I've been able

to fly 77 flights spanning over 275 hours, and all safe, so thank you for your prayers! We arrived in Nabire on October 31 to unpack our container of stuff and helped out a bit on an aircraft inspection and on November 7, we found ourselves



*Alex and his co-pilot during a flight*



back on the “road”, enroute to America for our mini furlough. It was a quick time in Nabire, but now we are all ready to return to our (mostly) set up house in January.

*The Ludvicks did get to make a couple of Grace appearances while back in December and we send them off again with much prayer and love!*



*Jack keeping cool in the shade*



# january calendar

— 5<sup>th</sup> —  
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## Getting to Know

### Grace

Join us at Getting to Know Grace to hear God's story, learn Grace's story and share your story. This is a great starting point to get connected and plugged in at Grace.

**Sign-up at:**  
[graceb3.org/gtkg](http://graceb3.org/gtkg)  
11 AM on the North  
Liberty Campus

— 12<sup>th</sup> —  
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## Thrive Classes Begin

Our Thrive classes are part of how we build up the members of the body for the mission God has for their lives. Check out the class line up and take the next step in strengthening your faith.

**Sign-up for classes at:**  
[graceb3.org/thrive](http://graceb3.org/thrive)  
Sunday mornings at  
Heritage Christian School

— 13<sup>th</sup> —  
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## Perspectives

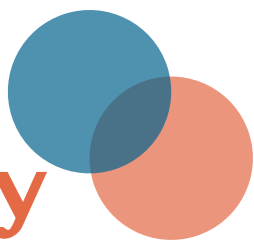
Experience God's heart for all peoples and encounter the momentum of the world Christian movement. Perspectives will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they're relevant to your life.

**Learn more and register at:**  
[graceb3.org/perspectives2020](http://graceb3.org/perspectives2020)  
Mondays 6-9 PM in Kalona at  
Fairview Mennonite Church





# first in february



— 1<sup>st</sup> —



## Men with No Regrets Simulcast

Join other men at Grace Community in a powerful day of worship, fellowship, and equipping during the simulcast of the “Men with No Regrets” conference.

**Register at:**  
[graceb3.org/noregrets](http://graceb3.org/noregrets)  
8:30 AM on the North  
Liberty Campus

— 4<sup>th</sup> —



## Pilot Groups

A Pilot Community Group is a journey devoted to learning the fundamentals of Community Group life. Community Groups are a core part of who we are as a church. This group will be a great way for you to join into group life at Grace Community.

**Learn more and sign-up at:**  
[graceb3.org/pilot](http://graceb3.org/pilot)  
6:30-8 PM on the North Liberty  
Campus

— 4<sup>th</sup> —



## Women’s Bible Study

In our second semester of the Women’s Bible Study, we’ll work through God of Covenant covering Genesis 12-50. We’ll walk through the stories of the fathers of our faith verse by verse, tracing the themes of covenant, resurrection, redemption, and hope.

**Sign-up at:**  
[graceb3.org/women](http://graceb3.org/women)  
*One study with two times:*  
*Tuesday nights 7-8:30 PM and*  
*Friday mornings*  
*10-11:30 AM.*





Classes start Sunday, January 12

Sign-up at [graceb3.org/thrive](http://graceb3.org/thrive)

8 AM



9:30 AM



11 AM







## Launch into Community

A Pilot Community Group is a journey devoted to learning the fundamentals of Community Group life. Community Groups are a core part of who we are as a church. This group will be a great way for you to join into group life at Grace Community.

## Who Should Attend

- Anyone looking to make connections and connect with a community group.
- Group leaders looking to launch new groups or refresh their current group. If you're interested in being a group leader, please contact Dan Bovenmyer at [danb@graceb3.org](mailto:danb@graceb3.org)



**LEARN MORE AND SIGN-UP AT: [GRACEB3.ORG/PILOT](https://graceb3.org/pilot)  
STARTING FEB 4, 6:30-8 PM ON THE NORTH LIBERTY CAMPUS**

## Renewing our minds means dwelling in the word.



In the fall of 2019, a church-wide women's Bible study was launched at Grace. We've had smaller group Bible studies before, but this is a bit different. More than we expected responded to the study (it was, after all, the first go) and we've already been prepping for the semester that begins in February.

We want women to love God, His word and His people through the study of the Word and engagement in biblical community. The church-wide Bible study offers a place to grow in all three of those aspects. We're aware that our church body is growing, and so more of these mid-sized avenues are needed for people to make personal connections inside of Grace because there are oceans of people at Sunday services.



