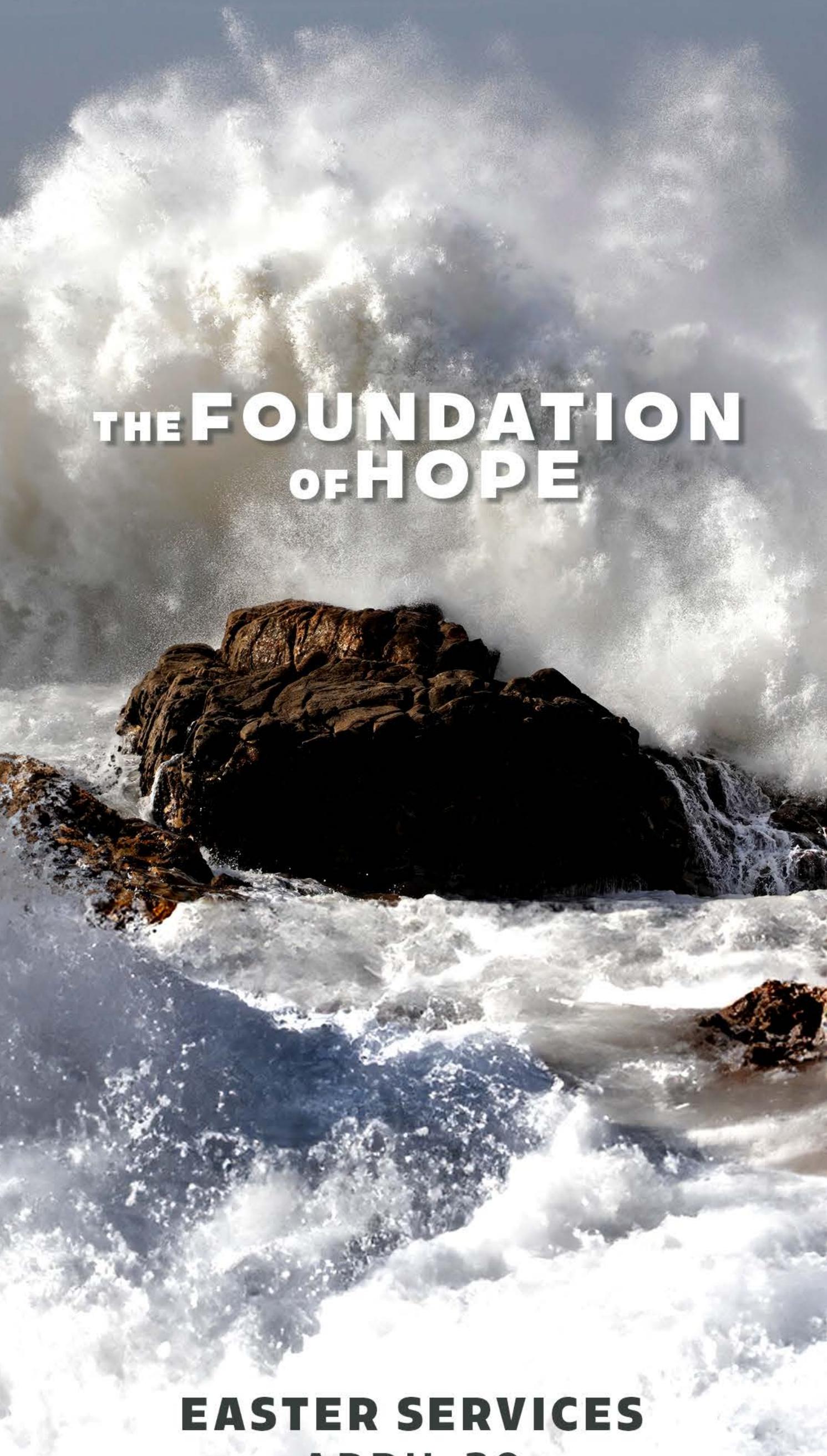


## EXTENDING GRACE WHO ARE THEY? WHAT DO THEY DO? •

ENCOURAGEMENT IN PARENTING & GOD'S EVER-PRESENT HELP

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP
RECAP WITNESSING GOD'S WORK •