In the fall we covered Genesis 1-11 utilizing Jen Wilkin's materials, *God of Creation*. Starting in the first week of February 2020, we'll take on the rest of Genesis using the sister materials, *God of Covenant*. Join us for 10 sessions of verse-by-verse study as we dive into Genesis 12-50 by following three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation, and application.

## **the heart cannot love what the mind does not know**

The Women's Bible Study is offered on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30 PM and Friday mornings from 9-10:30 AM. If you'd like to develop your skills in reading and studying God's Word, we offer a four-week class to cut your teeth on called Toolbar. Check out [graceb3.org/women](http://graceb3.org/women).





## SERMON FORECAST BY PASTOR BROOKS SIMPSON

What would make 2020 a great year? 2019 is behind us and 2020 is before us. What goals, dreams, and aspirations do you have? Let's do a thought experiment. Complete the sentence:

***2020 would be a great year if...***

- What are some typical ways people complete this sentence?
- What would you put in the blank? Why do we want what we want?
- If we got everything we wanted would it really make us happy?

## The Blessing of Brokenness

Do you know what no one ever desires to make a year extra special? Brokenness. It never occurs to me to ask God to break me of my self-will and stubbornness. It never occurs to me to ask God to lovingly discipline me with what C.S. Lewis calls God's severe mercy. But it never occurs to me that the pathway to God's plan for my life is through the process of being broken. Most people don't believe 2020 would be a great year if God allowed them to be broken.

Last November I prayed for revival. I did not ask to be broken in the process. But that's exactly what I needed. It turns out that is a prerequisite for revival. It would seem that in order to be lifted up, we must first be brought low.

In the new year we will explore the blessing of brokenness. We will close

*"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

- Isaiah 57:15

2019 and bring in the 2020 by spending three weeks in the Beatitudes.

*And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and*

*persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'*

*-Matthew 5:2-12*

***“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”***

*- Psalm 34:18*

Blessing begins with becoming poor in spirit. Here is the deal. God loves us too much to allow us to live proud unbroken lives. There are no doubt some of you reading this who think this sounds awful. It's not. It's glorious. *It's the path to revival.*



# 2019 year in review

07 new staff



## Joining us on staff this year

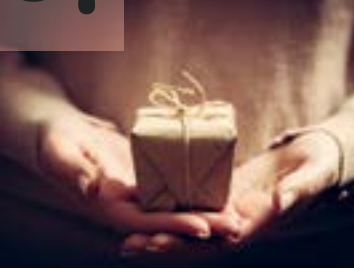
*Melissa Meredith, Pastoral Administrative Assistant; Maggie Baker, Publicity Communications Specialist; Steve Oliver, Creative Arts Director; Zahk Xalyrion, Facilities Coordinator; Jacob Varvel, Communications Director; Amanda Chidister, Preschool Coordinator; Zack Stanton, Music Coordinator.*

482 serve commitment forms





**207** new givers



**Joining the family**  
and making every 'old' giver  
feel like someone new has  
joined the mission

**01** new field staff



**Liz Espen**

has officially entered the  
support raising year of being a  
Field Staff member at Grace.

**91** share commitments





**KATHRYN GEORGE**

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR**

# WE BELIEVE IN EQUIPPING WOMEN TO BE FIERCE IN FAITH.

Part discipler, part planner, part decorator, part hostess, this role on staff has a whole hat closet that comes with the welcome package.

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Kat George is a wife, mom to four, and a huge advocate for women to love God, His word and His people through the study of the Word and engagement in biblical community.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Kat and her family have called Iowa home for almost five years. She is thrilled that Iowa has been so welcoming and made us feel right at home.

Kathryn, along with husband Chad and family, live in Iowa City, and before she accepted the position of Director of Women's Ministry at Grace, you would have found the George's primarily at the Downtown Campus. Now on any given Sunday, you might find them at any of Grace's four Sunday Services. Well, let's be honest, as a night owl you

won't find her (willingly at least) at the 8 AM!

Since joining the team at Grace, Kat has found great joy getting to know the women of Grace both in-person over coffee (a personal favorite) and during events such as the Women's Conference and ongoing bible studies.

Kat is a mom to two sons, Benjamin (17) and Jackson (15) and two daughters Austen (14) and Jane (12). When they aren't trying to squeeze in some homeschooling the George's can be found exploring their "new-ish" home state on adventures such as river-tubing in Decorah or fishing at Lake Darling! As relative newbies to this thing we call "winter", the George's still find joy in a good snowfall and getting to discover all the ways to while away the long, cold nights.