## EASTER SERVICES APRIL 20 8AM | 9:30AM | 11AM

Nursery and 2s classrooms for the 8am and 9:30am service (family sit-together all ages at 11am)

## HAPPENINGS

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

#### PARENTS ROUNDTABLE

Come get encouraged and equipped to make disciples of the next generation in your own household! We are in this together! No sign up needed. Just come! April 6 • 8:30am or 10:15am

#### MORNING GRIND

Join us for a refreshing time of connection and encouragement! This monthly gathering is for Christian women who currently work professionally (full-time or part-time) outside the home, or aspire to. This ministry strives to provide an adults-only space to share, pray, and support one another over coffee before the workday begins. April 11 • 6:30am-7:30am

### CREATIVE GRACE

Creative Grace is a monthly women's gathering for crafting with community. We gather to share our skills, chat, and create beautiful projects. It's an opportunity to connect with other women and build friendships. Invite a friend! April 19 • 10am–1pm

support & encouragement in discipling your kids



## APR 6 8:30 OR 10:15AM

Parents, you've heard us say "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!

Questions?

Contact Cindy at cindys@graceb3.org

\*no registration



Did you know that in the Corridor area there are more than 700 children in foster care? Extending Grace is a ministry here at Grace that seeks to serve and support all foster and adoptive families in the Corridor.

So often the foster and adoptive community feels neglected and unsupported by the community at large. Every time a child is taken from their home and put into a foster home, trauma is present, and this causes tremendous stress on the day-to-day of the family. Motivated by Jesus' love, Extending Grace desires to come alongside these families as much as possible in order to reduce isolation in the difficult work that the families are doing for children in need.

Extending Grace not only cares about the first days of transition with a new placement, but we also recognize the need to support each family with foster or adopted children in their home. The two most important ways we choose to come alongside families are our bi-annual giveaways and annual training seminar. Our spring and fall giveaways are huge events where parents and children are able to "shop" for free from our donated surplus of clothing, shoes, toys, and so much more. Our fall giveaway coincides with our backpack giveaway. Foster, adopted, and biological children in the home are all offered a new backpack with school supplies. Each spring, we offer Hope for the Journey training, which is usually 6 CEUs for all licensed participants.

While Extending Grace started small in 2013 with only two volunteers, it has grown immensely since then. The first giveaway we hosted had only two people attend; yet 2024 had over 500 attendees between the two giveaways. We started with only two volunteers, now we have a dozen dedicated volunteers who donate their time on a weekly or monthly basis, as well as a dozen more who help with special events once or twice a year. This is just a small snapshot of how God is growing the work being done and meeting the needs of foster families in

our community. Below are some other stats to show the impact we've been able to have.

#### BAGS OF CLOTHING GIFTED TO CHILDREN

2018

2024

NUMBER OF GIVEAWAY ATTENDEES

2016 2024

**BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES** 

2024 2017

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS** 

GIFTED SINCE 2018

**BIBLES GIVEN** 

GIFTED SINCE 2017

**GROCERIES DELIVERED TO NEW PLACEMENTS** 

DELIVERED SINCE 2018



#### HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION?

Through the help of generous donors and dedicated volunteers, we collect, organize, and provide clothing, infant supplies, shoes, winter gear, and many other items to help foster parents. For teens, we offer hygiene packs as well as a gift card so they are able to buy what they need. Whenever a family receives a new placement, they can sign up for a grocery delivery, and if the new placement is during November and December, they can also sign up to receive a Christmas present for the child.

We are grateful to work with Four Oaks a state licensed organization who works directly with the foster parents and children. Through the help of Four Oaks social workers, we provide children with hygiene packs and about a week's worth of clothing when they arrive at a new foster home.



#### HOW CAN I HELP?

We hope you are asking this question now that you know about the need. We have several ways you can be involved.

**MONETARY DONATIONS** The easiest way to support the work of Extending Grace is through financial support. Donations can be sent to Grace Community Church, designated for Extending Grace. You can find the specific needs we have by visiting <a href="https://graceb3.org/focus-all/">https://graceb3.org/focus-all/</a>.