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## **NIKKI WEINKAUF TALENT FROM THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

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Nikki Weinkauff has been part of Grace since 2009 and currently works part-time as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse, part-time as a fitness instructor and stays home with her three children: Ellie (7), Eli (3) and Naomi (2).

She and her husband Adam met while in school at the University and were married in 2010. Both Nikki and Adam actively serve on the Downtown Campus, on the Counting Team and the Worship Team respectively. Additionally, Nikki serves at both campuses by being part of the Women's Ministry Leadership Team.

While Nikki's hands stay full with her children, she still finds time to listen to her favorite podcasts and audiobooks for ongoing enrichment. Nikki enjoys taking care of the kids and their home, along with living life alongside people from all sorts of different backgrounds at the Downtown Campus, and in the community group they co-lead.

Nikki is passionate about Bible literacy, good parenting, loving those in her neighborhood and community group, and physical fitness.

Thank you, Nikki, for serving our church with passion and spunk!



*Nikki and some of her dear close friends*



In women's ministry there's always a spot for decorators, organizers, and helping hands. contact [kathryng@graceb3.org](mailto:kathryng@graceb3.org)

Volunteering time is one way that God uses us to build up the church body. Often in serving, a humbling occurs, that helps us “think of others more highly than ourselves” while we’re being faithful, available and teachable in God’s hands. If you’re looking for a

## “SAVED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE”

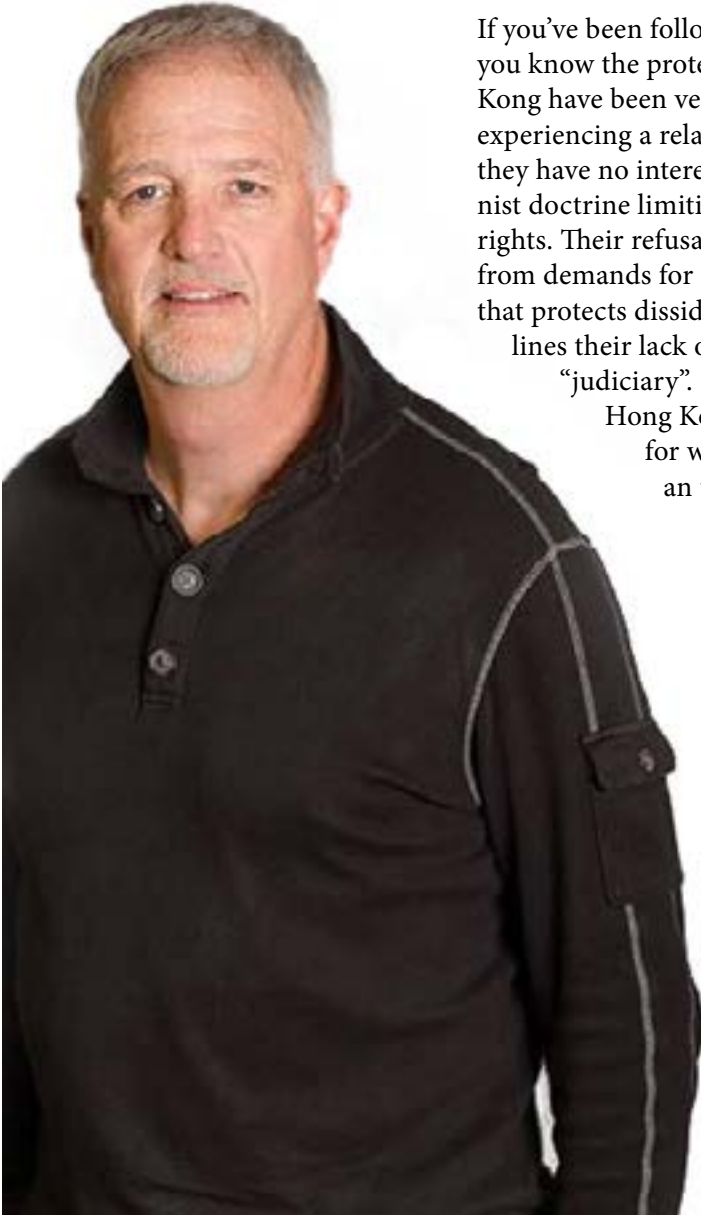
next step to take that will strengthen your faith, consider serving at Grace or beyond Grace’s walls. It’s what being disciples who make disciples looks like.

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# PRAYER IS REBELLION

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BY PASTOR TARRYL BOCKELMAN



If you've been following world news, you know the protestors in Hong Kong have been very persistent. After experiencing a relatively free society, they have no interest in communist doctrine limiting their human rights. Their refusal to back down from demands for a justice system that protects dissidents clearly outlines their lack of trust in Beijing's "judiciary". The people of Hong Kong refuse to settle for what they believe is an unjust system.