**VOLUNTEER** We are always looking for more volunteers to donate their time for sorting clothing or setup and teardown for our special events. Please contact us at *extendinggrace@graceb3.org* to get more information.

to do what we do without the generous donation of new and gently used clothing, ranging from newborn to teen sizes. You can drop these off at the church during office hours or a pre-arranged time that is more convenient for you. Please check out our website to see the items we accept and items we do not accept.

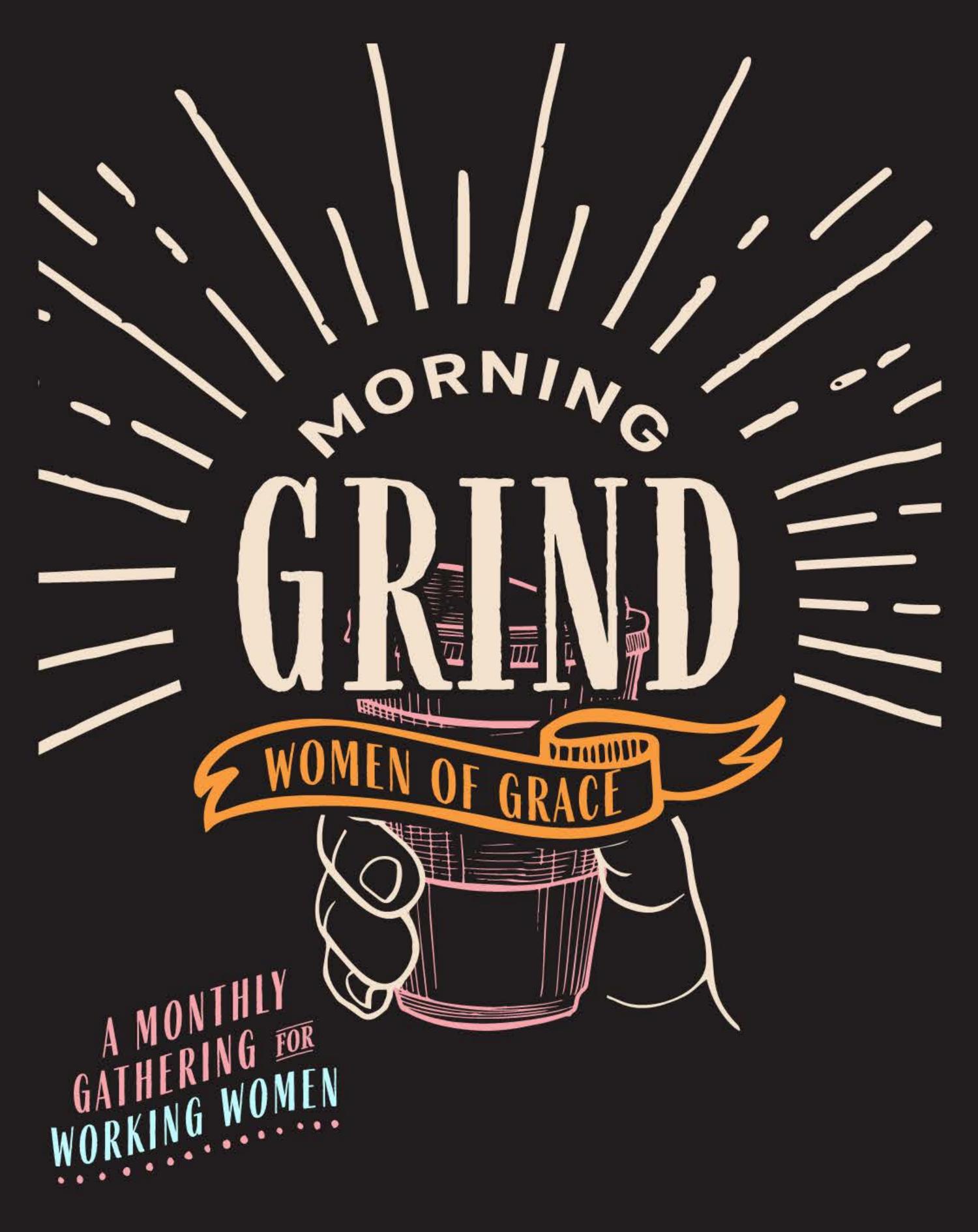


If you have items to donate that are not needed by Extending Grace, consider taking them to Stuff Etc. where you can donate under Extending Grace's account. Once Stuff Etc. sells these items, we receive the funds from the sales. These funds help us purchase items such as new socks and underwear for the clothing bags. Extending Grace has accounts at the lowa City, Coralville, and Cedar Rapids Stuff Etc. locations.

We are so thankful for every person who has helped Extending Grace reach as many families as we have. Without you, we could not continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this way. If you would like to find out more about Extending Grace or want to volunteer, feel free to talk with us, or visit graceb3.org/extendinggrace and select the "Contact Us" tab. \*\*



11



TIME: 6:30 - 7:30AM FOR ALL DATES

DATES & LOCATIONS:

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
CARIBOU COFFEE
IN CORALVILLE

TUESDAY, MAY 6 DUNN BROS. IN CORALVILLE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
PRESS COFFEE
IN IOWA CITY

Join us for a refreshing time of connection and encouragement! This monthly gathering is for Christian women who currently work full-time outside the home, or aspire to. This ministry strives to provide an adults-only space to share, pray, and support one another over coffee before the workday begins. Whether you're seeking fellowship, inspiration, or simply a moment to recharge before the workday, this is the perfect opportunity to grow together in faith and community. Let's gather, refresh, and strengthen each other as we navigate the challenges of balancing work and faith.

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give to them according to the work of s render them their due reward. their hands;

Because they tdo not regard the works

## ENCOVRAGEMENT IN PARENTING

By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn

Oh, save your people and bless zyour <sup>a</sup>Be their shepherd and <sup>b</sup> carry them

t I would look <sup>2</sup>Hebrew your innermost sanctuary <sup>3</sup> Some Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Syriac; eir work

34; 62:5; Prov. 20:22 'Ps. 31:24; Deut. 31:7; Josh. 1:6, 9, 18 Psalm 28 1/See Ps. 18:2 \*Ps. 35:22; 39:12; 83:1; 109:1 ps. 36:5; Prov. 20:22 'Ps. 31:24; Deut. 31:7; Josh. 1:6, 9, 18 Psalm 28 1/See Ps. 18:2 \*Ps. 5:9; 12:2; 55:21; 134:62:5; Prov. 20:22 'Ps. 31:24; Deut. 31:7; Josh. 1:6, 9, 18 Psalm 28 1/See Ps. 32:20] \*9Jer. 9:8; [Ps. 5:9; 12:2; 55:21; 19:48] \*Ops. 5:7; 138:2; [1 Kgs. 8:29] \*3P[Ps. 26:9; Ezek. 32:20] \*9Jer. 9:8; [Ps. 5:9; 12:2; 55:21; 138:2; [1 Kgs. 8:29] \*3P[Ps. 26:9; Ezek. 32:20] \*9Jer. 9:8; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZDeut. 9:29; 11:1 \*Ps. 69:30 \*8ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZDeut. 9:29; 11:1 \*Ps. 69:30 \*29ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZDeut. 9:29ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZDeut. 9:29ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6] \*9ZPS. 140:7; [Ps. 20:6]

worshiper addresses monition to live in conxpressed in vv. 1-3. Hebrew manuscripts start

y, the import is that the to "gaze upon" (v. 4) and d affection. The goodness naracter (Ex. 33:19; 34:6ation that the prayer of Ps. ill be answered. On the land

sa. 38:11; 53:8; Jer. 11:19. ook to him with dependence to be strong and

28:1-2 Hear Me When I Call! This model prayer brings its requests before God with urgency. The situation is desperate; to be like those who go down to the pit is probably more than simply to die, but to be like those who suffer divine judgment (cf. 30:3, 9; 88:4; 143:7; Isa. 14:19; Ezek. 26:20); the godly do not want to be treated in the same way as the wicked (cf. Ps. 28:3).

28:2 most holy sanctuary. This is the "innermost sanctuary" (see ESV footnote), the place mentioned in 1 Kings 6:16.