## What do protestors in Hong Kong have to do with prayer?

In his article *Prayer, Rebellion Against the Status Quo*, David

Wells asserts that, as Christians, our prayer life is, in essence, a similar refusal to accept a system that is broken. Wells contends our prayer lives should be driven by “the absolute and undying refusal to accept as normal what is pervasively abnormal: it is the refusal of every agenda, every scheme, every interpretation that is at odds with the norm originally established by God.” *In essence, it is a refusal to accept the brokenness of a fallen world, even though we are called to live in it.*

This same refusal to accept the world’s injustice is seen in Jesus’ teaching on prayer in Luke 18. In this passage, the widow who is denied justice refuses to back down and persists until she is granted legal protection. Wells points out

*“Now will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”*

—*Luke 18:7-8*

the parable’s illustration of the *nature* and *practice* of prayer. He adds that we must never surrender to the idea that “the power of God to change the world, to overcome evil by good, will not be actualized.”

Unfortunately, we tend to give in to the temptation to believe circumstances are unchangeable, that the seemingly immovable object or problem will never be “unstuck.”

*Often it’s not that we don’t believe God will execute justice, rather it has more to do with not being willing to accept His timeline.*

We’re okay with being sick or facing struggles as long as everything is better by the weekend or, at worst year’s end. The application point here is clear even if it’s difficult to carry out. We’re called to continue to come to God with what we often think is an unsolvable problem, believe that His justice will prevail, and encourage each other to never settle for what is at odds with the revealed truth of God’s character and will.

# TREASURE

## Our 2019 fiscal year finances in review

### Profit & Loss

*Our fiscal year runs April 1-March 31, which means we're in the home stretch of the current fiscal year.*



Our Business Director, Caleb Stamp, has suggested that we zoom out and review our church finances for 2019 in January's treasure section as we enter the final quarter of our fiscal year.

Above you'll see a P&L (or profit and loss) bar graph, which shows church expenses (in blue) and the giving income (in green) and the giving trend line by month (in grey).

What we can learn from this chart is that our overall financial status is "in the black," meaning Grace is spending less than the church at-large is giving. This

metric is a sign of the overall financial stewardship of church staff, and prevents things like unplanned debt. To date, the church is still debt free, and the Financial Review Committee (FRC), Staff Team, and Elder Team strive to maintain the health of our church through thoughtful and wise stewardship.

The specific numbers (rounded to the dollar) are on the next page in the green table. This table explains the revenue and expense of Grace finances broken down by ministry area.

**Grace Community Church**  
 Revenue and Expense By Department  
 4/1/19 - 11/30/19 as of 12/18/19

Revenue Category	Budgeted Revenue	Actual Revenue
One Fund Revenue	\$ 2,850,620	\$ 1,648,078
Restricted Use Offering Revenue	144,460	70,080
Other Revenue	59,925	33,945
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,055,005</b>	<b>\$ 1,752,104</b>

Departments	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses
Payroll	\$ 1,349,789	\$ 904,215
Proclamation	33,210	22,857
Community	94,115	53,414
Ministries	126,900	80,842
Operational Development	715,998	369,406
Saving for Estimated Mortgage Payments	820,923	321,369
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,140,935</b>	<b>\$ 1,752,104</b>

*Looking at the row “One Fund Revenue” we can see that there’s a “budgeted” column and an “actual” column. The actual represents year-to-date revenue and the budgeted is the goal by March 31, 2020. Also the “other” is the revenue taken in by conferences and the like.*

## Tax filing season is coming

Free tax preparation by IRS-Certified volunteers  
 is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

*For in person appointments call:*

*Johnson Co. 319.356.5220*

*Linn Co. 319.739.4211*

*This program is open to taxpayers of all ages; AARP membership is not required. At preparation have available: copy of prior year filing and all source documents for current filing: W-2, 1099-SSA, 1099-R, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc. along with Social Security card(s) and a photo ID.*

# Coming in February



Grace Community Church  
graceb3.org • graceb3 app

319.626.2040

2707 Dubuque St NE  
North Liberty, IA

Old Brick Church  
26 E Market St, Iowa City, IA

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

North Liberty

8, 9:30 & 11 AM

&

Downtown Iowa City

5 PM



*from left to right, top to bottom*  
Talent, Jon Abdo, Downtown Ministry  
Ryan McFadden, Facilities Director  
Field Staff - Alan and Pearl Bourne recently back from Southeast Asia