28:3-5 Do Not Drag Me Off with the Wicked. The psalms generally recognize that God will indeed hold the wicked (i.e., those who defy the Lord) accountable for their deeds. The pious wish to see God's justice vindicated, when those who defy his rule receive their due, and they do not want to suffer when the judg-(cf. 2 Thess. 1:9–10). The wicked here are not simply

AND GOD'S EVER-PRESENT HELP You don't have to be a parent long to discover the lineup of struggles, worries, and fears that come along with the abundant joys of parenting. The struggle is real in all stages of our children's lives—newborns, toddlers, young kids, pre-teens, and teenagers each come with unique parenting challenges. Thankfully, our God is a real and ever-present help in times of need. I want to use this short article this month as a chance to encourage and pray for all of you parents who are seeking to raise your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

In Psalm 28:6-9, a song of lament and a cry for help, David says,

"Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever."

It is encouraging to know that God hears our cries for mercy, help, and wisdom when we're unsure of what to do in those crucial parenting moments. David confidently reminds us that the Lord is our source of strength and help, and he encourages us to trust in him. That seems simple at face value, but from experience,

finding our strength and help in Christ and genuinely trusting and resting in him is much more challenging than it seems. Yet that is indeed what we, and our children, need most! Our kids need us to draw our strength, hope, and rest from Jesus. He is our shepherd who carries us. He is our stronghold and fortress.

So cling to him. Ask him for strength and wisdom in the joys and struggles of parenting. As you seek God by spending time with him in Scripture and prayer, he will strengthen you and transform you daily into his image and likeness.

Lord, be our wisdom and our strength. Be our shepherd and carry us when things are both hard and good. May we praise you with our words and our lives and trust you so that our kids see Christ's power, beauty, and goodness in a way that draws them to you and models complete dependence on you—our Good Shepherd, who cares for our every need. \*

## ONE DAY SOULCAFE Class

learning to care well for those around you

## Register now at graceb3.org/events

In this one-day class, you will learn how the whole church is called to care for one another, what that looks like, and how you can take small steps to care well for those around you.

This class is free, with optional lunch available for \$15. Sign up by April 9 if you'd like catered lunch.

- 4/12
- 9am-5pm

Questions? Contact office@graceb3.org, (319) 626-2040



"I should honor Jesus with my body," we think, but our flesh counters, "Sure, you could...but there's a half-gallon of ice cream in the freezer, and Netflix is calling. Let's not rush into this righteous-living business."

If you are in Christ, part of you desires his righteousness. A part of us wants to be like Jesus, with the fruit of the Spirit defining our lives; however, another part of us—our flesh—rebels against righteousness. Paul describes this all-too-familiar battle as the flesh waging war against the Spirit (Romans 7:23, Galatians 5:16-17).

One reason Jesus saved us is so we might become righteous—not merely righteous in Christ positionally but also righteous in our actions. Christ redeemed us so we may become like him: loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled (Galatians 5:22-23).

How do we become righteous when our flesh fights us at every turn? We must cultivate a lifestyle that the apostle Paul calls walking according to the Spirit.

"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8:3-4

To walk in accordance with something means to structure your life around whatever that something is—a guiding principle for living. If I walk in accordance with the flesh, I organize my life around what my flesh tells me I need: food, water, shelter, clothing, companionship, and security. While they're all completely legitimate needs, the flesh seeks to meet them on our own apart from God. Furthermore, the flesh is never

satisfied by meeting basic needs; it always goes further. The flesh tells us we need recognition, control, success, beauty, ice cream, Netflix, the newest gadgets, and so on. If those needs and wants are satisfied, says the flesh, then life will be wonderful. The problem is that they are rarely fully satisfied, and even when they are, we find that the flesh always desires more. Walking according to the flesh leads to suffering.

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19–21

The alternative to walking in the flesh is walking in the Spirit, which means structuring our lives around one guiding reality—that we have been united with Christ through his Spirit, who now indwells and empowers us (Ephesians 1:13-14). If we walk in the Spirit or shape our lives around who we are in Christ and what he promises to do in and for us, Jesus produces his righteousness within us.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22–25

The Spirit's fruit depends on whether or not we walk in him. If we don't walk in the Spirit, there will be no fruit. Conversely, if we walk in the Spirit, we can expect Jesus to produce his righteousness through us.

So how does one walk in the Spirit? Is this walk a literal walk? If it is, where do we step? If it's a metaphor, what does it represent? What actions should we take? Is there a prayer we are supposed to say, a program, a class, or a baptism we should undergo? Paul does not explicitly tell us. He offers some insight when he says, "Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5), but he doesn't go into detail.

It is one thing to hear, "walk in the Spirit," but it is entirely different to see and learn how to take each step. Starting the Sunday after Easter, we will begin a sermon series titled Keeping In Step With The Spirit to understand how to go about walking according to the Spirit. Mark your calendars and plan to walk alongside the church as we learn to keep in step with the Spirit.

## volunteer fair apr27

## The best way to connect is to get involved.

Whether it's welcoming visitors, playing in the worship band, helping in kids' classes, in the parking lot, or at the soundboard, everyone can serve.

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.

Stop into the gym after either service!

## April 27 9:30am & 11:15am In the gym after each service

### Questions?

Contact Ryan McFadden, Volunteer Engagement Director, ryanmegraceb3.org, (319) 626-2040



By Children's Ministry Lead Coordinator Natasha Miller

Each year, Ryan and I get the privilege of leading the February team to Guatemala to serve with Bethel Ministries International, and it's a highlight of our year. This year, our team consisted of 19 people who spent a week in February living out Jesus' final command by sharing the gospel through word and deed. We spent the week building three homes, giving away 75 wheelchairs, installing nine stoves, and conducting many home visits. We love to be with others, serving those in need, and seeing God work in the people we are serving as well as those of us who are doing the serving. Serving daily alongside our brothers and sisters from Grace is a privilege. When you serve with one another, you get to know each other deeper. We come away from the week with so many ways we've seen God work.





Every evening, after a hard day of manual labor in the heat and humidity, we ask each team member to share where they saw Jesus. It's hard for each person to share one way they saw Jesus; most people have two or three ways they share. We come away from the week challenged to look for Jesus in our everyday lives here in lowa because we know he's with us here, working daily, even when we don't recognize it.

We saw Jesus in the Bethel staff as they patiently explained the steps to level the ground, mix the cement, build the house, and everything else we did. We saw Jesus in the Bethel staff as they shared the gospel with the people we visited and translated the conversation to English so we could follow along. We saw Jesus in our teammates as they had patience with us when the screw was high and required more force than we had on our own. We saw Jesus in the clouds and breeze. We saw Jesus in school being canceled at home, which meant papers and other deadlines were moved back, allowing more time to catch up with schoolwork. We saw Jesus in the people of Guatemala, who live complex daily lives but rely on him to provide.

One story of seeing Jesus involves a mom named Lydia. We first met her on the day of our wheelchair giveaway. Her seven-year-old daughter Alejandra was receiving a wheelchair for the first time. When they checked in, Izzi, a Bethel staff member, felt prompted that this family needed a home visit, so they were added to one of the following days' schedules. At the home visit, it was clear why God had directed our team to visit. Not only was the mom faced with neighbors who didn't like her and stairs leading to her house (remember her seven-year-old in a wheelchair), but she was also faced with losing her children in just a few short weeks if she didn't fix her house to have a cement floor and two new walls. To top it all off, she had no hope in Jesus. That night, we saw the Bethel staff jump into action and start making plans to improve her home or provide her with a new one so she could keep her children. By the





end of the week, she agreed to move to a house already built and ready to be gifted to her. God's movements in this family's life happened quickly that week! Please pray for Lydia and her children so they may come to know Jesus personally.

The needs here in our community are more plentiful than we often are aware of. Take time to look around and see where God would have you be his hands and feet, either at home or around the globe. Ask yourself at the end of each day, "Where did I see Jesus today?" You will be surprised with how much you see him at work when you take the time to look for him. \*

## april 12 10am-12pm

# FEAR: LORD

## a seasoned sisters event

Are you a Seasoned Sister? Do any of these describe you? 50+ years old, adult children, grandmother, empty-nester, retired? Join other Seasoned Sisters for fellowship, food, and encouragement for your faith!

Sign up by April 7!

Three ways to register -

Click the Register button on this page

Stop by the Info Desk in the foyer on Sundays

· Contact the office: (319) 626-2040, office@graceb3.org

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm

Location: Grace North Liberty

Need a ride? Let us know when you sign up.

Questions? Contact the church office: office@graceb3.org, (319) 626-2040